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Dan and Eunice Powell interview for the Lest We Forget Collection of Oral Histories

Dan Powell

Eunice Powell

Jeff Moyer

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
Lest We Forget Oral History Project

Interview date: December 9, 2003

Interviewer: Eunice Powell

Interviewee: Dan Powell

[Introductory comments/instructions from Jeff Moyer and Judy Leasure]

Judy Leasure: Did you find a better one there, Eunice?

Eunice Powell: I don't know.

Judy: You guys can sit there and just start talking about it or something.

Jeff Moyer: Hey, Scott? [Talking to camera operator] [Indecipherable] so if you can get closer, go right ahead.

Scott: Am I in?

Jeff: Absolutely not.

Scott: Is that a yes?

Jeff: No. Now you're in.

Eunice: Talk slowly and distinctly.

Jeff: Not necessarily slowly.

Eunice: For him, he talks so fast it slurs the words.

Jeff: Oh, I understand. It's much more natural. So, what will be happening is I just want you to continue your conversation and I'll be taking the camera off the tripod and moving around, but you guys just continue to talk.

Judy: You know, just talk about your trips, and being in the church, how long you've lived in this community, the different pictures and what they remind Dan of, of all the things he's done with the Eagle Scouts and NASA and all those things.

Jeff: So why don't we start with the-

Eunice: We can break if we need to, can't we?

Jeff: Oh, absolutely. That's not a problem.

Judy: And there's nothing incorrect or anything.

Jeff: That's right.

Eunice: Because you can always edit it [laughs]

Judy: Yeah, well, we can-

Jeff: It'd look funny edited. Okay, why don't we start, if you guys would just talk about the Eagle Scouts stuff first, just start there.

Eunice Powell: Okay. What year did you get your Eagle Scout?

Dan Powell: I got it Tuesday April 10, 1979. It was board review of the Court of Honor was Tuesday May 29, 1979.

EP: Yeah, and Dale Huffman did the piece in the paper about you and he sent a photographer out and remember the, your flag was out here on the porch, off the porch and...

DP: Yeah, that was Flag Day Thursday May 4, June 14, 1979 and was in...

EP: ...and he had the photographer take the picture of you standing there in your uniform under the flag and they had it in the front page of the paper.

DP: Yeah. It was in the paper Friday June 15 it was also in the Kettering Oakwood Times Wednesday May 30, 1979 the day after the Court of Honor.

EP: You've been in so many papers I can't keep them straight. The, oh and you've got this, remember when we got it? I can't reach it.

DP: I remember when we got it; it was at this time of the year.

EP: Was it?

DP: I think.

EP: Yeah. That's the, Eagle Scout thing. The national thing that's always fascinated me because it has the camping and the canoe and the merit badge and the emblem and the flag and the three planes flying over. It has everything on there that has to do with Eagle Scouts. What else can you remember of Eagle Scouts?

DP: I see...

EP: You belonged to the National Eagle Scouts Association.

DP: I belonged to the National Eagle Scouts Association.

EP: And then you got involved with the Space Program with Sonny Carter and he was an Eagle Scout.

DP: An Avidulan.

EP: An Avidualan or an Order of the Arrow.

DP: And he took our Virgil Honor OA sashes in space with him from Thanksgiving Wednesday November 22 to Monday November 27, 1989 to Sestina.

EP: Yeah, you wanna get the stuff there and we'll look at it. It's right there. Just bring the big frame.

DP: All the stuff on it?

EP: Yeah, all the stuff on it. We haven't looked at that for a little bit, and you'll past me.

Judy Leasure¹: Do you want to talk about going down to Florida to watch the shuttle go up in the air, Dan?

DP: Yeah. We saw, we went on Thursday November 16, 1989 we went down to Florida to see the shuttle go up on Wednesday Thanksgiving November 22 '89.

EP: Yeah, and then we had a big party with...

DP: Daina.

EP: Daina, Sonny Carter's wife, and all of the Carter clan from up around Atlanta and almost everybody, almost all the men in that clan, the brothers and the cousins and the fathers and the uncles were all scouting people. And most of them had made Eagle Scout, so that was interesting. And then you got in the Connection, well here, this is the first one. This is when Sonny came and got your sash and you're looking at it. And that was in the Connection from the MRDD program. Something's on the inside, oh, here. This is the, remember when you had, Sonny had your pictures on the front page of the...

DP: He came Saturday September 30, 1989 to get my sash and he gave me a visual shake when we got...

EP: And this is a good picture of both of you. Some place we've got the original of that. I'm dropping things. There it is. There it is.

DP: That's the original, mother.

¹ This is the Lest We Forget project coordinator.

EP: The photographer from the Dayton Daily News, what's his name Tai Greenly, printed that for you and that's such a good picture of both of you.

DP: Yeah.

EP: 'Cause you're both laughing and smiling. That's when he'd taken you out to the airplane. What kind of an airplane was that?

DP: I don't...

EP: T-38 I think. It was a training plane. All the astronauts, remember, each astronaut has to fly so many miles every week on those. And sometimes he'd go clear across the, to Europe and different places and he's call ya and talk to ya and tell ya "Well, I'm in Belgium right now. So I can't come to Dayton or I'll be calling you from Huston." Or he'd tell ya, "I'm in France." or wherever he was. Those, the astronauts really get around in and he was one of their main PR people, I think even though he wasn't designated that. Seemed like he got all around the...

Judy Leasure: So, did Sonny call you a lot, right Dan? After you...you had a friendship, what he do? He call ya and talk about what he was doing and what you were doing?

DP: Yeah. I don't remember. Mother talked to him, I don't remember talking to him that much when he called.

EP: Yeah you did, as much as I did.

DP: I'm sor... Maybe I did and just forgot.

EP: Yeah, he would tell you where he'd been and what he had been doing.

DP: Yeah right.

EP: Yeah and where... and what was happening, what he was doing in the Space Program and stuff.

DP: Yeah.

EP: And he told ya how, how they trained for the Space Program and he had to spend all those hours in training before he left because he was a surgeon, an MD and a surgeon. And an engineer and he could be the flight surgeon or he could be the engineer or whatever for the different, for the shuttle flights. And you remember him telling us that, when the Challenger accident occurred that he had been the medical person for that and he had strapped those people in.

