

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH
WILBERT WILLIAM "BERT" SCHRANK

1 (INTRODUCTION)

2 MR. EIDSON: Hi. I'm Jim Eidson with the
3 Hamilton County, Texas, Historical Commission. Recently
4 the Commission has embarked on a project to capture and
5 record oral histories in Hamilton County. You know, one
6 of the things about history is many of the major events
7 are captured in our history books, the texts there, but
8 oftentimes the stories of people who lived through those
9 events and those times are lost because we don't ask the
10 questions. So today we have the pleasure of talking to
11 Bert Schrank, whose family is multi-generation Hamilton
12 County, and Bert is a long-time resident of Hamilton
13 County. Today is January 26, 2018, and we look forward
14 to hearing from him.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 (INTERVIEW)

2 MR. MCMULLEN: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Andy McMullen, and I'm a member of the Hamilton County,
4 Texas, Historical Commission, and today -- today is the
5 26th of January, 2018, and we have the great privilege
6 of being able to visit today with Bert Schrank, who is a
7 long-time resident of Hamilton County and his family
8 is -- he has family lineage that connects him to
9 Hamilton County. So it is our pleasure to be with Bert.
10 And I'll just ask you, Bert, what is your full name?

11 MR. SCHRANK: Okay. My full name is
12 Wilbert William Schrank.

13 MR. MCMULLEN: All right. And how --

14 MR. SCHRANK: Generally known as Bert.

15 MR. MCMULLEN: And how did that happen?

16 MR. SCHRANK: Well, an aunt of mine, my
17 dad's sister, and her friend wanted to name me Wilbert
18 so they could call me Bert.

19 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

20 MR. SCHRANK: And that didn't take until I
21 was in high school. My coach made it -- made it work,
22 and I've been Bert most -- ever since.

23 MR. MCMULLEN: All right. And as I've
24 explained to everyone we've thus far interviewed, I

25 don't -- I'm not going to ask for your specific date of

4

1 birth as far as a month and a day, but I am going to ask

2 you in -- what year you were born in?

3 MR. SCHRANK: I was born in 1923.

4 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay. And, of course, the

5 reason I did it that way is because with cyber security,

6 you just never know. If people can get your date of

7 birth, all sorts --

8 MR. SCHRANK: I understand.

9 MR. MCMULLEN: -- of things can happen.

10 And so that's why we do it that way.

11 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah. My parents were

12 Melvin Schrank and Clara Reinert Schrank.

13 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

14 MR. SCHRANK: So that side came to be.

15 MR. MCMULLEN: And, Bert, tell -- tell us

16 first about your family's connection to Hamilton, that

17 you -- to the extent you know about it.

18 MR. SCHRANK: Well, of course, as is

19 well-known by most people in the county, Aleman is a

20 rich soil farming community, and it was inhabited with a

21 German settlement. Alemán being the Mexican word for --

22 or Spanish word for German, and so -- and I might add

23 there's two sets of them. My mother -- grandmother was

24 a Schrank and my grandfather was also a Schrank. So it

25 made me related to the whole batch, and in 1916, my

5

1 grandfather -- I guess he thought it was a little thick
2 maybe -- I'm not sure about that -- but he moved his
3 county -- his family to the western part of the county
4 as well as -- as some sisters, and then their families
5 went with him. And so my dad at that time was just a
6 very youngster. And my grandfather died at an early age
7 in the Old Hamilton sanitarium, which has recently been
8 torn down, and he didn't make it from surgery for a
9 sinus blockage, which if they had had it, they probably
10 could have cured it with a nasal spray now, but they
11 didn't have that then. So he didn't live through the
12 surgery.

13 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, the people that came
14 and initially settled in Aleman, did they -- did they
15 come to Texas by way of -- of Galveston?

16 MR. SCHRANK: As far as I know, my
17 grandparents were born in -- in the States, but their
18 parents did, yes, come through Galveston.

19 MR. MCMULLEN: And were they from Germany?

20 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah, his parents were.

21 MR. MCMULLEN: All right. And did you as
22 a young- -- as a youngster speak German?

23 MR. SCHRANK: I surely did.

24 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

1 mother's father, could hardly talk English, and he -- he
2 was older, of course, and lived next door to us in
3 Pottsville. So I spent a great deal of time with my
4 Grandfather Reinert. So until I was about six years
5 old, yes, I talked a lot of German to be with him.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Yes. And when you started
7 school, did you speak German in school?

8 MR. SCHRANK: No. There was -- there were
9 a couple of classes in the -- well, in the first year of
10 school, the first grade, I went to the Pottsville public
11 school, and then the 2nd grade through the 7th grade, I
12 attended a Lutheran parochial church school, and there
13 were a couple of classes in German. There was two
14 German books in German. The "erstes Lesebuch" and the
15 "zweites Lesebuch." That means the first and second
16 reader. So we did have some German, but it wasn't -- it
17 was a misnomer. It wasn't commonly known as the German
18 church and the German school, which -- which was
19 partially true, I guess, but not as it was taken. It
20 was not predominantly German. Well, the -- the
21 attendees were probably more German but they were
22 Norwegian and regulars known as Americans or whatever.
23 So that's kind of -- then after the 7th grade, went back
24 to the Pottsville public school and graduated there in

25 1940 as valedictorian, incidentally.

7

1 MR. MCMULLEN: Now --

2 MR. SCHRANK: And I think I mentioned or
3 maybe you don't recall or maybe I did not, but that was
4 also the first year that Pottsville High School had
5 football, and it was six-man football. It's somewhat
6 different, but principally the same. First downs are
7 15 yards and this, that -- and my athletic claim to fame
8 was I scored the first touchdown ever.

9 MR. MCMULLEN: For your team?

10 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah.

11 MR. EIDSON: Okay.

12 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah.

13 MR. MCMULLEN: Now, there were 11 grades
14 in the -- in the schooling at that time; is that
15 correct?

16 MR. SCHRANK: Yes.

17 MR. MCMULLEN: All right. And do you
18 remember how old you had to be to start school?

19 MR. SCHRANK: Well, you had to be six
20 years old, just like now, but my birthday being later --
21 a few days after school started, they some way or
22 another allowed me to start when I was five. They
23 waived the rule, I guess. Anyway, I started when I was
24 five years old.

