

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
RICK GREENE

Q. This is Tamar Chute, Associate University Archivist. I am conducting this oral history today with Rick Greene. It's October 22, 2010. Thank you very much for agreeing to do this.

A. This is exciting. I don't get interviewed every day.

Q. I sent you a list of questions but we may not necessary go exactly in the order or something like that. Why don't we just start off with you telling me a little bit about yourself, about family growing up, and how you ended up deciding to come to Ohio State.

A. Well, doesn't everybody want to go to Ohio State? My father was a graduate of Ohio State and I guess it was predestined, although I did apply at other schools when I was looking for a school. I started out I wanted to go to veterinary school. And I ultimately came here with that direction although I had been accepted at a couple of other places, Arizona and Pennsylvania expressed interest in me. But I liked Ohio State. I had been coming here to football games since I was eight years old and was familiar with the campus, and my dad had a million stories about Mirror Lake and about his escapades with the women here, and with the professors even. Some stories about that and how he got hit in the head by a tree limb over near the Arts Department.

Q. When was he here? What time period?

A. He was here in the early '30s, I'd say about '31, '32. I think he graduated in '35, and he had a dual degree in Education and Chemistry. He did work in Chemistry

for a while but ultimately got into the family business, which was insurance. And as I came up in age and had all my different stories from him, I didn't know much about the school in Arizona, about the University of Pennsylvania and University of Cincinnati, and any place that had some pre-vet or veterinary courses. So I just said, "Ohio State is just fine." They said, "Okay, come."

Q. And what year was that?

A. '69. I graduated from Cleveland Heights High, which was considered pretty much of a premier public school at the time. I came out of a class, my graduating class had 1,120 people in it. So it wasn't that much of a difference coming from a big class where we had big classes to coming to Ohio State where some of the classes were over 100 people. They really didn't bother me that much. And I came here and I did my coursework and found out that I couldn't handle anything with live blood. I couldn't cut anything and see red blood. I would crumble to the floor. So I had to get out of veterinary medicine. At that time, in the early 1970's, the environmental movement became a huge movement. You know, "The Silent Spring," in 1962, [by] Rachel Carson, evolved into a full-blown university movement where everybody is doing an Earth Day. And I celebrated it in its first birthday year and met a professor, E. Paul Taiganides, who may still be a certified professor here, I don't know. I do get a Christmas card from him every year. A wonderful man and his famous saying to his classes was, "It might be okay to pollute but what happens when there is no more away?" meaning you can only throw stuff away so far until it backs up to man. He was a wonderful professor, and he conducted a tour where we went to Europe. And three other fellows from

here at the University, and then sixteen other people from all over the United States joined this tour. And we went over to Europe to eight different countries, and were there for about six-and-a-half weeks and we studied pollution. We studied sewage treatment plants in Prague and really got an education. I initially started after I graduated. I started in the pollution and research and environment business. And I worked for the federal government in Cincinnati, and I worked for a regional environmental body up in Cleveland that held sway over the three major rivers in Cleveland and water pollution, and did that for a while until I got disgruntled because it was all politics and it was a waste of my time and a waste of the tax payers' money, and I just couldn't handle that. And my dad had a small stroke at that time and he said, "Rick, it's time to think about taking over the business," which had been in the family since 1902. Grandfather, father, son, and so at that point I got into the insurance business and I've been in it ever since, thirty-six years. So that's some of the background. Good family background. Mother and father, father worked, mother worked up until probably just about when I was born. I was too much to leave at home alone. I have three older sisters, and I had a good stable family life. Father worked, mother stayed at home and did PTA. Father worked from 8:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night, taught me how to play baseball. So that was all good. And ultimately I met my wife here at Ohio State. She was in the apartment complex that I was in, off campus. And she was my next-door neighbor. And her roommate kept on having problems, and so we were always going over to help with something, carrying groceries or something. And so we got chummy and the result is still here today. So Ohio

State has had a lot of impact. And now, I get my alumni tickets once a year. I'm lucky enough to win the lottery for the tickets and I come up and I watch a football game once a year. And I come up. My son has attended Ohio State and so he remained in the area and has his businesses here. So I come up and I visit and we play golf, and then I go to a football game. And I've got a stepson in Bowling Green and a daughter in Cleveland, and everybody comes in[to] town, and we have a big get-together and have a brunch on Sunday and it's a nice weekend.

