

## **Dan Ashlock**

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## Dan Ashlock

### **When did you go to school here?**

When I went to school here back when Olathe wasn't Olathe North it was Olathe High School. It was downtown Olathe where they eventually was the high school and then later turned into the junior high when high school moved out here. I happened to be on the school board when we chose this location to build the new high school It was nothing but a truck farm and the people were Belgium's and they had been approached by the developers for housing and they wouldn't sell but when they found out we wanted to put a school here they conceded and sold the ground to us.

As I told the young man that brought me down here when the first school wasn't like the one you got now got additions and additions. And of course at the same time, high school was there on the one corner and the original high school which became the junior high which was on the other corner. And sandwiched in between was a gymnasium. Which at the time in my day was one of the all the other schools wanted to come play in our gym cause it was the best one in the whole area so we hosted a lot of basketball tournaments over the years.

Course it was a lot smaller I supposed—the high school population, three grades was probably around 250 or 300. We had 66 in my senior class which was 1944 but we lost probably 15-20 who had already gone into service, WWII. But a...I thought then we had a great class and still think we had a great class, but a lot of them won't agree to that. I can say it was one of the most enjoyable times of my life going through high school. We were small and everybody knew everybody and it was just a great time.

### **I saw that your wife graduated from Olathe High School with you?**

No, my mother and dad both went. That's when the old high school...see that's when the new *(he laughs)* building down there that I refer to was built in 1926 I believe. They both graduated in the class of 1919.

### **Do you know anything of the high school when they went there?**

No I don't. I really don't. There wasn't even a gym there I know my dad talked about they played basketball at a building that was downtown then. I don't know where they played football. At that time, we only had two grade schools. We had Central, which I guess is still called Central and Washington, which is where Dillon's Grocery housed Washington Grade School and behind it was the athletic field for football. Oh, there was one other grade school that was Lincoln which was an all colored school and it just went up through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then they came into the high school system.

Unfortunately, I was on the board in the late 50's as I said when we purchased this ground, also what was our big problem, we had to close down Lincoln School and integrate there were only three teachers there: two teachers and a principal. And we integrated them in the system, elementary system, and it just worked perfectly. They were very good teachers. In fact, the whole...as I recall...of course, I met my wife...I always kid people she came here to teach a...business course in high school and I somehow got acquainted with her and since I was on the Board. Back then Board Members individually interviewed and hired teachers and naturally hired her and kept her here ever since. *(He laughs ha, ha)* She came up from Parson, Kansas was her home. I can't add to that hardly.

**You were on the Board in the 50's and that was during the time when the Brown vs. Topeka order came, was the Board aware of the lawsuit that was brought on Topeka did this have a bearing on the decision?**

I don't think that it did. I honestly can't remember. When was that decision?

**1954**

Well, I was after that. I was on for two terms. Probably '54, '58 again. We had no pressure to do it. I think we just went ahead and did it. As I recall, no problem bringing people into the system.

**I believe you said the school was torn down during the time you were on the Board?**

The Lincoln School was and well then Washington was too. Because that is where Dillon's ended up putting their grocery store. But Central still exists, but it's been remodeled to no end.

**Can you talk about where you grew up?**

I grew on North Pine Street about three houses off of Santa Fe. Which is on the west side...it's the third street...west of the downtown square. And my parents bought that house when they got married in 1924. And my dad became associated with First Federal Savings which was at that time was called Central Building and Loan because there were not any Federal Savings. We never moved, they never moved. My mother passed away in that home in 1983 and he continued to live by himself for an additional ten years, passing away in '94. Always prided...I said the neighborhood...close-knit...we were a country town then.

I mean we have borders like a, Ridgeview was the east side, K-7 was the west, Old 56 would have been the south, and I don't know how far north it went not too far but we were just a country town. Everybody knew everybody and you didn't have to lock your doors you didn't have to lock anything up you could go off and leave a bicycle laying around for a month and go back and it will still be there.