25 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay. And then did you

8

1 actually finish your public school education in

2 Hamilton?

3 MR. SCHRANK: No. By that time, we had a

4 very good superintendent, and he with his efforts got

5 Pottsville College accredited.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

7 MR. SCHRANK: So -- but before that, yes,

8 they had to come in to Hamilton to finish. Aleman also

9 did. But he -- he got our school accredited. So 11

10 grades was okay.

11 MR. MCMULLEN: And the -- in order to --

12 you had to be a graduate of an accredited school in

13 order to pursue a college education?

14 MR. SCHRANK: That was my understanding.

15 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay. And so that's --

16 MR. SCHRANK: I know my aunts came in to

17 Hamilton to finish. I remember one aunt in particular

18 that -- they had come in and they'd help some elderly

19 people, maybe, for room, to have a place to stay, and --

20 she did. She helped a lady and finished in Hamilton,

21 and she went on to nurse's training. And that was the

22 case, yes.

23 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, with the benefit of

24 your education out at Pottsville, I'd like to jump

25 forward and then we'll jump back, but I would like to

9

1 talk about two things that are dear to your heart, and
2 that is the Hamilton hospital and the Pecan Creek Park.

3 MR. SCHRANK: Well, yes. My wife was
4 particularly -- and so when your spouse is involved,
5 you're involved, too, but yes.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Your late wife, Fay?

7 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah. First of all, I
8 guess -- I guess the park. But, anyway, she was very
9 instrumental in getting a park -- our little creek
10 through town cleaned up and a park established, Pecan
11 Creek Park. And she was literally on her knees moving
12 rocks and pulling weeds, and the concrete park before
13 that was infested with junk, car bodies, you name it,
14 and they cleared all that up with the help of the Texas
15 Parks & Wildlife. Without their help and grant, we
16 probably could not have gotten it done. But that's
17 not -- maybe not entirely true, but Hamilton is known
18 for getting it done. So we may have just the same.

19 But the hospital is the highlight of both
20 of our lives. We lost our hospital to a -- to a bigger
21 hospital, and it literally closed down. So what were we
22 to do? Well, for a little bit, a committee was formed
23 to decide what to do, and in all due respect to that
24 committee, they worked hard and tried hard, it wasn't

25 working. For an example, we were offered \$2,500 a month

10

1 by a rest home facility, and that was to cover
2 maintenance and repair expenses, and you know that
3 wasn't going to get it done. So after -- that didn't
4 look good to be honest with you. One day my wife came
5 out to my office, and she said, "Let's go get a cup of
6 coffee." Well, that alone was kind of unusual for her,
7 because she -- she didn't usually come out there to --
8 she just didn't think that was a place for her. But as
9 I look back, I should have put her on the payroll
10 earlier but that -- that helps the Social Security, but
11 we did get her on something in time. But she came out
12 and said "Let's go get a cup of coffee," and we went
13 across the street and did. And the first thing she said
14 was "We can save that hospital," and I said, "Uh-oh.
15 What's coming now?" So she laid out her plan and a
16 meeting was called at the fellowship hall of the Baptist
17 church, well attended, a lot of interest shown, and Fay
18 and I agreed to chair a committee to raise money to get
19 the hospital open. And low and behold, with the help
20 of -- many people in Hamilton and around the area
21 chipped in. Many didn't have the money, went to the
22 bank, borrowed money so they could help get it open, and
23 we raised -- this little town and community and
24 surrounding area raised \$360,000, and that was enough to

25 get it done. But the need for a district -- hospital

11

1 district was evident. So we lined up the paperwork to
2 get that done, and it passed by 39 votes, and that was a
3 county vote. So we felt real good about that.

4 And you can see what we have now. She --
5 my wife being "she," literally scrubbed floors, walls,
6 worked with doctors to get them to come back and help,
7 and they did, and some -- and then later -- a bit later,
8 local youngsters began getting doctor degrees and coming
9 home, and that was a real credit. That -- that did it.

10 That was what we needed to survive. So it -- it just
11 went on and kept increasing and kept getting better.
12 And we served on the Board for many years, and then the
13 time came to do something. The old hospital became the
14 parking lot, and we began building the new hospital.

15 So Hamilton is a -- always has been and
16 certainly still is a good place to live and raise a
17 family, and that being the result, and good churches,
18 good schools, and a good hospital, a good airport for
19 this size of town, and many other endeavors that small
20 businesses helped establish. I can say this truthfully.
21 When you think of a need, you can almost find a source
22 in Hamilton. It may not be the complete source, but
23 it's a beginning. So we were blessed with three
24 highways, good highways. If you want to go to a larger

25 city or want to go and have the need to go, you can go

12

1 east, west, north, or south, and it's well located.

2 I've always -- I've always thought it would be a good

3 center for a -- for a grocery distributor, being close

4 to Abilene, Austin, Waco, Brownwood, Stephenville.

5 It -- that hasn't happened. Perhaps it may still.

6 We wanted badly to live in Hamilton. We

7 knew we were going to get married at the time. And I

8 was at TCU, and we knew we were going to be married, and

9 we wanted to raise our family in Hamilton, but we didn't

10 know exactly how because we had to have something to do

11 to make a living. Well, the forerunner of Mobil --

12 ExxonMobil was a subsidiary of Socony-Vacuum and Mobil

13 Oil Company by the name of Magnolia Petroleum Company,

14 and the local agent wanted to sell his interests, and my

15 dad remembered telling him that if he ever wanted out,

16 we might be interested. He remembered that, they both

17 did, and they set me up with the Magnolia Petroleum

18 Company as a fuel distributor. So we --

19 MR. MCMULLEN: But you had to give up on

20 your TCU studies.

21 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, that's part of the -- we

22 wanted to so badly that I dropped out of TCU to get it.

23 MR. MCMULLEN: And you were in your senior

24 year?

1 hours to graduate. And the local Magnolia agent had
2 agreed to stay one more summer, and I could have
3 finished those ten hours. But I came home one day --
4 one weekend and my -- my father -- my dad said, "He
5 wants out now. If we want it, we're going to have to do
6 something." So my only alternate was to drop out of
7 TCU, which incidentally, 45 years later, I went and got
8 my degree after I retired.