Q. That's nice that you can still do that yearly.

A. We're hoping to do it a little more often because now we have a grandchild. My stepson has a child and another on the way. So we're more oriented to come back but not in the winter time. We live down in Florida now, and Florida is 86 degrees today, and this morning, here, it was 30-32 degrees. I don't miss the rain; I don't miss the snow.

Q. You just have to come in the summer when it's too hot in Florida.

A. We plan on it more often, my wife especially.

Q. When you got to campus, did you join any student groups?

A. Well, we had a wonderful dormitory floor in Drackett Hall. I don't know if it's still a male student hall.

Q. It's still a dorm, I think it's co-ed.

A. It's probably co-ed now. It used to be just men, and the women were in Taylor because we used to go over and do the panty raids. We really had panty raids back in those days. It was quite a surprise and a treat. And that's how we got to know some of the ladies. Anyway, we were in Drackett Hall and the roommates I had, I

knew two of them from high school and the fourth was a senior in physics, a nice guy. He was a bit of a nerd and that's why he was in a dormitory as opposed to off campus. But the rest of our floor, there was quite a mix. We had a lot of kids from near West Virginia and from the little towns, farm towns throughout Ohio, towns we had never heard of, Bellefontaine and Upper Sandusky and these little tiny places, when you're a suburban Clevelander you just have no concept of their life whatsoever. And we met these kids and we bonded amazingly well, although a couple of kids on the floor decided to go fraternity, and they wanted to pledge fraternity. Most of the kids on the floor decided we would just make our own little fraternity on the floor. And we actually did, we had T-shirts, and we went out and we bought leather and we made leather vests. And it was quite a club, it was called the SSI. It was Latin letters and it stood for Stud Service Incorporated. And we were quite a group, about 25 of us. We used to travel around in packs, going to the Heidelberg and Northberg and the Thirsty Eye [bars]. We had a lot of little adventures. We went out and we played cards together and were up all night together. That was probably my fraternity. It was a group of kids, and I can even locate a couple of them even today. But that was the major group I worked with. I was also in intramural football, which is a group I joined. I wasn't big enough to play college football. Back then I was only 130 pounds. I'm a little more than that now, just a little. But I was in top shape back then. I was a swimmer in high school and went to state finals down here at Ohio State, swimming back stroke. So that was the student organizations I joined really. On the periphery, when it came time for demonstrations here, I didn't join anything but I was active in the

background. I would go to meetings and attend seminars and speeches and things like that. But I never really signed up as a member of SNCC [Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee] or CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] or any of those things.

Q. How were those meetings announced? Was it word of mouth?

A. There was a lot of word of mouth, on the bulletins boards and in the lobbies of all the buildings, you always saw something posted someplace. And if you were interested, a lot of times they would have little tear-offs with addresses or phone numbers. There were a couple of kids that I knew that were more active. They seemed to have their finger on the pulse, although I always thought that they were a little bit off base. I was very conservative back then, super conservative.

Q. When you got to campus, was there a relationship with the students and the administrators, or was it something like the average student really didn't know [anything about the administration]?

A. I think the average students, they paid their fees and they went to classes, and they went back and they studied. And on the weekends they would go and they'd boogey a little bit on High Street. And I think that was 95 percent of the kids here. So I think the administration was pretty much just something you had to contend with at times. You know, you had to get a grade transcript or something like that. But I don't think that most people had an issue with the administration up until the time of the demonstrations. And even then, with certain exceptions, there wasn't s a problem with the administration. There was a problem with the politics in the country. And it just happened to be that kids on campus, and this is my own

personal observation, it may or may not be true, that the kids on campus were freer to express their opinions because they didn't have bosses. They could say what they wanted to and think what they wanted to without repercussions of losing a job or being kicked out of a neighborhood or something like that. I think they were freer to express and that's a good place. That's why universities are a hot bed of insurrection. They're just freer.