We were just a...I would say we had middle class people, everybody had an honest job. 'Course the square was a big thing, it was just full of mom and pop's stores around the square. Which is hard for a lot of people to believe today, but merchants were all local and they took pride in their stores and took pride in having them there. We actually, believe it or not, had...I think...had at one time four grocery stores, A&P, Safeway, Kroger's around the square, plus a couple other small independent stores. Had two movie theaters, two banks besides the savings and loan and regular "mom" mercantile stores that you find in small communities.

**Can you tell me what you did for fun when you were growing up?**

Well the summers we had the swimming pool which is 'course been reshaped since then. We had the only municipal pool in the whole county. It was built by WPA labor in the middle 30's. Everybody congregated there in the daytime. Believe it or not at nighttime I think we stayed at home listened to, what you never heard of, radio programs...of interesting. As a kid, you created your sport activity. We'd have set up baseball diamonds in the vacant lots around and didn't any organized sports of any kind but we seemed to survive and are in good shape. Stayed out of trouble and that's about it.

**Where would you and your friends go in high school?**

Well we didn't go very far 'cause the war was on and nobody had a car and gas rationing was on so you couldn't promote the folks for one. 'Course back in those days family's only had one car, too. So, had two downtown drug stores that were kind of the hang out, but those were just after schools maybe early evening. You just stayed home at night really.

**Did anyone elect to go to college after high school graduation?**

All of the boys including myself went into the service. All my classmates including myself 'course we graduated in the spring of '44 and they were still drafting heavily then. I entered the Navy Air Corp. a lot of my friends got in the marines and a lot stayed around and got drafted right away and were in the Army. None of us were around for about two years after high school. The girls to my knowledge, some of them did go off to college.

**Could you tell me a little about your experience in the military?**

Well I was very fortunate, I got into a program, I said Navy Air Corp., it was actually called Navy Air crewman program. Which you got into and was aircraft duty but I wasn't a pilot or anything like that. The first nine months of my career went to boot camp and then to an ordinance school. After that I got out...which was in Norman, OK from there I went to Jacksonville, FL. for what they called operational where you were assigned to a crew. While we were going through that training, the war ended, crew disbanded and we just stayed there for the rest of the

duration of the war. I consider myself very, very, fortunate, because some of my friends were not: the ones that particularly went into the Army were overseas and getting shot at, couple of them even got hit. Again, I was very, very thankful.

My father at the time, I guess I should add that, back in the pre-war days, he became Captain of the National Guard. We had a National Guard Unit here, which we have now too, but it was a whole different situation. It was a field artillery unit and he was commander of it. When the battery got mobilized like they have done this situation they mobilized the guard units. His unit went to Little Rock, AR. He was yanked out and sent to Command General Staff school at Leavenworth and then reassigned to the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. And a...they eventually ended up being sent to California sector and had outpost all up and down the coast 'cause they were scared the Jap's were going to invade United States. From there then they brought them back cross the states and sent them over to Europe. They didn't go in on D-Day but they did the 5<sup>th</sup> day after D-Day and they fought all the way across Europe. He ended up retiring or being discharged as a full colonel. He came home and didn't want any more part of it. I came home and didn't want any more part of it.

**Can you tell me what you did when you got back from the service?**

I went to KU for 4 years.

**What did you get your degree in?**

Business.

**And when you graduated from KU, did you go to work for First Federal Savings and Loan Association?**

No. The first year or so I went with the old Patron's Bank which was, I guess I am assuming that everybody knows where the First Federal Savings is, we're the oldest association in town we're right downtown right where we were at the corner of Park and Cherry. Patron's Bank, which was a forerunner of Bank IV, which is now Bank of America, was right across the street. First National was across the street on the west side. I and another fellow, a young man went to work for the Patron's Bank learning from the bottom up. Started even at the bottom learning operating a posting machine.

From there after about the year I decided I had had enough I wanted to leave...I wasn't married, wanted the big city life, so a friend of mine and I went into Kansas City. I went to work for Hallmark Greeting Cards in their accounting department, he went to work for the Lake City Ordinance Plant putting out their newspaper. That lasted for about a year and a half and we lived in an apartment on the Plaza, not any of these prices ones they have today, but it was an

experience. I finally decided that I didn't want to be a "big city boy" anymore so I came back out.