9 MR. MCMULLEN: How old were you, Bert,
10 when you got that degree?

11 MR. SCHRANK: Well, it was 1992. So '23
12 to '92, whatever that is. I was on up there. But it's
13 kind of an ego trip, but at least it accomplished the
14 purpose. In an interesting sideline, we drove to Fort
15 Worth to night school one day a week for a semester.
16 The other semester I took at Tarlton because the
17 counselor had told me, "You can" -- "we're going to let
18 you out with six hours, because if you go back now and
19 get that business degree, they're going to pile
20 computers and no telling how many hours before they let
21 you out of here, but we're going to let you out with six
22 hours." Six here, six Tarlton -- six at Tarlton,
23 transfer -- six at TCU, however you want to do it. So I
24 took six hours at -- three hours at Tarlton and three

25 hours at TCU. We'd kind of make a picnic out of it. On

14

1 the way up there, we'd stop at a place to eat. I'd
2 study and Fay would eat. But we made it work. Three
3 fine daughters, a successful business, and been very
4 thankful ever since.

5 MR. MCMULLEN: All right. Well, let's --
6 let's drop back now to talk about Pottsville. We -- we
7 know Pottsville today, and what you knew as Pottsville
8 was a very different place, wasn't it?

9 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, absolutely.

10 MR. MCMULLEN: What all was in Pottsville?

11 MR. SCHRANK: It was a thriving community.
12 It had -- it had practically all of our needs. It maybe
13 didn't have a dry goods store, but it had two grocery
14 stores, a patent medicine pharmacy, a barber shop, most
15 of the time a restaurant, my dad's repair garage, which
16 is a story in itself. He was a mechanic as a young man,
17 went into partnership with -- with another man, and
18 later bought him out in an old tin building, and he
19 wanted a better building. So he made a deal with a
20 brick company north of here that was closing down
21 because coal of its nature was no longer in demand, so
22 they shut it down, and it made the brick family -- a lot
23 brick buildings available, and he paid half a cent a
24 piece for Thurber brick. I made mention that he -- it

25 cost him more to get the bricks to Pottsville than the

15

1 bricks cost him. And he built a building, a pretty good
2 size repair garage, and he wondered, "Now, how am I
3 going to pay for all this?" It cost him \$2,700. It was
4 a pretty good size building, and we were just coming out
5 of the Depression, had a good year, and paid for it in
6 one year. He thought he had set the world on fire, and
7 he had. But he -- the thing that I always admired about
8 my daddy and still do -- he died in 1993. That was a
9 year after I got my degree from TCU. So he was able --
10 I was able to show it to him at least. But he --
11 Pottsville was made of tenant farmers, pretty good soil,
12 and one -- we thought a huge ranch, 3,200 acres, was
13 owned by a party in New York City, and they would divide
14 it up into 60-acre tracts for tenant farmers, and they
15 had no way to make a living on 60 acres without raising
16 their own chickens, their own beef, and whatever they
17 needed mostly, but -- and he knew by doing their repair
18 work, he might not get paid because they might not could
19 pay, but he never turned one down. He'd do their work.
20 Even go out on Sunday afternoons and complete a job so
21 they could have their equipment ready by Monday morning.
22 And there was -- something that was interesting to me
23 was a beef club. People, farmers, ranchers, would join
24 a beef club, and it was their obligation to furnish one

25 calf during the season, during the year, and one man was

16

1 well-known to be able to prepare the -- the beef, and
2 each party would get their share of that calf, and then
3 usually they'd have beef left over, and then people that
4 didn't have calves, like my parents, would buy that
5 extra beef. So that was the income from them.

6 And one incident in Pottsville that I
7 really recall, I was just a little tot. My -- my
8 granddaddy had already passed on and my grandmother was
9 left to raise the children, and they were on up there
10 but I was little bitty, and they'd have me over, and one
11 night they had me over and I spent the night with them.
12 And we -- the next morning, we were all at the breakfast
13 table and we kept hearing something rattle, and my
14 grandmother walked up the stairs, opened the door, and
15 said, "Oh, the house is on fire." So didn't save hardly
16 anything because it was engulfed in flames almost
17 immediately, but the community -- typical of Hamilton
18 County, the community volunteered -- said "Ms. Schrank,
19 if you can manage to come up with the building
20 materials, we'll put the house back with our labor," and
21 they did. The community came together and built a nice
22 brick home, and all she had to do was come up with the
23 building materials, which she did and they did. I
24 thought that was kind of nice. But that's typical of

25 the way it was then in Hamilton County and that's

17

1 typical of the way it is now. There's all kinds of
2 youth projects. Senior projects are that many. If
3 anybody takes a loss, they get help immediately. And we
4 have so many things now to be proud of, 4H clubs for the
5 youth, a county agent for the -- for the farmers and the
6 cattle people, clothing and food preparations for the
7 ladies, and it's just -- to me, it's phenomenal what we
8 can do if you have people that care.

9 MR. MCMULLEN: Bert, the -- the school
10 buildings that you were in, as I take it, the Lutheran
11 church, the parochial school that you attended was
12 different than the public school that was there; is that
13 correct? They were two different schools.

14 MR. SCHRANK: It was -- no doubt, it was
15 two different schools, and there -- it was a religion
16 school. There's no doubt about that. Monday,
17 Wednesday, and Friday, we'd have Bible history, and
18 Tuesday and Thursday, we'd have doctrine teachings, and
19 adequate teachers. Sometimes the minister would be also
20 the school teacher but most generally was able to get a
21 trained teacher, and it was in complete conjunction with
22 the school evidently, because all of our books and
23 grades and everything were accepted at the public
24 school.

1 public school continue --

2 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, yeah.

3 MR. MCMULLEN: -- when you were going to
4 the parochial school?

5 MR. SCHRANK: No doubt.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: All right.

7 MR. SCHRANK: No doubt.

8 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, that means more
9 people were there than are there now.

10 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, yeah. They -- I want to
11 say Pottsville had a population of 200, maybe, at that
12 time right around the immediate area. And, of course,
13 the county had more population then, too, but there was
14 no problem. There would be -- I remember one incident
15 of -- incident in those days. The buses were homemade.
16 They'd buy a chassis and build the school bus to it with
17 the seats and so forth, and every so often there would
18 be a trip scheduled, like -- I remember one that they
19 asked me to go to Austin to -- a famous author down
20 there. We visited her home, and, of course, the
21 capitol, and other institutions. So it was -- there was
22 no animosity or no --

23 MR. MCMULLEN: Division?

24 MR. SCHRANK: No. No problem. I don't

25 remember anything about -- along those lines. The kids

19

1 would ride -- ride -- of course, the public school had
2 buses and took care of most of them, but there were
3 still kids -- our kids came to school on horseback and
4 buggies, and we talked about the buggy up -- and I still
5 haven't priced it. I don't know what I'd do with it.
6 But that's some of the things about Pottsville. Yeah.

