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### Oral History Interview: Carl Dial

Carl Dial

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ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA  
 400 Hal Greer Boulevard  
 Huntington, West Virginia 25755-2667  
 304/696-6799

SUBJECT: Owens Glass History Project

ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MORROW ACCESSION NUMBER: 510

ORAL HISTORY

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DATE: 6/17/94

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DATE: 6/17/94

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OWENS GLASS HISTORY PROJECT

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: CARL DIAL

CONDUCTED BY: CHRISTIE KASPRZAK

DATE OF INTERVIEW: JUNE 17, 1994

Christie: This interview is being conducted June 17, 1994, with Mr. Carl Dial. Is that your full name? (right, uh-huh) And just let me uh, when were you born?

Carl: I was born in 1923, May the 28th, 1923.

Christie: Were you born in Huntington?

Carl: Wayne County.

Christie: Wayne County. When did you move to Huntington?

Carl: Well, of course, that is Huntington, Wayne County, out Westmoreland area. (oh, okay) But it's Wayne County. And uh, of course, to inject a little bit of humor, in those days there wasn't such thing as homeowners. You just rented a house until the rent came due, then you moved. [laughter] But uh, no, I've lived all over Huntington all my life, but this is my home town, Huntington. And uh, about my service time, if that's what you want me to (mmm-hmm) talk about. Well, they were four of us brothers that spent our entire working career with Owens. My mother was the first one. She went to work there in 1930. (ohhh) And then I had another brother that, that uh, this is hard for you to swallow, but it's the truth: he went to work there when he was a sophomore in High School, 17 years old. And uh, in those days they would let a student go ahead, if he had a job, they would let a student go ahead and go to school and work, too, in which he did. Well, he went into Marshall and he worked, he went to Marshall for two years, and he continued working there. And when he retired, he retired with 46 years, was only 63 years of age. (wow) So uh, he came in after my mother. My mother went there in 1930. And she only put in 10 years there. (what did she do?) She was a selector there in shipping, or selecting. And then I had my older brother. He came there in 1936, I believe it was the year. Any how he had, when he retired, he had 36 years service. And my younger brother, he went to work there after the war, World War II, and uh, he got, he had 34 years service. And I retired in 1985 with 35 years of service. So, all together the whole family had over 160 years with Owens. That's...(that's incredible)...[laughter]...over 160 years with my mother and my four brothers, including myself.

Christie: So what year did you start?

Carl: I started in 1950. ('50) And retired in '85.

Christie: Wow. What job did you start as, in?

Carl: You mean in what kind of work?

Christie: Mmmm-hmm.

Carl: Well, at that time they were having a problem with soda ash

deliveries, so, of course, I hadn't been married too long. I got married in '46, so that was only, I was looking for a job, so they wanted some strong backs and strong arms. I went to work in the batch and furnace, handling these 180, 200 pound bags of soda ash. (wow) And with an Indian summer, that stuff was rough. That stuff will really play heck on your skin. So, I worked there, and things just opened up and they give me another job after that. (what was the next job?) Well, I went, I worked for awhile in the maintenance department, but most of my years were spent in forming, where they make the bottles (oh, okay). I went, went there probably a year after I came here. I spent all the rest of time in, in the forming department. And let's see, I had my younger brother was in the forming department, my older brother was in the forming department, and my other brother worked, he worked in the administrative part; he was in, in the purchasing department for a few years, and he managed the, the uh, Onized Restaurant. Then from there he went on in to uh, the credit union, and that's where he retired from. He was working in the credit union when he retired. But they were four of us brothers worked there. And three of 'em were supervisors, and I was the only blue collar worker in the whole bunch. (oh, really?) [laughing] Yeah. My mother and I....

Christie: So you retired from the forming department?

Carl: The forming department in 1985. Uh-huh. July, it'll be nine years this July. July, finished up in July.

Christie: So, what was it like having a whole family all in one place?

Carl: Well, I'll tell you what. You know when my mother first went there in 1930, the same story was told then, that was told down through the years. Owens was gonna close. That's the first thing just as a little shaver, I could hear not particularly my mother, but you know, people that knew about Owens. But they were always giving a story that Owens was gonna close down, close out. Well, after awhile, you either get to believin' it or you just don't believe it at all, so, I guess, I never thought it would, you know. 'Cause I'd heard that story for so long, you know. But eventually it did, you know. And was sort of a shock. It was a shock to me, even though I'd been out of the work force for so many years, it uh...it still was a big shock to...and I had a lot of friends there, too, you know. This young fellow across the street, I felt sorry for him. He'd spent well, he was only 51 years old. He lacked 23 days having his time in. (what's his name?) His name is Jim Ferguson, ah, excuse me, Jim Muncy. (Jim Muncy?) So uh, to make a long story short, someday or another they worked it around where he could go back in there, and he worked out his, they had a skeleton crew there after they shut the plant down, he back in and worked there, got his time in so he could retire. Otherwise, he would, he would've had to wait 'til he was 65 years old. And 51

years old, that's a long time. (yeah) So he was able to to in there and get his time in, and he went ahead and took his pension. But uh, yeah, he uh, see, they had that set up to where you had to have 30 years and uh, at 50 years of age, 30 years, shut down like that, you go ahead. And just didn't qualify at that time; just short a few days. There were a few of 'em that were lucky, they let them go ahead and get that in. (yeah) But very few. A lot of 'em just....

Christie: There's a number of people that worked for just maybe less than a year short of getting their 30 years. (yeah, that's right)

Carl: But uh, it's sad.

Christie: So how did you and your brothers and your mother like working at Owens?

Carl: Well, I did, because of the good pay. It was a good paying job, you know. But it was awful hard work. [coughs] I uh, I started thinking seriously about ...I retired at the age of 62. I'll be 70-, I was 71 this past May. And uh, I uh, I never give it a thought about going until I was 65. Of course, when I retired, they hadn't passed the...just before they passed that law where you work until 70. But I had no intentions of going...I'd already made up my mind that I was gonna set a retirement date of 62 years of age. And uh, I wasn't going go on until 65. 'Cause for one thing, you know, I started having a series of [coughs] accidents and uh, I...like I told somebody, I'd been there at that particular time I'd been there 30 years and then in, in, in one years' time I'd had two lost time accidents. And uh, I knew that my reflexes were slipping on me, because a lot of that work that we did in there required real good timing and everything. And if you wasn't careful, you'd get hurt awful bad. So I'd already planned on getting out when I was 62, which I did. I'm glad that I did; I enjoy my retirement, really enjoyed it.

Christie: Now, when you got hurt at work, you don't get compensation for that?

