Richard Z. 'Dick' Midkiff

Oral History Interview Transcript

The following is a tribute to the life of Richard Z. "Dick" Midkiff

Richard Ziba Midkiff

DOB September 10, 1934 79 years old

INTERVIEWER NOTE: This is my Father – and he was in good spirits on this day! We did this interview before my project. July 29 th and 30 th 2014 yes it took 2 whole days! But he was a great sport! I love you Dad! Interview date July 29,30 2014.

I was born at Fort Harrison Military base in Indianapolis IN. My dad was Druey Jack Midkiff [1898-1981] He was a Sargent in the army. Here's a picture of my mom and dad. And Dorothy Joann McMahan [1910-1986] they were living in Lawrence IN. which is the city right there at the base. And uh wasn't too long after I was born that my father was discharged from the Army, he had been in the army of a period of three different times over a period of 1917 on up. He was in the 1 st World war He went in under age right? Yeah, he went in when he was 16 and lied, he was sent home and then rejoined the next year to the 1rst Virginia Volunteers and was sent to Mexico and the Texas boarder and they were chasing Poncho Villa across around there, then the war broke out WW1 and they brought the volunteers the other guard units across the border and swore them in as regular Army. That would have been in 1917 and he went to Georgia to a school and they had them lined up one morning for muster and they wanted to know who knew how to ride a motorcycle and if you didn't know how to ride a motorcycle who rode a bicycle? Dad thought as he looked around at the red clay in Georgia it had to be better where he was gonna go then here. So, he stepped up and said he could ride a bicycle. He ended up being trained as a motorcycle messenger and was sent to Europe, where he was a messenger there and he ran into some gas [mustard gas] over there sometime when he was there. I don't know exactly his time there .But I do know he was on a message run and ran into a crater in the road that had been done by a bomb and he and the motorcycle were hurt pretty bad and he crawled outta there uhm they caught him and took him back and he was sent home because of some injuries . So, he was caught by enemy? No he did have some injury I'm not sure if he was shot or it was caused by the accident but they found out he did have a condition, I'll have to find out the name of it .They found that where he was wounded should have been where his heart was [laughter] and uh that's when they first found out that he had that where his organs were reversed in his body.[Dextrocardia] But anyway he came back to the states here and he married [in 1922] a lady [Ruth Hazel Gusler Thompson 1898-1928] that had 3 kids and I don't know their names because no one ever said but she passed away and the children went to live with their family and uh so that he was a widower he worked in the mines in VA and there was an explosion and he was able to get out and he kept right on going! He said his dad always told him to keep an eye on the Rails and if there was ever trouble follow them out! He said he a wasn't going to be in the mines anymore and he came to Indiana what brought him? The Army! He went back into the Army, He had 3 total discharges by the time it was all over with but uh I was born

when he left the Army when I was born he also had experiences as an electrician so he started his own business in Columbus IN. He had his own business there. And a funny story there coz I was about 3 years old then I hear this story from my mother I decided I was going to run away all the time and he decided he was going to stop that. Built a fence around the house he was just completing the fence he and a neighbor. And dad came in and said "Dorothy I got it solved Dicky won't run away anymore" and she says "he's already gone" he looked out the back yard I had dragged all my toys over to the corner of the yard stacked 'em up and climbed out! I was outta there! Oh, he was livid! Another time about that same age… We were at the County Poor Farm visiting my Grandparents my mom's people, And it was cold - Christmas time, I left the house was walked about a half mile down the drive and across the road in the cold in my diaper and bare feet to the house across the road, Nobody locked their doors. The next morning, they came down their stairs and there I was asleep in the chair! They called across the street and said "Well we have a New Year's baby come to visit!"

My dad, when he married my mother, my dad met her in Indianapolis she was going to business school at Indiana business school there on North Meridian St. used to be in an old church there on Meridian St, and uh then uh he met her there well she would go to the USO and they we girls would dance with the soldiers. And they dated a few times then over a period of time, she had gone back home to Brownstown and Grandpa Ziba Mc Mahon did not want her to marry an army man. But uh so anyway Dad was going to be taking a group to Louisville down there at Army camp Ft Lenox it was going to be a march taking a group down there they would march. So, marching from Ft Ben to Louisville – anyway he made arraignments for it to go thru Brownstown. And she knew about this of course thru letter there was a lady a friend of my mother's her name was Jaske but she lived right there close to where my Grandpa and my mom lived and that's where dad wrote my mom all the letters to. She was in contact with him and when he got to Brownstown there and she met him there and he decided it was time to confront Grandpa and let him know they were seeing each other. And that went over like a hill of beans! Ha-ha So age difference? 11 years – anyway the um during that period of time he was there 2 days before heading to Louisville (they came back in trucks!) But uh the as mom went back to school dad and mom still dated and they ended up getting married and it wasn't too long after she went back to school that they got married. They got married at the Harrison Hotel. Up in Indianapolis and that's where they spent their honeymoon. They eloped and sent a telegram to her mom and dad. And he went back to Ft Harrison and she went back to school. But Grandpa Ziba finally came around and Dad and Grandpa Ziba got along real well later. Uh meantime uh he went back to where he was an electrician and he had a chance to move to Indianapolis and work here. He worked to set up Electrical lines in Columbus Indiana. Here's a story I remember dad telling- He was uh at one old house and a little old lady came out and started whacking dads' ladder with her broom! He asked her what she was doing and uh she was upset at him for turning off her electricity. She wanted him to come down but he didn't want to get hit with her broom. So, he was stuck up the utility pole until his supervisors missed him! So, when his line manager uh showed up she started whacking his truck and he would not get out of his truck and he wound up leaving dad up on the pole and got the police. So that my dad could get down from his ladder! Ha-ha And then the war broke out [WW2] and they moved to Seymore. IN and uh he got a job with Mayflower moving Co driving a truck the money was very good because he was moving

Military families. Stuff like this and he went where the money was at. But anyway, he went out to San Francisco and tried to join the Navy and that didn't work because he was too old. And even if he had he was over to 40 too old even with Military service but since he was an electrician, they the Navy put him to work at Mare island there at San Francisco and he worked on subs and ships that came in and out. And in 1944 the military paid to have the families come out there we got notice my mom and me and my brother mike that we were going to be moving to California now I had an older brother David Charles which had polio – NO Sever Epilepsy. And a bone disease. which he was quite disabled and we couldn't take him with us it effected his mind too he couldn't talk and anyway they put him in a place for Children like that. He was 2 ½ yrs. older than me. They put him into a children's home in New Castle and it was a nice place I guess; I didn't see it. Aunt Doris my mother's twin sister and her older sister Maude kept track of David and took care of him while we were gone.

how old were you when you went to California? 9 yrs. old in 5 th grade 8-9 not 5 th grade? I was 5 th grade in California. I remember being called out of my 4 th grade class and being told we were moving to California. I started school when I was 5 yrs. old… I don't know I started a year early in school I was smarter than - than I am now!! Ha-ha anyway uh the uh we were gonna go to California the military was going to send us out there. We got tickets from the Government we had to come to Indianapolis to catch the train. Aunt Maude brought us to Indianapolis we caught the train at Union Station ... it turns out the train was a troop train and we were put in a car full of WAC's Women Army Corps. and that was interesting we rode the whole distance in that car and I'll tell ya what! We had enough candy and cookies! Those girls took us under their wings more or less! I don't remember a lot about it but mom said Mike and I just ate it up. Uh but anyway we got to California we went to a town called Rodeo and that's uh just a lil town west southwest of Oakland Ca. and right across the bay from where we were at was Mare Island so we actually would leave there and go to Oakland across the bridge and go to Mare Island. Dad did that every morning to go to work. My dad worked on Submarines doing electrical work and he talked about how he worked on Battle damaged ships that needed repairs. And the place we were at in Rodeo was a military establishment for military family's so everyone there were military family's they had a member on the military at least 1 of them was. The uh only excitement and the fact that it was a really nice place and I had a lot of good friends there was I could remember some of their names but that's immaterial cause I don't have any pictures of it now. But the only exciting thing was the night we were blown out of our beds! An Ammunition ship at Mare Island exploded in harbor and the concussion took all the pictures off the walls and broke all the windows! It was a situation that scared the dogs outta all of us! Blew us-me and Mike out of our bunks! This is after Pearl Harbor so we weren't sure if it was an accident or the Japanese landing in San Francisco! My dad talked about how one of the 30-ton shop anchors was found on a hill 5 miles away. Some 300 or so Navy dock workers were killed- they were all Blacks. This was one of the places blacks were sent to work when they joined the segregated Navy back in those days. I guess a little bit after the blast there was a big mutiny where the blacks essentially went on strike except you can't go one strike in the Navy! There were streets where you could see the pavement but all the housing and buildings was gone. My dad didn't work with the blacks he worked in a different part. So, what was that time like? they did drills in school? So, you had bomb drills in school? Yes, you would get under your desk, we

didn't go to the hallway you got under your desk. W as that scary? Not really exciting nor scary we were soldiers' children in a sense but uh we were walking around like they aren't gonna touch us! It wasn't that bad. uh I went to uh 4 th grade and into the 5 th we only had half year of classes what was bad about that was and then as we were coming back home dad could get a transfer from Mare island to Indianapolis he got a job at the B&O; Rail road he had to have a job there that was accepted by the Govt because it was war time but he got the job at B&O; and we moved to a place in Indianapolis on Broadway St. it was a nice apartment, he worked at the railroad he worked in in what they called the round house Grandpa was and was an Engineer -train engineer- he knew how to drive trains. How we moved to Beech Grove is because it was close and affordable. And since B&O; was part of the Big 4, He worked at the shops he drove trains onto the Roundabouts and around the yards. Uh little bit later in life he went to the US rubber company called US Royal as an electrician and he stayed there until he finally retired.

So, when did he meet Eileen's mom? Well I was going to get to that later but we can go back to that. A little bit later in life I get a phone call and uh a lady said "you don't know me Richard but I'm your sister!" I said "Right!" Ha-ha I said "uh I have a sister" she said "yes I know Becky but I'll tell you a story My mother and your father had an affair while he was in the army at Ft Benjamin Harrison and before he married your mother. It was about half a year 6 months- 8 what have ya. They split up but they didn't date very long and your mother won out the contest and your mother didn't know about my mother. But my mother knew about your Mother. Anyway I was born 2 years before you" so she and David Charles were about the same age – She was born 2 years before me so I said "well ok" she said "I have some information for you," she said "well I'm going to be going to Florida so I'll get with you when I get back" I said "where are you going in Florida?" she said "Orlando" I said" I will be going to Orlando for vacation" and found out we would be there the same week! So anyway we made arrangements to meet there in Florida at that time I had been married 2x before so it was my 3 rd wife and I -My wife Sue and I met with my SISTER and really kinda interesting here Eileen was her name from Boston Massachusetts and she was a nurse social physiologist close to what Martha my brother's wife is, but she had a sister which wouldn't be related to me at all. But she lived just outside of Beech Grove where I lived and I was a police officer for 23 years and I happened to know this lady! She was a nurse and a nurse to our Police Doctor and she and My sister Becky attended Nursing school together and shared rides of which our dad drove them. She the sister was friends with Becky sometimes. Eileen didn't know about Jack or his name until very last minute of her mother's life. Her mother was very sick and Eileen questioned her mom to find out who her father was. And she ended up having to go to her mother's brother, her uncle and he said "well your mother didn't want you to know" and she Eileen said "well I want to know!" So he told her that her father was a guy by the name of Druey and they called him Jack that was my father's name Druey and they called him Jack and that he was a soldier and uh she went on that information and was able to follow up and came up with us. So that was great we have met her several times and Mikes stayed in touch with her and my daughter [Me, Kim] does I haven't really, but I thought she was a nice lady.