Q. If you went to one of the rallies or one of the demonstrations, did you go to class in between?

A. I always went to class. I was a very straight and narrow, collegiate and everything had to ... there was no gray. It was all black and white. You went to class, that's what you were here for. My first couple quarters, I have to admit, I was a 2.3, 2.4 [grade point average] student. I wasn't a great student the first couple of quarters. I was floundering a little bit. But I eventually found myself. I got lots of four-points [grade point average] coming out of college. So it didn't turn out as bad as I thought I was going to. Thank goodness for the riots, with the pass/fail. I was taking a philosophy course, which I thought was very interesting, but a lot of names.

Q. What do you think the general mood on campus was leading up to the Kent State [University] shootings and the closure of campus in 1970?

A. I had a lot of friends from high school, the draft was on then, and you went to Vietnam if you got drafted. We heard horrible stories. We saw it on the news every night. It's not like the news today where you get, they'll make an announcement today, there were two service men killed in Afghanistan today. But

they don't show you any movies. The news back then, they had on the news every day, this is what has happened, and they showed you actual footage. And it brought the war a lot closer. It was more of a real war I think for the people here. And I think, I don't know, I might be wrong, but I think we had a lot more troops there at the time. I think ultimately 500,000 people got killed there or something [Approximately 58,000 Americans, with 303,000 wounded; also 2 million civilians, 1.1 million North Vietnamese, and 250,000 Viet Cong killed]. I don't know, I don't know the numbers but it was a lot more of a war then, then we have now. They go in and napalm a village or something like that. We don't do that today. We're a little more strategic and exact in pinpointing. So it was a little more of a war and on that basis, if you went, you were really going to be fighting. Today, you could go over to Afghanistan and maybe not do so much. So it's a different attitude. The whole country was invested in the war in Vietnam. Here, it's relatively select. I know, in my small community – Sarasota, Florida – I don't think they've had one person killed in the war over there. And we've got 300,000 people in our community. So it's more removed now. Back then we were so invested. And then they had the riots in Chicago in '68. The music itself was more oriented towards protest.

- Q. Do you think that the demonstrations that were on campus were on several different issues all coming out at the same time, or would you say the war was the biggest thing?
- A. Oh, the war was the biggest one because we had the draft then and people that didn't want to be drafted, didn't want to serve actually, would have the choice: to

go underground or go to Canada pretty much were the choices. Or go to jail. Alice's Restaurant, the whole thing. But the protests, we protested against the food in the cafeteria. There were some other issues that crept in there. When people went to the administration and said, "We have demands of certain things," they had a grocery list of things that they wanted changed. And a lot of them had nothing to do with Vietnam. But they did have an influence to go and say, "We would like the administration to voice a dissent against recruiters on campus," and things like that. That was war-related. But I think in general there were just a lot of diverse groups. There's always some people, "Well, let's just go out and riot," because it's something to do on a Friday afternoon. So there were some of those, too.

Q. Do you think most of the people that were demonstrating were students?

A. Yes. There were a few professors in there. There were always a few professors that were very vocal, and I think they were guiding lights. They opened our eyes to a lot of issues. Besides teaching us the history, they also taught us that you can be vocal and protest if you see something that's wrong.

Q. The reason I ask that is because there are a lot of reports at that time of people who said, well, most of the people demonstrating weren't students and that kind of thing. So that's why I asked the question.

A. They always said there were the nonstudent agitators. And I'm sure there were some and I'm sure they were photographed in the crowd. However, my particular photograph when I graduated high school and the photograph that the school had here on file for me, I'm sure was a lot different than the photographs that they

took of me when I was out demonstrating in the crowds and my hair had grown several inches and was wild as a grizzly bear. And I didn't look the same. So they may have felt that I was not a student there because they didn't have a matching photo. But I was definitely a student and definitely out there protesting just like the rest of the people. So a lot of times, there may have been people that did travel the country sponsoring debate and riots – "Let's get out there and riot and this is how to do it." But I think most of the people were smart enough, they were here because they were intelligent people, and I think they can make their own decisions, which they did. And I would say a preponderance of them were students here.