I knew my dad business was thinking about, he was losing his secretary so I promoted him, persuaded him to let me take a chance at that. And a...I began work in there in July 1, 1952. And I worked then for him until he retired in 1967 which I took over then as president and then in 1991 my son came in and I turned it over to him and he is running it today. I stayed with them up to three years ago and then I fully retired.

We were a mutual, some of these terminology probably don't mean anything to anybody, but we were a mutual association. Up to about five years ago and we became a stock. That is what we are today. We're still a small, we originated as savings and loans to begin with to make home mortgage loans and offer savings accounts we stuck by that all through the years we never switched over or got into the banking business. We always thought that they did such a good job that they could continue that: such as offering checking accounts retirement accounts car loans and all of that. We still don't. Today only thing we do is make home loans and offer the savings accounts.

### **Can you tell me a little about raising a family in Olathe?**

Well I got a son that just turned 50 our daughter is 47. You may want to X that out; she may not appreciate me telling you. 'Course he has stays here, she lives in Portland OR. She has her own business as a consultant. I like to think I have two good kids and never caused any problems. I know a lot of people today can't say that but, my wife and I are very proud of them and how they have turned out and what they have done. I just can't say enough for them.

### **Can you tell me a little about when they attended school here?**

Well, as I said, the high school was downtown there on the corner, of the building is still there of course, of a...Park and Water. The grades in it were sophomore, junior and senior. The junior high was down on the other corner, which was the original high school building with the gym in-between. We had excellent, I think excellent teachers. At that time, they were strapped to...if you were a woman couldn't be married and she could be widowed but they couldn't have any tag-alongs that they have today. But a...I think it was pretty evenly divided, well it wasn't, we had about three men and seven women teachers in the high school itself. But a...and we had the basic courses we didn't have all of the alternatives choices that you have today. It was set that you went to school from 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00. Got noon hour off; they didn't serve lunch at school so you had to go home or bring your lunch. At that time, they didn't have any bus service and we didn't have anybody rode any horses in and tagged them up either. We weren't that far back. But a...it was small. The outlying district was open district. The school district itself just covered practically the city of Olathe. Shawnee Mission Rural back in those

days was known as Shawnee Mission Rural High School and of course it's all encompassed now in a large high school and has a district of its own. But that was the closet district.

**Would you describe how urban renewal has changed Olathe?**

Yeah, but you wouldn't want to tape it, what I thought about it at the time. They came in, and I don't know who decided to do that, I be quite frankly I was never for it. They came in and sold city and shop owners a bill of goods that a...we are going to come in and revise this and they had a bunch of fancy drawings and everything and you small store owners are going to get nice new quarters and all of that. They failed to mention and tell them at the time the rent was going to be tripled or four times what they were paying now. So, store owners went along with it. They took their money to buy out and rent and urban renewal came in and knocked all the buildings all around the square we were one of the few that never got touched actually, naturally. And a...then they came back and got ready to approach the owners...we'll build this store back you be rent with his and nobody took them up on it. So for a long time a lot of those spaces around the square were just empty parking lots. And it killed the downtown business as such retail stores, shopping.

And now they keep talking about widened the Santa Fe bring it into these quaint little shops. I'm no mercantile merchant but a...people aren't...what kind of shops downtown now that are going to draw people come when they got all of these fancy outlying shopping centers. I'm not saying that eventually, 'course I-35 and out on 119<sup>th</sup> came into being, eventually it would have killed the downtown. But I think urban renewal speeded it up 20-25 years. I'm just a small town country boy I liked it the way it was.

**What do you think is the best thing that ever happened to Olathe?**

I forgot to mention that we had a Naval Air Station built in 1942. I believe it was brought in. Where they had Navy preflight training programs going on and that was a big boom to Olathe during the war years. After the war, a...I don't know anything more outstanding that others, I really can't.

**What do you see for the future of Olathe, what would you like to see?**

Well since I am in the twilight years, I don't...really can't expand on that too much. 'Course every day or every week they announce something new is going to be built or appear on the scene. Unfortunately, none of it is particularly downtown. It's all out...it's no different than the so called, "sprawl theory" that a lot of big cities have. I wish I could be optimistic enough to say that Olathe downtown will boom back to the "good ole days" but those are gone. There very pleasant memories and I like to recall them...just something of the past.