Now that brings us up to, I married a girl by the name of Marie [1934-] which I had 2 children by 1 was a boy by the name of Richard Ziba [1956] and a girl by the name of Kimberly Marie! [1960]

That's me! That would be you that lasted about 10 years,

So, you moved to Indianapolis then to Beech Grove? Yes in 1945 My dad- Jack got the job at the rail road Marie was in the same class in school. Actually, it was in my Freshman [Junior actually!] year when I first met her she didn't go to Junior high school, she went to Senior high we got married in 1954 we graduated in 1953 married in 1954 and we had the 2 children the marriage lasted 10 years it wasn't in a sense of a mutual - that we got divorced but we never fought and I always paid my support the kids and I got along great in fact Rick came to live with me when he was 14 and Kim kinda moved out on her own and I kept an eye on her . What year was it in you married Nikki ? Nikki Hough Bunnell [1943-2004] she had a baby girl by the name of Courtney [1964-2013] – Courtney was very young when we got married a year – year and half old she was still in her diapers... but anyway, that marriage wasn't too good to start with we were married 11 ½ years and separated 2 ½ years neither one of us wanted a divorce at the time. I started dating Dorothy the DQ lady she owned 2 Dairy Queens ha-ha she was my best friend! [Laughter] My daughter and son thought she was the queen! Her problem was she was wanting to get married all the time! I didn't want no part of that, she even said she would sign over 1 of the Dairy Queens to me if we got married. That wasn't my ideal - I was a police officer at the time. I was happy where I was at Beech Grove Police. And uh so I met Sue Scott Archer [1948-]at St. Francis hospital in Beech Grove she was working there as an administrative Assistant in ER I met her being over there a coupla times me being there on duty and one thing led to another and so we decided maybe we would like to get married. I contacted Nikki and told her what I would like to do and she said "oh ok I've been going with a guy" so we got the divorce and in fact they got married the day before Sue and I did and then they came to our reception STRANGE Marriage but uh anyway… so you and mom got married in 1954 you and Nikki-mom married in 1967 and then you and Susi-mom in 1978.You had Rick & Kim with Marie, You adopted Courtney- Nikki's daughter and the Sue had 2 girls Cher[1970-] and Melissa]1972-] You didn't adopt them? No their dad John is who they lived with.

Childhood stories? Ok the uh I was in the playpen and dad gave me a hammer and a clock and I broke the clock and that scared mom to death! So, I was kinda a rascal! I would get up late at night or early in the morning and I would go to the next-door neighbors and they would wake up and call my mom and say I have this naked little boy in my living room! That was the time when you didn't close and lock the doors! Ha-ha anyway so they didn't know what to do with me! Eventually I out grew that I guess but later on I had an episode with my brother where we were gonna have tug- a-war he was at the top of the steps on a pretty good sized stairs, he was at the top and I was at the bottom and I pulled him off of there and liked to killed him I guess And you probably got a whipping ! Oh yes! I got whipped for that one! My father had a way of correcting me he would make me go outside and we had some cherry trees growing up along the highway he would say "you go out and get me a switch and it had better be a switch or I'll go out and get a limb!" [Laughter] So I had to bring my own switch in! I don't think it worked very well though did it?? [Laughter!] Then one day dad came home from work and he went to get some corn outta the garden and there was a path right down the middle of his corn, somebody had been in there and cut a path right down the middle of the corn well it turns out that in his mind he just happened to think well Dickie is in the house and I just bought him a helmet that's like a pith helmet like a person in the jungles and Uh sure enough

got a butcher knife outta the drawer and I played TARZAN going thru the jungles! And I got a whipping for that too! There is another time oh we got two candy bars at the grocery store That would have been a pretty good treat then yes? OH yes! How old then? I was probably 12 -13 mike `10 -11 Mike ate his and before I could eat mine because I saved it- Mike went to Dad and said "this is Dicks candy bar and he won't give me part of it" he was crying I said "well I haven't eaten mine he ate all his!" dad said it don't make any difference break it in 2 lol I had to give him half my Candy bar well I just decided right there I would rather give it to my dog so I did. And I got a whipping for that too! We would split a lot of things mom would buy a box of cereal a box of Wheaties we would just cut it in half I'd take half he would eat half. My mom would fix 2 chickens for dinner Mike and I would split one and they ate off the other one! We were growing boys! If she baked a cake, she would have to hide it coz that was it! We would eat it! We would stuff it! Mom was a good cook… Though she didn't know how to cook when they got married because down on the Poor farm, they had Miss Emma in the kitchen. Those girls never had to learn. But Dad had been a Mess Sargent and he taught mom how to cook. So, she never knew how to cook small because when dad cooked, he cooked for 350 men! But he did he cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for as long as I remember.

Then there was that time we uh went to the movie theater -Larry Horner was a friend of mine we 3- Mike, Larry and I went to the moves and saw Frankenstein and the Wife of Frankenstein. In Beech Grove a double feature, when we came home it was like 8:30 P.M. Mom and dad had gone to the church to a meeting and Larry was going to spend the night with us and we came down Royal Road from Churchman and it made a turn in the road and it was kinda gravel and blacktop- detreated blacktop and a street light right at the turn we are coming down this road from Churchman coz we walked back from the movie and we realized that the streetlight wasn't on it was darker then pitch black but there's 3 of us we are brave young men about 10- 13 anyway we are old enough to be a Boy Scout and we are coming down that road one out talking the other! We are talking brave and real loud. We get to the turn in this road now we can see down the rest of Royal road and there's some lights on we can see of a coupla houses and anyway out of the bushes there we hear this Rawwwwerrrwww (cat cry) and I don't think I touched the street all the way home the 3 of us liked to killed each other trying to get in the house! Like I said people didn't lock their houses in those days as a general rule. Our house wasn't locked and shwew we were there inside the door we had made it! And so we sat around and now we were getting brave again we knew that was a cat an old Tom cat is what it was about the time we were talking real big we heard a noise now - the noise came from my room mine and mikes as we shared a room and I looked around the corner in the hallway and the door was closed! And now we have to talk real big we decided we were gonna have to see what was in there coz we heard it again and something or someone was in there! Anyway, what do we do? So, I gotta boy scout knife you know something you would take to a camp with a 6 in blade something like that and uh Mike found a hammer and Larry went to the drawer and got a butcher knife and it's a wonder we didn't kill each other! We uh tippy toed down there and of course I was the oldest I was a year ahead of Larry so they are pushing me ahead of them. Anyway, I opened the door and we had a black cat and that black cat came outta that room right over my shoulder and Larry's knife went to the floor and Mikes hammer dropped and I don't know what I did with mine! It scared us to death! And then we realized it was a black cat and it was just a squealing and it ran

straight out the front door! That's then we realized we didn't close the door! Ha-ha That was scary right ha-ha? What we had seen at the movie your imagination runs away with ya! [Laughter]

Boys scouts I was a cub scout I was troop 79/ Pack 79 when I was there as a boy scout I was a den chief Cub scout den, anyway we had a camp ground or people used it for a campground at what we called Haines' woods - now Haineses woods it used to be an ammunition storage during the war it had bunkers in it and they had it laced off but there was a real nice woods in it. I never made – I made all the badges but I never went as far as my grandsons did. I wasn't really settled down enough for that! I had newspaper routes - I started about 12 yrs. old we moved back at 10. I carried the Indianapolis Times then I had the Sunday star I had over 100 papers there and they laid them out in sections or I'd never be able to get them- to carry that many of the Sunday paper- I walked. I had my delivery area it was called "dog patch" down off of Keystone and Troy just south so you walked from Royal Rd ? Yes! The Times as soon as I got out of school and when it was really Raining we had a neighbor that took us uh anyway a neighbor would take me down coz mom didn't drive and dad wasn't home from work yet but they uh The Star I had to get up at 4am on Sunday morning and mother would tell me" you get your backside back here to go to church!" Ha-ha so I had to hurry but they would drop them off along my route they would drop the papers I didn't do bad I don't remember what we got per paper but it was enough spending money that I got along all right. And as I went into High school, I was 14 yrs. old and I got a job at a Beech Grove barber shop. The barber shop wanted me to shine shoes- they had a shoe shine there so I shined shoes for almost 2 years. Until I was 16, they charged 75 cents to a 1.00 and I got the whole bit and the guy that had his shop he even bought the polish for me! I had it made! I wiped down when I – not only shined shoes but when I was not shining shoes - I swept the floors picked up the hair and all this so I kept their shop clean! So, I was working for what I was getting I did that Sat and after school. I was doing pretty good on that aright until I was a sophomore in HS 16 ½ then I went to work at Standard Grocery at Raymond and Shelby and uh there was a standard grocery there at that time I worked at the produce dept and it wasn't too long I was made an assistant produce manager and as I told you before your mother- my wife to be- Marie well she uh knew the Produce manager she dated him! [Laughter] His name was Roy and She went to school with me! uh anyway she and Roy dated and I realized I was dating his girlfriend Marie! I hadn't put the two together yet! But she wasn't dating you both at the same time? Yes, oh she was?!! YES! Anyway, it wasn't long before she broke up with Roy and just dated me but I kept my job anyway! Roy was really a nice guy but I got along with him fine I was there thru my senior year working the produce dept making decent money And all the rotten fruit you could eat right? Oh, yeahhh I couldn't get by the bananas!

So, the 50's we see the movie Grease what was the 50's really like? You have a picture of my car I had a '44 Ford Coupe my dad helped me buy it II had to pay for it I paid 500.00 for it and uh this was in my Freshman year uh Ford Coupe and it was Black and I have a model cast iron in the bedroom – anyway I had this 1944 it was a nice car it got me to school and back it was a coupe so I didn't have a lot of kids get in it. I would pick Marie up and take her to school, and this type a thing but I enjoyed that. That was the kind of car I had thru High School we graduated in 1953 so uh 49 -53 junior high and senior high. I played football You started freshman year? No I didn't start then - I was working, uh I did start my sophomore year and lettered all 3 years of high school I belonged to

Letterman's club and uh I enjoyed playing football the only thing that happened my sophomore year a guy by the name of Stratton Benny Stratton he had a uh lisp but real nice guy. He was a year ahead of me and he also played football and he played on the line and I in practice I played across from him - they hiked the ball and I like a dummy I knew better - so it was my fault not his see you don't tilt your head down when you ARE GOING INTO A BLOCK YOU KEEP your face up so you can see what's going on and what's happening. And Benny smacked me with the undercut with his hands and broke my nose! The only thing to ever hurt me! I played Right Tackle and I was fairly good. I lettered every year I played first string and I played not only defense, but I played offense. So, I worked hard and I played other teams – they had people who they could switch off but they didn't have guys by the name of Midkiff and Ogden! Doyle Ogden was a friend of mine we both weighed over 200 pounds he was Left Tackle and I was Right Tackle we played it all. Well you're on the line not too many people could come thru us. So, he didn't have anybody who was as big as we was who could play. In those positions. So, it wasn't like happy days? We didn't have dope now they had marijuana someplace [waving his hand] but we never - if you was taking and smoking marijuana you was a geek. Hahaha Alcohol we drank beer - I don't like beer but sometimes I would drink a bottle or two. But I don't care for beer. But the uh rest of them would, they would have parties and drink beer until the parents would catch you! Ha-ha The school did the athletes cut the grades were they the school strict? They were strict we had to keep our grades up. Who was favorite BGHS teacher? Actually, it was Miss Hazel Crabb -History teacher Miss Hazel Crabb, she was an old maid in a sense -that's what they called the old unmarried women then. But she was a fantastic teacher she would really work with you. History was a good class for me, I really enjoyed it. Was that your favorite class? Although math a guy by the name of Macarthur he was nice I went up thru algebra not geometry but classic math but uh… Do you know how many credits to graduate? I don't know?! We had to have 'em not sure if we had credits or not but we had to pass certain classes subjects. I had to have a passing grade- a final to get my diploma - an end year senior test and we passed that. If you passed that you got out, we had 48 kids we started with 56 kids we ended up with 48.