Carl: Oh, yeah, I (oh, you did?) yeah, I got compensation, I was just off from work. But it was...serious injuries. This hand right here, I got a hot gob on that, and almost burned it off. And never had a bit of problem with it, though. I had excellent care. This hand here I got caught in a machine and every one of those fingers were broken, in between the joints. I was pinned up there in that machine, and a guy came up there with a pinch bar, and tripped that trollup where I was hung and got me out of there. And uh, but I was lucky. This hand here, those broken bones, between the joints, each one of those breaks was right between the knuckles, joints? (mmm-hmm) and consequently, it wasn't no, no crippling effects. So if those had been broke in the joints, I'd

have been crippled in that hand. Just lucky I guess. (yeah) But uh....

Christie: Sounds pretty dangerous.

Carl: Yeah. Well, it was. You had your younger, you know, your reflexes and everything are a lot better, and you uh, like I said, timing was, was the main thing. And I, just like I told this boy over here, he started coming up with a series of injuries, and I told him, I said, "Jim, get out as quick as you can, son. You're not as quick as you used to be." And he was much quicker than me, even. In his prime. And he started...getting injuries, and I told him to try to think about retirement because you know, you can stay on at a place like that too long. I mean, if it's that type of work, where it's you know, dangerous, but uh.... I'm not uh, I don't regret...I mean, Owens was a good place to work. And I uh, I enjoyed my...it was hard work, real hard work. But like I say, the pay was, we had a lot of guys over there that uh, that they dropped out of college and uh, you know, that didn't go back because of the pay. (mmmh) The pay was so good, see, you just couldn't, you got spoiled or whatever you want to call it. And they just didn't go back to, go back to school. And uh....

Christie: So you had a lot of friends there.

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah, over 35 years (yeah). But you know it's a funny thing though, about uh, relationships with people. Believe it or not, there's people there, especially women folk that worked there on the lahrs, people that I'd worked with for years and years, and I never knew their name. I just knew the faces, see. 'Cause...I don't know, maybe other people would, would uh, would uh, know their names or be ....I just don't know. I've seen ...we even have them in our retirement club but I don't know their names. But I remember working with them, 20-odd years ago. (mmm-hmm) [coughs]

Christie: Did you do things together outside of work?

Carl: Yeah, we belong to the retirees, retirement club we have over at retiree....retired from Owens. (uh-huh) And we uh, we travel this West Virginia Coach, we go on different trips. We've been up, getting ready to make a trip in the fall up to the New England states, and will be gone for eight days and go up in you know, the Boston area and Massachusetts and all through there, and see the autumn foliage, you know, (mmm-hmm), the leaves and so forth. And uh, then we take little mini trips, go to dinner theaters down in Springsboro, Ohio and go to the baseball games, Cincinnati Reds, go down to, we've been down to Nashville. We just came back from Branson, Florida, not too, or Branson, Missouri, not too long ago. [coughs] We were out there several days. We...we make these trips and uh...sort of help on our expenses by having

dinners and things of that sort. We have, throw, have a dinner once a month, and have carry-outs and sit-downs and so forth, and we do pretty well on it. I mean, it helps...you knock a couple hundred dollars off here and there, and it helps...on your trip. (mmm-hmm) 'Cause you know, retirees don't have all that much money, and it helps when you can supplement things like that, and get along. If you're wondering why I'm wearing dark glasses, I just had cataract surgery not too long ago. (oh, really?) Yeah.

Christie: Well, I know you're whole family was in the plant. Is that why you decided to go there in the first place?

Carl: I, you know, I...of course, when I went to work there, I worked different places before I went there. But I got out of the service in 1946. I was in World War II, and got out of the service. And I had uh, two brothers already working there. My mother had left there several years before, but my two older brothers were still working there. And my younger brother and I went up there and put in an application. Well, in the meanwhile, Houdaile Hershey's had just opened up and I went down there and uh, got a job with Houdaile. Well, they called me and uh, I was already working, so they'd taken my younger brother, his application was in there, and they hired him in [inaudible].... [coughs] But it was, that was in '46, so it was four years after that that I went to Owens. I went to the '50's. (mmm-hmm) I went there in 1950. And so, they, we, I guess, you know, your family has a lot, I'm sure that it does, has a lot to do with it. 'Cause I can remember when my brother, and, the one I was telling you about, was going to Marshall, well, I can remember these pay checks he got there, they paid 'em every two weeks at that time. And those pay checks he got there was just, would bug your eyes, because they just seemed like...I don't know why I got to coughing like that, sort of....excuse me. But uh, he uh, he'd get paid there and boy, I'd see his pay, pay checks and it was something else. That was back in the very throes of you know, the depression; the Depression was in the '30's. (oh, yeah) We're talking about 35 and right along in there, see. And just a young man like he was and making that kind of money and still able to go to school, that was really something else. [coughs] But uh....

Christie: So did your brothers enjoy working there? Was there more than just the pay?

Carl: Well, yeah. Yeah, yeah, I guess it was. The, these two brothers, the one that ...two of 'em were in, well, all three of them were in management, the uh, the two like I told you was uh, operating Huntington Onized restaurant in the uh, worked there as...he was, he headed the Huntington Credit Union, Huntington Onized Credit Union, he headed that for years before he retired. They oh, they loved their job. That younger brother, I've heard him say that the more responsibility they give him, the better he liked it. He said he liked that challenge, you know. (mmm-hmm)



And uh, I guess...I had a different view on that. I knew that every time you ...you take on more responsibility, that it was more headaches, you know. And I mean, I...to me, that's what I knew, I thought, see. 'Cause I'd seen ...responsibilities almost you know, and it really hurts a person's health in the long run. But uh, they liked it. I had two brothers, they liked that responsibility. And they....

Christie: What kind of opportunities did the plant give you to move around?

Carl: You mean advance? (mmm-hmm) Well, they would...now, before I retired, I was what they called a uh, what they referred to, well, we were called machine foreman. We had several machines, anywhere from 3 to 4 machines that we were responsible for...sort of trouble shooters. And we'd go around and work on these machines for the operators, and help them with their defects and so forth. [coughs] Then a lot of times they picked a lot of the men, they'd pick 'em right out of the department and promote 'em. Uh...I never did pursue any type of job like that. I didn't uh, like I said while ago, I...I felt good with my work and I didn't want to rock the boat, as the old saying goes. And uh, I just never did pursue that. But now, my younger brother, he uh, he left here and went to uh, North Bergen, New Jersey, right outside of New York and he was up there for several years and then when he finished that at Owens, he retired from the New Jersey plant there in uh...close to Philadelphia, I'm trying to think of the name of the plant. But he retired from up in New Jersey, but the rest of us, my other two brothers and myself, we retired from the Huntington plant. My younger brother though, he retired up in New Jersey. And uh, it uh....

Christie: Were there clubs and activities while you were working there, that you went to? (what kind of activities?) Like clubs or any other kind of social activities?