One thing shows you how...course we were a farm town. And the farmers would come in with their wagons a lot of times on Saturday night and load up supplies, sit around the square and talk. We had a city band that played band concerts and we had the Old Settlers situation then. The parades were always homemade floats there weren't any commercial business floats in them. Always sit up around the square.

One thing that would shock the environmentalist or somebody today, the old courthouse, the original courthouse, sits where the legal part of the complex is today. They always used to... what sticks out in my mind is...they always used to put a big water tank, livestock water tank there, fill it full of water and have ten cups on a string, if you wanted a drink that's where you got it. We seemed to survive so it couldn't have been that bad. The carnival brought in circus theme, the Farris wheel, and various small rides. It was enjoyable.

**Do you remember anything about the deaf school, and can you tell me any impact the deaf school had on the community?**

We've always had a close association with the deaf school, in fact athletics, in my day we used to go up and scrimmage them once a week in football. They were of course a lot bigger than they are today because they have made advances in medical treatments. But became acquainted with the some of the deaf people always have. And a...they have been an asset to the city. I personally became acquainted with the coach and in fact business manager...my senior year in high school I was fortunate enough to...my mother was still able to travel over the states and wherever my father was located and I didn't want to go I wanted to stay in Olathe so I actually ended up living with the business manager for my last year in high school. Got to go to all the events of the school.

**Can you tell me anything more about Old Settlers? Do you remember anything that was really fun or neat about it?**

Well it gets awful fancy these days. They have a big night entertainer come in. Back in those days they had a speaker on the stage in the square...orator or whatever you want to call it. And a...it just was very country-fied. In its origination and performance. Usually lasted one day too as I recall, all day Saturday. They have set up Friday night, but of course now you know they start in the middle of the week and have flower shows and ice cream parlors and all of that, but they didn't have any of that then.

**Can you tell me anything you remember about the way Olathe North High School originally looked, this sight, this building, how many building were there? Was it all one building?**

Here? We put up the one building with the gym and a...they moved the football field, where you have the one here is call Ensor field. I imagine probably at the time it was built to

accommodate probably 400-500 students. And a...I am not even sure what year the first class started here. I think my son was in the first class that was originated here. I might add the so called athletic field, Ensor Field, that was named after the Industrial Arts teacher that was in the high school system for a number of years, but down at the old school. None of the other buildings to my knowledge have been named after any teachers around here.

**Do you remember when the vocational school was built?**

No, I don't know anything about that, that all happened later and when the building became empty. I don't even know what the status of it is today. I see a school bus unload there so I assume there must be some vocational class of some kind going on there.

**I am fascinated by your recollections of Old Settlers. Did the carnival have a wrestler who wrestled all comers, it seemed like it was a county fair. What kind of booths did they have?**

To my knowledge they didn't have booths like they have today. They had the carnival atmosphere like throw the baseball at the ducks and that sort of thing. But a...they used to have the events, one particular one was I remember, but I can't think of who the local guy is use to wrestle a bear. And that was a real live bear. *(He laughs, ha ha)* He was a big kid, but that was one of the main things. Then they had the tug of war, horseshoe pitching and greased pig catching. That was a little before my time or I would have probably been on that. I definitely remember the tug of war you always get the biggest guys in town to do that. Again, it was just a one day affair. And a...a lot of the country folk would come in and they would bring their lunch in, have it set up there on the courthouse lawn.

**Can you tell us about what classes you took in high school and some of the activities you participated in?**

Well I could brag a little bit, our senior basketball team lost out in the state championship by two points my senior year. That's the closest any team ever come, well, I'll take that back cause now your class 6A teams several of them have won state championships. Back in those days that was a...quite a thing. A...the three sports that we offered in high school were football, basketball and track.