7 MR. MCMULLEN: And the people that came
8 to -- the tenant farmers there around Pottsville, were
9 they mostly German?

10 MR. SCHRANK: No, not necessarily. There
11 were some but most of them were not.

12 MR. MCMULLEN: Where did they come from?

13 MR. SCHRANK: You know, I -- I don't know
14 exactly how to answer that but somewhere, because a lot
15 of the boys in high school and -- were -- were certainly
16 not German, you know.

17 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay. All right.

18 MR. SCHRANK: So they came in there -- I
19 imagine a 60-acre place to live was probably a pretty
20 good deal in those days. So they took advantage of it.

21 MR. MCMULLEN: And what about electric
22 service, did you --

23 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, yeah.

24 MR. MCMULLEN: -- do you remember electric

1 MR. SCHRANK: That's one that I -- that I
2 hadn't touched on, and it bears being touched on.
3 Kerosene lamps in -- the first, you know, of course, and
4 then -- have you ever heard of the Delco-Light Plant --

5 MR. MCMULLEN: Yes.

6 MR. SCHRANK: -- Farm Plant?

7 MR. MCMULLEN: Yes.

8 MR. SCHRANK: My dad added that to his
9 garage business. He had a little trailer built with an
10 example on it, a gasoline running engine that was also a
11 generator, a 32 volt system. And he sold many of those
12 to farmers that could afford it, and then they had a set
13 of batteries, and then when the batteries would get so
14 old, just like an auto battery, it would have to be
15 replaced. So he'd do the replacing. But another thing
16 that inspired me was his attitude when the rural
17 electric association came into being.

18 MR. MCMULLEN: And do you remember when
19 that was?

20 MR. SCHRANK: Yes. About 1936. And it
21 put -- it put an end to that Delco-Light Plant business,
22 but he didn't mind a bit. He wanted everybody to have
23 electricity. And so that was a good -- another good
24 point. Yeah, I'm glad you mentioned that because I

25 don't think we had touched on that before. But two --

21

1 two men in Hamilton County I remember distinctly really
2 worked hard to get that done. Of course, LBJ was no
3 problem. He helped. And that was A.T. Jones and Van
4 Wisdom. They were more or less a two-man committee that
5 worked on that and got people to sign up for it, and
6 then that was the beginning of rural electricity in
7 Hamilton County, certainly Pottsville. And as far as
8 Hamilton electric, the mayor here at one time -- the
9 mayor, his name was Eck, he was also on the electric
10 company, a nice house, and you know what came of that.
11 Texas Power & Light came in somehow or another and
12 bought him out, I guess. Yeah. And the line -- the
13 Texas New Mexico power line went east and took in the
14 Aleman community. So they all got electricity way back
15 there before the electric co-op. That was kind of
16 unusual I thought, but they tied to the line.

17 MR. MCMULLEN: And it was the electric
18 co-op -- the Hamilton County Electric Cooperative that
19 brought power to Pottsville, I guess. Is that the way
20 it worked?

21 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah, other than the
22 Delco-Light plants. That's right. That's absolutely
23 correct.

24 MR. MCMULLEN: Now, those --

1 a vacant lot where he later built the building I was
2 telling you about -- that he allowed the gin and cotton
3 buyers to use to store cotton bales. So when the area
4 became clear enough, he strung electric wire from
5 goalpost to goalpost and we had night basketball long
6 before the gym or anything else. I remember -- I
7 remember well the high school playing on a dirt court.
8 And another thing that I like to remember, that the --
9 the Tarlton basketball coach was a man by -- William --
10 Bill Wisdom, and he had an 86 game winning streak
11 going -- or his winning streak went 86 games, and he had
12 several local boys on that team. And he -- he himself
13 grew up in Pottsville. That was Van Wisdom's brother
14 that I was telling you about that helped with the
15 co-op --

16 MR. MCMULLEN: Yes.

17 MR. SCHRANK: -- electric co-op. Yeah,
18 and I think my grandfather when they went west from
19 Aleman bought the farm that the Wisdoms had, and that's
20 where the house burned later on.

21 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, let's move forward to
22 your college education that -- when you finished your 11
23 grades, tell us about -- you went to more than one
24 college, and tell us about that, please.

1 school, somehow or another, that -- that left me
2 graduating a little bit too early, you know, and I
3 was -- I was just a kid and I hardly knew what to think
4 and what -- what I wanted to do, and so I stayed a year
5 and worked with my father in the garage. And,
6 incidentally, I still draw from the experience that I
7 gained working in that shop, and -- but he understood
8 that it wasn't for me, that I wanted something different
9 than the garage business. And I think he -- have you
10 ever heard of the Bosse's Garage in Shive?

11 MR. MCMULLEN: At Shive.

12 MR. SCHRANK: Okay. He had a couple of --
13 two or three boys -- I know of two, and they stayed with
14 their dad in the garage business, and I think my dad had
15 visions that maybe I would do the same thing, but my
16 sister says, no, he understood. Anyway, I stayed there
17 a year, and in the fall of '41, I entered Tarlton, which
18 in those days was ROTC and I understand still is. And
19 you had to -- you had to have a disability not to be in
20 the ROTC, not that I didn't want to be in the ROTC,
21 because I did. Incidentally, I was in the band, which
22 was ROTC, and that was '41. And, of course, the war
23 broke out when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor
24 in '41. And I was home one weekend for Sunday dinner

25 with some country neighbors, and we heard it on the car

24

1 radio, which you couldn't play very long or you'd run
2 the battery down. It was still tubes. It wasn't
3 transistors. So we ran in the house to tell our parents
4 about it, and they didn't believe us, which I can
5 understand. But on the way home, my dad tuned in the
6 radio, and he -- then they believed it. But from
7 Tarlton -- I was trying to think...

8 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, there's an A&M
9 connection there.