After HS when I got out of High school like I said I was working at standard grocery I still run into Featherstone and Fishback 3 of them Johnson, Fishback and Featherstone were all Indianapolis Cops! I was a Beech Grove cop. I still run into people I knew at that time. I got out of high school and went to work with or for Dad as electrician and my first job was with Industrial Electronics over off of Washington St. with a guy there was the manager was one of Dads supervisors at US royal (rubber company) when dad was at the rubber co. Western Electric 1955 oh yeah uh I went to Western Installers I went to work at Industrial Electric and uh one day it was on a Friday I come back to the shop and all the guys were there and they said "well Dick we have a problem" I said "really?" He said "yeah 2 of the guys got their checks and they bounced!" I said "REALLY??" So, they got ahold of the owner and he said "I'll take care of it! I'll take care of it!" and he paid us in cash but they closed the place down. It closed so I didn't have a job I got a payroll but no job. So, you learned election work just thru working with your dad no official schooling? Yeah, no schooling. I was doing with Industrial Electric I was working with controllers so being able to read a schematic uh a you know working on controllers and fixing motors and stuff like that. I wasn't doing house electricity and stuff like that. I did later with dad later on. And uh I left there and I went to there was

an ad in the paper bell telephone at bell telephone Western Electric installers were hiring I went down there I thought Western Electric - electricity it was all the same come to find out western Installers installed telephone equipment into buildings into offices and what have you so I went to work as a Western Installer I worked there 9 years it was a good job I traveled and the reason I left there was they were going to send me back to Detroit and I had been there once and that was enough!! So, the Navy I did in-between 1955- 60 -- 1955 I joined the navy in the meantime I got married to Marie I understand the Hinshaw's weren't wild about you? No ha-ha Florence Marie's mom she came to our wedding but Pip (Clifford) her dad didn't like me he did later - but he didn't like me at the time!! Ha-ha in fact Marie's brother George gave her away! The way I recall it. But anyway, I went into the Navy I went to Japan and picked up a ship called the USS Kakipon AO-52 I was aboard that until we came back from Japan. I was there during the Korean Conflict. I'm what is called a Korean soldier I didn't get into Korea we were in the waters outside; we were a tanker that was refueling ships as they came in over there. Uh I didn't get any battle scars; I was in 2 years active 6 years total. I got a China service Medal I can wear that - that's how I can get into the VFW and the Legion because I was in a combat area in a foreign war. I am a life member of the Foreign Legion or VFW and life member of American legion but when I came back from there Rick was born in Long Beach CA in seaside hospital. And uh for kicks I had switched from the USS Kakipon to a hospital ship AH12 USS Havan that was really a nice duty there. I was an electrician on the hospital ship. but since I had telephone experience, I took care of the telephones. There were actual telephones and there were 29 nurses aboard and I was the only Male aboard that ship that was allowed to be in the nurse's quarters!! That was so funny! Well I was the only one that could come in and repair their phones! But the uh when I got time to go home of course Rick was born and I was getting ready but I had 3 months left before my discharge we made arrangements to send Marie and Rick on home and like I say Pip or Clifford Hinshaw they called him Pip he had already softened up to me, so he we were fine. But they took Marie and Rick in until I got home. Then we got our first house in Beech Grove over behind Prather's at churchman and 9 th in that garage behind the house that was our first place.

Becky -Becky is the same age as my wife now Becky was born 14 years after me and she was Doris Rebecca [1949-] she was named Doris after moms twin sister and uh Rebecca was came from our Doctors wife and uh anyway she was born, Daddy's apple of his eye and I was already done and Mike wasn't too far behind me on the heels of my shoes. So, when I got out, he got in! [to the Navy] and uh he so basically Becky was an only child spoiled rotten! Mike went to the Mediterranean and I went to the Pacific so we went two different ways, so then my son Rick he went in the Navy and stayed 20 years which he did aright, he had some tough times keeping a job and that Navy retirement has kept him alive but he's doing all right now I guess.

You had a dog named Fifi ? -Falah was her name but we called her Fifi we got her as a pup when I was about 10 and she Fifi or Falla she was named after President Roosevelt's dog, but they didn't look alike Falla was what you call an English sheep dog with the black hair you know I was fascinated with the black Scottie the president had so I named her Falla. I had her I got her off the farm in Brownstown my grandfather had the farm down there. Anyway, I got Fifi and brought her home in a shoe box on the greyhound bus . By yourself? Yes, by myself . So, you would get on the

bus in Brownstown 70 miles away and come home. Did Grandma know you were bringing a dog? Yes, they had a telephone! Ha-ha Falla lived to be a long time they said ummm about 11 -12 years, oh mom was fixing a turkey and I didn't know it and I came in and I said "mom I can't find Falla anywhere" and about that time she opens the oven and pulls a turkey out and I thought that was my dog!! Ha-ha well she told me real quick it wasn't ha-ha that scared my pants off!!

Grandparents? the Midkiff's. Abe Lee [1878-1959] married Leona Pricey Stacy [1878-1958] she was I was still fairly young when she passed away, they lived in Virginia My Moms parents Ziba Andrew McMahan [1871-1959] Married Alice Pruitt [1872-1954] they lived in Brownstown, IN. I knew them well.

Druey Jack Midkiff now some people said he had middle name of Edwards they called him Jack 1896 or 1900 depends on which discharge papers. He was in West Virginia they were miners his dad he was actually in an explosion and he lost an eye his left eye. He was not good when he died, he didn't have black lung he lived to be a hundred and 4 not the half of it he lost an eye at 34 yrs. old and never had glasses a day in his life... I'd go see him and I would hit the door and he would say "Hey Dickey!!" That's what everybody called me was Dickey!! Ha-ha and there was a Midkiff WVA it's just the name coz there wasn't anybody there named Midkiff! HA one time though when we were kids my dad took us and we went to the little store in Midkiff West Virginia it was late at night dark already and my dad stopped at that store and knocked. Well an old man threw open the window and said "Who is it?" My dad said "it's Jack Midkiff" the old man said "oh ok a Midkiff ok I'm coming down!" And he opened the doors for us and we got something to drink! Evidently there was at some time ha-ha. There was - we have a lot of things here we found out a little later in life thru my half-sister when she was doing genealogy and such she found out that myself Becky and Mike and herself are the 15 th great grandchildren of Pocahontas & John Rolf of course people think it's John Smith but its john Rolf. He was her one and only husband they went to England and that's where she passed away our line runs thru Pocahontas, we were the 15 th for Pocahontas. Actually, thru her son coming back here, Jon Rolfs son, she passed in England she went there and she was Christian. John Rolf brought his son back here to Virginia and I'm not sure where he went from there, in fact it probably says, we have a run down on it. But we are either way, but the chief Powhattan, he was the chief you might say, he was like an emperor because he was over 5 tribes. At that time and he had that's why the settlers were nervous. My name is Ziba (Pronounced Zibe) I'm named after King David's manservant in the Bible people say "well what happened?" I say "well David went to the mountain's and he turned everything over to Ziba and he turned everything over to him- his servants, his fortune and when he came back Ziba handed it all back over to him" "why'd he do that?" they ask! I say "He had a 35,000-man army with him!" Ha-ha

The Midkiff WVA story when you were 3? yeah, I couldn't run away so I would take my clothes off!! So yeah we had a station wagon and I was in the back I just sat back there and the window was down and I just threw my clothes out a shoe here a sock there then my pants and I'm not sure when but before we got to my grandparents' house but they realized I didn't have any clothes on! Dad was a little bit unhappy I was still little I was a scoundrel I guess!! My Dad Jack did not get along with his dad Abe Lee there was the McCoy9Abe Lees Aunt Mary married Larkin McCoy) - Hatfield connection my dad left home at 9 he lived with the McCoy crowd in around 1909 He slept in the

barn with Abe he stayed there about 5 years the feud wasn't what the movies portrayed it though certain brothers would get mad at each other probably more beating them up, so one group would be at a store and anther group would come in and the fight was on! Maybe not even any relation to the two clans! Direct! in fact we have the Hatfield group here in town here on the Campus! [Franklin Masonic Home, Indiana] You don't fight with them, do you?? Nope !! my fightin' days are really over! Then he went into the Virginia volunteers and My grandpa found out he went and he went to the military and told them he wasn't old enough so he actually got a discharge and came back and 8 months he went back in.

Yeah so you would go to Virginia I know grandpa had several Brothers and sisters Yes Thurman [1921-1983] Thomas [1915-1975], Thurman was youngest then Doris Virginia [1925-2015]. See it went Dad Tom and Thurman Shade [1909-1923] died young. Shade? Yes, named after his grandpa Shadrack -they called him Shade coz I guess he was lazy and was always a laying in the shade! He died at 12. Let's face it- it was a tough life in the mines until now several of our relations own the mines. Now though I had a cousin I liked Bobby, JDs boy he died early in life he owned his own mine and cousin Paul [1937-] is the mine owner who paid black bricklayers to be bussed in to brick his new house because the area in VA they were at there were no blacks.. Paul was another cousin but he hit it big in the mines he had an uncle not related to me on his dads side, but they were both engineers Paul went to graphic engineers dealing with turf and such and the uncle was a mechanical engineer and they opened up a strip mine and hit it big. Then they were going to build a house they were trying to decide which bricks and his wife couldn't make up her mind so he just at that time there weren't any blacks in Buchanan county VA so at that time he brought these black brick layers in -they were very good brick layers and he had a house on his property so he fenced it off and that's where they stayed they was afraid to stay anywheres else any way they built a wall 4ft high and 15 foot long, they built I don't know how many of them 5-6 walls. I don't know- for her to decide which bricks she liked for the house! He also used to buy his mom Aunt Jane [1907-2008] a new car every year and she never drove! He bought her a house in Branson - no where they have the Bristol race anyway he bought her a house over there in Bristol she didn't want to go - she didn't want to leave her home, His mom and he had a sister my cousin Irma[1926-] ok we will take care of this he sent an architect and they- his siter Irma took her out and they drew a sketch of it- the inside of the house appliances and pictures everything anyway his job, the architect , was to build this same house in Bristol to the exact specifications right down to the house shoes under the bed I think!! I just know he went in there and built the exact house like she had at home as close as could be. So, he took her up there and said 'this is your house" and she said "did you move it up here?? !!" [laughter!!] Aunt Jane. She was a very nice lady…her husband Ance – Ance Chaney [1903-1975], one time I rode my motorcycle to Virginia and I pulled up to see my Aunt Jane and I yelled "hey Ance!" He stopped the mower and said "who are you?" I said "Dickey -Dicky Midkiff!". He never said anything , He just gave me and my motorcycle a look and started the mower back up ha-ha any other Midkiff stories JD Chaney[1932- he was a Midkiff side his mom was dads sister Jane… she was the oldest girl she had to give a deposition of Dad's age – dad was gonna go to London England with masonic lodge he was going to make the trip, but dad tried to go and he didn't have a passport he laughed and said "well they didn't need a passport when they sent me to France in the Army!" So, he started looking around and what he had to have you had to have a birth

certificate he said "I don't have one I never had one!" He would have been 65 retired I never had a birth certificate if it was something really necessary, they just took my army discharges. But they wanted something more stable, we were at an impasse and didn't know what to do so someone recommended to me to take him to Chicago to the embassy, to the director and he is over this whole area so dad agreed and we went to Chicago we got there and went to see him we are sitting there at the Table and just talking and the guy says I see that you have traveled he then looked at Dads Masonic ring "I see that you have traveled "and dad says "yeah" he says "that's good that's great" so they talked a little bit and dad said what lodge do you belong to the guy said "well it's not a lodge it's the Knights of Columbus I'm Catholic "and dad said "that's good we are all brothers" he said "that's exactly true" he said "when you want to go to England?" Dad told him he said "I'll tell ya what I'm gonna do I'll give you a temporary certificate to get a passport for specific length of time" dad said "I'll be there 3 weeks" and that's how he got to go to London England. Grandpa was a bit of a stubborn man!! Of course, I'm not stubborn!! No not at all! Ha and one time I went to Virginia I was already a cop and sporting a flat top haircut and we went for a visit. Well my uncle Tom he ran with a rough crowd. And he said hey Dicky you want some Shine to take home? I said sure! So, we went up into the mountains and we pulled over to the side of the road and Tom had his window down and we waited. Pretty soon a voice comes from the trees. "Tom? Who you got with you?" Uncle Tom said "he's my nephew" – "he don't have a shiny piece of tin, does he?" Uncle Tom said "Noooo." Meanwhile I was slipping my police badge out of my wallet and sticking it between the seat! Ha-ha I got several bottles of home-made Shine and took it home to my police buddies! I never did see who was talking! Uncle Tom whenever he would come home to Virginia, he would have to park his car someplace else coz somebody was always looking for him - he owed them money! And once he showed me his pants leg where somebody took a shot at him and the bullet passed right thru!