And a...usually the same ones participated in everything so and we belonged to what they called, the old, NEK, Northeast Kansas League. Which comprised of again several of these schools don't exist anymore. In Kansas City, Argentine, Rosedale which later became Schlage, Harman, Leavenworth, Atkinson, Lawrence, that's it. Then we'd also play teams out of the league Paola, Ottawa. Oh, Shawnee Mission was in our league. We beat them in football the first time in ten years. We were pretty proud of that. 'Cause here we were a little old two bit school and Shawnee Mission was four or five times as big as we were. So anyway...had a great

time...the thing about the athletic program that I always, the same guys always associated with...we all knew each other we knew what the guy was going to do and that sort of thing. There wasn't any breaking off in groups when you were out on the fields. Everybody ran around together. Had a great group of girls that always cheered us on to victory with that help too (*he smiles*).

**Who beat you in that championship?**

Hays! Two points, did I say that?

**Did you participate in any other activities?**

Ok, a...as far as that in the high school itself, we had a drama class but junior class always did an opera, the senior class did a senior play each year. We didn't have the interschool speech, I don't know what you call that, debates. They didn't have any of that outside of the athletics the interschool things were about it. But we had some good teachers, that would double up in the...used to publish a school newspaper on an old mimeograph machine. The girls would get back there and crank it out on a sheet bring it around and sell it for a nickel a copy. They would come out with ink all over themselves. I don't know how many skirts got ruined. But a...that was...we didn't have any journalism class we did have a lady that kind of guided them in putting the paper together.

**Can you tell me what Opera the junior class put on?**

No, because we did a senior play called, *The Boy Next Door*. But that was the...the seniors did that one and the junior class did an operetta type of thing, musical those were the only two plays. Around Christmas time we did have a nativity program and which is the routine the one that everybody, the wise men...they brought the schools in...one night junior and senior high would sing the carols and then the next night the elementary schools would come up and sing them. Good thing about that was you always had a couple of days practice and you got out of school, got out of class. (*He smiles*)

**Which elementary school did you attend?**

Central.

**You had "grade" classes...1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2 grade, correct?**

It had three grades on the first floor and three grades on the second floor. It was just a two story brick building then. My class at the time, we had the distinction of having the same teacher for kindergarten and again in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We were in the first...kindergarten was not furnished by the school district at that time. You had to pay to go to it. And a...then after we

finished kindergarten, the school board adopted it and they moved a teacher up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. So that is how I got the same teacher both times. Already had my good marks on. *(He smiles)*

**What was the typically day in the elementary school? Did you walk or did your folks drop you off?**

Walk. I walked from North Pine which was probably a good mile. Some of them rode bicycles. I think very few were brought by car, might of...younger and kindergartener and first grade been brought by car. But a...we walked or ran or something.

**So what did you do after you got to school? Did you bring your lunch or was there a cafeteria?**

No, there was no cafeteria. I didn't bring lunch. Most of us went home. Because we were within...because we got an hour off 12:00-1:00. School took up at 8:00 went till noon, had hour classes, three hour classes and the 4<sup>th</sup> hour from 11:00-12:00 was an activity period in most schools. Back at 1:00-3:00 classes and gone. They had a...when you got over to the high schools I remember, you had to make a choice of as far as required courses 'course you had your English, American History, Math, Elementary Math, Algebra, and Geometry. Foreign Languages consisted of Latin or Spanish, had Biology course and a so-called Government course and called it Civics then. Mixed in that six hour day, if your courses were right, you could pick up an hour of study hall. Which was a large room on the second floor had a make shift library at the end of it.

**You said you did some things at the Deaf school, do you sign language?**

I know the alphabet. I can spell out the alphabet, but for somebody to talk back to me doing it I can't comprehend it fast enough. I do not know any sign language. I had a real good friend well in fact was a class member all of lives whose brother, his older brother was a deaf barber here in Olathe for a number of years. But a....I never did pick it up and course at that time they didn't do as much with the sign language. Well maybe they did too, I don't know what they did teach. Today it is pretty involved.

**Your business is one that is still remaining for many, many years...your Savings...**

We were organized in 1923.