10 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah, there's A&M -- it was
11 in the A&M system. So it was almost an automatic to
12 transfer to A&M out of Tarlton, and nine out of ten did.
13 It wasn't a girl's school at A&M, so they did -- at that
14 time, so they went to different schools, but the boys
15 nearly all went to A&M, including me. And while I was
16 at Tarlton, they had approached us -- the military had
17 approached us to continue -- continue on by enrolling in
18 the infantry -- What do you call it? -- the infantry
19 reserves, which, there again, I would imagine almost
20 100 percent did. Except some of us had aspirations of
21 being in flying. So we went to Dallas one day, a bunch
22 of us, and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. But in
23 January, then, when I finished Tarlton, I did go to A&M,
24 and after about a month, I was called into the Reserves,

25 to active duty. So that plan failed. But -- so then I

25

1 went and did basic training in Wichita Falls, Sheppard
2 Field. Nearly everybody here got their basic -- well,
3 at least the Air Force or Air Corps -- Army Air Corps,
4 as it was known in those days, got their basic training
5 in Wichita Falls. And, boy, was Wichita Falls cold on a
6 morning like we've had some of here just lately. Those
7 Yankees hated it, but they survived. So after that,
8 basic training, then the Air Corps visions faded away
9 when I couldn't -- I couldn't stay well. I had chronic
10 air sickness. I should have known, because even in the
11 olden days, porch swinging made me sick. I should have
12 known that motion sickness wasn't going to work -- or
13 motion wasn't going to work, but I guess I kept thinking
14 it might. But I made a big mistake coming out of that
15 phase. They asked me to volunteer for the study of air
16 sickness, and, of course, I did. And they had a rigged
17 A-frame with an old motorcycle sidecar. They'd put you
18 in that thing and swing you until you -- until you
19 couldn't -- until you'd throw up all over the place, and
20 I hope I helped the situation. But Dramamine didn't
21 help. Eating a big meal didn't help. Starving yourself
22 didn't help. I tried everything. So then after that,
23 there was a series of -- of gunnery school, radio
24 school, radar school, then back to Wichita Falls for

25 reassignment, and I ended up later being reassigned to

26

1 the 147th AAS Communi- -- AACS.

2 MR. MCMULLEN: What does that mean?

3 MR. SCHRANK: Army Airways Communications
4 System. So from there, I went to Utah for embarkation
5 and then to Vancouver Barracks in Washington and sailed
6 down the Columbia River. On the ocean -- if you haven't
7 been on the ocean for 15 days, you can't imagine what
8 it's like. Nothing -- nothing but water, water. It's
9 unbelievable. Of course, three quarters of the earth is
10 water, but even though you knew that -- it's kind of
11 like Niagara Falls, even though you've seen it, you --
12 it's still hard to believe. But we made it in the port
13 of Invercargill [sic] or -- coming in -- whatever the
14 word is for that -- with Saipan, and then they fanned
15 you out from there, and I ended up on a little -- fairly
16 small island called Peleliu of the Palau group on the
17 level of Mindanao of the Philippines, about 15 miles
18 east and about 500 miles south to Australia. It was --
19 it was, we thought, well inhabited and everything,
20 secure, and it was except for the fact that we didn't
21 know that the -- the mountains through the center of the
22 island was infested with tunnels housing Japanese
23 soldiers. They didn't tell us or they didn't know it or
24 we just certainly didn't know it. I understood later,

25 after the war, that they were still coming out of those

27

1 tunnels, surrendering individually. But my work there
2 was communications, yes, a transmitter, and there was a
3 transmitter tent -- shack, tent and a receiver tent.
4 Well, I ended up in the transmitter tent, which also
5 housed three diesel engines. One of them furnished
6 electricity for the island. One of them was working,
7 one of them was in reserve, and one of them was being
8 serviced. And I finally got enough points -- you were
9 discharged by a point system. I think you got a point
10 for every month you served and various things, and I
11 finally reached enough, and I -- I think I have
12 mentioned before, I was offered the communications
13 command in Peleliu, but I flatly turned it down because
14 I was ready to get out. I wasn't really a military man.
15 I was a homebody. I wanted to get home, and I did.

16 MR. MCMULLEN: Was the war over at that
17 point?

18 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah, the war was over. In
19 fact, the atomic bomb was dropped while I was in Utah
20 waiting to be shipped. Well, we thought "Well, now that
21 that's happened, we won't have to go overseas," but we
22 did, which was fine. I wanted to serve. There was no
23 doubt about that, but I was also ready to retire. So
24 back to Saipan, back on the boat, 15 days again, three

25 days of motion sickness, finally got to where I could

28

1 eat, and then Camp Anza, California. Landed in Los
2 Angeles, San Pedro, and then Camp Anza, which was
3 embarkation or debarkation.

4 MR. MCMULLEN: Debarkation.

5 MR. SCHRANK: Debarkation. Anyway, from
6 there, I trained [sic] to San Antonio where I was
7 honorably discharged as a Corporal from Fort Sam
8 Houston -- Fort Dodd -- Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio
9 and then back to Hamilton on a bus. And Hamilton used
10 to have good bus service. Autos, I think, took care of
11 that --

12 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

13 MR. SCHRANK: -- and good highways. There
14 used to be a bus that ran from here to Hico and
15 returned, kind of a long looking limousine, and I
16 remember the little fellow that was the driver for
17 years. There's --

18 MR. MCMULLEN: What about the trains,
19 speaking of transportation? Tell me about your
20 recollection of trains in Hamilton.

21 MR. SCHRANK: Well, of course, I'm quite
22 sure this is true. The Cotton Belt and the Santa Fe ran
23 a race from Temple to Hamilton, and the Santa Fe got
24 beat out by the Cotton Belt. So the Cotton Belt

25 remained our train, and it also had a passenger service

29

1 from here to Waco. They -- there used to be a show kind
2 of like -- like a stock show in Fort Worth -- in Waco
3 called the Cotton Belt, and my dad and the family
4 recalls taking the train to Waco for that. The county
5 used to have a -- what they called a poor farm. It was
6 a farm for the needy that was serviced by a lady or two,
7 and then somebody that was in dire need would live
8 there. Well, it was on the Blue Ridge/Aleman Road for
9 awhile, and -- and in the corner of that farm was a
10 little train station called Porfa, poor farm, Porfa.
11 You could catch the train there. It was -- it was right
12 at the corner of the first field this side of Schoedel's
13 barn out there is where the -- where that was. People
14 could -- and the dump is still there, and the dump -- I
15 had some land between here -- between Hamilton and this
16 farm. Well, between that little station I was telling
17 you about, and I deeded that land to the kids because I
18 knew they was going to get it anyway. They -- they
19 built a house on it. And, you know, they were so sure
20 of it that they didn't ask whether they could build a
21 house on it, but I didn't care. That was all right.
22 But the dump was still there, and then on the land that
23 I own that I deeded to them, there's two dumps. So that
24 indicates the race in here, but --

25 MR. MCMULLEN: Now, when you say "dump,"

30

1 what do you mean?