Great grandparents that was John McMahon I didn't know him, the Stacey's I've met some of them a long time ago.

The McMahon's there was Aunt Vida she was the one that died when I was little, she came up because mom was sick and so she came up to take care of me and she got sick with Strep throat and ended up dying. Moms brother Uncle Charles and Aunt Maude mom's other sister. The babies Mom – Dorothy and Doris were the twins. They didn't talk to anyone but each other until they were 4 and Grandpa finally just put his foot down. Then there was little Thom he died at age 3. My mom and Aunt Doris didn't have middle names no when they were born in Houston IN, they were so small they would put the girls in boxes on the water steam heaters. And the neighbors all took turns bringing hot water bottles over and keeping the girls warm.

The Pruitt's on the McMahon side my Grandma Alice Pruitt she's how you can be in the DAR. And the County Home, the poor farm what do you know or remember it was run by the County Commissioner of Jackson Co and uh Brownstown is the County Seat I'm not sure how old it was there's a brick in the hallway-[he shows me the old brick] 1864 yr. built. It was originally built for the Poor Farm being run by the trustees then that changed they started calling it the Infirmary because people didn't like it being called the poor farm, I guess… the trustees were still the people who wanted to go in there. You had to meet certain qualifications; your family had to meet these to put a

family member in there. A lot of them went in because they couldn't take care of themselves and family couldn't take them either. Some were indigent most were just infirm. In fact when I was a youngin' and I used to work down there on the farm in the summertime digging potatoes and such like that and they had jails or lock ups uh 2 outside 2 inside that they could actually lock someone into an area like a cell until the sheriff could come and get them to take them to Muscatatuck or someplace. They sometimes got violent. A couple times with my grandfather when a person would get violent back in the dormitories and we would have to go in after them and they'd be back there with sticks and broken chairs and my Grandpa would have him a garbage can lid [held like a shield] and a fold fence post - it works until you could get ahold of them and tie them down and get them out to the little building . Grandpa wasn't a big man but he was strong as it could be! Anyway, then they would take them to Muscatatuck or 2 or 3 places south you could take them to. They the home couldn't handle the violent ones they didn't have padded rooms or anything like this, but they had a lot of elderly people who worked on the farm they would mow grass, pick weeds, we had one guy named uncle Tom, I called him uncle he was from Seymore and he was more literate then a lot of them were, he was ok in his mind he just had a lot of problems walking, but he more or less was like a go between for me and my grandfather to some of the older people. They would listen to him and later on it got so they would listen to Grandpa, he wasn't cruel, he wasn't bad, he didn't yell he just talked to them. They ran it 40 years, Grandpa was a democrat and Grandma and Aunt Doris and Aunt Maude. Aunt Maude was the town librarian but Doris was kinda the matron of the home when grandma Alice died. But grandpa would go to the town council to the appointed council to get ready to be appointed for another year or 2 years tops, but he would go and he would say "Shucks" and clap his hands as they would appoint him again and again! He would say "guys you know me and I know you he says I like running this place I'd like for you to reappoint me I know you are republicans and I'm a democrat but I can run the place like it's supposed to run" they said "ok take it on!!" They never, never voted him out of office and when he died, they just turned it over to her to Aunt Doris and when she got to a point, she couldn't do it. They had someone else, but it just fell apart so they closed it down and there was a bit of a rally to save it for historical value, but it was falling apart, they would have had to rebuild whole thing. Downstairs there was 2 bedrooms and a living area for grandma and 1,2,3,4,5 there were 5 bedrooms upstairs , there was a family dining room and kitchen the blue room where mom and dad stayed there was Maude's room and Aunt Vida's room was the violet room Daisey the cooks room so there was lots of space that was just the family rooms. There were 2 bathrooms upstairs and downstairs there were 2 downstairs bedrooms they were Aunt Doris's and Grandpa and Grandmas rooms. Then the kitchen was for both the dining room for family and a separate dining room for the people who lived there, the inmates is what they called them. That's where you came down our family stairs you could look through the glass windows and see the dining room for residents with long tables. that was their dining room. Ours was you went thru there and thru the kitchen make a right hand turn at the bathroom and there was the dining room for the family. Now the basement from the kitchen it had a floor hatch in the kitchen in the floor – outbuildings was cold storage for potatoes and then you went up the concrete sidewalk and on your left was butcher shacks those were for if you wanted ham or bacon now they didn't they would smoke some of their hams they had a big pot on the floor for the smoker, those were the white buildings now you go on thru the gate - fence there was like several - well one big

building with several doors one was where you would husk the corn , feed corn you put it in the thing[errrrrrrrr] you would grind it You stayed there during the summers? Sometimes… then they had the laundry but you had to heat the water on the fire they had a pump you pumped the water into these big tubs and they had to pump the water. Then they put these big tubs on the wooden fire they would heat that water up. Man, that water would just be a boiling, they had buckets and you would take the bucket, dip water out into the bucket and take the bucket of HOT water in to the machines. Washing machines that were electric washers -wringer type you pour the water in add the soap the clothes were in baskets they would have them all sorted. I don't – you put the clothes in and the soap then plug them in and they would time it. I don't know what the time was, but they timed it and when it was done washing you unplugged the machine and wrung the clothes thru the wringer I said unplug it but that was too soon you ran them thru the wringers big rubber then they take them and hang them out on the clothes lines 10 -15 clothes lines it was not just one or two people that did this there were probably 15 people working on this ..the people of the home all helped. The ones who could help - helped. Anybody that was capable to be doing something it was better for them to work then to just sit in the rocking chair on the porch. That would kill them. Miss Emma she was simple lady very nice she had dolls. Another old Tom didn't bathe and wore all of his clothes 90-degree days he would wear 3 layers of clothes! And Ross was kinda a handyman wore overalls he would do whatever you asked him to do he would say give me a kiss to the girls ... and they Grandpa and Doris would get calls from the sheriff that Ross was out and about asking girls to marry him he had a simple brain. They kept the men and women separated; you had some men in their area that weren't dangerous but creepy. They would take the men out to the barn they would always help you with milking and butchering hogs and in the fields. I would be in the wagons in the fields they would husk the corn same with the wheat they would help with that and bundling the they actually they stacked it. They had hay stacks then bundled the stacks up they took care of the cows and the horses there were a coupla guys who did that job. It was a self-sustaining farm they raised what they ate. Oh, they had chickens out our ears we had eggs ever morning you had to go out I do it I got so tired of picking eggs, [reaching for an egg] get outta here give me that egg!! [laughter] but we had eggs and chickens, baby chicks and incubators for them it was self-sustaining farm. Grandpas Passion was horses. He had Tennessee walking horses. His name was on time magazine years and years ago and we haven't even got one! Somebody has one but he was the Grand old gentleman from Jackson County – he had uh 5 gaiters and Tennessee walkers. 5 gaiter Classes is a horse that does a certain gait. Tennessee walkers are high steppers he was the chairman of the horse pavilion of the fair -Zibe along with Dr Gillespie started the Jackson County fair but they the fairgrounds weren't where they are now, the county was going to cut them out and do away with the fair but they didn't like that so but Grandpa had all that land down there where it is now the fair- that he was farming and it belonged to the county and he talked them into letting him go down there and clear that out besides what he was farming clear out the brush and keep the trees,,, he cleared that along with half a dozen other men of course, he had the wagons and horses and cleaned that fairgrounds out. I don't know what year, but I remember it happing. When he died, he was still on the fair board, there used to be a Zibe McMahon Silver tray. Used to be given to the prized Tennessee walkers. He won trophy's himself – [He shows me a silver metal horse] that's an actual trophy Ziba won, that's a trophy they say it's mostly silver it might be... so Doris and Dorothy

your mother and 2 nd mother ha-ha Aunt Doris to be honest with ya, she was my favorite Aunt. I loved Aunt Maude but Aunt Maude catered mostly towards Mike and I was Aunt Doris's! Um so you know it's just the way you go and it's ironic when it came time when Aunt Maude was sick and elderly, I ended up being her guardian of health but when her kidney dialysis the doctor told me there wasn't anything they could do she was on life support and feeding tubes, "there's nothing we can do" they said. She had been in at Seymore and then IU "we have done everything we can for her" she did have lots of problems, she was a diabetic and the kidneys, then oxygen, then feeding tubes... For what it's worth I made the decision I talked to mom we were all up there I said "I gotta do something "mom said "you do it I can't" I went in and told the doctor to "pull the plug". That was the hardest thing for me to do was to say- pull the plug, I loved that old lady! Aunt Doris and Grandma -your mom you always knew who was who right? Well yes… as far as I know! I'm not sure who Mom was pregnant with probably Becky but Dad didn't know mom was in labor but Aunt Doris called dad and said "Jack, Dorothy's in labor!" Doris was in Brownstown Dorothy was in Beech Grove. I don't believe in science fiction but there are two or three stories in reference to that mother would be at home sitting in her chair in the kitchen and she would get up and come in and pick up the phone and say" hello Doris?" And the phone did not ring- the phone did not ring! She says "I just knew Doris was calling me" and she would just pick it up and there she was!! And that's not the half of it. It went the other way too Aunt Doris would pick up the phone before it rang and would say "hi Dot!" She called her Dot! Ha-ha That's kind of scary! But they did have this connection it wasn't something they controlled just happened- when mom had me aunt Doris was the one that told her she was sick! Whatever it was scarlet fever and then Aunt Vida died and Dorothy got better!! But uh it was one of those things then, there was the deal with Aunt Vida before she died, she was in the hospital and Jack my dad was in Brownstown. And it was late at night and there was a knock on the door of the main hallway by the stairwell and it was snowing there was a knock on the door. Grandpa McMahon got out of his chair and my father Jack was sitting on the couch and along with Daisy in her chair and Aunt Maude on the couch with dad and grandpa got up and said "who in the world can that be this time a night?" They was waiting for the phone call to tell them what the condition was of Aunt Vidie and then he went to the door there was nobody there, so he turned around and came back they didn't think anything .I don't know how many minutes went by but it was minute situation there were 3 knocks on the door and grandpa went to the door and looked and at this point he realizes there is snow on the porch and no foot prints. Now this story came from MY dad Jack and he wasn't fanciful -he wouldn't have told it -if it wasn't true so then they were discussin' well did they hide around the corner? Somebody nope then right about that time 3 knocks now this time this is the third time. My dad jack gets up and goes to the door with him nobody there and no footprints in the snow by the time they got back into the living room where the phone was - the phone was ringing and they got word that Aunt Vida was dead. I said whoops! That's a true story I wasn't there but my dad would not have said it if not true!