**I am amazed how have you been so successful? Good management obviously, but a stayed with the times. So many of the small businesses have folded?**

Right, I ask myself that every year. Why we haven't been swallowed up and spit out. I said we did two things, we made home loans and we offered savings accounts. Our home loans, people

have dealt with us. We never made a practice of selling the mortgage. If you signed up with us you were with us throughout the life of the loan. I like to think that we were very honest with the people told them exactly how it worked. We always had the personal to personal relationship. Although, we went from million and half asset to right now we are 55 million. But we still own...at my time, when I was in there, most the time we only had three employees and now we only have four. They're very good employees and we've been very fortunate there. And the people knew us they knew they could come in and sit down and talk to a...face to face. We've done 3<sup>rd</sup> generation home loans in my time. People liked us...I guess. It felt a good feeling that you were helping somebody acquire a home. We never got into the big high dollar loans. We let somebody else do that and a...we were very conservative in our lending practices, so we weren't out to take homes back which a lot of them are doing today. We've kind of been an envy I think, course I have had several people in the savings and loan business that since retired but they used to comment to us back in the 80's when all that wild deregulation was going on, they said we sure wished we stayed with what you did because it was nothing but headaches.

**I was going to ask you about that because you obviously made it through that period of time and didn't get caught up in all of that when some of these, a Franklin Savings when out of business. Did you just stay conservative in your lending practices?**

Right. Right. And we didn't go "hog wild" on the other end to a...get money to loan. 'Cause you paid extra high dollar to get the money and then you were forced to get it out working and made you make some bad decisions in making loans. We just...we couldn't do it...greedy kinda, but couldn't do it on our terms, we let somebody else do it.

**You mentioned many "mom and pops" businesses can you name a few?**

Pember Clothing which was a...upstate men's clothing store and later a women's addition. Hershey's Market and Carver's Market were small time groceries stores. They had limited inventories but a...they were good to deal with. In fact, my mother used...you could to pick up the phone and call Hershey's give them your order over the phone and if they had some suggestions they'd tell her and we would order our weekly groceries that way. Then they'd deliver them. They'd bring them in the house and put them on the kitchen counter. And there were four other stores like that. Tuttle's was a variety store a...had several of those around the square. Had two newspapers, small time newspapers, one was called *The Democrat*, which is self-explanatory who they represented the other one was the *Olathe Mirror* which was the opposite party. They came out they were published once a week and they told you about the things going on in Olathe when they happened. We didn't have the abundances of law offices and title companies that we have today. Had gasoline station down on the corners, couple of

them. Can't think of what else...oh, probably half a dozen restaurants...sandwich shops which all offered good home cooked meals, cheap.

**Could you go into the political parties in Olathe? The town had some fairly well established groups that belonged to the two parties. Did you belong to one of the parties?**

Yes, and unfortunately and I still do today belong to the minority one: the Democrats. If you weren't a republican in Olathe you could hardly get elected to anything. As true in Johnson County for a number of years. Fortunately that's shifting. But as far as active, I never did any active work in the party. My dad was a long Democrat, he got elected mayor twice. Beat both times, beat a Republican that held the office for a number of years. But that was in the 30's, but if you think they have tough times now, you ought to hear him tell about what they went through during the 30's. As I said swimming pool was built by the WPA labor. They didn't have money to do anything with as far as the city...the way the city throws it around today.

**Did you belong to any clubs or did your wife belong to any clubs? That you were associated with?**

I am a lifelong member of the local Optimist club...past president. And I belong to the American Legion for 60 years. I held several minor offices in that. I was a lot more active than that, as a lot of us were after World War II, course that's kinda dwindle off and a...gone down...course we have had a couple of bad wars since then...and members go, but I've kinda taken away with them running the show on that. I was active even in the Boy's Scouts particularly when my son went through it. I was the Merit Badge Counselor for a local troop. Chamber of Commerce when it was originally made of the small "mom & pop" store members.

**If you wanted to find a town today that you think reminds you of Olathe, the Olathe that you remember, is there one still in existence that you know of?**

Well you know I used to tell a good friend of mine, I said, Boy, when Olathe (it was growing then) when it gets that big I am going to move to Gardner, because Gardner appeared to me to be that type. But it's gone bananas now. So, a...I haven't been to Paola, but that had been my second choice. They "blew out" Urban Renewal. They didn't want it and they fixed...they have a downtown square or did have...but I haven't been down there...so I don't know of any town really around here that a you gotta go west to get into what Olathe used to be. I think Paola still has the look; original downtown has the square, and the gazebo, the old courthouse. I understood the merchants got together and voted against the Urban Renewal and they went in and a...fixed up their storefronts themselves.