Q. What's the biggest thing you remember about the demonstrations?

A. The stupidest thing: They were throwing marshmallows at the Administration Building. That was an unusual event because the Administration was not happy about that, and they were threatening. And it was just marshmallows. It wasn't like we were throwing bricks or anything.

Q. What were the events?

A. First, we crawled across the Oval on our hands and knees. We were groveling because they were forcing us to grovel. And this was like _____. I couldn't tell you. And it was like an absurdity, the theater of absurdity. But the most striking thing that I remember about the riots, which was most influential, was watching police beat kids and throw tear gas into crowds of kids that were not being necessarily militant. They were loud. They were protesting, but I don't think they were throwing anything. I don't think that they were a danger to anybody. They

may have been building up to that, but the Columbus Police Department, they sped all over the place with their windows taped against whatever. And I'm sure they got a few broken windows along the way. But watching them beat kids, and I mean, really beat kids with billy clubs, and I myself got tear gassed. I sent you a story about my roommate. Should I relate that?

Q. That would be great.

A. That was an incident. But the idea that these police were not elected officials but they were representatives of our government. And they were indiscriminately hurting people that I didn't feel needed to be hurt. And that really rang true for me as something that I just couldn't believe that happened in our country. You could see this on the news, in Europe it could happen and in the Holocaust in Germany it could happen. But in our country, it was just so foreign to me, even though we had seen some of the stuff on the Democratic convention in Chicago and things like that. It was remote because it wasn't happening to us. But this really happened right here and that just hit the core. A funny sideline to that was with my roommate, Jed, a farm boy from Lancaster. And straight and narrow, about 6'1", 6'2", pretty tall guy, lanky. And he was a super nerd, a nice guy, never hurt a fly, Physics major, so he was involved in his studies. And he was very good at it. And he was always crunching numbers. And he had a girlfriend, which surprised us, but he did. And she was a nice girl. I can't recall her name offhand but he went to south campus, off of Neil Avenue. There was a flower shop just off campus beyond the gates. And he went to get her some flowers. And when he came out of the flower shop with the flowers, there happened to be a bunch of

demonstrators. They had a gate across Neil Avenue that was always open because it was just a welcoming gate. But there were some students there trying to shut the gate which would stop traffic, and that was their reason for living for the day, I guess. That was their protest. They were going to stop the traffic coming out of the campus. And they were trying to close the gates, and the police showed up and they started tear-gassing everybody and beating some kids. And my roommate got right in the middle of it. He was just getting flowers for his girl, and he got into this and he got tear-gassed and manhandled. And he did make it back to our suite, but the tear gas that they were using, they were using a pepper gas. And when you got it on you and on your clothing, you pretty much had to throw your clothes away because you couldn't wash it off. If you washed your clothes, it would still be there the next day. And it would make you cry. It would make your eyes sting. Your nose would hurt. Your mouth would be irritated and other openings also. And so he had to throw his clothes away. That was his experience with the riots. And I think that actually affected his viewpoint on protests and on government involvement. Because he knew he was innocent of anything. But he was caught up in it. I don't think he ever went out to any demonstrations. He was not that way. But I'm sure that affected his thinking a little bit.

Q. Yes, I was going to ask you if you thought that some of sending tear gas out and whatever else brought other students into the demonstrations?

A. I'm sure it brought some in and probably chased some away. I know they dropped tear gas from a helicopter right outside Drackett Hall. They wanted to disburse us, and they were very vehement about it. But I think the things which scared us even

more were when they brought in the National Guard, and they had sand bag placements with National Guard, with rifles and barb wire. And what the heck, this is America, and we're Americans. What is going on here? It was very scary at the time. And I think when the Kent State incident occurred, that the Administration here was smart to shut the school down because I think it may have led to some major demonstrations here, and I think that similar to the incident at Kent State, people that were manning the guns here, I think, were probably just as scared and untrained as they were at Kent State, and could have led to some tragedies here. So I think it was a smart decision.