DP: Thought you said you're not supposed to talk about the Challenger. You're supposed to warn him.

EP: Well, it made him feel so bad when you talked about it. But he, because he had strapped them in climbed out of there and they had had the last count down and it took off and then that happened.

DP: Yeah.

Jeff Moyer²: So Dan, why don't you, what do you remember as the most interesting part of the trip? And tell us about that please.

EP: The trip to Florida.

DP: Maybe when we saw the shuttle go up on Thanksgiving, Wednesday November 22, 1989. First one of my mother's cousins, Alana, there were, on Tuesday November 14 there were a tornado. And after the launch from Thanksgiving Thursday the 23rd to Thursday the 30th, 1989, we went to, my brother and sister and I was in the post office [indecipherable, 10:20] Florida. I guess the most interesting thing is, the most important thing was the launch, was Sonny's launch.

Judy Leasure: And he had your sash onboard.

DP: Yeah.

EP: And then he had these other things that he took onboard. There's the sash that he took.

Judy: And that's been in space.

EP: Yeah he fixed it so he could wear it to special occasions, it comes out of the case. And then it, at the... This certifies the authenticity of the fact that the sash went into space and there's the crew patch. And I wasn't aware that the crew designs their own patch for every one of those launches. And then their names are on it. And here's the, remember Sonny set you a number of pictures, but this I like this one. It says "To Dan Powell with great admirations Signed Sonny Carter NASA." And that's in his uniform. And then this one is your big one that he framed, he had matted for ya and it says "Daniel Powell Boy Scouts of America You are the best of our country and have my greatest admirations Sonny Carter." What's it say underneath, it's too little. "Sonny Carter Vidal Member, Order of the Arrow 1965." That's when he was inducted into it. "This Vidal Order Member, Order of the Arrow sash, USA flag and crew patch were flown aboard the Orbiter Discover STS33 November 22nd to the 27th 1989." So unbeknownst to us he also took the flag and the crew patch, and authenticated the fact that that was also in space. And some place, where that that's got how many, don't know where that is. It had how many miles. Yeah, here it is. The certification for your sash is there, but on here remember he had the crew and that's then landing in California. We didn't go out for that. We were invited but that was too much. And there's picture he took of Earth and the picture of the shuttle launch. But here's where it says, that it was flown on those days that we just talked about and then it says "Launching from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida on a Department of Defense mission," we never did find out. They kept that a secret till even now, whatever the Defense Department had

² This is the director.

on there as the payload that time. “Discover completed 78 orbits traveling 1.8 million nautical miles before landing on Runway 04 Edwards Air Force Base, California. Sonny Carter.”

Judy Leasure: And what happened after that, Dan? What about your National Jamboree with Sonny? Remember that?

EP: Yeah, there’s a ...

DP: I don’t think at the National Jamboree we wasn’t with Sonny.

EP: Yes, you were, when he brought your stuff back. She’s talking about...

DP: No that was at the National Order of the Arrow Conference.

EP: Oh yeah that was. You said Jamboree and it was the Order of the Arrow Conference.

Judy: Oh, okay. What about the time that you and Sonny were together at the Boy Scouts?

DP: That was the National Order of the Arrow Conference, Monday August 13 ...

EP: I have that, here it is.

DP: He brought the sash back at the National Order of the Arrow Conference at Indian University Monday August 13, 1990. And there was 7,000 men and boys there I believe.

EP: Let’s see. This one is all when he came to get the sash.

DP: Yeah.

EP: This folder, there you guys are walking back from the, from his plane. We’re standing and talking the three of us. It’s some place here, there’s a ... I’ll get the other one. Oh these are when he got it too. That’s the girl from Channel 7.

Jeff Moyer: Could you turn those slower please?

EP: Oh yeah. I didn’t know you were getting them. That’s, let’s see. That’s when, we took some children with us and they were delighted. So when Sonny called and said he’s coming in we could bring whoever we wanted to, so we took these little boys and they had a really good time. Here’s one that Sonny Carter and Dan, looking at all of Dan’s patches.

DP: Badges.

EP: His badges. And there they’re just sitting talking. There they’re being interviewed by Channel 7. Oh, here’s the one I was looking for. This little boy wanted his autograph and he bent over Sonny’s lap and got his shirt autographed and he wouldn’t wash that shirt. He wore it,

and he wore it to school to show it off, but he never did to my knowledge wash that shirt. He was afraid the autograph would come off.

Here's when he brought it back from space. And that was at Indiana University, at that was the basketball arena, wasn't it?

DP: Yeah.

EP: There were over 7,000 men and boys there. It was the National Order of the Arrow Conference.

DP: That's Sonny, that's me and that's another young man.

EP: Well yeah, but another scout stepped up there to help to hold the sash 'cause you were held holding this big one. And Sonny's got your extra sash on. He came but when he got there he didn't have a sash and he had, it had two of Danny's and somebody had given that back to me so I had it then and Sonny said "Can I borrow that sash and wear it because I forgot mine?" But these are all, that's a pretty good one of things Danny's sash and the thing. And this, Sonny is holding, remember the Golden Wings that you ...

DP: Yeah, Mr. Winegard made them...

EP: A friend of Dan's...

DP: My scout master.

EP: He has the contract to make the wings for NASA and the Air Force and things. And he made gold ones, that's the only gold ones that he had every made 'cause they're all silver. And he made gold ones for Dan to present to Sonny at that ceremony.

[There appears to be a break in the video here.]

DP: In 1953 mother and daddy and I took a trip to Storm Troop West to when we went to Cliffwood's Garden of the Gods and we went to Mount Rushmore and we went...daddy went to Greek Roman Greek grandpa was with my grandma cestrum with his mother's parents in Fremont, Nebraska and my cousin first set of days twin brothers. [This passage is somewhat indecipherable, 18:50] The pictures, we sent them pictures I thought that was wicked. And in 1954 we went east to we went to Washington D.C. and saw all the stuff, and mother and daddy went to Monte Chellos and we went to natural town natural bridge Kentucky, natural bridge Virginia I think it was the natural tunnel there was in there somewhere.