Kinda spooky! A lot of things happened do you remember stories of the twins? My mom was good in English literature speaking not Aunt Doris she was, she liked to keep records for the home that's why they made her superintendent of the home she kept good records , math and sciences they had been known to change places they would leave for school one would be dressed this way and the other then they would flip flop because they had an aunt who was teaching and the aunt knew

them pretty well but she couldn't tell them apart. And mom would give the speech or book report mom was the speller if they had spelling mom would step in for Doris. The teacher Aunt wanted one to wear a hair bow and the other not to so the girls would switch off back and forth. And uh they would switch anyway? I wasn't involved with that but mom said that really happened. Growing up they were identical something like our boys ha-ha [I -Kim have identical twin boys] Aunt Doris had the car accident she was in almost killed her in the late 60's he she was ill off and on her whole life she was going to nursing school and couldn't finish because she got sick she was always slighter then Mom when they were young - young they were about the same size but as they grew older she stayed thinner – she had a heart problem, but that wasn't what killed her it was from the accident. The accident she was in a car and Mrs. Jaskie was driving and they were crossing the Main St of Brownstown, there was a drug store on the corner then the court house and the restaurant we ate at. A guy ran stop sign and hit them Jaskie was the woman who took moms letters as the go between and Jaskie was Dr Gelsepies nurse the family doctor. Anyway, she got killed it caught her on the driver's side Aunt Doris was banged up and never recovered well and her friend Helen Louise was also killed. Not any different than when mom had her accident and she was in a bad accident and actually that's what killed my mom was the accident and the aftermath. I think mom would have been able to survive the cancer if it hadn't been for the accident remainders. Uh what was Grandmas accident? the uh friend of Becky's mother Thelma Dorrell was driving they were up north of Noblesville they were up on 37 coming back from a meeting, on state road 37 and as they were coming back a truck came out of the parking area and Thelma didn't see it and hit it. Mom was never right after that- in and out of the hospital- never was right after that with her arthritis she was in the hospital several weeks. They moved from the house on 10 th street into Churchman apartments primarily because Mom couldn't get around. It was just one of those things, Royal Rd where you grew up and then they moved from Royal Road ? I lived there from 1945 till I left to go to the navy -just a year after High School. So, grandma never worked? Yes, during the war, she worked at the Seymour Woolen Mill there at Seymour that's where Mike was born, we lived on Walnut St above a store and dad was at work driving for Mayflower then he went to work to the Navy. I was in Washington grade school in Seymour there and we lived above the grocery store on Walnut St in Seymour like 2-3 blocks away was a huge woolen mill they had spindles and weaving they made blankets for the military. And uh she worked there during the war and dad was gone he was with mayflower until he went to the navy, I know she did public speaking well I was gonna tell ya about Dad when he was working for Mayflower, he drove off the bridge! Somebody's furniture? Yeup! Oh my!! He was driving and coming around the corner and it was really bad raining and the bridge was washed out and he didn't know, he got out of the truck and was able to get to the side I guess it was a mess! And then he broke his back that was here in Indianapolis yeah, he was working electrical on at Eastgate Mall on a high area- he had a ladder. I don't know exactly how but he evidently either took a piece of - he maybe took a terminal off and sometimes if you disconnect it will arc if it arcs it will throw you. Any way that's the only thing I can think of and he landed on his back anyway he broke his back and he couldn't get up. He crawled out to his car was able to pull himself into his car it was a Hudson and he literally drove that to the hospital and they told him he would never walk again and he said you're talkin' to the wrong guy and later he walked out of the hospital! But he was a tough old cuss. Then he had the stroke they told him he would never walk

and that killed him they – dad always thought—well medically they would say if you weren't better in a week - that's where you would always be – and basically I would go to the hospital and talk to him and he would grab his arm and pull his wrist up and he would start rubbing his arm and uh he is uh telling me he always told me when he would talk and different things that he would never be an invalid and see he said "I'm not one to ever be an invalid, I'll never be an invalid." And he says uh so when he was in the hospital he would say "I'm gonna be ok Dick, I'm gonna be ok- my feet are fine. I'll be able to find a way, they tell me I'll never be able to walk again, but they are all wet I'll be able to, I'll walk, my feet are moving and I'll get this arm moving too" -see that was the only thing he could move was his right arm -he couldn't move his feet he thought they were moving. He probably thought well am gonna move my feet, but they were not uh but when we come back one time we had gone and we was just getting there they had him in a wheel chair in the sunroom there at St Francis I said "oh they got you up Pop" he said "oh yeah I'm doing better. Feeling better" and uh I knew better but I said "yeah, you're doing all right Pop! You'll be all right" we left I had to go to work about 9 pm I was just outta the office I got the call to go to the hospital they were giving the paddles to him - he was moving and all but they couldn't bring him back - it was late at night and the nurses thought he was asleep and she went out of the room and he said goodnight and she jumped he scared her! Then he was just gone. They tried but he was gone. What happened here is that Dr. Ramage I didn't hear it but it came to me from the nurses that Dr Ramage had been in earlier and told mom "Dorothy you might as well make arrangements for Jack tomorrow cause he will never walk again, we got to put him someplace" and he died that night. It's a creepy thing but your mind they just thought he wasn't listening or couldn't but there was nothing wrong with his mind. And he heard every word that was going on!!

My Mom worked in woolen mill, raised kids was involved in PTA, at the library, at church and public speaking- doing book reviews and travel logs ... she belonged to speaker's bureau and she would read tour books info data about tours like museums and then she would give travelogues. And Book stories there was one about witch's cat Bell Book and Candles that's where we me and Nikki took our cat's name Pyewacket from Pyewacket was the cat. And Buttons Down The Back she dressed up for the buttons down the back with a hat and braids and freckles on her cheeks and she would say" I'm sitting in the tree house, all alone I'm sitting in my treehouse with my magic book and my potion in an old catsup bottle…" and someone said to Rick- "hey Rick that's your grandma" and he looked at her and then said "No that's not MY grandma that's your mom" and pointed to ME!! [Laughter] she was very good now she would play uh what's the gals name one of the books she played the lil' girl that's the one she scared one of the Bishops she did a lot of letters of the Bible one of Paul's letters to the catholic churches lots of churches everywhere even went to St Louis a coupla times . Which is amazing because she never drove! Noo! Dad took her there uh coz that all happened before his stroke. She had good friends who drove Sarah Purvis they would take her different places and she would go into the restrooms to change and when she came out dressed as a little girl with her hair in pigtails her hat and her doll and when she came out she scared a Methodist Bishop who was there to see hear this esteemed speaker he had seen her go in and then she came out a little girl he was flabbergasted!! She transformed into Elouise she did a lot of churches letters from Paul and she got paid as a professional speaker oh yes, she made extra money. I think that's why dad took her, yes, she made money, they paid her something for being

there and a collection and they paid travel. Then she would go to these meeting that the national speaker's bureau would have - you would to audition and have so many minutes and they would go back and sign papers and they would want to talk to her about dates! She never had a want for working! My memories of Grandma were she only spanked us 1 x we took her bright red lipstick and wrote our names in her brand-new carpets' of course it was a rental house as well on 10 th street! But she never yelled at us but that one time!! I never had to spank you much - well there was that time with the oil tank when we put rocks, sticks and leaves and I added dandelion flowers –well I only smacked your hands - I believe, but Rick I was gonna kill him!! I was 3 Rick would have been 7 Ha-ha it was our fuel oil tank! I was afraid I was going to kill him - but they came in and fixed it . Then there was the time we Rick and I turned over the gas stove on Walker St when you were sleeping upstairs and we were in charge of 3 yo Courtney we decided we would break her of sucking her thumb by putting pepper on it ,,,he stood on the oven door and I joined him in search of the pepper and bam the stove still hooked to the gas line turned over trapping he and I between the overturned oven and the sink. You were still sleeping upstairs when Nikki came home, Courtney was sitting on the stairs and she Nikki was furious! Of course, we could have blown up the whole house! I believe we got a spanken then! Nikki went up and said "Richard do you know what your children have been doing??!" I said Noooo [Laughter] I know you as a police officer we used to corn houses using feed corn at Halloween you would get a phone call from a citizen about kids corning and you would go find the kids and take it away and then you would find Rick and I on the streets and give it to us we would then have fun throwing hardened feed corn at plate glass windows an those metal storm doors with glass in then! Perks of being a cop's kid! Down side of course was Christmas time riding thru the streets in your squad car and you would blast Christmas music from your speakers!!

Any police stories? no, I was always appreciative of the fact - I always said "don't embarrass me" well Courtney was not so good at that rule! yeah, I remember that conversation you said don't embarrass me or ill break your back!! Ha-ha I believed you! I think that was the time we me and Judy had the switchblades off the glass shelves and were showing them to some boys and you pulled up and those boys took off Judy and I hid in the yard and Courtney told you we were in the car with the boys and you went after them meanwhile Judy and I had dropped the switchblade in the yard and were looking for it in the dark!! You were not a happy Dad!! That's when I got the talk of not embarrassing you! Ha-ha and guns are in this house but not to ever touch I have a vague memory of you would have been with the Rail Road police but you came home to eat and laid your whole gun belt on the couch you finished eating and I went to get the gun belt to give it to you to help you which I couldn't have lifted it! and I just remember a loud NO! and the hand of God coming out of the sky down to smack my bottom and to this day I would no sooner touch your gun in this house!! I am 54 lol your gun was always up on top of the fridge loaded and at Grandma Midkiff's grandpa kept a revolver under the corner of the mattress we slept on in that back room we could feel it but we NEVER looked at it nor touched it! It was just a given fact to never play with it. Yes, you kids were always good about the guns. Some of the kids were afraid of Rick that he might be an informant or a squealer and I always told him to tell them I never ask you anything, nor do you tell me anything and I never did. Kids would say to him man your old man busted me last night but he was fair he was a good cop!! Well I was always told that the kids respected me that I was always

fair. I was always told you kids showed me your respect buy never putting yourselves in a bind now Courtney that's another story … yeah, the uh no ok a good cop story there was Parker he came after us? He worked for her, Nikki at the Apartments smacked Nikki and knocked her across the table. I was in bed I came out of the bedroom in a flat run- I hit him and knocked him across the table the other way- he wasn't very big so when I hit him, he just flew! And uh but I went back to Nikki she was laying on the floor, he gets up and I went after him when he dove into his truck. I dove in behind him and he came up off the floorboard with aa 380 automatic gun, wouldn't be so bad except I was the one who sold it to him!! We had a 380 I had bought it and I was gonna buy another gun and he said" I'll buy that" ok that had been 2 years before he worked for Don Wright Owner of the apts. as a uh drywaller … but he came up off the floorboard with that- the reason he smacked her was he came in demanding his pay check and she said I don't have a pay check here that comes from Don Wright he says well you're the manager she turned and walked away and that's when he punched her - turned out he was high on Marijuana and wine is what he said later but anyway he came off with the gun it went off and blew a hole in the door of the truck Rick runs up there and I threw the gun out the window and told Rick to get that gun into the house then I proceeded to work parker over that son of a bitch was trying to kill me you know? I wasn't very appreciative of it. We went to court the next day and Bob Kroening was one of the first officers to arrive on the scene and he uh I said "I got him" I didn't have him cuffed coz I didn't have any cuffs with me and he says "I'll take over" I said "ok he's all yours I'll come back and make a statement" so I did and then we went to Court the next day and the judge asked him "what did he run over you with?" Parker says "he just beat the Shit outta me!" [Laughter] I said "hey judge" I told him about it I said "he came off that floorboard with a gun what would you have done?" He said "I think what you did"

What happened in the meantime I had another case as a detective at the Filling station its speedway now but used to be United on churchman and Emerson. the uh over the weekend shift guys walked off with all the money that was in the safe from the weekend and he went to Hawaii well that's where we found him he was in Hawaii one of their people would escort him to LA and I would meet them in LA and bring him back to Beech Grove. I was all set to go had my tickets and suitcase packed and we get a call, I was at headquarters and we get the call and they said that Parker had escaped and the whole 9 yards we get the call and they said that Parker had escaped and that word was out in the yards and everything that he was going to come and get me and here I'm leaving! I says "I wanna stay and see" and they said "no you're going to leave" they BGPD said "we will get ahold of Nikki and get the kids" which the only ones there were Courtney and Rick so I went on ahead and picked this dude up and when I come back I hear the real story Parker didn't actually come here to look for me, he went back to New Jersey where he was from. They had taken Nikki and Courtney and Rick wasn't there. Rick hadn't come home yet they took those 2 to a hotel and I'm on my way back in and a neighbor says to Police headquarters there's somebody in the Midkiff house they don't know that Parkers gone out East so Bailey – Ken Bailey he calls Nikki up and they go down to the house and he hands -- believe it or not-- he hands her his gun and says" here you know the house better than I do! I'll follow you!" [laughter!] But they got in it was Rick clueless sitting at the kitchen table eating cereal! ha-ha oh I'll tell ya what! I was so mad when I heard that about Bailey giving Nikki his gun! We never appreciated it when we would be at school

and you would get stuck on a case and Bailey would come and pick us up! NO WAY! We were happy to ride in your squad car all day long but nobody wanted to be seen in Baileys car!! [Laughter!] No really please!! Well there was an accident on Sherman drive right before you reach Hanna and there was an accident right on that curve, the guy hit the tree and when Bailey gets there it was a convertible and Bailey gets there his heads all bleeding and when I got here I looked in there and thought what in the world? What happened to him? Bailey says "he has a head injury" I said "yeah but what's wrong with the steering wheel?" Ha-ha he said "huh?" I said "you bandaged him to the steering wheel" Bailey said "I didn't realize…" Baily was something else!