2 MR. SCHRANK: A railroad dump for the

3 tracks.

4 MR. MCMULLEN: Oh, railroad. The tracks?

5 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay.

7 MR. SCHRANK: But I like -- or I think,

8 and I'm probably, maybe wrong, if Santa Fe had won, we

9 may still have a railroad. But the railroad was kind of

10 offset by cotton going out of fashion, cotton, oil mills

11 down here in the -- and the cotton seed.

12 MR. MCMULLEN: Was cotton a crash crop to

13 Hamilton --

14 MR. SCHRANK: Absolutely.

15 MR. MCMULLEN: -- for many years?

16 MR. SCHRANK: Absolutely.

17 MR. MCMULLEN: During -- from the time you

18 could recall, it was the cash crop?

19 MR. SCHRANK: That's right.

20 MR. MCMULLEN: Even those tenant farmers

21 would be growing cotton or not?

22 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I

23 can remember -- our home in Pottsville was right behind

24 the -- what's the fire department now. That was a

25 grocery store and my dad's garage at one time, but it's

1 a fire department now. My home was right immediately
2 behind it, and I recall vividly farmers bringing their
3 cotton in in the cotton trailers, usually a trailer of
4 their own pulled by a team of mules or horses, and they
5 would head for the gin, which was right across the
6 creek. And Pottsville was on the Cowhouse Creek you
7 might say, just about 200 yards north of the creek.
8 It -- it would get out sometimes flooding and get almost
9 up to Pottsville. That was quite a site for a young
10 kid. Anyhow, that was...

11 MR. MCMULLEN: I'd like to move -- I don't
12 know if I actually asked you a question about your
13 recollection of the Depression in Hamilton.

14 MR. SCHRANK: Well, yeah, we went into
15 that somewhat. Hamilton -- Hamilton had three banks as
16 it -- incidentally, that's another thing that makes
17 Hamilton a good place to retire and live and raise a
18 family is three good banks, but in those days -- in the
19 Depression days, that was kind of amazing. We had three
20 banks, and they all three made it. They sure did. And
21 they'd make loans just as the same as they did now --
22 the old Hamilton Bank & Trust is where the Herald News
23 is now. That was a bank. And they loaned my dad money
24 to -- to get his business -- get in his business in

1 National, which is now the courthouse annex, and then
2 the Perry National, which is now the City Hall. And
3 they were good banks. And coming out of the Depression,
4 they were needed. You know, people -- I know in one
5 case a lady had lost her husband and she had a family to
6 support and she didn't know what she was going to do,
7 and one of the banks loaned her \$1,000 to keep going on
8 her farm. And that's the way people were here then.
9 They aren't that way now but they certainly were then.
10 They'd help each other.

11 MR. MCMULLEN: And then that brings me
12 to -- I want to ask you about after the war and you had
13 honorably served your country, what was it like coming
14 back after the war, and in your case, dealing with your
15 business and building a business?

16 MR. SCHRANK: Well, it's kind of the same
17 situation in Pottsville. Incidentally, something came
18 to mind. Oh, yeah. He built that building just as we
19 was coming out of the Depression, my dad did --

20 MR. MCMULLEN: All right.

21 MR. SCHRANK: -- and had that good year
22 and was able to pay for it.

23 Now, what was the question? I'm sorry.

24 MR. MCMULLEN: The question is, after the

25 war, you served your country honorably, and now it's

33

1 time to get back to the home front --

2 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah.

3 MR. MCMULLEN: -- and take care of
4 business. What was that like?

5 MR. SCHRANK: Well, that was a little bit
6 of the same thing going into Tarlton. I stayed with my
7 dad a year working in the garage and deciding what to
8 do. Well, that was part of it, anyway, deciding what to
9 do, and a good -- real good friend of mine was going to
10 TCU and was really liking it. So I decided on TCU and
11 did and then stayed until we -- Fay and I knew we were
12 going to get married and wanted to live in Hamilton, so
13 I dropped out of TCU. But it was -- people were very
14 considerate of Veterans then, as they are now. We had
15 the -- we had the American Legion Cunningham Post
16 No. 222. He was a Veteran, which the Post was named
17 after, and then we had the Veterans of Foreign War. I
18 joined both almost immediately that summer after I got
19 out of the service and am still a member of both of
20 them. The American Legion, of course, still exists and
21 we lost our Veterans of Foreign War local entity, but I
22 remained -- you can remain at-large in the county, which
23 is -- which is stationed in Topeka, Kansas. But we
24 would -- we were well honored and well respected coming

25 out of the service. And that reminds me of one thing

34

1 about World War I -- two things, really, was the anvil
2 shoot to announce the end of World War I. Of course,
3 I -- I didn't hear it then. I've heard it since. And
4 then one of our local Pottsville Veterans was promised a
5 bonus in World War I and it wasn't coming through, and
6 there was camps all over Washington, D.C., up there
7 boosting it -- or working on it.

8 MR. MCMULLEN: Hooverville.

9 MR. SCHRANK: Huh?

10 MR. MCMULLEN: It was called Hooverville,
11 as I recall.

12 MR. SCHRANK: Okay. Well, this fellow was
13 also the same guy that was the butcher for the meat club
14 in Pottsville. He was a farmer, and I remember when the
15 \$200 bonus came through, the community celebrated for
16 the man. Oh, yeah. So...

17 MR. MCMULLEN: But how did you go about
18 building your business, Bert, after you came back from
19 the war?

20 MR. SCHRANK: Well, I was interviewed
21 right at the edge of the TCU campus because my
22 representative happened to live there. He was out of --
23 the Fort Worth district was my district office, and he
24 lived in Fort Worth, but he was my local representative.