EP: Yeah, that one was a natural tunnel where the railroad went through the mountains but it was a tunnel that the river bed had made it wasn't a manmade one.

DP: And we went...In 1965 we come back from mother's family in Nebraska we've been Abraham we've been every place that Abraham Lincoln has been. In 196..., more pride in

EP: We have been. You have been completely.

DP: In 1965, we were where my friend Mr. Stru... [20:17], I went to mother's, to daddy's sister and brother-in-law in Ledgeview, Wisconsin, mother's brother and sister-in-law in Milford, Nebraska and then we went and saw Matt and Uncle Jim, mother's brother knew a man named Dav- knew about a man named Davis and a memorial or monument was built to his wife who died and then he died. And then in [Canzu] we went and saw we saw Robert's Cave in Lincoln, Nebraska and we saw the Nebraska state capital. We took my two cousins my mother's sister-in-law's kids to that. We went to Boylston, mother's friend from Omaha went to Boylston and saw that. We went to...

Judy Leasure: Have you been to Europe?

DP: Yeah.

Judy: What countries have you seen in Europe? What's your favorite place?

DP: I guess Germany. We went to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liverpool and Lichtenstein and saw Passion of the Christ Sunday August 24, 1980 we were there and there was a catholic trip from Dayton and Cincinnati and Xavier and one in Indiana.

EP: In three universities, yeah.

DP: Four universities.

EP: Four of them, that's right there were four university alumni went that time.

DP: Then we've been to England for a trip. Why'd they call it the Heart of Europe, England, France, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and Holland in May of '84.

EP: That's when they put the bomb on our plane.

DP: Yeah.

EP: We were coming back remember.

DP: Yeah.

EP: We were supposed to fly back from Amsterdam.

DP: Yeah.

EP: And they didn't let us board the plane and they searched it. They searched our pockets and everything. We had to dump our purses and take our jackets off and all they search they even searched our shoes way back then. And remember we were the, they took twenty at a time and all those Interpol guys and the local police and stuff examined everybody. And then they, they

were down on the tarmac. You couldn't use that thing that slides out, that ramp thing. You had to go down on the tarmac and they had it all our suitcases piled out there.

DP: Yeah.

EP: And we had to open our own suitcases and take everything out and then it got dumped back in. Our cloths were a mess; when we got them all back. And then they, finally they had one, we got we were in the last bunch that got on the plane.

DP: Yeah, right. I remember.

EP: And remember we looked out the window and they had that big leather suitcase left.

DP: That had the bomb on it.

EP: Yeah and when we got to home there was that article, remember that little article in the paper about three to four inches long, it said that Flight so and so from Amsterdam they had found that bomb before it took off and it was big enough it would have blown the whole plane up over the Atlantic. We were lucky that time

DP: Yeah.

EP: I've been wary of flying ever since but I've done it.

DP: Every would have flown with...

Judy Leasure: Is there someplace, if you could still go traveling, where would you still like to go that you haven't seen?

DP: Maybe Israel or someplace like that.

EP: I always wanted to go to Australia.

DP: To Australia too.

EP: We were going to do that but once remember. We had paid our down payment to do that

DP: Oh, Australia and New Zealand?

EP: Yeah and remember they the plane started, losing parts of them out of, flying out of Hawaii. And I got our money back because I was afraid our plane remember, people were, parts of the planes were flying off and people were being ejected and killed. And so I decided I wasn't didn't want to go that bad.

24:00:00 DP: The day I requested was when my friend Mr. Strunockle (?) [wrote a] history of Rome [indecipherable] my Sunday school teacher says his brother there's going to be is going to

take us it's going to be a religious trips says Israel is the [older land] and Rome is the Catholic Vatican so and then first to [location] get off, first at to the Tel Aviv airport and killed twenty-five people and then they had the assemble then they said [?] in Germany and then the group.

EP: They cancelled that, they cancelled that whole trip, after that thing at Tel Aviv airport.

DP: And also remember, the Olympics Black September group got in Munich, Germany and killed twenty-fi- killed nine Israeli athletes.

EP: Yeah, we hadn't been to Munich a couple of times.

DP: Yeah, since then.

EP: And we went to, we've been in every state in the Union.

DP: Yeah.

EP: I've driven in all the Continental States. We've driven. And we went to Hawaii and Alaska and we flew both ways to Hawaii and we flew to Alaska and came home on the Love Boat. And we got filmed to remember, in Sitka? They were filming one of the Love Boat segments and when it came on TV there we were on the shuttle boat going from the big Love Boat to shore. There we were sitting on top. And...

DP: Yeah right.

Jeff Moyer: Umm, excuse me real quick. Dan, can I ask you a question?

EP and DP: Yeah.

Jeff: What are you most grateful, for from your mother?

26:00:00-26:34:00 DP: Maybe letting me be in Scouts, told me to join Scouts on [September] 21, 1961 maybe when, I kinda got hurt though on that and it was never even quit and then that takes time since 1961. The second time the Scout Master dropped me down near the church I was eighteen in 1964 and the first, third, fourth, and fifth times we went to [perit] and I've been like, I kinda liked Scouting.

Judy Leasure: You remember your mom doing things like having to go out and fight with people and all to get you, to get you and other people into church basements and all? Into schools and things, do you remember your mom being out there and doing those things?

26:50:00 DP: I wasn't in the church base- I was in the one in the workshop the first time I was older when that and I, mother maybe fought do that but I was kinds, I wasn't involved in that.

Judy: Now, Unice can you, you remember those days right about the having to go into the basements and all. Can you tell a little bit about ...?

EP: Oh yes. We went into the basements of churches and that was one of my duties working in the program was to find churches that would contract with the MRDD program, it was the MR program then, and let us have classes in those places and there was a lot of prejudice, a lot of people that some of the churches that had plenty of space didn't want us in there. And we had consequently we went to some of the smaller churches that would let us have classes. We'd have two classes here and three classes there and...

DP: Well a lot, our number one place was Christ United Methodist Church.

EP: One year I had we had people in nine different places in school and then we got, the Dayton Board of Education had abandoned a big school building on West Fifth Street. What was the name of that?

DP: Garfield school.

EP: Garfield, yeah.