All your jobs... paper boy, shoe shine clean up guy ,electrician ,supermarket fruit guy Rail road police 1960 I went I started April 1 1960 NY RR central detective division down town but it's also part of Beech Grove , Westside and Barrington heights eventually I made Sargent I was over BG shops and I had 16 – 17 other officers out there was more or less their Sargent then Avon yards opened that week I was transferred to Avon to be the Sargent for Avon yards all 3 shifts plus Cicero and half dozen other places around the state would report to me in the morning before I would go home. They would call in and I would report that to Captain McIntyre what the reports were. So, I had a good time with NY Central police Why did you leave? Because NY Central and Pennsylvania RR were gonna merger and become Penn Central which they did and I had seniority in NY central but uh not in Penn and when they merged I would have gone to the bottom of the list and I wouldn't be able to hold Sargent's position and Beech Grove had already talked to me about coming to Beech Grove because of the uh Baniszewski case remember she is the one that tortured that girl Sylvia Lykins . So why did they talk to you what was Beech Groves connection to that? Coz John Baniszewski was resigning because that was his ex-wife and he had given her his old police belt to use on their kids and she used it in the murder they the press would not leave him alone they were parking on his door steps ,everything else the press, so he finally resigned and they wanted a replacement. When I called Warner, he was the chief, I asked him if he had a position, he said sure you can replace Baniszewski I said sure! Which was fine he didn't have to train me I had already been to school with the rail road so I was grandfathered into the city police. I know when you first started that was the Police and fire station there on Main St and the Mayor's office as well like Gotham city or Mayberry!! Ha-ha I even carried a bullet in my pocket !! how many police officers did BG have then 7 I was the 7 th police officer and Baniszewski, he left the area and changed his name to Blake and anyway his wife and kids were on Television and he went to Brooklyn Indiana. What did you get paid when you went in ? it was like $3,500.00 a year in 1966… July 1966. so from 66 to 86 I went to Sargent pretty quick, so Sargent, I made pretty good then you were a detective plain clothes you worked on the drug unit I remember you brought candy bars one once when we lived on Grovewood you left them on your desk and Courtney and I ate them !! You were mad! That we ate the evidence! I remember seeing a purse in the back seat that we started to look in it and you said no don't touch it that's evidence … I think it had drugs in it! And the house on Gilbert and Grovewood on the glass shelves you had recovered pot pipes switchblades a tear gas gun and a hand grenade! glass bongs it was always interesting as to what would appear on those shelves! I assume that was all =from the evidence room was that on loan?? When I left the department, I gave it all back. I said here put this on display! I even had a plastic thing that had marijuana and everything and different kinds of pills in it that was used in it so when they would say "hey they had

this type of pill" and we could look in that and compare it. I had… remember- when I had long hair? I worked with the FBI my hair was over my ears… but I was on narcotics with Tuck Fuller the FBI agent. Remember him? He's in Detroit, well not Detroit uh he drove a Harley he was in Dayton, Ohio that's where he's living. We get Christmas cards from him of course he's retired now along with me. They ah I was up in Hammond on our bikes so I was working with ATF that guy was crazy Charlie Daus he was Alcoholic beverage officer we were after illegal guns and narcotics up there we would play like we were gangsters up there and Tuck wore a foo Manchu mustache and his doo rag and his big ole Harley – Tuck was kinda crazy too, he was a good FBI agent. Schooling what did you take? I know you took bomb school- yeah that was in Springfield, Illinois and crime scene photography that was at IU no-no – our teachers were National Geographic, they worked for National Geographic. I was up in Wynona Lake School of Photography, Warsaw IN. at the photog school up there that was a professional school I really enjoyed that. So were you the Crime science photog at beech grove then yeah, yeah Harold Scott he was another detective he went with me up there, he was with me. We came back and built our lab, they taught us how to put a lab together and what we would need and how to do it color photog so BG lab was set up by him and I. They taught us how to shoot evidence in a waste basket ha-ha you know how to take it with stuff under couches with lighting and it was all film you had to get it right. So how to develop and I did minute photography where you put carboard over the lens and open the shutter and then move the cardboard off, on, off, on. I have pictures somewhere here of the 6 th floor of the hotel where the cars had the red lights strands. [laughter] So I know you went to college I have a degree in Criminal justice at Indiana Central now University of Indpls . You were already a cop a long time before getting that degree, though right? Oh yes, yes… did you do that on your own or for a raise ? it got me a $1000.00 a year- it was a bonus if you had a degree. You got a $1000.00. I started that in RR police I went to Bloomington 5-6 weeks at a time then summer was over I went to IU on Meridian St. IUPUI where it was then. I went over to the campus when it moved IUPUI but degree from IU street cop then Sargent then detective. Then politics happened Challis was Chief and he was a democrat Danny Challis, Sue has a story there! You see we were at a meeting they were counting votes and stuff it came back that Challis got elected well he didn't go to chief then that's when Wiley came in as Mayor, a democrat anyway he's all right we went to school together. Challis wife grinned and said "that will put Midkiff back where he belongs in uniform" ha-ha she didn't like me but then I didn't like her either… You kept rank though? they couldn't take my rank so I was set back as a uniform. Tommy Kleis took my number when I retired, he asked Challis for it. My knee, I already had a knee operation and the doctor wouldn't release me to go back to work uh in the squad car or as a detective coz he can't chase anybody as a uniformed officer so anyway Challis was really upset because I went to the retirement board I said hey I qualify for retirement the doctor won't let me come back to work so I might as well retire Challis was Nu'uh Nu'uh Nu'uh so anyway the board approved it the PD has its own board but because I was gonna be on PERF I had to go to the State board so we put it into the state board even though my department ok'd it they had to ok it their doctors examined me and saw the paperwork and they turned around and said its ok we will retire him BUT! Not until he gets paid for the time coming, he has 6 months of sick time on the books! Challis almost had a heart attack!! So, you got to sit at home full pay? Yes, that's when I started my trucking business 2x a month for 6 months I got a pay check. He Liked to crapped! That's funny -

anyway I know you worked security at Holiday inn? I put together our officers I had some IPD guys there but I worked the manager was a friend we ran around together- that's where I took Sue, she had a girlfriend who was as nurse anyway to Wicked Wednesday at the Holiday INN. Anyway, one-time Featherstone and I was in the hospital, I vaguely knew who she – Sue- was I didn't know her very well. And anyway, Featherstone said "hey what are you girls doing Friday night" "nothing" they said so he says "well why don't you meet us out at Fridays we will buy you a steak dinner!" I think I was the one who said that but anyways..."yeah we will think about it" we left and didn't think anything about it I was still going with Dorothy from the Dairy Queen at that time but anyways we went out there to Fridays I was with Dorothy and Featherstone with another girl – we were sitting there eating and in they come! Luanne the nurse says" what are we going to do?" And Sue says "I'm going to go over and sit down with them!" So they came over and sat down and said " Hi" they just wanted to see us squirm I guess we talked a little while here we are sitting there with dates and now 2 more girls …we didn't say too much and neither did they Sue then says " I think we better get going" and she Sue says to me "you owe me a steak dinner sucker and you will pay!" Ha-ha and I've been paying ever since! Yeah so you retired and started D&S; escort service a trucking escort service high and wide load escorts then you are a little bit like your own dad in that you retired from This and started at that … when we moved here to Franklin I still had the escort service 2 years uh Bob Davey, Sue's BIL bought me out he still got the business but yeah I really didn't have anything to do right? – I worked at Radio Shack over Christmas time I had a guy who wanted to know how to wire his place for sound and cameras! Ha-ha he had no idea I was a retired cop and an electrician! Interesting people! And they was gonna keep me as a full time Employee I said "no thank you!" I don't mind part time but anyway then but Mc Laughlin -Terry Mc Laughlin was the Sherriff and I knew Terry from back when we was working narcotics and he was on that same squad anyway Terry said "hey why don't you meet me at Athens I'll buy you lunch" I met him and sat down and said "what do you want Terry??" Ha-ha this is how he put it he said "Dick first of all we are going to get something to eat. "So, we ordered a sandwich and a coke and then he said "uh the state of Indiana has informed the sheriffs counties of Indiana we are required to keep track of and keep records of Sex offenders in the county and you'll make the reports and keep Data. I don't have enough detectives I have 11 of them and they are all booked. I don't have enough to do what we are already doing and I have no money for another detective but I was wondering if you would come on as a special deputy and take over the Sex offenders project. I have one deputy that's handling it right now and he just can't handle it right now" turns out he's a good friend of mine a Sargent. Terry said "well if you come on, I'll give you a car and I'll give you a gun… "I said "I have my own gun ha-ha" he said "no you have to use mine, I'll give you a radio and you will have credentials as a special deputy. and you will answer straight to me you can come in and work your own hours 3 days 4 days 6 days a week I don't care just get the job done but I can't pay you." Well it turns out I got paid - a different story I went to work at the Hospital, Johnson County Memorial Guarding prisoners who needed hospital care I'm still employed there... Well I remember when you had your blood clot and they had a prisoner that was coming in you said well If you bring me my guy and handcuff them to the chair, I can watch them! Yeah, they uh but anyway so I did that 6 ½ years I told them. I turned in my resignation. I said I'm gonna back out. I trained a guy named Tom Walker he is still working there. But uh they uh this friend of mine who was a Sargent and he's a detective

they got more people in there and so they gave him the job so I see him quite a bit. I think he said they have 100-125 offenders when I left, they had 127 so it hasn't fluctuated much but I left there and now I'm looking for something else to do.

So we talked about the trophy, the blue vases were Aunt Maude's, this one is a vase that was purchased at the world's fair in Chicago yup 1934 by Grandpa Zibe McMahon he brought it back I have no idea on the white milk glass ship with a guy on it its Uncle Sam and its different then there is the hen it was an actual butter dish that was used for years .

Camp Rivervale which was the church camp went there for several years from the time I was 10 and the only time I ever saw Linda was at Riverdale! We would go for a week at a time she lives just north of BG over there but I never saw her in-between church camps!! At church camp everyone pairs off to sit together Camp Rivervale was a very nice place a Methodist church campo but anyway they had a valley with Rocks you could sit at and we would go there for Sunrise services. And it was just a beautiful place. So what church Seymore Methodist then Beech Grove in 1945 who was pastor Rev Singer yes he was a military chaplain he made all 5 major landings Iwo Jima Guadalcanal the Philippines he was a chaplain and survived all pacific real nice guy but he was I guess shell shocked ..he would have flash backs as he would say I have buried in one day more people then this city has in population but he was along with the other chaplains with him they buried the Japanese everyone just because we are at war doesn't mean we have to act like it. So, youth group MYF and uh Marie and I were counselors for 4 years at Methodist youth at that time I had come back from the Navy. Marie and I got together when I was a sophomore in HS I am not so sure of the year because I'm not so sure it was because it was me or that I was a varsity player in football ha-ha she won't admit it one way or the other. But uh I belonged to letterman's club and a group called the Squires we were the super jocks on Campus we were all athletics Was there a female version of the Squires? Oh yes what were they? The Debs? [Darling Deb's] I'll think of it. I could name the girls…Alice Terhune and Patty Wickens Was mom in the cool girls? no, she was not ohhh um she was friends with people but she wasn't in that clique that graduated in 1953. you went to your 50 th High School Reunion? Yes, in fact Sue went to the 50 th with me let's see 1953 was a few years ago. When you went to high school you went where Central Elementary is now except the big tower is gone 4 stories on Albany St. We called it the tower ha-ha we couldn't slip out on that one the other buildings next to the gym well that's like a half dozen classrooms to the sides. The teacher would leave the room we would go out the window! Now did you go home to lunch ? No we went downtown I mean you go down there and get a Hamburger and Fries for 75 cents at 6 th and Main at that time it was owned by Fred then they had uh Bosma's it was a dairy mart they didn't serve much Then did you go back to school after lunch? oh yeah but we would take off a lil bit early so we could get down there!! Ha-ha so what was the class before lunch? Foster McMasters was math and he was also homeroom teacher he said we might as well do away with this homeroom. I leave the room and there is nobody here when I get back! Ha-ha but we had study hall in our home room .