**Why did Olathe go so whole hog into this was it a bandwagon effect? Who sold it to the merchants?**

They had several town meetings that which I did go to those. They had them down in the auditorium of the high school. And a...they already hired people that were going to do it and they had a hard time convincing me today that they didn't have several merchants scattered in the crowd and jump up and shout "hurray" that sort of thing. But maybe they didn't I don't know. It was never put up to a public vote type of thing. The city council just kinda...mushroomed from there.

**Were there any "dominate" families in the Olathe area that were well known to everyone in the area?**

Well yes, I say a...it gets into the politic end. The Hodge's Family who a...George Hodges became governor ahead of my time, but they were connected with the First National Bank and the Democrat newspaper. So Democrats on that side. Fellow of a name of Breyfogle was on the other side of the fence. Did the...a...Patron's Bank and the...a...Olathe Mirror. As you know, Olathe is the city of governors...three or four of them. But a...other than the Hodges Family in Olathe proper. A...and then 'course later years, R.R. Osborne, who was head of the Patron's Bank and eventually became Bank IV, has done awful lot of work for the city...contributing moneywise building this and contributing to that...so a...he was well known and did a lot for Olathe. That's about the three main ones I would name.

**You mentioned the coming of the Naval Air Base, Interstate 35, Urban Renewal...are there other events and I don't want to prompt you, but we had a man here the other day who was associated with the battery plant. We have had people talk about the hospital and when the hospital was built, were there other events that you can think of that were major of coming of things that might out in your mind that were important in the history of Olathe?**

I failed to mention one, the hospital. I would hope that the people would realize what a great hospital we have out here and what it has grown from a small brick building to what it is today. In fact, a...going way back when...'course I was born in (*smiles and says*) you not going to put this in there are you?...1926. And a...my folks had set up to a...they didn't have any hospital here...my mother was set up to go to St. Luke's in Kansas City, Missouri for delivery. One Sunday afternoon I decided to come two weeks early so I was born in that house on North Pine. But up in that time we didn't any hospital facilities, you had to go to Kansas City if you wanted a hospital. We had, six or seven probably, doctors, G.P.'s today called them. They did everything several were very good others were just mediocre. But a...had a nurse particularly Margaret Dashler who led a group of nurses that kept pushing and pushing for some type of hospital situation. And a...finally we a...built one a...can't even think where it was...both of my children

were born in it up on a...east side of town and then from there it grew and went out where it is today. But it's just a...marvelous. I fortunately haven't had very much experience in there but, which I am thankful for, but it's a very good place. I don't think you'll find a better hospital, better run than the one that's out there today.

**Do you remember when Mid America College came?**

Yes, it was one...that was one of the other things that I mentioned, Mr. Osborne. He was a pusher behind, he had the ground...it was farm ground out there then, and a...he donated that for the building of the college to get them to come here and 'course it's mushroomed from small college to a major university now.

**Is there anything else you want to add sir? We want you to tell us what you want to tell us. You have been a wonderful resource, but I don't want also to ask questions just to repeat.**

Well, I am sure that I have left out many people who have had an interest in and a hand in the growth of Olathe and who deserve their names to be mentioned, but a...some of them are still around as I am. But a....

**Are there any people you can think of we should interview...are there any people or names that come to mind? People who have a lot of history in Olathe like you do?**

A...well there is one in particular...he has been very active in the schools activity...in the history of that, Bob Enright. He's still around 'cause I just saw him the other day. E-N-R-I-G-H-T. **(He spells it)** Well of course you got a retired school teacher out of the system that came here and taught school mid 40's, Ralph Dennis. A...try and get some women involved. Cliff Ball, he is big in the Olathe Historical Society. He's about my age. There is widow of a deaf teacher, was a deaf teacher at the high school, a...their school. O'Mara...not O...I guess it's just Mara. She's the widow of...in fact, I think one of the buildings is named after him. She would be the only one.

**Thank you so much!**

You're sure are welcome. If come up with anything else....