Carl: Oh, yeah, we had uh, yeah, we had inter-department clubs and clubs that ....at one time they had one of the largest athletic pledges that I've ever heard of, and this was back there in say the early '50's and even before, that they were spending...and that was a lot of money. They were spending \$50,000 a year on athletics alone, Owens was, over here at the local plant. They'd send these guys...they had uh, I don't know, several state softball champions, and ba-, in basketball and everything like that. And they'd send these guys all over the eastern part of the country, these big...big games that they would schedule, championship games. But yeah, they went in Owens at one time, they went in for athletics and all that. Real generous in their undertaking. They'd provide these guys, they'd travel first class. But I never was into that. Used to be the old saying goes, it used to be if they found out you was a good baseball player, they'd hire you right on the spot, see. [laughs] Like some of these coal mines, you know. But they, they

didn't hire me for my athletic ability, 'cause I didn't have that much of it. [laughter] [coughs]

Christie: Well, did you do other activities with people from the plant?

Carl: Well now, I was just a little bit different from the general run. Now, you take this guy over here, and a lot of 'em that I knew of, they was always wetting the line; they did a lot of fishing, a lot of hunting, and things, and still do. Things like that, see, but I never was that.... I'd go out and do a little bit of hunting once in a while. I used to like to duck hunt, stuff like that. I did that with an older brother of mine. But uh, no, I didn't, I know, I guess I just never did uh, get into that flow of things. But uh, but you know, I mean, I had no problems with the guys. We liked each other (mmm-hmm), see each other day in and day out. But as far as socializing, I wouldn't, I didn't socialize too much with 'em. And I think because I'd rather, I...socialize more with my wife.... (yeah, did you have any children?) We never had any children. (never) And we, my wife and I will soon celebrate our 46th wedding anniversary. (that's wonderful) In August. So, we never had any kids and as a matter of fact, they were pretty scarce in our clan. My older brother, he had one child, my brother next to him had one, [coughs], and this younger brother just had one, and I came up zip, zero. My sister, I had one sister, she uh, she had several children; she had three or four. She had four-two girls and two boys. But uh, my wife and I, we uh, we didn't have any children, but it wasn't by choice. We love kids. We always have. We sort of shared our love and everything toward our little nieces and nephews and so forth. I just went out there not too long ago, well, this last weekend we was out in Cincinnati visiting our niece and her little girl. And that little girl came up to me and told me, says, says, "Uncle Carl, I haven't seen you for a long time." I think it, the last time I saw her was around the holidays, around Christmas, said, "I haven't seen you for a long time." Three years old. [laughing] She's a dandy. And she's just like her mother. When her mother was, we, we had her mother when her mother was still in the crib almost, we was around her all the time. And that little girl reminds me so much of her mother when her mother was her age.

Christie: So uh, did you notice, you were there for so many years, did things change? Did management change?

Carl: Oh, much, oh, yeah, they changed. (what kind of changes came about?) Well, changes was in the operation and machines and everything. Everything went from uh, what you might say just well, I won't call it manual labor, but everything was operated uh, completely differently. I mean, and everything went to computers, see. They had them machines up there...I remember when the first computerized machine came in there. (when was that?) Uh...well, I don't know the exact year, but if I was gonna guess, I'd

say...uh, 10 or 12 years ago...they brought it in there. They had a regular room where they programmed all the history and everything to that machine. And they set it up in this room, set all the history up on these computers. And then they just let that booger go and they had what they called junction boxes and if you had to make any adjustments, you'd go back there and they had a junction boxes on the back of the machine and you'd push these different buttons to make your adjustments with. (mmm-hmm) But it was all computerized. (wow) And I guess when they closed that plant down, they was probably not...I don't know just how many of the old type machines that they...they could have been 2 or 3 of them left, but most of them were all computerized machines.

Christie: Mmmh. But it wasn't that way when you started, though.

Carl: Oh, no, everything was uh...all of our timing and everything was set on the drums, we had a 360 degree drum with settings on there, buttons, that were set in these grooves and you break those buttons and slip 'em and set your degrees and everything right there on the drum. Your timing and everything was right on the drums...rotating.... But that's the biggest change that I've seen. Now this older brother of mine, he spent like I was telling you a while ago, he spent 30-, I think it was 36 years but uh, that was just with Owens. Now, he spent time with Ball Brothers, I can remember in the uh, when I was just a little shaver, back in the early '20's, I can remember when he worked at Ball Brothers down here; that plant is still standing down there, but that plant moved out years ago. He was only, he went to work there when he was I believe he was 15 years old...he went to work there...at Ball Brothers. We lived here in the west end [coughs]. He went to work there...but he had a lot of jobs in between after he left Ball Brothers. And then he finally went to Owens, and he spent all the years there at Owens, then he retired. Now he uh, if he would have been living, I guess Cecil would have been about, he was born in 1909...what would that make him? About 84, 83, 83 years old, he would have been, he was the oldest of all of us kids. And uh....

Christie: So what made your mom start to work there?

Carl: Well, probably 'cause my dad, my dad had spent 20 years in the mines and uh, when they uh, when they left...of course, they were both born and raised here in West Virginia, but when he left the upper part of the state, up around Cabin Creek, up through there, he mined coal up there. He mined coal for 20 years. And it uh, affected his health. Well, when he came here to Huntington, he got a job with some fellow operating a shoe repair shop. And in those days that was pretty good business to be into, because now...you know, it wasn't too many, there wasn't too much money around to buy shoes with, and if you get 'em...he went in to that, and later on he went into his own business. Well, my mother, she went to work there probably out of economic necessity, you know. Of course, she had a pretty good size family. There were, they

were, let's see...four of us boys, no, three of us boys at home at the time. My older brother...no, four of us. The older brother didn't, he got married in 1927. So uh, he, they came here in about, they came here in about 1920, somewhere along there, came to Huntington. And uh, he uh, he operated that little old shop for years and years and years. And he passed away in 1971. But they both lived pretty ripe old age, to a ripe old age. I think he, Pop was 86 and Mom was 86 when she died, 86 years of age. But there was 8 years difference in their ages. (mmmh) And they'd been married for over 60 years, 63 years, I think it was...and uh, when he died. But uh, could I get you a glass of, a cold glass of ....?

Christie: Your wife's already gotten me a glass of water. (oh, did she?) Yeah.

Carl: That water there, did she tell you what kind of water that is? (no) That's, you've heard of ...you've heard of Lesage Water? (Lesage) Lesage Water, up here...well, that...our niece, they were raised on that water there, up at Big 7 Mile. And they went to the dentist, they went to asked those girls to bring a sample in here, to get that water checked. There's only 7 underwater streams of that water through the Appalachia region, (is that right?) in this country, and that was one of 'em that runs through there. That well where that water came from is 237 feet deep (wow). But that's the only thing we make coffee, drink...[inaudible]...(yeah, it's good). It's good water; we like it.