I don't think they do any more …it was interesting what are some of the exploits you and friends got up to? In High School you ever seen a Volkswagen on someone's front porch? How did you get it up on their porch? We would pick it up and take it up there!! Oh my gosh! Ha-ha how many guys did

it take? 8-9 it was football players like Doyle Ogden and myself both over 200 pounds I and he both- we don't look it now we were bench pressing 250-300 pounds you take Jim Simpson, Vernon Costello, Doyle and myself and Frank Herzog 1947-48 maybe 10 of us we picked up the Volkswagen and put it on their front porch .. it was their Volkswagen and we didn't like the guy who lived there so we caught it on that one! And uh what else? We didn't do a lot of mischief because they threatened to throw us off the football team if we did!! A guy by the name of Olin Vanhorn was our Principal and uh if I get caught holding Marie's hand in the hallway I would get sent to the office. One time he says he told me "you know I'm gonna have to break you of doing this, you know this is a no touch policy!" I said "Lord all mighty! I didn't kiss her or anything I was just holding her hand!" He said "now you're getting sassy! Downstairs to the boiler room", so we went down and the paddle was right there- I knew where it was at! So, I got the paddle he had an old fraternity paddle and So I got it and said "who's gonna paddle who you or me??" Ha-ha we squabbled a little bit and he balled me out I don't think he wanted to paddle me he was just a little bitty shit! Ha-ha

But now when I was in grade school in 5 th grade, I was on half year class in California. Coz it was military so dang many people they couldn't get them all in the classrooms. So, we only did a half year class in 5 th grade then I got into 6 th grade [at Beech Grove] I was a little bit behind so they sent me back to start 5 th grade over again. And uh so actually I should have graduated in 1952. Anyway, so I was set back. I didn't really mind coz I did like the 5 th and 6 th grade teacher Hazel Crabb was my 6 th grade teacher and they set me back along with a dozen others! ha-ha but uh they did away they started going with full grades so there were a lot of children that were splits. How did the half year work so you only got a half year of schooling? Yeah so you go to your next class you were a half year behind. I eventually caught up but the grade school in 5 th grade and graduated and all um Mr. Van Horn and Mr. Kinsey was superintendent his wife [Mr. Van Horn's wife] was a teacher there too I liked her, but him I didn't care for at all. He made me sit down in the office In Mr. Kinsey's office? no in Mr. Van Horn's office! So, did you ever get paddled in grade school? Oh no I did in early grade school in Seymore- I got whipped every day of the week and sometimes twice! [Laughter.] there was a gal by the name of Marylin Winterbottom [holds his finger up] her mother was an extremely good friend of moms and they lived down the street from us and I would get my butt whipped at school, Marylin would beat me home and she would tell mom and I would get my butt whipped when I got home as well! Ohhh I didn't like that girl!! Hahaha but uh that went along with painting the slide in Seymore Washington grade school, they had a kindergarten class which was unusual back in that time. But they had a kindergarten and I am the only one in the world to get kicked out of kindergarten!! HOW? Well uhhh mom was painting the kitchen and we lived right behind the school, she was painting the kitchen yellow. And there was a slide over at the playground it was all rusty you couldn't slide down that thing without tearing your pants up or your legs! So anyway, I got the bright idea when she was painting the house I said if you got any paint left I wanna take it. So, I took the can of paint over to the playground and painted the slide! Hahaha yup all yellow! Did you just dump the paint down the slide? No, I had a paint brush! And the janitor, the only thing I did do- he caught me doing it, so the only thing he did do was take me and the paint bucket over to my mom and demanded that she punish m! Of course, you know your Grandma- no one demanded anything of her or she went in the opposite direction if they did! Ha-ha anyway but uh they told me I wasn't welcome to come to kindergarten any more so anyway I went home and

played! Ha-ha well then when I started first grade then Mrs. Cox uh, she was a nice lady but I got along with her all right, but although she paddled me all the time though, but she didn't hold a grudge! She was a good friend of moms too, but she would come over to dinner all the time, boy I hated that!! Coz they would be talking and she would say oh he's such a good boy and I would be thinking right!!! Well she would keep me after school, if you were kept after school you had to take the erasers outside and get the chalk outa them and uh straighten papers up and I would do that until she would leave the room then I would open up the window and leave! Ha-ha a regular escape artist!!

Marie and I dated junior and senior year she went to all the ball games she didn't belong to all the girl's cliques in fact I belonged to the Squires they taught us how to dance. Patty Wickens they had a big basement , in fact that house as you turn into the park off of churchman that house on the corner there as you turn that's where she lived and they had a beautiful basement we would go down there and play records and they taught us how to dance. Anyway, we dated and we went to basketball games and such like that senior year after football I was done of course I didn't run track or anything. First of all, I was too big! Ha-ha Too fat! ha-ha I worked out at Hoffmeister's gyms they had gyms here in Indianapolis. I would go to that and you worked out and then I got a car 1940 Ford. I would pick her up and go to school I paid 500.00 Did you have insurance? I had it- it wasn't required I had that and sold it and got a Mercury but they Marie and I dated, she got a job at the telephone company, we married the next year after graduating. We had, I could name several people who married out of our class Vernon and Nancy Costello uh they got married and Jim Simpson got married Earl Grey and Sylvia Prather he waited a year coz she was a year behind us. Uh a lot [of the girls] was a year behind us - they were all in school together. Marie and I are the only Graduates that got married that are still around! We are all old people! Ha-ha and I was not the oldest one in the class either there! Nor was I the youngest one either. There were a lot a year or two older than me. Did you know our school Class was 48 [people] we started with 53 we had some that went thru the line didn't to get a diploma, they had to finish up and we had to take a test to get out. Did you have kids drop out? A few John Basso, he joined the army went to Korea and uh he came back and 2 days after he got back a truck hit him and killed him on the freeway. But anyway, uh by the way, when I was doing the sex offenders, I ran into a big boy named Basso. I said "hey did you know a Johnny Basso?" he said "yeah it was my uncle!" Ha-ha but uh the uh see I went into the Navy; I was working at standard grocery went to electric company making more money.

I know you brought back my mom's china dishes, did you bring back the other set? [My mom's dishes were green with a yellow Rose, the other set Cream colored with Violets and gold designs] Those mothers bought Marie and I, those were our wedding dishes as a wedding gift. I brought back the Noritake, when we separated, I took these [the wedding gift] and she kept hers… that Noritake I brought it back on the ship from Japan. I got out in 1957 so 2007 they were 50 years old! WOW and I only had to replace 3 pieces of it! It's a very rare pattern, you know why? Because I designed it! I got their pattern and changed it a little. Like you have seen my gold ring with the diamond? I designed it at Goodman's jewelers and had it cast.

So, did you go to the Senior Prom? Then the prom Marie and I were broke up. I had gone with a girl named Nancy and she- Marie went with the supermarket guy …wore his corsage! The girl I was

with he had been dating and she was wearing my corsage we switched midstream! We had pictures taken together!

Do you remember the telephone when you were a kid? No, I don't, I remember the telephone in Brownstown there were 7-8 people on the line. The table is out in the garage that the phone set on, it had the glass balls on the feet. Anyway, it sat in the hallway and you sat in the chair and you had to wind it up [brrrrrrr] and they would say "yes??…is this Zibe?" "no this is Dick!" "oh, you're the grandson" this would be the operator talking !! ha-ha they knew! But uh everybody knew…you got on the phone they would pick it up and listen to you, when we got our phone, it was also a party line, we had 4 people on the line and it … Explain how that works you have 4 people- if you're on there talking -they could listen in you would hear them pick it up? But uh our phone was two rings// ding-a-ling, ding-a-ling // if it rang 4 rings it was not for us. You heard everyone's rings, so the phone could be ringing all day long for other people. And we had a state number ST. So, if you were gabbing, they would pick up the phone and say "hey Dick how long you going to talk I need the phone" we all got along, it paid to get along! If you didn't, they could cause you all kinds of problems!! Could you have private line? Yes, to have it as private you had to run another line - very costly.

Do you remember your first TV? The first one it was about this big around [holds hands up forefingers to thumbs in a square shape] so before TV you had radio, in fact I have a disc with One Man's Family, The Batman Superman Green Hornet and The Squeaking Door The House of the Inner Sanctum, it would come on the radio it screeched {making squeaky door sounds] like a door that needed oil real bad and then uh… So, as a family would you all sit and listen? Not necessarily of course Dad didn't like the serials, Mom liked them though, she liked about a half dozen serials, like soap operas on the radio. Were they on weekly or daily? Gabriel Heatter was the newscaster at that time we would sit around and listen and everyone down in Brownstown would sit around at 6-6:30 the news would come on Grandpa McMahan would sit in his chair and Daisy in hers and Grandma in hers and Aunt Doris in her chair and we would listen . How old when you got the first tv? I was… first tv in junior high school I was 13 so it was small? Yes, I had the times news route, so I would stop at some of my customers and watch the funnies Mickey Mouse. I would sit and watch it. What we had was a Philco black and white. Were your parents acceptant or hesitant ? He, Dad wanted the TV he was an electrician and he surprised us with it. The problem was it was expensive. I was at this time 13 when I worked at the barber shop 75 c an hour a shoe shine and the guy at the shop would make up the difference. Do you know what grandpa – your dad was probably making at that time?? Were you poor or middle class? We were middle class -dad had a decent car, dad took mom everywhere. Uh gas was 18-19cents a gallon. Aunt Maude is the only sister to drive. Grandpa Zibe did drive in the parking area at the end of the driveway, it was an old Modal A or T, up to this point he had only driven a horse and buggy. What year would this have been? Long time before 1934 probably in the 1920s early, mom told me that car it didn't have doors they brought the car over and Aunt Maude knew how to drive and grandpa says he was going to learn how to drive! So, my Grandpa [McMahan] gets in and goes around this tree in a circle and you could hear him hollering "Gee!!" "Haw!!" "Whoa!!" as he went around the tree the car didn't whoa!!! Ha-ha he was going by voice, that car didn't! After he did that he was done!!

Do you remember hearing what Grandpa Jack said when you were born? He said I was a big boy and looked like I were big enough to be a policeman and I become one for 30 some years. It didn't influence me in fact when I got a call back from the service I was working at the railroad!

When you were little what did you want to be? I wanted to be police and fireman but Marie's Uncle Marion Turner, he was a Sargent Lieutenant at Indianapolis Police Department, Juvenile Division he called me and I had talked to him about becoming a police man. I was working at the times then in advertising and I had called on the realtors downtown and such to sell adds. That's where I got into sketching. I would do floor plans for the paper. So, Marion called me and said "you still interested in becoming a policeman?" I said "yeah why you gonna hire me?" He said "No! But I got a friend who is looking for an officer with the railroad police would you be interested?" 1960 April 1 st this was the week before he gave me the information and the interview was in his office for the NY central loading docks off Delaware. So, I went over there and sat down he said "yeah he told me you were coming" he was a grumpy guy we sat there talking and he said "this is what it is and this and this" and uh he said uh "how bad you want to be a policeman ?" "I'm interested" he then says "well you be here this Friday night 10:59 p.m." this was Tuesday so I said "well I would like to give a notice to the paper" he said in loud gruff voice "Well do you want the damn job or don'tcha?" ha-ha I said "yeah I want it" he says "Well the guy's name is Richard Hullman a Lieutenant he will be with you a few days" That was your training? Well I had a little more than that but not much, he said "I want you to have a suitcoat and a brim hat like the old TV detectives wore and a dark pair of slacks and I wouldn't wear a white shirt if I was you I'd wear a color shirt." I said "ok" and uh he says "So dress like that, you got a gun?" I said uh "no" he said "well I can get ya a gun!" Ha-ha he said "the guy Hullman that has it, [gun] is retiring but he doesn't want to give up his belt, so you will have to buy your own belt." So, I went and bought a used one he told me where to get it He gave me a colt Model 17 the damn barrel on it was that [4-5 inches with fingers] long ha-ha it was like shooting a rifle. I got the gun and I wasn't really familiar with guns. I'd shot a shot gun a couple 2-3 times. Anyway, I came home with the gun and walked in and told Mom and Dad I was gonna be a policeman on the rail road and all shit broke loose! Dad didn't say so much but Mom! Oh, she come unglued! What did she say? oh, a lot of things! So, I come back with "oh I'm not gonna be in danger!" I worked nights for the railroad, I didn't realize how many bums were on the railroad from 1960 -66 almost 7 years and I really believe for 365 days I had a fight every night you dealt with bums and homeless people and a lot of trash! Thieves on the railroad are all employees they would break into cars and stealing stuff right and left, in fact when I was still with rail road police I saw the first auto carriers come thru with cars on them, So did people steal cars? They would steal parts, tires, hub caps the reason they have the white plastic coating today is to keep them from stealing parts off of them . I though just scratch protection! Ha! So, I went to work that Friday night, I just told The Times I would work during the day time- they said "no that's ok" It was a big risk to switch jobs and careers wasn't it? Yeah A nd did you have any training, official police training? Not at that point no, you just within the first week, they took me out behind the rail road shops and took me out there to the range to shoot the gun and then a month later another fella was hired he was from Tennessee, name of Hendricks he lived on Thompson Rd, just outside of Beech Grove. He come to work -- this guy-- I was straight targets bullseye, and he could not hit that target, but he had a holster and he could pull that gun aim and fire BANG and he would hit that thing! A bullseye right in

the nose – he said "I don't know how to shoot that thing" [meaning the target] he said "I shoot rabbits!" Ha-ha literally he shot rabbits with a pistol ha-ha I said I'll make a sign Dan; Dan was his name I said "Danny when you are out here, I'm gonna say beware I shoot moving targets!"