DP: That was before Christ United Methodist Church.

EP: And yeah and they, they agreed that it was an a really antiquated building, old old old.

DP: Built in 1877 I believe.

EP: Yeah that old, thank you. And so we had classes there. We had that whole building that was some help and then Christ United Methodist rented us a lot of classrooms and so we had to-

DP: Then we moved out and the Drop Out Program came in the school in 1966 when we had to move onto Christ Methodist United Methodist church.

EP: Yeah they decided to have that school as a Drop Out Program. And we had had one time they before the there was a Board of MR, we had some classes out at Garden Dale's school and they were under the-

29:12:00 DP: It was the Board of Education and then the Child Welfare [Department] took charge of the program 169 at the end of I think last year.

EP: Yeah right. They were first under like you said under the Board of Ed.

DP: That's why I went. There the counselors in charge of children when I went to school.

EP: And then, let's see they were under the, then they were under Child Welfare Board.

DP: Yeah.

EP: Yeah. The we were, the MR classes were-

DP: From '63 to '67 just school kids I think.

EP: They were under, the school programs were under Child Welfare how that ever came, got mixed up I don't know.

29:55:00 DP: Might be that [indecipherable] made that decision for us.

EP: That's right.

DP: Fall of '62 and then from '63 to '64 the school kids wanted that was the first county system.

EP: I have no idea.

EP: Yeah. We got well— We fin- we got a levy passed and then we could and the State Legislature passed Law 169 in '67 and that set up the —

DP: In '67.

DP: Boards.

EP: Yeah, the Boards of MR.

Judy Leasure: What about them, remember the Exclusionary Cards? Can you talk about what it was like for..? Tell something about what an Exclusionary Card was.

EP: Yeah, yes. That's what happened with Dan.

DP: I sat home for seven years with nothing to have.

EP: Yeah. Dan started in kindergarten and because he couldn't sit still they didn't want him in the classroom and so-

30:40:00 DP: I'm left-handed and would bring them is left-handed and the teacher slap me in the face hit me hard with the ruler being left-handed too I think

EP: And yeah he'd come home with whelps on his hand where she'd hit him, on his hands with a ruler because he was left-handed. And course I started raising trouble over that. But all of the handicapped people were given what they called E-1 Exclusions. It was like a, a little file card, a 3 X 5 file card, and any child that was, couldn't sit still or that had any kind of physical problems or mental deficiencies was tested by the psychologist of Dayton City Schools and everybody no matter what their real IQ was, [cough] excuse me, they suddenly came up with forty-nine IQs because the cut-off was fifty and you had to have at least a fifty IQ to stay in the Dayton City Schools. And so everybody came up with, we had several hundred people with forty-nine IQs all of a sudden. And so they were all kicked out of the public schools and they sat at home and or the ones that there was room for went into private classes that were started by the Council for

Retarded Children and they started in a boiler room of one of the schools. They couldn't find anybody that would let them in and Dayton Board of Ed. probably...

DP: In 1950 I think.

EP: Finally let them have a boiler room and the parents painted it and but all the heating pipes went through it and it was hot as could be, year-round because the heating pipes were in there in the winter and in the summer there was no air-conditioning and no air circulation.

32:44:00 DP: It was nine years before I was in it.

EP: Yeah. But, and when we tried to get homes it was even worse than trying to get classrooms. And at that time that fell to me too and I remember especially Kettering. It, I found out that off of Shroyer Rd I found the most appropriate one story house, ranch style house and at that time the MRDD didn't have any homes and that was the first one that I tried to get and the neighbors were up in arms. And I even got threatening phone calls and we took it before the Kettering City Commission and we were just swamped with negativism and they packed that commission room all the neighbors and in that area and all the clubs and organizations were represented and spoke against it and needless to say we didn't get a home. And we're still running into that in places where the neighbors do not want handicapped people in their neighborhood. Not in our backyard. And actually those homes are much better neighbors in a lot of instances than the people who already live there. Once the clients are in they're good neighbors.

Judy Leasure: When Dan came back, Dan can you remember, and when he came back from Orient.

DP: Yeah.

Judy: What was, was there any negative kinds of things from neighbors around your home or anything?

DP: No I don't think so because I always lived there. There wasn't was there?

EP: No because they had known Dan from the time he was born. We lived in that house for what, twenty-seven year?

34:55:00 DP: Twenty, [June 27 it'll be twenty-six] when we moved here.

EP: Yeah and then we moved here this one's been here thirty years and it's only a block and a half from the other one so everybody in the neighborhood knew Dan. And from the time he was born so we didn't have any, we've ever had trouble with the housing because Dan was the one that shoveled people's sidewalks in the wintertime and gathered up their papers before the city took them. He, they would let him have a paper route and because he was handicapped. So he developed a route of used newspapers and he had a list in his notebook of customers and once a week and every day of the week he collected from certain people their weeks' worth of newspapers and the man down at the junk yard would give him a good price for them. He'd load

them load our trunk and the whole inside of the car full and take it down and the man'd give a good price for the used newspapers. Turned out he was making more than the paper boys were, the delivery boys. So the you'd get into all kinds of strange situations and but or it was the worst one that we ever got into.

DP: Yeah.

Unknown Woman: You're glad that's over with right?

DP: Yeah.

Judy Leasure: Glad that's way behind ya, right?

EP: That was our Ohio Concentration Camps. And things were just as bad as the concentration camps that happened there. They didn't intentionally put anyone to death but they but people died because of neglect or because of someone hitting him or whatever. Taking a baseball bat and hitting him over the head that kind of or they put them in metal cages.

Unknown Male³: Can we take a break for a moment?

[There is a break in the video here.]

Jeff Moyer: So, Eunice could you please tell us the first time you went into Orient. What did you see, what impressions did it make on you?

EP: Well it was completely institutionalized. The, what they called cottages where long buildings they had five quote "classrooms" unquote in each one and each one of those had fifty clients.

DP: Patients.

EP: Patients. That's right they were patients up there. And they had a big day room on the first floor and the only thing that was in there were some wooden chairs and wooden benches. No upholstered furniture or nothing to keep let people do anything all day long. And when you went downstairs below that there was this huge room-

DP: The dormitory.

EP: Dormitory with fifty beds in it. And there was probably a foot in between the different beds and so that was the and they're in the center of the building on the first floor there were like their offices and things and below that was the dinning room.

Jeff: Tell me what impressed you about what the children looked like. The children and the patients as you saw them.

³ This sounds like a different member of the film crew.

EP: Well unless you happened to be there when the patients were out for recreation, which was seldom, you didn't see the patients because you were, everything was locked and you had to have a passes to go in and only parents or people who were, whose names were in the client the patient's files were allowed to go to the door and get the patients. I had been, the reason I had seen inside was because I had gone with people from University of Dayton and some of the other colleges. I think we had some from Miami University, from Sinclair. But a group of us had gone and as students and professionals and so we were taken on a tour and shown only what they wanted us to see.

40:09:00 DP: I was at five open house settings including [pay the course of] the open house setting June 2, 1968 when I came home from doing that the-
{There is a break in the video while Dan is speaking.}

Jeff Moyer: Well, let me ask you this, the first time you went through that, how did you feel about the fact that your son was going to be living there?

EP: Well, that time I didn't know he was going to be living there. When he was little, we were told by people at the Child Guidance Center that they had here in Dayton, that we had no choice we should put him up there and forget that we had him. And at that time he would have gone to Columbus State school. And we went up my husband and I drove up and took Dan and we looked that over and decided no way. My husband said no way on Earth was he going to put a child of his up there. But then when Danny reached his teenage years he has damage to his central nervous system and a neurologist that we had at that time-

DP: Had me on Phenobarbital.

EP: -yeah kept putting him on drugs that, he was on several drugs but the-

41:21:00 DP: [Dan lists the drugs but the words are indecipherable.]

EP: Oh you remember all of them yes. And Dan was still exhibiting nervousness, wiggling like he is now and so the neurologist kept increasing his dosages, and he was climbing the walls. And later when things became more sophisticated and we had more tests of drugs and things, they discovered that that one that he had been increasing did not calm people, it caused them to be more excitable and really wound them up. And Dan got so he was practically climbing the walls and there was no choice he had to and that was the only place where there were no services in Dayton or any place in the state except the state institutions. And when the people got there, most of them were just warehoused and nothing was done.

42:35:00 DP: Had some details walked out of the cottages, the calm and it was real good with some cottages you went to school instead of that [indecipherable] school cottages.

EP: Yeah, Dan was given the choice of whether he wanted to go to school and they did have a school program for very few of the clients and they, his other choice was to work in one of the cottages and he decided that he would-

DP: I was only working sunny side two days then I got my choice in school but I been thinking about working at sunny side two days until sunny side.

EP: Sunny side was a cottage that was about three-fourths of a mile from the one Dan lived in and he would walk there every day and take care of the severely handicapped boys who were in wheelchairs or bed fast and-

43:50:00 DP: Some were severely retarded and couldn't feed themselves and be excused themselves instead, I wasn't responsible with the feeding that much but I was at all but I was responsible for mopping up the urine and when they did some messes it wasn't nice to talk about it, I'd take them to bathroom and clean them up and stuff.

EP: And take them out in their wheelchairs and things like that.

DP: A lot of times.

EP: And dress them.

DP: Well, I swung myself played outside sometimes.

EP: You mean in the swing sets?

DP: Yeah, but a lot of times we there was a nice back porch and at sunny side-
{The video breaks while Dan is speaking.}

Dan Moyer: What were your thoughts what were your feelings when you first saw this place and whatever it was and you realized that your son was going to have to live here?

EP: Well they, he completely went haywire down at the old council building and he was in a class down there-

DP: Just 40 years ago this-

EP: And so they took him to Miami Valley Hospital and from there they were supposed to let the assistant pastor of our church and I take him to Orient and instead of that we went to visit him and discovered he was already up there. They took him without even our knowledge of it. And they had the Sheriff's deputies put him in one of the Sheriff's cars with the metal pieces in between the seats and so forth and transported him up there. And that was totally unnecessary. And the, then they said you couldn't see him for six weeks, and I said no that's not acceptable I will not have him up here for six weeks with no, with, completely they cut every person that went up there, they cut them off from all of their families and friends for six weeks. Lord only knows what they did with them. And I said we weren't going to have that. So a week after that we teamed nobody had seen me yet because they had transported Dan up there. So, me and my determination, we had a social worker in our program and she was a legitimate social worker so and I was teaching in the program so she called up to Orient and made an appointment to go into the cottage and she said she'd like to visit some of the people that had gone up there from

Dayton and social workers were and prof- people like that were allowed in not parents. And so she made an appointment to go up there and she said I'm going to bring one of my associates with me. And so they said all right and so she gave them a fictitious name for me and we both got in the car and away we went. So we were in the cottage and saw Danny and of course then the jig was up they knew I was his mother and so, but from then on we went I said now I've been in here I ought to come all the time so we went mostly once a week, I went up to see him. But you had to have a pass, you had to call ahead and make an appointment so they knew and they knew to try to get the clients some of the clients own cloths on them because they had bins for their cloths and when they came back from everything was marked but when they came back from the laundry stuff was just dumped in those bins and nobody cared whether you got your own cloths or not. You'd go up and when the clients were outside you'd see some with cloths that were about half the size they should be wearing and some were so big they could hardly walk because the cloths were falling off of them. So it was, it was a sad sad place.

Dan Moyer: And what was your mood when you left?

EP: Depression.

Dan: Can you talk about that some?

EP: And, um...

Dan: And, let me, I didn't ask you to do this before but when I ask you a question could you like paraphrase the question like, "My mood when I left was..."

EP: Oh, okay. My mood was, when I left was a state of real depression and we began trying to figure how we could make it, the social worker and I, how we could make as good for Dan as we could possibly do it. And he was not allowed, first out of the cottage for six weeks and then he was allowed onto the grounds but you couldn't take him off of the grounds but there was a picnic pavilion up at the other end of the grounds and we finally got permission to take him up there so we'd take some fried chicken and stuff and take him up there. And they had a little commissary, little tiny thing, but you could get ice cream and-

DP: And pizza. I used to get twisted-

EP: And pizza, and pop and things-

DP: -twisted ice cream and rainbow ice. Twisted ice cream, pizza and root beer.

EP: And so we could do things like that. And then eventually, they had a doctor up there that was assigned to Dan and his name was Smithyinkas.

DP: He was excellent.

EP: And he had been trained. He was the only doctor in the place that was really a licensed doctor I found out later. But Dan was lucky enough to get him. He was trained in England and

in the English colonies he was from one of the islands that England had at that time. And he was trained in a number of areas of medicine and he was excellent. He was single and he lived right on the grounds and any time anybody had an upset or a seizure, they had orders for the cottages that he had, was in charge of to call him. He had a bicycle and he'd go immediately. So he saw what was happening and didn't have to take somebody else's word for it and therefore he could diagnose much better. And he took Dan off of all the medication that they had him on here, half a dozen different kinds, and the overdoses of some. And he said "We're going to take him off of everything," and he said "I'll make sure he's alright as long as he isn't getting any medication. And then we're going to start him on, over on new medicine." And he did that and Dan gradually improved. He was there for-

DP: Four years and nineteen days.

EP: For four years. But during that time, after so many months he was allowed to come home for weekends. And so we had him home for weekends

51:26:00 DP: [Indecipherable] 1964.

EP: Then he was allowed, a week at a time, then two weeks at a time until that fourth year I had him home half of the time. And, so that he could be integrated back into the community. And all the time Smithyinkas was adjusting his medication until he said we got it and we're gonna send him back to the community. And it ended up that now he just takes two milligrams of one medication a day and that's it. He really didn't need all of that stuff. It was just hyperactivity and the neurologist here just kept loading medications on him. So, but the... They had him on one medication that made him allergic to the sun.

DP: Thorazene.

EP: And at that time he had lost Dr. Smithyinkas because the-

52:36:00 DP: The [Indecipherable] program.

EP: The governor we had at that time decided that nobody could use the newer medications which were more expensive, they had to put all the clients back on Phenobarbital and some of the old ones that were really cheap and of course they didn't do much for the clients but it was cheaper. And so they, this doctor ordered everybody who was on that medication because so they wouldn't get sunburned and they got terrible burns if they were in the sun very long.

DP: Restricted to the cottage.

EP: And so he restricted them all to the cottages for the summer; nobody was allowed out. And that was one of the times that I blew my top.

DP: Amen.

UP: [laughing] And then I told him that they were, those were not hogs that he was dealing with, they were human beings and he had choices. He could get a whole car load of straw hats and put on with the wide brims. He could let them out in the morning and the evening when the sun was down far enough it wouldn't hurt them. He could keep them under the trees, there were lots of big shady places or he could put them on a different medicine. And then I found out I got to, Dan came home and he got phlebitis in his leg and I had him at Miami Valley Hospital and so when I went back up there, I took him back, I had to naturally I told them that he had that but it was supposed to be okay but they would need to watch that leg. And so the called the doctor so I could relay to him what he had done here at the Valley Hospital and he said "Well, Dan will never go home again if that's what happens when he's at home." So there went my-

54:38:00 DP: [audio overlap] [started all]

EP: There went my, yeah it had started already. And so there went my temper again and so I started investigating. Of course I was very angry with him and I started investigating and I discovered, that's when I discovered that the doctors they had were not doctors. Some of them had been to medical school in foreign countries and had completed their training there; some had never completed their training in the foreign countries. And none of them were licensed. And so that time I did a sit-in down at the time, at the time it was Mental Retardation and-

Judy Leasure: Corrections.

EP: Yeah corrections, yeah it was the prisons. But, our people were lumped with the prisoners and, under the same department. And, so I did a sit-in because I wanted all those doctors fired. And that didn't get very far. So, I got our...we did have a group of, a parent group up there at Orient. So I got with them, our first meeting after that, and gave them a speech about...they didn't know it either that their sons and daughters were not being treated by real doctors. So, we all went to the media; that caused quite a stir and quite a few articles all over the state. And, ended up that all of those doctors were let go and they did get some that were licensed, actually doctors.

Jeff Moyer: So let me ask you, could you paraphrase this for me just real quickly. In, what month, what year I went to the meeting to get, to change...

EP: I don't know. Do you remember what, what year that was?

56:32:00 DP: It was over Christmas '66. It was January 2, 1966 [indecipherable] that you found out about the phlebitis. In July 2 of '67 she blew her top at him over restricting us to the cottage for the Thorazene.

EP: Okay so it was after that-

DP: That was in '67.

EP: So that was what year? '67?

56:53:00 EP: '67 is when the [thorian] that was the last of them to [indecipherable].

EP: Okay.

DP: '67 ...

EP: So you... '67, 1967 would have been when we went to the newspapers and ...

Jeff Moyer: What season was it?

DP: Summer.

EP: Summertime, yeah.

Jeff: So it was the summer of 1967?

EP: Yeah, yeah, the summer of 1967 was when we went to the newspapers and we finally got real doctors for our sons and daughters.

Jeff: Very nice, thank you.

Judy Leasure: Did you ever have to pay, the state for Dan being there or did you ever hear of families having to pay?

EP: Yes, yes families-

Judy: For being institutionalized?

EP: Yes, families had to pay and Dan has an annuity from my husband, a federal annuity and that had to be signed over, to Orient and they tried to collect more from me and I told them good luck. And, but they would, go to, the parents and threaten them. They had one man for this area that was really nasty and threatening. And people would, other parents would come to me crying, "What are we going to do? We don't have the money," and "This guy is threatening to take our car and our house and our furniture and everything to make the payments." And, I would say "Just sit tight, he's not going to do that. We're not going to let him." And, he even went to my father-in-law in Indianapolis who was, oh 70 or 80 at that time.

DP: Way up in his 80's.

EP: And way up in his 80's and tried to get money from him and he was living in Social Security. And, he threatened him with taking property and so forth, to pay for Dan. So, then I had to squelch that. But, parents were put through a lot of, stress and misery and...and plain hell, with the administrative problems that they had for the institutions then.

Jeff Moyer: Are you aware of what they did with this money that they would basically extort from families?

EP: They were supposed to use that money for, the institutions but...the book said that they were spending a tremendous amount of money and they probably...that...statistics were probably true. But it was, how shall I say...it was wasted, is the main thing because the clients were getting custodial care and, not habilitation care except for the few who were, allowed to go to school. They had one, school building and out of, oh, at one time I think there were 3,800 patients-

DP: 3,500.

EP: Pardon me?

DP: I think 3,500.

EP: 3,500. I knew it was over 3,000, clients in that facility and, only about 100 of them were going to school, so...

Jeff Moyer: Do you have any evidence that they were skimming that money and using it for personal use?

UP: No, I never did have. There was talk of it, of maybe some of that was happening and I know that some of the staff, walked out with food and supplies and things, that I know for a fact. But, that's as far as we could ever prove that...that there was any...anything going on like that.

PART 2

Jeff Moyer: If you could try remember to paraphrase the question.

EP: Okay

Jeff Moyer: Anytime

Judy Leisure: What was Dan's legal status when he went to the Orient, did you still retain your parental rights?

EP: Dan's legal status was as a ward of the state. The parents didn't sign anything, did not sign over; they just assumed that role and parents did not have legal rights to their child at all. Except that the state tried to collect money for/from the parents for and in some cases did a lot of cases people just did because of the harassment they, them and their family members, they did allow money to be taken out of their paychecks or they paid it themselves or someway for the care of the person. They were no longer the person's guardian or anything but they were being held responsible by the state for the financial care of that.

Jeff Moyer: Would you say they in essence they were paying twice for the care? Once through the tax dollars and once through the ...

EP: Yes, they were paying in essence twice because tax dollars were allocated for the care of the patients and at the same time they were collecting money from the parents and from the in some cases from the grandparents and brothers and sisters because they harassed them in this area this state I know they harassed people because I was harassed almost every day the man that worked for the state would called me and tell me that I had to pay so many dollars a month and that Dan would suffer if I didn't do that and all kinds of things he had all and then he threatened my father-in-law over in Indianapolis who was in his is 80s finally I told him if he called me or any member of our family again I was going to have him in court and I would fight it all the way to the supreme court and I never heard from him again. He knew it was probably knew it was illegal so he decided not to fight me anymore.

Jeff Moyer: So let's talk a little bit more about Dan becoming a ward of the state. How did you find out about that, how did that process go?

EP: I discovered that he was a ward of the state when I tried to get in to see him and tried to take him out for/that him out to lunch and things. I discovered that I had no more parental rights.

Jeff Moyer: Okay, very good.

DP: There were state boys who didn't have any families and state took them state boys, then there were home boys who had families, took care of called home boys up there and I maybe a home boy [indecipherable]

EP: Only families were allowed to go in and see their particular if they made the appointments so forth to see their particular son or daughter and we fought that the parent group we fought that because not all parents could be running up there all the time and because of their work or financial situations or some of them didn't drive and I was fortunate that I could go up every weekend and sometimes I missed a weekend and when and skipped one but we finally got it arranged so that people who could not go up there could leave names in the patients file and the names that they left could take out their son or daughter so that meant then that I had a nine passenger station wagon so there were and of course I'm teaching in the program I knew the clients from Montgomery County who had gone up there and the parents knew me, so I had a lot a whole list of people that their parents but my name on their kids files so I would rotate taking different ones and I had always taken them on field trips here as a teacher I take a dozen of them and go out into the community and we'd eat or go to show or whatever so I had no qualms about taking my station wagon full of people we'd go sometimes we would have a picnic and sometimes we would go into Columbus and eat and never had a problem with any of them.

DP: We did a lot that going to Columbus. [Indecipherable]

EP: And going shopping and so forth whatever kind of entertainment, but otherwise, an example Dan, the parents would put money into accounts for their sons and daughters so that they could buy things in the little commissary. When they were, if they were allow out and but only about 50 had grounds privileges but some of the others would be taken up there to the commissary in groups and they could buy an ice cream cone or whatever they wanted. But they one year they decided to take a small group of the ones who had privileges that were allowed out of the

cottages without supervision to Columbus for the state fair and Dan had a number of dollars in his account and they gave him .50 to spend the day at the state fair. Well he couldn't do anything. He couldn't even buy a pop for that, pop was a 1.00 at the fair.

DP: I did get some lunch.

EP: They had a group that you got on handicapped children's day they got free lunches. So he did if they went to the building when they were assigned [Dan talks, indecipherable] so they did get a lunch. Some of them took bag lunches they gave them to eat up there. But they couldn't do anything. They had money in their accounts. But they wouldn't didn't give it to them so at least they go to walk around the fair.

Jeff Moyer: Did the money disappear or did they just not given to them?

EP: They just didn't give it to them.

Jeff Moyer: What was their reasoning for that?

EP: And there was no way that they didn't. Who knows why they didn't give it to them and there was no way to tell whether the handicapped person got all of that money because you didn't get any record of what the what our sons and daughters paid/spent out of that account so unless it was somebody who had real numerical skills and could keep track of how much they spent out of that account. Who knows what happened to the money.

Judy Leisure: Did you every think once Dan went in there went behind the doors that he would every come out, did you think there would ever be hope in the community?

EP: I was determined that when Dan went in there that we was going to come out that there must be some way with medication of course when we met with Dr. Smith (???) I was sure there was because he assured me that it was a medication problem and a lot of his of his clients eventually left the institution. And went back even before they were doing the big de-institutionalizing deal where they closed the institutions, they were like people who were like Dan who were up there for a few years then went home because he had adjusted their medication and had help them with coping with the problems they had and some of them had a lot of their problems getting along with other people and he had psychiatric training and he helped them into a place where the parents took them home again. I admit it I would [overlapping audio, indecipherable] have fought him all the way to the Supreme Court it was he was

Jeff Moyer: What was some of things he would say to you?

EP: Pardon

Jeff Moyer: What was some of things he would say to you?

EP: He would tell us that he would have us in court if we didn't pay and that oh I don't know what all the threats were that he made physical harm, things happening to our sons and

daughters. People were afraid of what would happen to their sons and daughters because there was no way of telling if especially if the person was non-verbal there was no way of telling what was happening to them in those cottages. I told them that if they did anything to Dan that they would have to account for it because Dan was able to tell me and Dan also told me when other people were abused. As an example one time when I went up there he told me one time about a one of the people in his cottage who had been hit over the head with a ball bat by one of the staff and [DP: one of the attendants] one of the attendants and I when I got inquiring into it and I had made friends with a lot of the staff up there and they would when they saw Dan out on the grounds they would say tell your mother to go to the commissary at such and such a time this weekend and I go to the commissary and they so would they feed me all this stuff they didn't dare protest because they were they worked under those doctors that were not doctors they were the bosses and so if they protested anything, they would fire them and a lot of the people lived up there in the country and they needed that job and they were really good with the clients with the patients and they had practically no training by they were so compassionate and treated them like they were their own family you know as much as they could and but this fellow they hired from someplace up north of Columbus and that hit the client over the head with the ball bat but I would get a lot of feedback because they knew I would protest and I would not tell who told me I would just protest either at the state level, go up to the department and protest or we would write letters, or we would make calls or whatever and I would get the parents in the parents' group upset and calling and reporting and whatever and we get it in newspapers so the staff that was one of the ways the staff had of changing some of the things that went on was to tell it in that manner and then parents would take over and get our protest and things in.

Jeff Moyer: Okay. We are going to move on Dan living in the community now (**JL:** Dan you want to get over there or you want him back here) oh no, I would like to get her on camera by herself right now talking about that just general ...

Judy Leisure: church activities and you said he was on the council and then shopping and banking and you know how he goes out and gets your gets the groceries

EP: Yeah. You ready? [Yeah] Now Dan has matured to the place of course he's 57 years old now but over the years he has gradually learned to do more and more things in the community he's an Eagle scout and has 70 [DP: 71] some merit badges and is in was elected the order of the arrow which is scouting honor lodge years ago and he has vigil honor in that which is the top rank you can't do specific things to earn that its awarded to you according to what you do in the community and the kind of person you are and so on and so forth there's criteria for that and just last year he received the founders award in order of the arrow and each council which is ours is consists of 5 counties but each council can award, can nominate one person a year for that award and there are there's bunch of criteria that the person has to meet and then a national committee decides whether to award it and that and Dan was awarded that founders award this year or least year and

Jeff Moyer: What kinds of things does he do for you around the house?

EP: Around the house he does, he's been doing it all since I've been sick this past year and part of the cooking and sometimes all of the cooking and he goes gets a ride with a neighbor and goes

to the store and does all of our shopping and what cleaning gets done he's done and he's always he does yard work he's always done always he's done washing by himself too we'd he'd help with the been helping with the washing for years and I would cook and he would clean up and he'd done his share around but now its fallen totally on him at times in the past year because I was not able to do anything but he and in the community he's always been active and he's still in scouts this is the 43rd year in scouting and he has goes to the been to four National jamborees they have those every 4 years at Fort A.P. Hill outside of Washington D.C. and usually there are from maybe 37 to 40,000 men and boys there and he really enjoys that because there's all kinds of activities and the order of the arrow has their national conference every 2 years and he's gone places like well the first time that he went it [background noise]was at a lot of community stuff.

Jeff Moyer: Can you go ahead tell us of the college stuff you were wanting to [EP: Okay] anytime.

EP: Dan is the vigil honor in the order of the arrow and every 2 years they have a national conference with 7 to 10,000 men and boys and so in order to have enough space for them all to sleep they use the big universities in the summertime when their dormitories are empty he has been to Miami University in Ohio and to I think the farthest he's gone is to Iowa State University for a week [DP: I was {indecipherable} ...2004] and to what other ones.

DP: Indiana, Purdue, and University of Tennessee I believe

EP: Yeah. And so that is something for him to go with that many people and for any of our clients to go to that with that many people and be able around on their own and going from the institution to things in that kind of independence is really a big growth.

Jeff Moyer: One final question for you and I'd really like to know what does it mean to you....how special it is that Dan is here with you.

EP: Okay. It is special that Dan is here with me for one thing he's a lot of company, he's a lot of help, we have had a lot of interesting experiences as we travel and he has become so knowledgeable and its interesting because we travel to other states and we walk down the streets and people say 'Hi Dan' because they have met him at the national conferences where he's been and he keeps us all up to date on what has happened in the past we'll be driving along and he'll say what do you know what we were doing 40 years ago today no I don't but he does and he knows tells me conversation that we had then and he's always reminiscing because with his total recall he knows what we said and what we did and so we have a lot of fun with those kinds of things and he's so involved in the community that now he's even on choices in community living board and so it's, it's an interesting life.

DP: 40 years to the day [indecipherable] I was sick [indecipherable] ups and 4 days earlier at most [indecipherable] 40 years ago [indecipherable] my mother was the [indecipherable] teacher [indecipherable] had that child welfare that first county system most brand new [indecipherable] taking walks, maybe watching TV and resting at home and my school teacher [indecipherable] class was the opposite 4 days earlier took the class to the old widows home I believe [indecipherable] they all went

EP: You've done a lot of community service at Children's Medical, Ronald McDonald's House, and Miami Valley Hospital. The neighborhood council [someone messing with the audio, all is indecipherable] he delivers the notices of the council meeting every month [inaudible recording due to background noise]. [**Judy Leisure:** Glad to have somebody out doing that] yes, I missed him to with all these steps,

Judy Leisure: Yeah, I was going to say just getting up and down these steps is something else.

DP: [indecipherable] is getting into good physical shape. I lift weights in the morning [indecipherable] pushups, strong fists to fits.

Jeff Moyer: Can I ask you guys to do me a really probably not a really big favor, but um...could you stand up and then if you would tell Dan I'm really glad that you are living with me and give each other a hug.

EP: Oh Okay, yeah Dan I'm really glad that you are living with me. We've had a lot of good times together. Are you.....

Jeff Moyer: Yeah, let's try that again.

EP: Try it again, okay. I'm really glad that you are living with me. We've had a lot of good times together. And you are a son that I'm proud of.

Jeff Moyer: Don't you go ahead and hug and kiss. [Eunice and Dan stand, hugs and gives each other a kiss on the cheek].

[22:58]