Christie: Well, as far as changes, were there changes because of management? You remember any new management coming in and making changes?

Carl: There was uh, there was...there was a big parade of plant managers that came through the years. Plant managers change ever so often, but no, your regular bosses didn't change that often. Very seldom you know, I mean, very seldom did we have a change in ...in your regular local, but uh, a lot of your changes was in plant management. They'd send in different plant managers over a period of time. But uh, my idea was then and now, which at one time, uh, people there, they didn't, nobody ever fired anybody. If you ever were fired at Owens, you fired yourself. You know what I mean? They go the last mile of the way. But over the years, things changed to where there was a lot of pressure. And even people with college degrees, that was unheard of back there. If you had a college man in there, or somebody like that, they, they never, I don't care what they would do, they would never be fired. All they'd do, is transfer or promote them to another plant. (mmmh) They never, never come right out and axed 'em like they do now. But now, but in the last few years, why, they would drop you in a heart beat, you know. (really?) Yeah. I mean, that's just, I guess that's that way in all industry. I don't know. But that was the impression I got. I'm just giving you my...my impression. But it seems like that's the way it was.

Christie: So did you feel like you, your job was more demanding?

Carl: Well, yeah, oh, yeah, there were a lot more demands. But at the same time, uh, I felt sort of like I was more insulated because I was, I was buried pretty deep in the union, see. And I had that protection. And, but, later on, your salaried personnel didn't have that protection, see. They didn't have that protection at all. The union, there was a lot of good and bad, both ways, you know. I mean, you had a lot of management that was bad and you had a lot of bad, even though I've been a union man all my life, I can see a lot of things in the union that I didn't really...but on the other hand, it.... At one time, though, they had a real good working relationship. Now, that's back in the uh, in the '50's, and it got real good for say 50, started improving in '55, it got real good up until about 1970, about a 20-year period there that it really, the relationship, management and labor, got along great. But then it started...suffering, I mean, having problems there.

Christie: Any reasons that you know of?

Carl: Well, you know, the thing that I think about it, when I think of reasoning when I think of something like that, I think there was only one word, and I've seen it wide-spread, locally, nationally, state...greed. Seem to me like it was just greed...the worst enemy. I'll get mine, you know, just so I get mine, that's all that matters, you know what I mean? (mmm-hmm) There's no, there's no feeling, like a ...caring or feeling for your fellow man. I don't know...that's just....

Christie: So, why don't you tell me a little bit about the union? What kind of stuff you did with the union, and any strikes you might have gone on.

Carl: Well, we uh, my wife uh...we went through some, two or three bad strikes. There's one strike there that, well, just for instance. My wife and I've been in this house this is 38 years plus; we came out here in '56. And at that time, I'd been working at Owens for 8 years. And to give you an idea about job security then and now, I figure with my 8 years seniority, there's no way in this world that I'd ever be out of work. I had a job for life there...you know? (mmm-hmm) I was set for life. But now when uh, when I retired, or when they started these drastic cutbacks and everything, and layoffs, a few years ago, you had to have 20 years seniority to hold a job. If you didn't, they laid you off. You just didn't have that security, see. (mmm-hmm) That was a big change right there for me. And I just thought, boy, I remember when I bought my home, I only worked there 8 years and there wasn't a chance of me losing out any way. Well, that wouldn't be a drop in the bucket, or it wouldn't be a drop in the bucket later on; of course, now, it doesn't make that much difference, it's gone anyhow. But at that time, you know, it just seemed like there was no problem at all.

Christie: When...when did all the big cutbacks start?

Carl: Well, one of the big things about these cutbacks was this computerization; they computerized these machines, see. They were making more ware out of...I don't know what the rate, the ratio was, but just for instance we'll say that you get more production out of say one machine, one computerized machine than you could three others of the old style. You know what I mean? It was puttin' out more ware (right). It didn't take much on that ware consequently they started laying, cuttin' back, downsizing, see, cuttin' them off then because the other machines could spit 'em out, I don't know...I don't know what those things was making a minute. Of course, like I said, I'd been out of there nearly 10 years. But they had increased that over the time that I'd left. But uh, talk about, just for example, I don't know whether it'd be accurate or not, but say, say 240 bottles a minute. That's a lot of bottles to come out of a machine. (yeah, a lot, yeah) I mean, they would really spit 'em out of there as fast as they could go.

Christie: Did they have a time where it was just a massive layoff of....

Carl: No, when I first went to work there, it was a gradual balance-out thing. When I first went to work there in 1950, I believe, I believe we had 2200 employees there, I think that's about what it was, over 2,000. And when I left there in 1987-'85, I believe there were ...just guessing again, but it was close to 6- or 700 employees, so you can imagine just how many people had lost their jobs in that period of time (right). But that was because of the tough market and everything, and all these machines, the technologies advance...advancement, how they were able to produce much more. So, yeah, it's, there's been a lot of changes there.

Christie: So uh, so did you ever go on strike with the union?

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah, the company...I'll have to ask my wife about that to be sure, because she really kept...it didn't bother me that much, or at least I wasn't conscious of it when we had that strike. But uh, my wife, I think she had it marked up. We had a 2-month strike there one time. And uh, what had happened, that we had tried to plan in case of that eventuality, in case of a strike or a long period of not working and everything, and we always tried to plan ahead. And we built up money, put it in escrow, and if we went on a strike like that, it, our house payments would be covered (right) with that money in escrow. In which, it happened that way. (mmm-hmm). Not very much of the money we had to, we didn't have to rely on too much of it. But we did some. Because uh...with no paycheck coming in, those things get pretty, get pretty thin here for awhile. But that, that's the thing that I remember. But I imagine she is, she probably [laughing] knows about as much about that place as I do, 'cause

she's had her finger right on it for years.

Christie: So, were you active in the union in other ways?

