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Barry Scraggs

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ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA
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 Huntington, West Virginia 25755-2667
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SUBJECT: WVCO-NEWTON SPAN

ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: _____

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ORAL HISTORY

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Barry J. Scagg
 (Signature - Interviewee)

Box 232 Ceredo-WV 25507
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WEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITIES - CEREDO

WVC.C. 12

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: Coach Barry Scraggs
CK High School

CONDUCTED BY: Mike Lewis

TRANSCRIBED & TYPED BY: Gina K. Kates

DATE OF INTERVIEW: November 23, 1984

Mike:Scragsy, Ceredo-Renova football, subject Coach Carl Ward, November 23rd, 1984, Mike Lewis interviewer. Coach, we're looking back over uh, Coach Ward's career here at C-R uh, I'd like to know if you could give me your info...your input on a two-part question. Uh, what influences Carl Ward had on you, both as a player and as a coach?

Barry: My opinion of Coach Ward is somewhat uh, colored you know, for the pro side or me because I played for him one year in high...as a player when I was a senior in high school and I had probably the utmost respect for the man. He's probably been more like a father to me than anyone else I've ever known in my life. He uh, he influenced me you know, to play football for him and after I got into playing football, and I only played one year for him and uh, it had such a profound effect on my life that I went on to play uh, football for as long as I got out of Marshall, I went back and I coached for him. And I've been kind, you know, with him for the last 15 years and uh, his...he's...he probably has the single-most profound effect on my life than anyone else because he sets a good example for an individual. He sets high standards. He never does anything that he would be ashamed of, he treats other people as he would like to be treated and he's just a good example in a world that needs good examples. He is a pinnacle of someone that you should epitomize and to look up to.

Mike: Uh, in article in the Huntington Herald Dispatch last year, Coach Ward called you uh, as taking little credit for the team's success but he said that uh, he didn't have to motivate the team too much, you were the team motivator. Could you comment on that?

Barry: Coach Ward is a kind of a person that doesn't take a...the applause himself. He's a very generous man, and he tries to, you know, to spread the generosity around and not to take credit for it but he is the reason, he and Coach Craycraft co-coach this team and the small part that I do play is sort of like a motivator and I coach the weight-lifters in the off-season and try to get 'em up for games but uh, it's not much in comparison to the...the whole scope of things that he and Coach Craycraft do. But he is a generous man and he does make other people around him feel good, because he does, you know, give out what credit that there is. But the main credit lies with himself and Coach Craycraft.

Mike: Uh, Coach, what principles that uh, Coach Ward gives to his players that he's given over the years, I know you've commented on it earlier but what...what do you think, the one...the main principles that he emphasizes uh, have carried over from your playing days to today?

Barry: Well, I think you know, the big thing that Coach Ward does what other coaches sometimes do not do, he doesn't stress the...the win loss, that will come naturally, if you dedicate yourself to hard work. The thing that Coach Ward does successfully with his players is that he is a value teaching coach. He teaches values. He teaches you know, hard work, team work, unselfishness, that if you want something bad enough, and

you're willing to pay the price for it, that uh, anything can be accomplished, whether it's on the football field or the basketball court or in any phase of life, whether it's uh, making a million dollars you know, he tells his players that if...if they're dedicated to making a million dollars, they will. You know and if they're dedicated to ...to any aspect or any endeavor in later life that they want it bad enough, if they will adhere to those principles right there, they will get it, you know, sooner or later, through hard work and perseverance. And this is what he teaches you know, his players. He also teaches you know, fair play and how to be a champion, how to win like a champion, how to lose like a champion, you know. Uh, it's not, he also teaches, you know, winning's not the only thing that uh, sometimes there you can do your best you're a winner, whether the score indicates that you are or you aren't.

Mike: Coach Scraggs, what do you think uh, about Coach Ward's influence on the community? Do you see it as a positive influence or a negative and why?

Barry: I think since Coach Ward has come here in 1961 right there that uh, the effect that he has had on the community has been you know, one that is incomparable right there. He has given you know, Ceredo-Kenova area a championship football team, uh, not only you know, as far as won loss records, but he's also produced a lot of fine young men down through the years. And a lot of these young men that have played for him and have been influenced you know, by him, uh, have great respect for him and will come back and be supporters and know what it's like to have played for the man. You know, I probably know him a lot closer than most people do, but uh, most of his players I'm sure 99 and 9 10's percent of the players that have been under his tutelage over the past years, you know, uh, will say that he is the heart of Ceredo-Kenova. Uh, it's interesting to note that his name, Carl Kenneth, C-K and he's had a lot of job offers where he would make a lot more money, rather than to stay around here. But uh, he's not in it for the money, he's in it for the love of coaching. He's in it for the enjoyment of you know, being around young people and somehow influencing their lives to make this a better society and a better community in which to live and work.

Mike: Coach, one last question, uh, Coach Ward has a tremendous won loss record and uh, the people in the town almost...when it...when it comes to September uh, August and September, they're ready for C-K football and a winning tradition. Uh, would you say that Coach Ward has put too much of an emph...of an emphasis on winning football?

Barry: No, I think the emphasis that he places is on hard work and doing your best and if you take that path or dedication and hard work and perseverance, then you know, the score will take care of itself, you know, you won't really have to win because you will do the thing, the fundamental things that you need to do to accomplish a goal, to live up to your potential, to get your best out of yourself unceasingly and if you will do that, then you

know, the score is...is it...uh, we don't go out there and say, well, in such a situation, you have to win this game, you know, we just say go out and do your best you know and the score will take care of itself. He really does not push won loss you know, whether we're winners or losers. Because you can be a winner even though that uh, you lose. You can be a loser even though you are on a winning team. That's not the important thing, because you're only gonna play football for two or three years in high school. You only may play four years in college. It's what uh, it makes of you and the effect it has on your life, the rest of your life, for the next 60 years is what is important and uh, when the big score is tallied up in the sky, it's not you know, your percentage here on earth, it's what you leave behind in the hearts of other people and the minds of other people that really count and keep score.

Like: Coach, one other question that's coming up, a lot of people have talked about C-R's had several winning seasons, uh, from I think every year since 1961 they've had a winning season. They've had a record 19-State championships but yet there seems to be a lack of representation or athletes on college football teams uh, is there a reason for this?

Barry: Well, you know, most of the time we have been fortunate to have good teams. If you have a good team, it doesn't mean you have good individuals. We've had some nice size youngsters here and but we haven't had the stars. Coach Ward's concept of ...of uh, is team work and uh, we don't really emphasize or try to make one or two people the stars of the team there. We try to have the concept that we have 11 good football players out there or 15 good football players are out there and we try to spread uh, the teamwork around because no one likes to be in the background while someone else is scoring a lot of points. Uh, a quarterback or a running back will get the publicity they needed you know, but as far as Coach Ward is concerned, he's always given his lineman and the people that are unsung heroes you know, he's constantly giving credit out to them. Uh, we're not blessed with a great abundance of super athletes. We take uh, probably players that wouldn't start on anyone else's team in the state and they usually start for us. It's not that we have been blessed with such great talent, we have good talent. But not great talent. It's the team concept and the fact that Coach Ward gets whatever ability out of his athletes, he gets out of them, on to the playing field.

Like: Coach, thank you very much uh, Oral History interview, November 23rd, 1984, Coach Barry Scraggs, Ceredo-Renova High School.

END OF INTERVIEW