25 So he interviewed me there, and it went well. And then

35

1 I came home one weekend and went out on to Pottsville
2 and my dad said, "You'd better get back to Hamilton.
3 You've got a business to run." So, of course, I did.
4 And the representative was still there checking the
5 previous agents out and checking me in, and I remember
6 him loading my truck. That was my first delivery that I
7 was going to get the commission off of. And it
8 wasn't -- I tell you, it wasn't too ripe at that because
9 my commission check would run in the \$500s, and that had
10 to pay the truck expense and a -- and a helper and I had
11 to have a driver. So it was a little tough from the
12 start, but it grew. A lot of the people, they switched
13 over to me for which I'm still thankful. And then
14 things happened that -- that Magnolia called us in one
15 day and said "How many of you want to go in the butane
16 business," mainly butane then, and, of course, nearly
17 all of us volunteered because we needed extra income.
18 So I added the butane business. And one of the banks
19 was really instrumental in helping me get going on the
20 butane business, loaned me the money to buy storage.
21 And then one day out of nowhere here came the
22 representatives of Magnolia -- it may have been Mobil by
23 then because it became Mobil -- Mobil Oil Company --
24 Socony-Vacuum, Magnolia here, General Petroleum on the

25 west coast, White up in Montana, and as I mentioned,

36

1 Socony-Vacuum in New York. There -- these others were
2 all -- they were all subsidiaries and they put them all
3 together and formed Mobil Oil Company. That's when the
4 Mobil red O and the blue letters came in to be. And one
5 day after that -- sometime between '59 and '73, they
6 came in and said, "You're going to have to find you a
7 new supplier because we're pulling out of the rural
8 areas and remaining in the metroplex areas and the
9 interstates." So I began to look around and wasn't
10 having a whole lot of luck. I tried Shamrock and any
11 number of them, and none of them -- I think they were
12 all beginning to kind of face the same thing Magnolia
13 was facing, you know, consolidations. Well, the man
14 that owned Gulf here was also in the propane business.
15 Well, he offered to trade the Gulf agency for my propane
16 business. Well, I didn't want to do that because my
17 propane business was equally or maybe a little more so
18 profitable than the gasoline business. So -- but he did
19 sell it to a fellow out of the metroplex, and they moved
20 to Hamilton, and it turned out his wife didn't like a
21 small town and he was going to have to do something. He
22 did sell Gulf to me, and so that worked out. Then I
23 consolidated that with what -- from Mobil, and that
24 increased the business twofold, you might say. So...

25 MR. MCMULLEN: And the next thing you

37

1 knew, you were on the Board of Directors of the Hamilton
2 National Bank.

3 MR. SCHRANK: Well, yeah, I did serve on
4 the -- and any other number of boards. I was easy. The
5 school board, the hospital board. But I'm proud of all
6 those. I'm not denying or not condemning any of them.
7 They've been all good. Yeah. Guffy Barkley, Bill
8 Barkley's dad, C.B. James -- the board that I served on
9 was just after that, but they were really good to me.
10 They -- Fay worked there. That was part of it. She
11 worked at the Hamilton National until Susan came along
12 and she never went back, but...

13 MR. MCMULLEN: I'm going to see if Jim
14 Eidson might have some questions for you.

15 MR. EIDSON: I'm picking up my microphone
16 here. Bert, you were -- you were friends with the
17 Hareliks for some years.

18 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, evidently. No doubt.

19 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, tell us about that
20 long friendship.

21 MR. SCHRANK: Well, that was -- that
22 brings up another point that I hadn't covered before
23 that -- I really welcome the thought. Milton for years
24 was a really good friend of mine, and the last few years

25 of his existence, he was a buddy of mine. And the

38

1 Harelik family was 100 percent accepted in the
2 community. And the brothers -- I'm not sure which one
3 came first. I think it was Haskell, then David Harelik
4 came later, and they both had a store on the south side
5 of the Square. Haskell later moved to the north side
6 where the Lanfrancos are now. That was the Haskell
7 Harelik north side and had an excellent dry goods store.
8 Both of them did. And there were several other dry
9 goods stores in town at the time. And now I think
10 you -- it's one of those places where if you have a
11 need, you have to think of a source, and I think one of
12 our stores is beginning to supply more in that line.
13 But he -- he was another one that the bank helped get
14 going. The Perry National Bank helped David Harelik get
15 going with his banana wagon of all things and made it
16 work, and that was because of acceptance. People
17 accepted him and I'm sure made a special effort to buy
18 bananas from him. But they came in through Galveston.
19 And, of course --

20 MR. MCMULLEN: From Russia. They came
21 from Russia, did they not?

22 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah, they sure did.
23 Avoiding an execution in Russia. And we all know what
24 happened later in Germany, which is terrible. Hitler

25 was a scoundrel. Anyway, we got to know the boys well.

39

1 Sammy -- Sam Harelik had a profitable suit store in
2 Waco. Louis went to Comanche and had a successful
3 store, and Milton continued on with the Haskill/Harlick
4 store and raised his family, lost his wife after going
5 to Nebraska to help her parents run a store, and they
6 came back and took the Haskill/Harlick store back over
7 and I think had -- kind of like my dad, I think -- I
8 wasn't ever sure, but I think he had aspirations of Matt
9 taking the store, but Matt wasn't interested. He liked
10 music. But, anyway, Mark graduated, was the president
11 of the senior class, went on to Texas University, and
12 went into a Bachelor of Arts acting and writing. I
13 remember going with the Hareliks to Austin one time to
14 see a play he was in, which was a Shakespeare play. And
15 I think we mentioned him, Earl Luna, was -- was in that
16 acting staff at the time we visited the University of
17 Texas. My debate teacher took us down there one time,
18 too, to listen to them debate, and Earl Luna was one of
19 them, later a well-known attorney in Fort Worth.

20 MR. EIDSON: Yes.

21 THE WITNESS: But, anyway, later on Mark
22 wrote -- wrote a story, a book, a play called The
23 Immigrant, which was of his family, and he wrote an
24 excellent story, and the first presentation was in

25 Denver. And, you know, 40 people of us got a plane --

40

1 chartered a plane and flew to Denver to see that play.

2 It was good. And, of course, it appeared all over the

3 country then. I remember it appeared -- my daughter --

4 middle daughter lived in Longview, and it was put on

5 there, and we went to Longview to be with her to see it.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, Bert, it --

7 MR. SCHRANK: The Harelik family -- once

8 more, it was -- it was well attended, well thought of,

9 and a really big help to the community.

10 MR. EIDSON: That was great.

11 MR. MCMULLEN: Bert, it's been wonderful

12 to be -- did you have other questions?