Carl: No, I wasn't an officer, no, I wasn't active that way. I was just a member of the union. And uh, (did you think that being a member benefitted you a lot?) Oh, I think so, I think so. I think the union is, it's been a great thing for the working man. And just for an example, I worked for Houdaile Hershey's, too. I went there when they were uh, negotiating for a new contract. They'd brought in a, that was the United Steelworkers, see, Houdaile Hershey's was where we made the bumpers. And I remember where they had breakdowns, they'd ship you to different departments to work, to fill in time, you know. If you didn't want to go home, why, your line was shut down and uh.... I remember I went in on the line one day and they just hired this new guy in and he was telling me at the time, he said, and we're talking about the year 1947, '48, he told me, he says, "You know, I don't believe in unions." Well, what had happened, at that time, there were, Mary, if you want to come in here and sit in on this, I'm probably missing a lot of stuff you can remember. But anyhow, this, they would have their machine foreman, the guys that operated these little units within the plant, they'd come around when the new employee come in, he'd come around have you sign up with a union card. And this boy refused to sign. And he came over, and I didn't know the guy, because he'd just hired in there, and of course, I...I'd been in there for a little while. You know, I was one of the first to hire in there after the war. So anyhow, he uh, he said, "I don't believe in the union," said, "I'm not signing that card." I said, well, I told the guy, I said, "Well, you know, before you can work here, you've got to join the union," I said, "It's uh, [coughs], it's, it's uh, it's a rule that they have, if you don't sign that union card, you just can't work." He said, "Well, I ain't signing it." So I went ahead and I explained to him, I said, "You know," I said, "to give you an idea, when I first came to work here in 1946," [coughs] I said, "I went to work for 70 cents an hour on those big uh, press machines over there," I said, "went to work for 70 cents an hour and they were negotiating a new contract. And when they finished that, my wages jumped to a dollar twenty-one and a half cents an hour." And I said, "Now, that benefitted me." 'Cause you know....[chuckling] And I wasn't married then, at that time. 'Cause I didn't get married 'til '48. And I said, "That was a lot, that was a big jump for me, wages." And I said, uh, of course wages went on up from there, you know. But uh, I said, "You think about that now. Now, that's the reason why I appreciate the union." I said, "Because my wife worked, she worked for about 14 years down at Appalachian, and she was on salary, and she uh," and I guess it's that way in all work places. She always benefitted from the union up there. Even though she wasn't in the union, because every time...see, there were lineman and all those guys, they, when they got a new contract or anything, they got an increase in wages. Well, what did they do? They, when

they got an increase, they increased the salary personnel. They got a raise, too, right with them, even though they didn't belong to the union. And that was just the way the old cookie crumbled. That's the way the ball bounced. (yeah) They do that...

Christie: Yeah, so it probably worked that way at Owens, too.

Carl: Yeah, it's that way, yeah, it's that way. Oh, I'm sure it was. (yeah) Yeah, those salary employees up there, they got their increases right along...and boy, they had the best, they had, the salary employees, they had the best...medical insurance that you could ask for. That younger brother of mine had a stroke just about the time I was getting ready to retire and do you know that...that it didn't cost him a nickel. They called in there and okayed it up in Toledo and they'd taken him and he, they'd even put in there you awhile after he got out of the hospital he went to a nursing home for a few days. But they gave him physical therapy and everything.

Christie: And the company took care of all that?

Carl: Oh, every bit of it, yeah, every bit of it. Now, blue collar workers, of course, you're covered with insurance all that, but they...they, your medical coverage wouldn't compare with the salary, salary had the big edge there, on the coverage.

Christie: Did you have any problems with that?

Carl: You mean with uh....

Christie: Did you ever have uh, medical problems that weren't covered?

Carl: Yeah, oh, yeah, I had in 1958 I had, I hemorrhaged from bleeding ulcers. In '58 I was hospitalized for two weeks; of course, they don't keep you in a hospital like that nowadays. But I was in there for that and oh, just, had a minor operation years later in '77. But I've been, general speaking, I've been real healthy.

Christie: What, did your medical coverage take care of those bills or not? (oh, yeah) Oh, they did.

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah, they did, yes, ma'am. Uh-huh, yeah, they took care of everything. I was very happy with the medical coverage that we got. We had them...even though uh, when I left there, we had dental coverage. We had dental coverage, too. (mmmh) We didn't get it, in some places they get it after you retire; it's built into the package but we didn't get it, the retirees didn't get dental coverage.

Christie: How's your retirement pension and medical?



Carl: It's uh, fairly good, but you know, I don't care who you are when you retire, you're going to have to, a person's going to have to sit down with his wife and figure out his, you're going to have to make adjustments along the way. Now, I came out of it pretty good because my wife and I made a few little investments along the ways, you know, years and everything, prepared for my retirement. And of course, I'm on Social Security, too. I got my Social Security when I was 62 years old. I retired at 62 and got, well, it's a 80%...see, you get 20% penalty. But that along with my pension and a few other little things that I have invested in has made my retirement comfortable.

Christie: Well, that's good.

Carl: I don't have money to throw away or anything like that, but.... For example, in 1990, I had a '74 Dart that I had 45,000 miles on it, a '74. And I never did like it because I couldn't keep the thing running and she kept after me to get a new car and I said, "Honey, we only got 45,000 miles on that. Break it in first, go ahead and get it." So, one day we was in a hurry to go to a wedding, my nephew's wedding and the car killed on me when I got over that hill, I knew what to do to get it started. I got the car started and I just went back and poked my head in the window there and I said, "Well, go buy yourself a new car tomorrow." And she went up there and eye-balled and done all the negotiating and everything. I don't even know to this day, well, I know they do, but I wonder some times if they figured who that guy was sitting over there in a corner. I got over in a corner and she just in a little cubby hole with this guy and eyeballed him, and worked out a deal and she bought the car herself. [laughing] Lot of women say they won't that responsibility put on them.

Christie: Well, in the plant when you were working there, uh, did men and women have different jobs?

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah. The women, yeah, the women worked in the selecting, they were our selectors. And we worked back there, now a few times, once or twice they tried but that kind of work just wasn't for a woman back there where I worked because it was dirty, greasy, hot and some woman there that worked out of machine repair, different departments, she worked there right on the line. And I used to think I'd see her up there in those pants, she had beautiful auburn hair, good working gal, and she'd get there and work in there. For the life of me I couldn't understand why, why she'd be up there working in that.... Finally, but some of them just didn't pan out, they worked or tried it, it was just too hot and they quit it.

Christie: Did you get paid more in the other jobs though?

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah, you had that type of job, yeah. Our department was probably, the forming department, was probably the

best paying department there; dirtiest, hottest. And the one thing about it too, is outside of that one year I worked under maintenance and so forth. I spent about all that 35 years spent right there in forming. And also, uh, I worked the swing shift. It swung from 7 to 3, 3 to 11, 11 to 7 (right), see. And you work that, work that for that many years and boy, when you get ready out on a midnight, you get a, whether you been eating bad food or not, you'll still get a queasy feeling in your stomach. I know...I did. And I still get my days and nights mixed up. [laughter]

Christie: You didn't get to see your wife that much, either, when you're doing the swing shift.

Carl: Well uh, yeah, but when she was working see, she, for several years there while I worked that swing shift, she worked at there at Appalachian Power. But no, when I, when she was at home all the time I didn't have any problem. I mean, she was here at the house and of course, I'd come home when I worked all night, I'd come home and sleep most of the day (yeah), [laughs] before I'd get up. Who was that? Was you on the phone with somebody? Hey, this young lady was asking me, Margaret, about that strike, was that strike a 2 month strike we was on that time that you almost freaked out, remember?

Margaret: It was longer than that.

Carl: Huh, I thought it was 2 months.

Margaret: Does she still have the microphone on?