What do you remember about Christmases? Toy trucks and the only REAL Christmas I remember when dad was gone, we were in Seymore, dad was on mayflower runs this particular Christmas he was gone, Ed Hubris, they were friends of the family his wife she had been collecting toys all year for Mike and I. So, someone opened the door, we lived upstairs over the grocery and someone slid this box down the hallway all I heard was the box coming and mom said "oh Santa's been here! I can hear him coming up the stairs" We laughed and I remembered saying "well I didn't see a chimney in here!!" it was a box full of toys. I remember that was the best Christmas we ever had. Tonka trucks were real popular and so they were cheap too, of course mom was working making blankets during the war. So, you got more than 1 toy for Christmas did you go to the Home in Brownstown? Yeah, we would go down to Brownstown but they- we would go down on the bus ...then if Dad was home, he had a car. The first real good car I remember was a Hudson. I remember during the time we were in Columbus and I was climbing over fences trying to run away, they finally put a harness on me, to keep me from running away! But Dad uh he had an old Buick then, well it wasn't old, it was fairly new then. I remember that and his car and the flood they had, but I wasn't big enough to know what was going on. Did they have candles on the trees or lights? Lights, great big Christmas bulls first artificial trees were like silver tinfoil I thought it was so awful! But I didn't like real trees they shed so much.

Candlelight Christmas eve's? if we didn't go down to Brownstown, we would go to Moms, Aunt Maude and Aunt Doris would send things, white elephant gifts to open on Christmas eve.

Your Uncle Charles Granddaughters have no desire to know anything much about him nor the McMahon's. they said "Nope he left our mother I don't care my mom had no good memories of him" Uncle Charles was moms oldest brother, I knew who she's talking about- I knew her quite well ,Marilyn Joyce, Peggy & Shirly Alice, she was the youngest – the one I used to see. I was in touch with Joyce, she's married to a retied Sea bee she is still alive, Marylin was the oldest and she was close to her mom. We were close to Uncle Charles we would go to Florida to see him he had a good job he bought in to a company in Tampa, he was part owner. But was working on Banana boats coming out of South America you know what a Screw is on a ship? It's the shaft that goes all the way back to the propeller, that shaft drives that propeller. These things had to be perfectly balanced, they are huge and he would bring these things in on rails into his shop. They would come in to a lathe that uncle Charles made and this thing would turn and retool the shafts for these ships. It cost a ton of money. I can remember him coming up to visit and he and I would go out and get a sandwich or cup of coffee someplace and he would say "Dick you got any money on you?" I would say "yeah maybe $4-$5.00" he would say "can I borrow it? I only got 300.00 in my billfold they are all 100.00 bills!" When he broke up with his wife, it wasn't as she said it was! One of the girls must have had bitter memories of their father, they did, they did. Marylin and Joyce, I think. Peggy may have. They [Peggy, Joyce, Marylin] were the only ones that came to his funeral.

Vacations did your family take vacations? Yeah, we went to like uh oh different amusement parks in Cincinnati, up along the river, we would go swimming around here to different pools, we spent a lot of time at Garfield and Long Acre. We would go to Brownstown and Freetown to Virginia too.

You used to ride the bus Beech Grove to Brownstown? I was 7 years old. 2-3-hour ride, see uh I would sleep on it, yeah its going back streets- like here we have State St and South St here at the Masonic home, it would then go on down old 31. No one ever bothered you, it was safe! Did the bus driver look out for you? No, it wasn't anything. I used to in Seymore, she would send me to the grocery like she would want sugar. I would go get a bag of sugar for 10 cents at 7-8 yrs. Old. I would spend a dime or 2 ha-ha [Jess said and you still look guilty!! Ha-ha] That's why I run around here saying I am innocent!!

Who was first president you remember? Hoover… wait who had the dog? Franklin Roosevelt, Hoover first Roosevelt during 2 nd world war. I would play soldier, of course every kid in the world did we were- we listened to the war all the time so every kid in the world would march like a soldier all the time ya know but Truman of course.

You said your mom worked? Because yeah, she worked like Rosie the Riveter and because she was a professional Speaker and writer. She wrote poetry it was in the paper. And they had war bonds back then so Mike and I were chosen to be the war bond babies, we were put in the back of the jeep and they had a parade and Mike and I were the war bond babies, we were big shots riding in the back of the jeep.

Anyone in your family in any wars? Charles wasn't, Ziba wasn't, Capitan Pruitt, he was in civil war… Abe Lee wasn't. Now Uncle Thurman was at Schofield barracks at Pearl harbor he left there and went to the Philippines when MacArthur pulled out, you hear about the troops that were left there to work with the underground in the Philippines when the Japs were there, he was in the Philippines he was there to meet MacArthur coming back. He lucked out, he survived, he was a guerilla in the Philippines.

Were your family Voters? My Mom and Dad were voters they voted started out Democrat, as I remember they were for Roosevelt that was the big thing then because they were winning the war. Then Truman came in, he was the working man's president, then Eisenhour come along they went to Republican ha-ha

Do you remember the Kennedy assassination? I was at the railroad when I heard it what do you remember how did BG handle death of Pres. It was a big deal primarily because Beech Grove was 100 % democrat except me! Ha-ha I never did vote democrat now; I have voted for some democrats. Schools didn't close. The trains went ahead and worked but we were put on alert at that time because we didn't know what was going on. There have been several times I have been put on alerts uh we were moving Atomic material thru Avon yards we knew cars were coming in with Atomic material in them we I would have instead of 3 guys coming in I would have 23!

So, when the A Bomb was dropped how old were you? what do you remember? well I remember that it was 1945- I was 10 or 11 or 12 when it happened, I was in California then – then we came back right after the bomb went off coz the war was over after that and my Dad went to work for the

rail road yeah I uh

My working career at the grocery store to electronics! Western Electric, Navy back to Western Electric. We traveled quite a bit- there were 4 crews Jim Fox myself and Morrison were on crews that put in the first uh television towers in Indiana. We put the towers in from Indianapolis to Evansville. At that time, we had to really watch things, we had this thing in the tower they had a box type sleeve going up and inside was the old lining not like it was very susceptible to lightning you had to be careful! They were to carry sound. But we uh during those years I was doing telephone work of course I had experience as an electrician, so guess who put the lights in the buildings??! Ha-ha I wired all the buildings we were putting up, here I was wanting to repair telephones and equipment and I was doing what all I had been doing!! Then to the Rail Road Police then to Beech Grove police Department. I know we did drug stake outs in Little and Sons funeral home they would deal drugs under the 13 th St bridge.

War rationing, we had some coupons what do you remember? I had to be careful with my shoes! They ration- you don't get shoes. I remember a time we would have to put a piece of heavy cardboard in the bottom of your shoe! Yeah shoes, meat, gas, sugar I used to go to Webber meat market there on Churchman from Royal Road, I would take the stamps with me and go back home, you would trade with neighbors- you have stamps for this- I have stamps -you traded! Clothing, silks, some wool clothes you couldn't just go in and buy a sweater like that because the wool was used for blankets and uniforms. And everyone had a victory garden, my dad had one, I cut the corn!!

What do you think about the differences today ? you would hardly ever think we are at war, there is no personal sacrifice. Back then the US after WW1 - They shut everything off- that was "the war to end all wars" we didn't have to worry -so when Hitler was taking over Poland and Czechoslovakia and all that- the Government and people just closed their eyes and ears. We didn't want any part of that, until they made a mistake and bombed our backs! Pearl Harbor – the Japs ,the ships and Hitler made everybody all unhappy ,then America jumped in the middle of this thing – things just came to a grinding Automobile plants changed their assembly lines to go from cars to tanks and to military trucks - so quick they were backed up here waiting on ships to take them over ha-ha but uh this country can pump up real quick if we have to- we may have to -we have some other problems here soon.

Philosophy's, what is greatest invention in your lifetime? Well technology is growing; everybody makes a better mouse trap. Do you use smart phone? Do you text, do you use computer and online banking? I can, but I get my statements thru computer, I go in and find a balance. I don't pay bills -I do pay thru computer I have 4-5 that come out now. Rick, he pays bills and Marie does as well the uh most I use 2 credit cards Chase and a Visa thru US Bank but uh just about everything goes thru those . But you are also very good you pay them off every month? oh both of them, I pay off balances yes. You see it on tv your balance is this will be taken out in such and such a time. I don't pay interest. Greatest invention medicine they are on the verge of helping with cancer and polio was wiped out

David Charles, your big brother what do you remember? He was not born normal and was sick, he was still in a walker when I was born. I remember him in bed he was bed ridden when I got old enough to know what was going on. So, you never had convo with him? No, I never did. Did he learn to speak or able to communicate? I can't say, I think he communicated with mom somehow but he was never educated he was uh an invalid in every way, he was very small at 16 when he died wore a size 8 child's suit. But he was 4 foot 2 but he was skin and bones they didn't have him- he wasn't here at home. He didn't die here, because they put him in at New Castle. Because when we went to California they took care of him, that was my parents well Dad was in CA and Mom was here the govt ok'd to bring us out that's when you didn't just travel you couldn't just get on a plane or a train and just go you had to be ok'd by govt so when we went and we lived in Rodeo south of Oakland CA. Aunt Doris and Aunt Maude and Grandpa helped get David Charles ready to where they were going to take him. I didn't really understand what was going on, to be honest with you. I remember him leaving and when we came back, we went to see him there and the doctors recommended we not bring him home . But it really hurt grandma at having to leave him? Yeah but she didn't have any choice it was either that or stay here or go to California to be with dad. And he couldn't stay at the Poor Farm? They weren't equipped, no he had to go somewhere where he had continuous care. After he passed was, he talked about? Yes, he is buried where Aunt Doris is buried, Aunt Maude and Grandma and Grandpa Mc Mahan and Uncle Charles is buried. Mom has a lot there but it will never be used. Grandpa bought lots there for everybody Mom and Dad are in Greenwood . You and Uncle Mike had no relationship with David Charles because of his invalid state, right? Right. Nope. So, it wasn't something people talked about? I just knew he existed and that he was here. I would help mom turn him over and feed him, he didn't talk I'm not so sure he could talk. I remember seeing pictures and mom telling me about him, he was her first child. So, Polio? Meningitis? I'm not sure it was polio. I just know that's what we were told. I do know he had a bone disease, brittle bone, so it would be like polio ,disfiguring I just remember turning him and stuff like that mom saying we have to be careful doing it he wasn't artificially fed up to when he died he wasn't on life support so whatever diseases he had his body was self sufficient to support it .

Fashion changes… I remember the 1-piece bathing suits- the long women's ones, like swimming dresses! Bikini as a teen ager you were pretty interested, same with the men we wore speedos ...they uh you didn't go naked but you might as well a- been- both of ya! I wore pants legs skinny in the 50's straight legged and rolled, but blue jeans were always rolled oh yeah if you had a 30-inch inseam you bought a 36! And rolled them up!

INTERVIEWER NOTE: I was honored to interview my Dad in 2014- way before I started this project. My Dad- Never perfect- But Always my Daddy- Kim Midkiff Shepherd