13 MR. EIDSON: I don't. Thank you.

14 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay. It's been wonderful

15 to visit with you and hear your recollections of

16 Hamilton County. I was just wondering -- of course, the

17 purpose of this project is to try to gather people's

18 recollections of Hamilton so that future generations can

19 know what we thought and what we experienced.

20 MR. SCHRANK: Yeah.

21 MR. MCMULLEN: Is there some message you

22 would like -- particularly to the young students --

23 these talks are going to be made available to the

24 schools and to the library so that they can know about

25 the people that were here. Is there anything you'd like

41

1 to tell them?

2 MR. SCHRANK: Most of what I'd like to
3 tell along those lines I've already said. One -- and
4 one is that it's certainly a good place to live. You
5 don't -- there's not -- very few things, if any, that
6 you do without. Secondly, it's a good place to raise a
7 family. And, thirdly, because of them and the school
8 they're in now and the hospital and the good newspaper,
9 good highways -- you think of it, a livestock auction
10 barn, a veterinarian, we've got a little of everything,
11 and they should consider that and maybe consider opening
12 a business in Hamilton, and they should certainly be
13 aware of it, and further down the line, it's certainly a
14 good place to retire. I'm certainly thankful that I was
15 able to retire here.

16 MR. MCMULLEN: And to close, I'd like to
17 hear the story of how you road your bicycle from
18 Pottsville to Hamilton, that nobody believed you.

19 MR. SCHRANK: Well, I was in -- I was in
20 grade school, the parochial school, and my dad made
21 mention, "If you'll get all As, I'll get you a bicycle."
22 Well, I -- the teacher at the time, like I said, was
23 also the pastor, and he gave me a B, and I went to
24 battle with him. I stayed with him until he finally

25 said, "Okay." He said "I'll give you an A minus. I'll

42

1 give you an A minus, but I'm not going to give you an
2 A," but that was okay. It was an A. So my dad bought
3 me a bicycle, even though I think he would have anyway,
4 but he -- that was an incentive to make good grades.
5 And so, incidentally, it was about -- as far as I
6 know -- well, I'm sure of it. It was the only bicycle
7 in the entire community. My dad was -- he was rather
8 progressive. We -- we had a lot of the first things in
9 Pottsville and I guess that was one of them. But,
10 anyway, he warned me. He said "They're going to wear it
11 out for you," but I just couldn't say no to anybody that
12 wanted to learn how to ride, and he understood that.
13 But then on occasion an uncle, my mother's brother, had
14 moved into Hamilton. I told Reinert -- he bought --
15 moved into Hamilton and bought that image tin shop, and
16 he was in the Fleming business -- the tin business for
17 quite some time. But Dad, he had a couple of -- four
18 siblings, and I'd come in to town to visit them, and one
19 time I got the notion to ride my bicycle to town, and I
20 guess -- I'm sure my dad and mother okayed it because I
21 did it. I road in to town. Bear Creek -- Bear Creek by
22 the Perry Country -- oh, that's another thing we've got
23 is a good country club, the Perry -- a good -- good
24 little golf course. It's a good one for its size. And

25 came to Bear Creek. That presented a problem, but I

43

1 pumped and I pedaled and I rode one pedal and I rode the
2 other pedal and I made it up Bear Creek. Of course,
3 when my dad picked me up from the Reinerts -- coming
4 back home, I didn't ride it back to Pottsville. But I
5 was telling it, and like you said, nobody believed me.
6 It was kind of disappointing, but to me it was okay
7 because I knew I had. Yeah.

8 MR. EIDSON: That's a nice story.

9 MR. MCMULLEN: Well, and that road --

10 MR. SCHRANK: Oh, yeah. That was another
11 thing we made mention of before, I think. It was so
12 steep that Model T Fords sometimes weren't able to make
13 it. They'd have to turn around and use the back pedal
14 to back up Bear Creek. But it's right by the Perry
15 Country Club. That's what reminded me of it. Yeah.

16 MR. MCMULLEN: Okay, Bert. Well, we are
17 so appreciative of your time.

18 MR. EIDSON: Thank you.

19 MR. MCMULLEN: And a copy of this will be
20 made available to your family -- to you to share with
21 your family, and we just can't be more appreciative of
22 you and all you've done for Hamilton and the example
23 you've been for Hamilton, and so we thank you for your
24 time today.

1 probably some more interesting things that I didn't
2 think of at the time or didn't -- like, for instance,
3 more about the immediate family. My Fay -- my wife,
4 Fay, was from the Pruitt family, which growing up, it
5 was a very prominent family in Hamilton, and I didn't
6 know she existed until after the -- after the war. My
7 sister-in-law had married her brother, and she
8 introduced me to Fay and it took. And we had -- we had
9 a very good -- a very good marriage, three beautiful
10 daughters. One of them still lives in Hamilton.
11 Both -- two of them still live in Hamilton. One of them
12 was living in Longview. We lost her. Betsy and Suzanne
13 are still in Hamilton and doing really well, married
14 well, good husbands, good children. I have eight
15 grand- -- 12 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and
16 they're scattered all over the world. One granddaughter
17 with her family is in Iraq of all places, but they're
18 doing okay. They said where they are it's safe. And
19 the -- so among them is three -- well, three of them in
20 one family, four in -- and so on for 12 great grandkids,
21 and they're dandy.

22 MR. MCMULLEN: And so as I've heard you
23 say many times, it'll work if you hook it up right. All
24 right. Well, thank you, Bert.

25 MR. EIDSON: Thank you, Bert.

45

1 MR. SCHRANK: Okay. Thank y'all for
2 thinking I was suitable.

3 MR. EIDSON: We think you're right
4 interesting, right interesting. Thank you.

5 (INTERVIEW CONCLUDED)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

2

3 I, Jamie Cooley, Certified Shorthand

4 Reporter for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that

5 the above and foregoing interview contains a true and

6 correct transcription of all portions of the

7 proceedings, all of which were reported by me.

8 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand on

9 this the 17th day of February, 2018.

10

11

12

JAMIE COOLEY, Texas CSR 7274
CSR Expiration: 12/31/18
COOLEY REPORTING, Firm No. 702
8407 Fathom Circle #B
Austin, Texas 78750
512-743-5867/512-410-3012 (fax)
jcooleycsr@gmail.com

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