Carl: Yeah, she just turned the tape over. [laughing]

Margaret: No one will hear that, but you, right?

Christie: Oh, the tape? (mmmh-hmm) yeah, they're going to put it in the library. It will be in the library to be heard. Yeah, that's alright. So, women had different jobs. Uh, did that change at all, did the union change that, did they try to....

Carl: Those women had a good union, too, behind them. See, now that was in, that's what we belong to now, the 212, and most of those women, most of those people are on those trips are women, that are on those trips with us.

Christie: The retirement group?

Carl: Yeah, the retirement group. But they uh, I Just really got acquainted with some of them that I had known for all those years, knowing their face and uh, got acquainted with them in this retirement club. No, they had a, had a, good strong union representation out there. They done their own thing, you know,

(mmm-hmm). They politicked just the same as the rest of them. I just wasn't that active in union affairs. I...like a lot of them, I wanted the benefits but I didn't want to put out the time and effort to get them, you know.

Christie: So the women's union was separate from the mens?

Carl: Yeah, it was separate. We belong to the same union and everything but different locals, and everything, you see. My local was Local 116 and their's was 212 and the women belonged to it.

Christie: Did you say at one time you did have one woman who worked in your department?

Carl: Yeah, well, she worked out of machine repair. Her name was, what was her name, Margaret? Uh...Juanita...Muncy, Muncy, Juanita Muncy. And she worked out in machine repair, and she did upkeep work on the feeders and so forth. Over a period of time we had 1 or 2 women that I can recall who came back there that worked and they just gave up on it 'cause it was such a hot, hard, greasy job (mmm-hmm). Of course, men would do all they could to help those women along but it was, it was just too rough. I think there is certain work that women shouldn't do, you know. I don't mean to be...I think there is some jobs that are just.... Well, maybe I'm wrong to say that, but I think there are some jobs that are just too heavy, you know, too dirty, too heavy. But that is the reason I couldn't understand that young woman with a beautiful head of hair like she had, getting up there in that old grease, you know.

Christie: Mmm-hmm. What about, uh, did you have people of other races that worked out there?

Carl: Oh, yeah, yeah. We had...two black guys there working back there uh...one fellow, one guy's name was Roosevelt Vines. Later on he left there, and he's with the water company, and Bill Whittenberg, you may have heard of him. He was...quite an amateur and professional fighter back there, 15, 20 odd something years ago. He worked back there on the line too, with us. They were real nice guys.

Christie: Were they on your shift?

Carl: Yeah. Both of them had worked my shift. Yeah, uh-huh, both of them had worked my shift.

Christie: So you got to know them pretty well.

Carl: Oh, yeah, I...I just saw, I call him Rosy, Roosevelt Vines. I just saw him the other day, working on a line. (oh, really?) But Bill, the funniest thing about Bill, I had him to go, invite him to play golf with me one day and we went up to Barboursville to play up there and I had that old favor out there then and everybody

and their brother was trying to get that car off of me. 'Cause it was getting to be, you know, sort of a classic. We was coming down I-64 and there was a great big old young fellow, black bearded, big heavy beard, coming down there, a pickup. He started hollering at me. Well, after working in that noise up there for over, at that time, for over 25 years, I was about half deaf anyhow, and I couldn't hear what he was a saying. Old Bill was sitting there beside of me, coming down through there and he still had his good hearing and everything. I said, "Bill, what in the world does that guy want?", and he said, "He wants to know if you want to see that car, Carl." And I hollered back to that guy, I said, "No," I said, "my wife would leave me if I get rid of this car." [laughter] Of course, she wouldn't but, that is the answer I gave him, and he said, "Okay", and threw up his hand and waved at me, and he went on. Which reminds me of another little story she told me here while back, said she had a notion of taking that old car and driving off to the junk yard. I said, "Honey, if you ever decide to do that, give me a little warning and I will climb in that trunk back there and you can dump me with it." [laughing]

Christie: You'd be buried with your car, huh. [laughing] (yeah) Well, did you think...for the black workers, did the union do anything for them in particular?

Carl: They gave them the same, as my estimation, they gave them the same protection they did any of the rest of them. There wasn't any difference whatsoever, they protected them the same as they would us. Otherwise, as far as I know they was no discrimination whatsoever. Most of those guys up there, those black guys, they weren't that many of them, but we lived them real well. I, as a matter of fact, I wouldn't have gone up there and played golf with old Bill if I didn't like him.

Christie: Yeah. Well, I was just wondering about, you know, the management part, if pay and opportunities was the same....

Carl: Well, now, coming back to the management, I don't know about that. They wasn't...uh...they might have been uh...they might not have been equal there. I don't know. 'Cause I know we didn't have any black supervision back up there.

Christie: Well, when did they first start hiring blacks? Not in the '50's while you was there, right?

Carl: No, no, uh-huh, no, they started bringing them in there about...now, I'm just guessing they probably started bringing them in there about oh, I'd say in the '70's, in the '70's.

Christie: And you said there really wasn't that many?

Carl: They weren't that many, no. I was just trying to think uh, we had one guy there by the name of Potts, Potts, or Spotts, he was

a black guy. He worked there a little while, and this Whittenberg and this Roosevelt Vines, and just, gee, they just wasn't too many of them back there. They had a few of them out in selecting, female and male, working out in the selecting, but not all that many, either. So, I don't know what...what the deal was there, whether they just didn't uh...I'm sure they probably had a lot of applications for them which you take where there is...what is it uh, 10% of the population, 10% of the people are, 10% of them are black (right, right).

Christie: As far as the pay, and opportunities, did you think that women had the same opportunities as well or was there a time when that increased?

Carl: Now, that was something that I always thought about. Now I'm different, probably, from a lot of men but I always felt like uh, regardless of gender or anything like that, female or male, I think that...equal work should always be equal pay, you know. I couldn't see not paying a woman the same wages as a man if she did the same kind of work, you know. (mmm-hmm) I think that, I always thought that was a wrong thing in our working economy. I think if a woman does equal work, the same work as a man, she should get equal pay. I've always felt that way. (did you think it was that way?) No, I don't think it was. No, the women didn't get, I don't think, no, they didn't get the pay. That was a big drawback, too. Now, they did when they were out there, what little time they were back there on the hot end, we called it the hot end or forming. They got pay, but that was a lower paying job out there in selecting than what it was back there where we were.

Christie: Did their union help to change that at all, or do you think it never really changed?

Carl: I don't know. They all worked under a contract and if the contract says...there is no way that they can possibly shortchange a worker just because of their preference or something like that. If the contract says they should be paid a certain amount of money for a certain job, regardless if they was black or white, (mmm-hmm), they would get the same pay. I couldn't see where they could keep from doing that or pay what they are supposed to be getting.

Christie: But maybe they just started that lower rate or lower wages.