Q. When did you hear about the Kent State shooting?

A. I was in the dorm at the time and a fellow came down the hall and said, "Some kids got," he was actually screaming it out, "Some kids got killed at Kent State." So all of us got real excited. There were a couple of TVs on the floor and we went down to one of the TVs that we were watching for news, just what's going on, and eventually, I don't think right away but within a day they started saying the names of the kids that were involved. And one of the kids was named Jeff Miller. Just by coincidence I knew two kids by the name of Jeff Miller attending Kent State at the time. What's the chance that there's a third? It's like impossible. And so I knew that one of my friends had been killed and it hit pretty hard. So I'm actually making phone calls back home, and eventually I found out that the FBI had gone to the house of one of my friends and told the parents that their son had been killed. And this was the one, how would he be involved, his father is a baker and he's a jovial fellow? The other fellow I could see, he's sort of a loud guy, but

this one really surprised me. They told his parents that he had been killed. I guess the communication, between Kent State and the rest of the country were so jangled up because of the incident, that reality didn't come out until a whole day later when his parents were then told it wasn't their son. And there was a third kid at Kent State named Jeff Miller, and he had been the one that had been killed. So it was a tragedy for one day. I knew the parents very well. I'm glad it wasn't their son, but for one day they must have felt tragedy. And the experience of knowing kids at Kent State – my sister attended Kent State – it was very scary. And we thought this could happen here. So when it shut down, besides getting pass/fail on my courses, I passed them all.

Q. That was a good thing.

A. Which wasn't bad, although I have to say I did enjoy going to classes most of the time. I was a student interested in learning.

Q. So what did you do when the campus shut down?

A. And this is a little touchy. This is part of the kind of thing that I thought, "Should I tell the truth or should I gloss over it?"

Q. We can always close part of it if you don't want to talk about it.

A. This was quite an incident to see people involved in our government, representatives, the police department and the Administration a little bit. But the police department essentially, I'm not going to say going crazy, but going out of their way to be nasty and mean when it wasn't necessary, at least from my own viewpoint. I guess order needed to be maintained, but I think that they went overboard. And maybe it was good that they did because it would have been a lot

worse if the hadn't. Hindsight is easy to look at. But I saw some things that just, when you see a kid get clubbed in the head and their head cracked open and blood flying everywhere, it sort of hits. And I saw them throwing tear gas at kids that would just be gathered in a group. [The police would say,] "Well, you have to disburse," and the kids didn't run away right away, then they would throw tear gas into the crowd. It was nasty. So I started to question a little bit about what was actually, what some of my values were. And a group of us fellows in our SSI went up to Port Clinton. One of the fellows owned a boat up there, his family owned a boat. It was pretty good size. And it was in dry dock. And we stayed on the boat for a few days and they said, "Rick," maybe I shouldn't even say my own name, "Rick, these are troubled times. You can't necessarily believe what you're told." And one of the things that I had been told was that drugs are no good for you, and matter of fact, I even reported my roommates for doing marijuana. I reported them to the RA [residential hall adviser] and it got to be a real problem. I didn't want to get busted with these kids smoking dope, so I went down to the RA's room to tell them that my roommates were smoking dope and I wasn't involved. And I knocked on the door and went in, and there's the RA smoking dope with my roommates. So that sort of was an incident. But they said, you have to question – just because the government tells you something – you have to question whether the government is actually acting in your favor and on your behalf. And my SSI friends said, "Try this, you'll like it." So that was the first time I ever tried experimenting with drugs. And it was nice, I'd have to say. I was pleasantly surprised. I didn't make a vocation of it but I did at least experiment. I

didn't inhale, but I did experiment. And it was definitely a result of seeing the riots on campus. It was one of my results from that, that I started to question things like, well, the government says we should be in Vietnam, we should probably be there, as long as I don't have to go.

Q. So after you were on the boat for a couple of days – did you go home then for two weeks?

A. Yes, I was close enough to home, Cleveland's close. So I went home. And then I had a lot of good discussions with my parents. My mother especially was very good at discussing things with us on an intellectual level. She treated us as adults and respected our viewpoints, and argued against them, and also listened. So she was always a good sounding board and a pretty intelligent woman. And my dad had a different viewpoint. He was a very intelligent man and between the two of them, I found some answers and also had questions.

Q. Did you come back after those two weeks of being closed? Did you come back to campus?

A. Yes, I had all my stuff here.

Q. Right, well that's true.

A. And a lot of friends.

Q. Now, did you go home for the summer?

A. Always went home for the summer. I went home for the summer and I usually worked. Odd jobs and part-time jobs, nothing earth shaking. I worked, United Artists had a warehouse where they warehoused all of their record albums. And their record albums there would be shipped out to record stores. And that's when

they used to have records. And so I worked in the warehouse pushing boxes of albums around all day. Not a bad job. Got a lot of records at home from it.

Q. When you came back to campus in the fall, what was the difference?

A. Well, I think at that point that things had settled down quite a bit. The war was actually starting to wind down. I don't think people were as vehement. I don't know the politics of it, but I think the police department was told to maintain a less visible presence. And I think, this goes back quite a while, 40 years, I can't remember what I had for breakfast, so 40 years ago is a little bit harder. But I think that there was even some discussion in the newspapers that the police were told to stay in the background more. And they were here in the summer. The school goes all the way around. So they were here the whole time. But I think things calmed down. The discussion was more evident. The troop levels, I think, were being wound down. The exposure of going into other countries, surrounding Cambodia and all, I think it was old news. Unfortunately, the American way, I don't know if other countries do, but the American way is, what's the news today that's fresh and hasn't been digested? And the news that was from yesterday and last week is old news. People get bored, after you do something for a while, it becomes, let's do something else.

Q. What do you think the views were of the demonstrations either on campus or elsewhere?

A. I think in general for the country, eventually it wound the war down. I like to think that some of the demonstrations not only here at Ohio State but throughout the country, which I participated in a few walks in Cleveland, not just here, I

didn't go to Washington, but I was at a few demonstrations alongside the road with signs and things like that. And I think ultimately it shut the war down. I think the war was wrong. It was fought a lot for the wrong reasons. Should everybody in the world have a democracy like the United States? Well, it would be nice, although look at our democracy today. It's got some problems. Where it's going to go, who knows? And other countries, I think they have to make their own roads. I think a lot of times when we try and step in, we're trying to advance our culture on someplace that is very foreign to us. And I think conscription is wrong. You want to go fight, that's up to you. And I think our country is important. We'll fight for our border. But to go across the world, I don't know. Of course, I'm glad they did in Europe, to liberate the concentration camps. I think going back in history, I think they probably knew about the concentration camps and probably could have liberated them earlier. There's all sort of theories in history there. Politics is nasty business. And I think sending people into war is nasty business, and I'm glad that we demonstrated. It closed the war down faster than if we hadn't. The war machine is a huge moving machine and it's very hard to stop. And I don't think if the voices weren't made, I don't think it would have stopped. We'd still be fighting over there. A lot more deaths would be unnecessary.

Q. I just have one more question and then if there's anything else you think we should cover, but do you, what do you think of Ohio State and campus today?

A. Well, I'm going to the Purdue game tomorrow. I have to say, I'm pretty much removed from the campus. My son's future fiancé, don't tell her, my son's future fiancé works here on campus in one of the arts [departments], and she likes

working here. I read the Alumni News, I read the alumni magazine. I get it online. I think those are all good contact points. I contribute when I can what I can. I wish I could do more. I wish I had more to do with. I love to come to the football games here. I think a college game is one of the greatest events that someone can attend. It's a special time, not only just to bond with my son but just to see the happy people going to a game. It is truly a get-together that is unparalleled. And Ohio State does it right. And they do it up big. The fans are excited and dedicated. Ohio State's got its legacy right there. My dad used to tell me stories when he was in college: He used to come down from Cleveland to football games after he graduated. He used to come down with my mother. My mother and he were big football fans – Ohio State and the Cleveland Browns. And they used to come down to games here at Ohio State. They used to have to ride a train back then because I-71 had not been invented yet. They used to have to ride [Route] 43, I think, was the street. They used to ride the train down and they'd catch it at the Terminal Tower in Cleveland and ride down to somewhere down here in Columbus. They said one time there was a group of priests that got on the train in Cleveland, by the time they got to Columbus they were so drunk they couldn't get off the train. They were physically unable to. But I think that shows a little bit, the football games are such a draw, such a camaraderie. I guess it's like going to war, and you've got all these guys in the foxhole with you. After you get in a fight, it's a bond that's hard to not remember. It's almost like my SSI group. We really did bond. We had a wonderful group. We went to peoples' homes in areas that I had never been in, in the mining hills and in the farm lands. I had no experience with

that. I was a suburban kid. And it was a wonderful experience to come here to Ohio State. And I'm sure that a lot of people have similar tales they can relate, that coming here was able to broaden our horizons, and not just in politics with the demonstrations and all, but also with respect to viewpoints that we never experienced because we lived sheltered lives in our own areas. And even the kids from the farm land, when I brought them into my own home in the suburbs, it was just so foreign to them. That was an experience for them in the other direction. So I think [of] that impact from Ohio State to myself. And of course I was able to travel in Europe with Dr. Taiganides which was a fantastic experience, and I tell people stories about it all the time. I met the Queen of England. Of course, she was in a wax museum, but I have the pictures. It looks like I'm meeting her. But we did meet with several dignitaries throughout Europe, and Dr. Taiganides was a wonderful host and organized a fantastic tour, all part of my Ohio State experience. And of course, I did get a degree eventually. Just a side note, I had a professor, I think it was the Dean of my College at the time, Natural Resources, and he told us to do a story of what we felt about a particular resource. And I wrote against Christmas trees, not because I have a Jewish background, I just always felt that cutting a tree down just to cut it down for a couple of weeks' enjoyment, was a waste of a resource. And I wrote this lengthy term paper about it and presented it to the professor. And I didn't get a very good grade on it. And I'm a wonderful writer, just as I am a story teller. As a matter of fact, I'm a much better writer. And I went in and I went to discuss it and he says, "You know, you wrote a wonderful term paper on the negative, but you forgot to look at the

positive.” And I said, “Well, I suppose people enjoy looking at the Christmas trees, that’s an enjoyable thing.” And what I had done in my house – my mother actually was not of the Jewish faith – so we used to have a Christmas tree in the basement and a Jewish menorah upstairs for Hanukkah, so we celebrated both, which was pretty good as a kid. But I always felt that having a tree with a ball on it that you could plant in your yard was a much better use of the tree, which after I got my own home and got married to my sweetheart from Ohio State, that’s what we did. And we planted many Christmas trees out in the yard. It almost made us a mini forest over the years. But anyway, my professor said, “You forgot one of the important aspects of Christmas trees. It’s the people who grow them. It’s a crop just like growing corn or other crops. It is a crop that they grow, that they make a living off of. As a resource, you have to think of broader terms, not just a tunnel vision.” And that opened my eyes to some realities that you don’t always think of everything, and sometimes you need a different viewpoint, which is important. But you also have to think of the broader picture sometimes. I suppose from the standpoint of the war you could say, “Well, these people need jobs building bombs. Perhaps they could teach this in schools,” or something like that.

Q. This has been very good. Is there anything else you would like to cover?

A. Ohio State, I like my relationship [with it]. If I lived in Ohio, I’d probably have more of a relationship, but living out of state I’ve got other avenues that I have to attend. I hate the weather here. It’s beautiful right now this afternoon. It was very cold this morning. I won’t hold Ohio State responsible for that but I have to say that I thought by now they would have control of it.

Q. We can only do what we can do.

A. I do remember lots of snow and lots of rain. I've sat in football games in snow and in rain. I've also had wonderful experiences there. They do great work. I read about them in the newspaper. I'm always proud. We do have a couple of bars in Sarasota that do have Ohio State football nights or in the afternoons, the crowds, the Alumni Association and people that attended always flock to those places. I have a fellow that graduated in Michigan, U of M, and we go to all the Ohio State games together. Of course, we cheer against each other. But it's a good thing. And I think that's also a good thing, the rivalries. I don't think they've gotten ultimately too violent. Living with the rivalry years and years, you'd think, well, those Michigan people, shoot them or something, but that doesn't happen. And I think that that shows a good spirit and I think Ohio State's got that spirit.

Q. Well thank you very much. I appreciate it.

A. Thank you, it was fun.