Carl: No, if they're in the union, they're in the union, they got to pay them the same. Now, salary might be a different thing all together. I wouldn't know about that. But if they're in the union they have to be paid the same thing, what the contract called for. I mean, because, regardless of a fellows skin, if they sign a contract that a certain person should make a certain amount of money and if it's agree upon, they have to pay them that money. Salary could be different, it could vary, I imagine. I would say

it could, I don't know.

Christie: Were there any women in the supervisory positions?

Carl: They did, they did have some women there that were not in the top supervisory capacity, but a lot of them were in supervision, on salary out there in selecting, you see, in the selecting department.

Christie: I see, not in the other departments, only in the selecting.

Carl: No, just selecting, as far as I know of.

Christie: Earlier, you said uh, you went to the Owens plant right after World War II.

Carl: No, I went there in 1950 (oh) I was out of service. I got out of service in 1946. I went to work at Houdaille Hershey's in '46. My brother went there after he got out of WWII.

Christie: Okay. I thought you had said you were one of the first people that got hired after the World War II.

Carl: That was at Houdaille Hershey's. (oh, alright) and some people calls it Houdais, some of them call it. I went to work there right after I got out of the service. Now that younger brother of mine, he went to work there at Owens since he got out, he got out in the same, let's see, I got out in April of '46 and he got out in May. So we were pretty close together. He went to work there in '46 and I went to

Christie: I was just wondering how the plant might have changed to adjust to the war or anything with so many men leaving to go to the war.

Carl: Well, they were quite a few of them but a lot of them were in the service, in WWII, there from Owens. Of course, I was in the service myself. But I'd come home on leave and so forth, and my brother would take me through there and, but they were a several of them that lost their lives in World War II that worked there at Owens. (yeah)

Christie: Were there any big changes that happened at the plant, that you know of, that your brother ever said?

Carl: You mean in technology of glass making?

Christie: I was wondering if they first maybe, what they were producing. Were they producing anything different to help the war effort?

Carl: I really don't know. I was gone then. I don't know what their line was at that time. Of course, I'm sure that they had a lot of drug items that they were making. They had different types of machines. But they were making a lot of drug items in all those years I was at Owens. (right) I'm sure that they probably made a lot of them in World War II for that. There was an involvement there as far as cause some of those guys got deferments in World War II or I heard that they did. Because of their work.

Christie: They got to stay at the plant. (yeah) How does that work?

Carl: I don't know. I don't know what it was they said they needed them or what have you. As a matter of fact, this one brother of mine, seems to me like he got a deferment or something, I don't know...he was never in service. This one I told you had all those years, 46 years. (right) He never went in the service. They were only 5 of us brothers, 5 boys and 3 of us was in service and 2 of them wasn't.

Christie: But only 4 of you worked at the plant.

Carl: Yeah, they were 4 of us that worked at the plant.

Christie: Well, because of the war with so many young men leaving to do they have to hire more women or anything like that?

Carl: They...uh, tell you what they did, they uh...worked them overtime a lot, lot of overtime involved there.

Christie: For the people who were still there?

Carl: Yeah, the people there worked a lot of overtime. I think they could work all the overtime they wanted. You was talking about the union, too. You see, they always referred to Owens union to being a company union because uh, the company, my understanding, of course, I never studied into it or anything, but my understanding was that a lot of these plants, these plants...these whiskey plants refused to buy Owens bottles unless they were unionized. So back in, I think the year was 1937, Owens unionized so customers would buy their bottles. They wasn't buying their bottles unless they were unionized. It forced them into it, you understand what I'm talking about?

Christie: Yeah. I didn't know that; I had never heard of that.

Carl: They forced them in, they forced them in to unionizing 'cause these companies wasn't buying their bottles to bottle their product.

Christie: Now why did the companies want them to be unionized?

Carl: Well, 'cause....

Christie: Just to help the working man or was there another reason?

Carl: Well, let me think about that for a minute. [laughs] I imagine...because they were unionized themselves, see. I'd say they'd be unionized, these big distilleries (right) were unionized themselves see. Why should they be buying from a non-union operation plant when their own workers were unionized, see. It was just that's...that would be my idea why it was. But I imagine there's a lot more....

Christie: That's really interesting. I never knew that.

Carl: I imagine there's a lot more but I can remember about 1937, that Owens, and they always referred to that all the years that I was there, they called our union over there our company union. And that's I guess where it got it's name, 'cause they were forced into unionizing.

Christie: Well, that's most of the questions I had. Was there anything else you would want to talk about?

Carl: Nothing I can think of. Not a think I can think of.

Christie: Your supervisors were men, then.

Carl: Yeah, uh-huh.

Christie: Did you get along with them?

Carl: Great! Got along great.

Christie: Were any of them, like friends or did you just get along at work?

Carl: We just got along at work. They...you know, I mean, we didn't pal around too much because...well, let's put it this way...no, I ain't going to say that. [laughs] I was going to says something there but....

Christie: Well, did you get along just to make your job easier, but it wasn't any...it was sort of....

Carl: Yeah, you had to get your head together and talk, you know, talk things over and agree on different things you know.

Christie: I guess that made work easier just to try and get along.

Carl: Yeah, see, bottle making is a, in my estimation, was more of a, even though that was mechanized, there's still a lot of feel and



judgment involved. You just otherwise, you couldn't, because a guy could tear down an automobile and put it back together you know, it didn't have nothing to do with making bottles. He might be the best automobile mechanic in the country, but when you go to try to make a bottle it was an all together different ballgame, and he couldn't do it. There is a lot of judgment involved there and a sort of, the art of...I guess you would call it an art.... It was interesting work. Hot, hard, and dirty.

Christie: But you did get new management in all the time so you had to make some big adjustments.

Carl: Yeah, we got a lot of changes in over the years, they got a lot of changes. I was just trying to think, I can almost name everyone that was there. Let's see, we had Courtney Bud, he was one that stayed there.... I should have brought out that book and looked over some of those....

Christie: Oh, that's alright. If you can't remember their names, that's okay. But did you get new bosses all the time, on and off?

Carl: On and off. Some of them usually...they stay there for...stayed there for five years or maybe a little longer, maybe sometimes seven years.

Christie: Was there a big change every time you got someone new in?

Carl: Not really, no, no, they just come around and, they just...come around and speak to you, you know, walk through the department; they were real friendly. We had one guy there that they, he graduated with a degree in economics at Ohio State University. His name was Adams, Danny Adams. Boy, if he wasn't a character. You know, quickest mind I believe I have ever seen in my life. He could tell if a figure or anything had been changed right, oh man. He could jump right on it now. Those guys would go out sometimes and try to balance their boards. You know if you was making, running 4 gross an average a hour, and....an extra hour you would get way over, say you would get say 6 gross, I'm just using this as an example. Then the next one you would drop way down in the red, well, a lot of those guys would try, I never did do it, but a lot of those guys to juggle those figures, balance it out so it wouldn't show the big drop at that particular hour, see. Man, he would pick up on that right now. And they gave him a nickname as Pat Boone, because he wore these white jackets and white suede shoes [laughing]. And he sort of studied lot of western folk lore. He was a great person to roll his own cigarettes, lived in a big mansion over here on the southside, and walked to work and this was before these little compacts had came in. He drove these little foreign, compact cars. He lived a part of economic professor, you know. (oh, I see) [laughs] He wasn't exactly tight but he squeaked a little. [laughing] My brother run into him, my younger

brother, the company sent him over to Scotland for 3 months over there to work on the efficiency on that plant over there. They had a, Owens had a lot of...company ties over there in, around England, Scotland, through there, and Danny had been gone from this plant for years. And we often wondered what had happened to him. And they gave him a name over there. They call him, what was that they called him...Dandy, Dandy Dan or something like that. But anyhow, he wore one of those English bowlers and that younger brother of mine ran into him over in Scotland. He told me and uh, you know, he was one that, we never knew of him taking a drink or anything or party or anything. He had never taken a drink of nothing, just as straight as he could be and he got over there and my brother, that younger brother of mine said, "Oh, you wondered about Danny," he said, "I had him rocking on his heels when he left." He had him up to his hotel room and said, "I had old Danny rocking on his heels when he left." [laughs] But later on he said, "That's alright," he said, "he had me over to his hotel and he had me rocking, too." [laughter] But I just couldn't believe that of Danny, knowing him the way Danny was when he was here. Because he was down there checking a line, he didn't miss nothing, he was down there checking a line one morning, come along there and talking to the girls or the men working out in the selecting and one guy, he spoke to this one guy and this guy said, ah, "I'm doing alright, how are you doing, Pat?" He said, "What did you call me?" [laughing] He said, "Pat, that's your name, ain't it? Pat Boone?" And he said, "Don't you ever call me that again." [laughs] Oh, he was serious. "If I ever hear you call me that again, I am going to fire you!" And he was serious about it, too. (oh, really?) Yeah, but he was something else. [laughing]

Christie: So, did the management and workers usually get along that well or was he an exception?

Carl: Oh, yeah, great, yeah, yeah, you could talk.... Really, there was a German uh, that came in, they was a bunch of Germans they brought into our plant, and I got talking to one there and he said he could not understand how management and labor got along here. He said they never done that over in Germany. He said, "You guys call each other by your first name," he said, "you go in and take your showers and everything together." He said, "That is unheard of in Germany," he said, "we never do that over there." He said, "You don't do that," (really?) he said they have their own private sections that they shower and you don't call them by their first name. You call them mister or whatever it is, heir or whatever, we have a different approach than what you people have. He couldn't understand that.

Christie: So the salary workers and the hourly workers had the same locker rooms, they used the same cafeteria, the same lounge, and stuff like that.

Carl: Well, yeah, we taken our showers together and everything.

We didn't....

Christie: They didn't really get any special treatment...?

Carl: No, no special treatment. No, they had a good relationship that way. I mean uh... 'course, most of your, you know, most of your, your top...top men in a plant like that usually they'd always, they'd always go out for their lunch, you know. You very seldom seen any of them brown bag anything. They'd go out and go over to Rebels and Redcoats, or some place like that (ahh), you know.

Christie: Well, was there anything else you wanted to talk about, did I forget anything?

Carl: I couldn't think of anything else. Could I see your chart there?

Christie: Sure. Well, those were just some general questions. I didn't ask every single one.

Carl: I think we covered about all that.

Christie: Yeah, I think so. I didn't ask you too much about the home and work balancing because you said you really didn't have children, and that your wife ended up leaving her jobs rather early in the marriage.

Carl: Yeah, you know, there's a little bit of comedy in that, too. I came home one day, my wife had worked every since she was just a kid in high school. What had happened up here at the Appalachian, they transferred all the accounts in her department, transferred her department to Roanoke, Virginia. That didn't mean that they were terminating that department up there. They gave them an option if they wanted to they could go up there and work in Roanoke, Virginia, see. She worked in billing department and all the billing was going to come out of Roanoke instead of a local place. So I came home and I could tell she was clouded up 'cause she worked there since she was a kid and of course, she felt like she'd lost her independence. And she gave me the impression of thinking maybe I was going to take, take and horsewhip her, see (oh) [laughing]. I'm going to crack a whip. [laughter] That was the farthest thing from my mind, see. So I came home and I could tell she was sort of under the weather and I said...I just thought, she started clouding up a little bit, I said, "Maggie," I just thought of one thing I said, "you know what," course I was kidding, I said, "You know, I don't particularly care about my work here anyhow." I said, "Let's make a deal." I said, "You know, you go up there and take that job up at Roanoke and I'll go up there with you and I'll wash every dish, every dish that we dirty and I'll just stay home and take care of everything." [laughs]

Christie: What did she say?

Carl: Well, I don't know, of course, I think she realized that I was just a kidding her. I was just trying to break the ice there....yeah. I think we covered about all that there (good). If I can think of something, you might leave your number and I can call you later.

Christie: I certainly will, certainly will. Was there anything particular about your Mother's experience, she was there so early in the years of the plant. I was wondering if you'd remembered anything about....

Carl: No, they had the, they had their social activities, too. I can remember when Mom would go out with the girls that she worked with, you know. They'd go out, go out to a restaurant some place and eat, have chicken dinners or whatever. Then she'd come home and talk to us. I mean, tell us about it. Yeah, it was just about the same thing all down through the years. A lot of social activity going on over there all the time. That brother of mine, he, that oldest brother that managed that Onized restaurant there, they had a thing, place out here they called a Rod and Gun Club out here in Wayne County. They'd go out there and entertain and having big, late night parties with people that he worked with, of course. They'd be visitors, people coming into town from other Owens plants and things. And my brothers, as the saying goes, he sort of wined and dined them. You know? He'd take them around and a lot of times they'd go out there and these...late night get togethers. But they was a lot of socializing, lot of partying. I wasn't involved in that, but for your, your salary personnel were. They did that more than the blue collar worker. The blue collar worker was just...usually drink a lot of beer. [laughs]

Christie: Working hard. I mean, then shift hours seemed really hard.

Carl: Yeah. Sort of a different life style. (yeah) I just can't get over that. I think about that some times. I can't hardly get over that, that brother of mine, going there when he was 17, left when he was 63 and 46, and lacking about 2 months being 46 years of service. (that's incredible) There all of his life. (that's a young age) He lives up there at uh, but he wouldn't be in any shape to be interviewed, he lives up there in Culloden but he's not in very good shape now. (oh, that's too bad) Too much late night entertaining, I think. [laughs]

Christie: Well, thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW