WILLIAMS: This is the first of a series of oral history interviews with Senator John Glenn. Today is October 25, 1996. This interview is taking place in the Senator’s home in Potomac, Maryland. I am Brien Williams.

I mentioned earlier that I’d be traveling to New Concord. Why don’t you describe what the town is like today and then step back and talk about it in an earlier time.

SEN. GLENN: Well, it’s changed a lot today. It’s a small town, like we have a lot of them through the Midwest, and it’s a little unusual in that it’s strictly a college town. That’s the only industry in the town. There’s a General Electric parts warehouse just outside town, but it’s small compared to the rest of the college there. It’s a beautiful little campus, Muskingum College, and the town centers around that,
mainly. Although there are a lot of people in New Concord who had been farmers out around that area and moved into town when they retired or something like that, that’s still true today. But the college has moved along from what it was back when Annie [Glenn] and I went to school there, way back in the early forties, and, like all the rest of those schools through that part of the country, it’s going into the computer age.

It’s a small school. It’s a United Presbyterian-affiliated school, although the church doesn’t support much of the school, but it has that church affiliation. It’s about 1,100 students now, expanding just a little bit. They’ve been innovative over the last couple of years in cutting tuition by about a fourth, which caused a stir in collegiate circles, and were doing well with it, too, as a matter of fact, getting more students now than we were before. It’s a good school, a very highly rated school, one of the ten best of its type in the Midwest, according to some of the rating systems that they have now.

The town is set in rolling hill country in the foothills of eastern Ohio, about twenty-five miles, thirty miles west. As you’re heading toward Columbus, you go over one particular rise, and you literally are looking out at the beginning of the Great Plains. So it’s that kind of environment. This time of year, when we are doing this recording, is particularly beautiful. The leaves and all that down through that rolling hill country are just absolutely spectacular. A lot of it is sort of hard rock hill country, too. A lot of mining just southeast of where Annie and I grew up. It’s small mines, most of them, but then you get down along the Ohio
River and you get into some of the big soft coal mines, some of the largest in this country.

So, New Concord is made up some of retired people, some retired professors, as the college there is the main industry. High school is now the East Muskingum County Combined School District. The school, after my orbital flight way back in 1962, they renamed the school the John Glenn High School, so we stop by there occasionally when we’re back there, too, in addition to our interests over in the college.

The home where Annie grew up, we sold it back a few years ago to some people who have refurbished it. My old home was moved after I left New Concord and was in the Marine Corps. It used to sit on a bank down by what’s called the S Bridge, the old S Bridge on the Old National Trail, old Route 40. There were some bridges that were put in, apparently, by French engineers, and for some reason they were made in an S shape, and that, according to them, gave it more strength against floods and things like that. It’s a very solid old stone bridge, and it’s sort of famous in that part of the country. Our home used to sit up on an embankment sort of up above this old S bridge. When a new road was put through that bypassed the S bridge, it took this whole embankment off, and they had to move our home. So it was moved up to what’s called Bloomfield Road and opened up a new area up there. I never lived in it up there. I was off in the Marine Corps when that occurred, but after my folks passed away, I couldn’t quite bring myself to sell the property, so we’ve kept it. We converted the upper part of it into an apartment, so it has two apartments, and we’ve just kept it. It
doesn’t make much money but we’ve kept the home there. It has a lot of nostalgic value to me, of course, although I never lived in the house where it is right now, nor with the rooms arranged exactly the way they are right now.

WILLIAMS: What about the downtown area of town? Has that remained viable? So many small towns have lost their reason for being.

SEN. GLENN: That’s changed a lot since we were there. In the downtown area, the business area of the town is just one strip right through town. The town’s a mile long, grand total, one end to the other, and the population now of New Concord and community is, I think, around 1,800, something like that. With the new roads, people can live in New Concord, which is a good environment to bring your kids up, good schools and all that, and still work in Zanesville or Cambridge nearby, and there are a lot of people do that now. So the town has grown by that much since we were there.

When we were there, I think the town sign down at the end of town used to say, “Population 1,185,” as I recall. So that was the size when Annie and I lived there. But the business area right down through town has the groceries and the bank and the usual things you’d see in a small town like that. Although it’s been tough on business there, because with the interstate and all that, it’s just a few minutes to Cambridge or to Zanesville, where you have a lot more shopping, or less that an hour now to Columbus, or just about an hour to Columbus, which is seventy miles away, and, of course, that’s a major metropolitan center.

Some of the older buildings when we were there have now been taken out. The old City Hall is gone. There’s a new little modern City Hall there, and some
of the things that we recall that were in there, the drugstore and the Roy Theater and some things like that are now gone. Those are all passé now. My father’s old business there, that’s been gone for some years now.

My dad came out of World War I. He was in France in active combat in World War I, and came back and went to work on the railroad for a little while. He and my mother had been married in Montgomery, Alabama, when he was down there training with the Ohio 37th Division just before he went overseas to France, and she went down. They were married in Montgomery, Alabama, and then he went overseas and was in combat, came back, and when he came back, he went to work on the railroad as a fireman on the railroad. But that meant here he was a newlywed just back from the war, and he’d be out on a run to someplace, and they stayed overnight and then came back the next day, and he didn’t like that at all, staying away from home half the time.

So, he decided he didn’t like that, so he quit the railroad and went to work for a little plumbing company in Cambridge. It was called Brenthuver and Johnson [phonetic], as I recall. He worked for them for a couple of years and then sort of got to where he knew what he was doing in the trade and decided he’d move over to New Concord, which was eight miles away, and did that, and started his own little plumbing place over there. I don’t know what my age was; I think I was maybe five or six months old or something like that when they moved to New Concord. He started his plumbing store and then built it up, and he was one of the more respected businessmen in New Concord. He was a fine person.
He built this up, and it was never a big operation. When they’d have a major job going with a new house or a big home or something like that where he was putting the plumbing in, he would have hired maybe four or five people or, at the most, six, but that was just temporary, and usually it was he and one helper that he had hired most of the time that worked with him. They had the store open where people could come in and look at tubs and lavatories and things on display, had a little display room.

My mother and dad worked together as a team. Mother would keep the store during the day while my dad was out doing the plumbing. It was a real team operation. In fact, Mother used to laugh about some people. When I was a little kid, before I was in school, she’d take me along, and I’d play around in the store and I’d lay the pipes out, and I’d do all sorts of things playing like a little kid. I can still remember a little bit of that. What she’d laugh about was how people kidded her sometimes. When it came time for my nap in the afternoon, she had some blankets, and she’d put them in the bottom of one of the tubs, and I went to sleep in the tub with a little blanket over me. People would come in and be shopping in the store, and here I was asleep in the tub. She always thought that was pretty good. I’ve had people come up to me back there, when I’d be back home on leave in the Marine Corps or something, they’d mention something about it, that one way they remembered me was being asleep in the tub in the plumbing store. [Laughter]

Even after I was in school, though, usually Mother would have—most of the kids went home for lunch at that time, and I would go up to the store about
three-eighths of a mile or a half-mile walk, and I’d go up or have my roller skates and roller skate up or something like that from school, and Mother always had the little lunch set there, and if my dad wasn’t off on a job too far away, why, he’d come back in and we’d all have lunch together at the store a lot of times, or back in those days they would just lock up the store and go home. If they were going to lock up the store and meet at home, why I’d go home for lunch and then back to school again.

New Concord, though, to expand on that a little bit, back in those days, I look at it as being almost an ideal growing-up place for a young person. It was a lot of church influence. It was a United Presbyterian Church school, and there was a great emphasis on religion. You went to church on Sunday, that was just expected, Sunday school and church. There was Wednesday evening prayer service, and we didn’t always make that, but that was there. Then the folks went quite often, even though I was involved with school things and missed a lot of that after I was in school, of course, didn’t go to that.

But it was a small enough place, and back in those days it was a place of community where families took care of families, community took care of their own problems, and if anybody in town needed help, there was somebody to help them, and that’s the way it worked. Those were pre-Social Security, pre-Medicare days, of course, and it’s too bad we still don’t have some of that same sense of community today, but the country has changed, of course. It changed during my lifetime in that regard, of course.
I should add one other thing. Some of those days when I was growing up, they were the days of the Great Depression. We could get into that in a little later on, because I’m sure some of those things were a early formative factor in my later interests and activities. But the kids were free to roam. You know, you didn’t worry too much about a locked door. In fact, I don’t know that we locked our doors that much.

The kids were free to sort of roam around, do what they wanted to do, and you built your own individualism, I guess, out of that. You swam in the local creek that went by a few hundred yards from where our home was. We had all our little kids’ organizations and athletic groups and things like that. We never had a Boy Scout troop, but some other kids and I formed what we called the Ohio Rangers, and the Rangers were a group that we had sort of the same purposes of encouragement of kids that the Scouts had, and we used the Scout handbook, and we formed our own organization. We organized it, and we had our little paper.

One of the kids who was in that, who now is retired, he was a music teacher up at Temple, Alex McKinley, and he came by a few months ago and brought along a little book. When he was Secretary-Treasurer, or whatever it was, of our little group, he still had that little book, and he brought it by and gave it to me. It’s in my desk down at the office. I got a big kick out of that.

We had our little athletic leagues back and forth between a couple of these groups in town, and the college thought it was great. We’d have our little five-minute or eight-minute games at the half of the college games in football, and we had the kids, here we were eight or eleven years old, something like that, out there
playing football and banging each other up at the half, and the crowd got as big a
kick out of it as we did playing, and the same thing at the half of the college
basketball games.

So, it was a real community spirit, to come back to your original question.
It was a real sense of community and belonging, and yet the kids were free to sort
of be themselves. There weren’t any of the dangers that we have today. It was a
sense of where if some of the kids needed help, like a couple of the kids whose
fathers were dead or had been killed or were orphaned, the rest of the town just
took them in. My dad used to have one kid in particular he took care of, and the
different men around town sort of split up things like that.

In the days of the Great Depression, things were tough. We always had a
big garden, and Mother canned, as they called it back then, that meant put in Ball
Mason jars, and she always had done a lot of that out of our garden, but during the
Great Depression, you know, there wasn’t much plumbing business. People
didn’t worry about getting a drain unplugged; there wasn’t money to do it, and
there wasn’t any new plumbing much. No new houses, or very few of them, and
there wasn’t real electricity. That was just put in during those days. So the
electric lines were just going through the farming area, and that finally opened
some things up.

But to keep things going, there wasn’t much money. My dad rented or
leased a couple of extra acres of land and put in a huge garden, and I hated that
garden, because I had to hoe it all as a kid. [Laughter] He had a couple of extra
acres down there, sort of along the railroad, and we put in everything—potatoes
and tomatoes and corn and you name it. Then Mother canned everything she could, and my dad, then, was the supplier for a lot of people in town who didn’t have big gardens like that. I can remember many times jumping in the car or the old truck with him and taking a bushel of potatoes down to somebody that needed some help, or tomatoes or something like that. Mother, some time later on, I remember her saying, “Would you take this pot soup,” or something like that, “and walk down to Mrs. somebody’s house and go to the back door. Don’t go to the front door. Don’t go to the front door; go to the back door.” And, “They need a little help.”

So, there was just that kind of community spirit in New Concord. It was an ideal place to grow up, and had a high sense of morals and ethics that, I think, led into my feelings about a lot of things to this very day. I’ve also sort of joked about it a little bit sometimes and said that it was almost a real-life experience like The Music Man, the musical. Remember the patriotic feeling in Music Man and the flag and all these things? Well, New Concord was—that overdoes it, and I’m not ridiculing it, I think it’s great, but real life Music Man, to me, is one of the highest compliments you can give a little town like that, because you have this feeling of patriotism and pride in country that, through the Midwest like that and particularly in New Concord, was very, very real, and it’s something people felt. You didn’t have to tell them about it; they felt it. There were always contests by the American Legion, essay contests—“Why I like to live in this country, live in America,” and things like that, and citizenship awards. There was a parade every
Memorial Day and the Fourth of July sometimes. Every Memorial Day you wound up, and you went up to the cemetery to put flowers on the graves.

My dad, in addition to his other duties in World War I, had been a bugler, and it fell to him almost every year to play “Taps.” In fact, it was his job every year. Well, when I was a kid growing up and I was taking trumpet lessons then, I could play pretty well within the town band and the school band. I played trumpet. Well, when my dad would play “Taps,” I’d be down over the hill, and I’d play “Echo Taps,” and I still remember that vividly. That sort of was the spirit of New Concord. It was very patriotic place, a lot of pride in education, very high ethical and moral standards for the whole community. It was a great place to grow up.

You had the college campus, of course, where the kids played some, too. They had some of these big, broad sidewalks that went around the quadrangle up there, used to be our favorite skating place and the college lake, which, when we were in our early teen years, that was the swimming hole. The college lake had a raft out in the middle of it, and if you weren’t working or had a little job or something or other during those Depression days, of course, every kid tried to make a little extra money, and I did a lot of things during those years. I had a paper route, made a little money off that, made my own spending money. Then I washed cars for fifty cents apiece. That was big money. I used to have a pretty good business going at that when I was a kid.

Every spring, we had a huge rhubarb planting in our garden. It went clear along the edge of the garden. It was more than we could have used in ten years,
for some reason or other, had just grown and grown, and it was great and some of the best rhubarb. Every spring I would get that. I’d cut it, and I’d package it in little bundles and put it in my wagon, and I’d pull that wagon around town and sell the rhubarb for twenty-five cents a bundle. That’s how I made some of my spending money. That’s how I bought my first bicycle, was with the money I’d saved from rhubarb and the paper route and all that.

You had a lot of freedom around New Concord as a kid, but you had your own responsibilities, your responsibilities to family, and things like a paper route and all that. Looking back on it, I think it was almost—I know everybody thinks their own childhood was probably the way everybody should grow up, but I really think New Concord was a great place for a kid to grow up and still today, more than most other places, anyway.

WILLIAMS:  How typical was New Concord as a community? Would that be the same in that whole part of Ohio, or do you think it had some really unique characteristics?

SEN. GLENN: I think it had unique characteristics in some respects because of the college and the educational emphasis there, and there were always cultural events. You know, visiting artists came into the college and things like that, that townspeople could go to. So that was a little bit different, because most of the small towns down through southeast Ohio were either little industrial towns, which had a different flavor to them, a little tougher or little harsher flavor, I guess, or some of the little mining towns down in the valleys were centered just on what happened in the mines, and it didn’t have much opportunity outside of that. So, I think New Concord had the unique properties of being a little college town.
You had other places through there, too. You had Wooster College up at Wooster, and Dennison at Granville, Ohio, and Ohio Wesleyan and Kenyon and Mount Union, Baldwin Wallace. All of these were little college towns or were college places there that were particularly good. But I think Muskingum, being the smaller-type community than most of those other places, had a rather unique flavor all its own. At least I like to think it did.

WILLIAMS: Let’s talk about the physical relationship of things. You mentioned where the home was when you were growing up. How far out of town was that, or how long a walk into town?

SEN. GLENN: Just the edge of town. The whole town was only about a mile long, and so I could walk from our home up to where the store was, the plumbing store, pretty well at the other end of town. It was only about a ten- or twelve-minute walk, something like that, if you started along, or if you were on your bicycle, it just took a few minutes, or roller skates. That was big back in those days.

We lived on the edge of town. In fact, my dad—they had built a home larger than we needed when we went to New Concord, because Muskingum always needed rooms for students at that time. So my dad and mom thought that was a great way to maybe make some money, and so they had built a home that had four big rooms upstairs that they could rent out as student rooms and help pay for the house. So we had a pretty good-sized house, a pretty good-sized home, compared to—well, big as most of the homes in New Concord. Even though my dad had just moved there and was getting started out, that worked out fairly well for a few years, as I’ve heard them sort of laugh about this in later years, in that
they did that, went to that expense. It worked fine for a few years, and then the
college decided that they wanted the students to live up right on the campus, and
so it sort of knocked that little business venture in the head a little bit, but it
worked for a while anyway, and we had a nice home.

Let me add one thing. We were never poverty-stricken to the point where
we really had to worry about something to eat or anything like that, like some of
the people were. To put a statistical note to it, the figures are that back in those
days of the Great Depression, I think nationally we had a 20 percent
unemployment rate that went for over four years. There was one year where the
national unemployment rate was 25 percent for the whole United States of
America, which is almost unbelievable now, but that’s the way it was. So, there
wasn’t much going on back there at that time period, and we came out of that.
The reason I mentioned that is that we came a little close in one area.

One of the most disturbing conversations I think I ever heard between my
dad and mother was we had finished dinner one evening, and I was in the other
room, and they were sitting at the kitchen table still talking, and I could hear what
they were saying, and they were talking about whether the mortgage was going to
be foreclosed on the house. My dad thought it was. The banker had talked to him
that day, and they thought we were going to lose the home. I remember that that
sort of struck terror in my little—I guess, what was I then, eleven years old or
twelve, something like that. Where were we going to go? And where was I going
to go? Would the family be split up? That was terrible for me.
Very shortly after that was when the FHA was put in, and you could get a government guarantee so that you could get a longer-term loan at lower interest rates and help out during that time period. My dad applied for that, I think the very first time it came out, was accepted, and we didn’t lose the home. So I sure remember that as a kid, too.

WILLIAMS: You, as an eleven-year-old understood what they were talking about when they were discussing the mortgage?

SEN. GLENN: Man, I understood that we were going to lose the house. I knew that.

WILLIAMS: And did you bring that up with them, or did you just hear that and go to bed that night terrified?

SEN. GLENN: I don’t know that I ever discussed it with them. I don’t know that I did. I don’t know. I probably did, because I had a good open relationship with my dad and mom. There weren’t many secrets that I had from them. If they said something and I questioned it, why, they’d always sit down and talk about it, give me an answer, which is what most parents should do, of course. And they did that. So I don’t recall any specific conversation, but I’m sure I probably did discuss it with them.

WILLIAMS: You mentioned their building their own home. I’m curious. In those days you didn’t get an architect. Do you imagine they went through a sort of catalog of basic plans and said to a builder, “This is what we want,” or how did people do that?

SEN. GLENN: I don’t have any idea how they selected it. They built the home. I don’t remember the home being built at all. It was before my recollection of things, so I
was only a couple of years old, I suppose, when that was being done. But I don’t
know, I think back in those days, in fact, even when Annie and I used to be
looking around at home plans, you used to be able to get these books of home
plans, all different kinds and all different varieties of things that were put out as
sort of stock things you could look at and then modify. I presume they did
something like that, but I don’t really know.

WILLIAMS: And then local builders constructed it?

SEN. GLENN: I’m sure it was local builders. I don’t know who. I’m sure my dad put all the
plumbing in it, the plumbing and heating in. There was a man there in town who
was a carpenter. His name was Holstead [phonetic], I think, something like that.
I remember his name in connection with our home in some way, and I think
probably he did a lot of it there. But back in those days, I think if you had your
basic plan, I think you got some carpenters, and I don’t think you usually went
through all the formal architectural stuff and permit stuff that you do today. And
there weren’t some of the taps. We had our own septic system in there and our
own well. So it was pretty much a self-contained system. You didn’t tap on—it
wasn’t until many, many years later when they extended the town water and
sewer lines out that we got onto those. But the original house, we had our own
well, had our own septic sewer system and the whole works, and so it was a self-
contained unit. All you needed was electricity into the house, and you were in
business.
WILLIAMS: Could you do this in your mind’s eye, think about either walking or bicycling into town and sort of recreate that? Let’s say you were going in on a summer’s day to see your parents or something.

SEN. GLENN: Well, I’d wanted a bike for a long time. Let me talk about the bike just a minute. I’d wanted a bike for a couple of years, and I was saving my money to get a bike. My dad, at that time, had taken on an additional business. They used to have, in the automobile business, what they called associate dealers, and an associate dealer meant out of a regular dealer, anybody that wanted to sell cars, a few cars a year, whatever, out in a small town away from that main town could be an associate dealer.

My dad had made space in our little showroom there, the plumbing place, where he could put a couple of cars in and have a little showroom, and he became an associate Chevrolet dealer out of Hugh White in Zanesville. Hugh White is still there, I think, the agency is. When you’d sold some new cars, you didn’t have the big trucks that brought them through in those days. You went to the plant, or he did anyway. He’d hire a few college students to go with him and drive all day one day getting to Cincinnati, and there was a Chevrolet plant at Norwood, which is a northern suburb of Cincinnati, and he would go down there and then they’d take delivery on these cars, sign for them. Then you drove back the next day. And that’s when you broke new cars in, driving them along about thirty or thirty-five miles an hour for the first hundred miles or so, and then you went up to forty for the next hundred or something like that. So it was a very
slow trip back, and he wouldn’t let them drive any faster than that because he
wanted to keep the cars in good shape.

Well, when they would make that trip, a couple times when they made that
trip, I would go with them. It’d be a little break for me if it was going to be on a
weekend or something like that. I thought it was great to be off like that with my
dad across country, anyway. That was a big thrill. So we’d drive down there, get
those cars, and drive back, and we went on, I think it was called, the Old 3-C
Highway: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati—came up through a little place,
Chillicothe, Ohio, south of Columbus. On one of those trips when I was—I’d
been looking for a bicycle, and I’d been in every bike shop around Cambridge and
Zanesville and our area, came into Chillicothe, and here was a bike shop. I said
they had some bikes in the window, “Let’s stop.”

Well, we stopped, and we went in, and we found a bicycle, and it wasn’t a
new one. I bought a used bike.

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

WILLIAMS: Okay. Let’s pick up. You say it cost sixteen dollars.

SEN. GLENN: It cost sixteen dollars. My dad loaned me the money ‘til he’d get home and I’d
pay him back out of my savings or what I had. It was an Iver-Johnson, I
remember that. It’s not even a brand that’s named now. I was so proud of that
thing. So we put it in the back and took the thing home, and that was my bike, the
only bike I ever had, as a matter of fact. It was a good one, and I rode that thing
for years.
Okay. That’s where the bike came from. I remember Mother kidding me about—the next morning I was up at dawn riding that bike up and down the S Bridge out on Route 40, a brick road at that time. But if you were going into town, if I was on my bike, just down the hill, our gravel hill, and down into town, there was not a sidewalk out to our place. It was a little gravel road, went about, oh, less than a quarter mile, maybe an eighth of a mile, until you did hit the end of the sidewalk. And then from there into town there was a gas station over on the right and just homes along on the left as you’d ride into town, and the road turned off to the left, which went out toward Bloomfield, Ohio, called Bloomfield Road, and that’s up where Annie lived, out there beyond the cemetery, up that road.

On into town a little farther, you came to what was the high school then. It’s now the grade school, the elementary school now. Then on up into the middle of town where the businesses and the bank and the City Hall was and then on. My dad’s store was on the north side of the street on the East end of the business district in town, the other end of the town from where we lived. The college entrance, where you would turn, went into the college, was right in the middle of town, right down in the business district where you turned, went up the hill to Muskingum. That’s changed a lot on the buildings and so on now, and the new high school now is built out north of town, out along Bloomfield Road.

WILLIAMS: At this point, when you were a kid riding your bicycle, there would still be horses in town or not?

SEN. GLENN: Occasionally. Some of the farmers still had horses back in those days. Most of them had cars by then, but you still, on Saturday, on weekends, a lot of times
there would be people coming in, and you’d see some in wagons, buggies in town. People would come in, get all their supplies for the coming week, and some of the old farmers would come in, get a shave at the barbershop, and that kind of thing. It was typical small town. Most of them had cars by that time. But my dad literally had lived through the beginning of the automobile age, because he was born in 1895, and, of course, that really encompassed the beginning of that age. When he went to court my mother, where she lived, down at Lore City, Ohio, he would go by buggy. Nobody had cars back then, of course, or very few people did. When I was growing up, there were still a few farmers, I guess, that maybe didn’t have cars at that time but not too many.

When I was about fifteen or sixteen and I was driving, I used to get a big kick out of it, because some of the farmers would have old Model T Fords and Model A Fords and things like that, which were old cars by that time. When my dad would maybe sell them a new car, and they’d trade in the old Model T, that became my vehicle for a while, and my dad got a big kick out of it, because I loved to tinker with them. We still would get a Model T in once in a while, and Model As, the old Model A Ford, they were fairly common trade-ins back in those days, that long ago.

WILLIAMS: What was the difference between a Model T and a Model A?

SEN. GLENN: Well, Model T, that was the old Henry Ford Flivver, they called it back in those days. That was the one you see as the first real mass-production car in the world, I guess, and it controlled differently. You had three foot pedals and it had a fixed
throttle. You didn’t have a foot feed on it like you have on cars now. I loved to drive those, had a lot of fun with them.

Years later, when I was—this is just an aside here, but many years later, Bob [Robert F.] Kennedy, when I got to know him after the space program, we had a whole bunch of people that went on a sailing boat and sailed up around the Maine islands one summer. We stopped at Tom Watson’s place up there. He had a little island, Tom Watson of IBM fame. Tom loved Model Ts, and he had about a half a dozen of them, and, of course, you never saw a Model T then, up in the late sixties. He had them, and he kept them in mint condition up there on this little island. We were up there visiting and sailing around that area for a couple of days, and while everybody else was off sailing and fooling around, I was driving these Model Ts around the island. I just had a ball.

He had a little station wagon, a Woody they called it. It had a wooden back on it, a Model T. Actually, you had three pedals on the floor, and you got out and cranked the thing to get it started, number one. You set the brake and got out and cranked it, got the engine running, and then you had three pedals on the floor, and the left one you pushed down about half way, and that put the thing in neutral, and you kept that in neutral and then you would push on the center pedal then. If you wanted to go forward, you pushed it down. If you wanted to go reverse, you brought it clear back up, and then the right one was the brake, and that was it. You really had to use your feet to drive the thing, completely different way of driving than you have now, but they were fun. I used to love to fiddle with those things.
WILLIAMS: The Model A was quite a different machine?

SEN. GLENN: A Model A had the controls just like you have now with a gear shift and all that, and a foot feed on it and a foot pedal for the accelerator and all that. You still see around some of these auto shows and things, still see Model As a lot of times now. But that was fun back in those days. I forget what your original question was here. [Chuckles]

WILLIAMS: Ts and As. I guess that was just arbitrary designation, right? It didn’t stand for any particular—

SEN. GLENN: I have no idea. That was a Henry Ford name. His was the biggest company at that time. My dad was a Chevy dealer.

One time, this was along when I was in late high school, I guess I was about a junior in high school, we had an old little Chevy convertible that somebody had traded in that wasn’t in very good shape, but it still ran all right. My dad said if I wanted that, why, he’d let me use that one as my car. So that was a big deal. So I had that. I was going with Annie at the time, and they called it the Cruiser. It had a top that long since had passed its usefulness, and so we just took the top off of it. Winter, summer, whatever, whenever I would stop wherever I was, I had one of these shelter halves—like a little tarp, you know, half a pup tent. I’d throw that over the seat. If it snowed, it snowed, and if it rained, it rained, and the water ran off on the floor and created a puddle, and so to take care of that, we bored a hole in the floor to let the water out. [Laughter] It was quite a car. I had a big time with that car.

WILLIAMS: You knew the former owner of that car, right?
SEN. GLENN: Yes, I did.

WILLIAMS: When you saw him in town, you gave a wave, and he would laugh.

SEN. GLENN: Yes that’s right. I knew him. George Payne, he’s the one that bought it from my dad, used it for a number of years. By the time I got hold of it, though, it was in pretty sad shape. The radiator leaked. You had to fill the radiator up all the time. The car wasn’t worth taking it off and getting the radiator fixed, so we put some of this seal stuff in. That would help a little bit. Or in the wintertime, actually, I would just use the—keep it from freezing up. It was only about a mile up to the college when I was finally going to college, and I’d just drive it up there without any water in it, and it wouldn’t overheat too much, and drive it up there. You never drove more than a mile or so in any direction. So I’d just leave the water out of it during the winter. But that was fun, and Annie and I had a lot of fun in that.

WILLIAMS: Where did cars like the old Model Ts go after no one wanted them?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, just junk, and they’d be used for parts and things like that. They’d go to a junkyard, and they’d take parts off of them and sell the parts and just sell the rest of it for scrap metal, I guess. I presume that’s what they did.

WILLIAMS: That just raises a question in my mind. What about getting rid of stuff in the old days? Was there a landfill?

SEN. GLENN: Yes. Usually outside every town there was. Outside New Concord, just southeast of New Concord, there was a city dump, they called it, and it was out along a little country road, and there was a big, deep ravine out there, and it was a pretty good-sized place. If you had old cans and whatever you wanted to throw
away, a sofa or whatever, if you wanted to get rid of it, why, you’d take it out and throw it over the hill, and that was it. Very simple back then. You burned things, too.

Your garbage and things like that, now, a guy collected garbage around town. I don’t know whether he charged or whether he did it just for getting the garbage. He had a big pig farm, a hog farm, right out not far from town, and he collected garbage all over town, fed it to his hogs. So, things got recycled that way.

WILLIAMS:  Let’s go back to you biking into town. A couple of questions. One, what kind of traffic was there on the National Road?

SEN. GLENN:  Well, nothing like the traffic you have now. Back in those days, when I was a kid growing up out there by the S Bridge, the old National Road was a two-lane brick road, and it was the first national highway. People along old Route 40 took great pride in that, that this was the national highway. It went from Baltimore to San Francisco, I think it was, the only road that went clear across country with one number in it. It was the old Zane’s Trace Trail. It had been the route to the West through Ohio, was the old Route 40, and originally opened up back in the late Indian days, I guess, around there, and the first old trail through there. Zane’s Trace Trail it was called. That’s what Zanesville was named after. It was a stagecoach trail.

I remember when I was a kid, we had a next-door neighbor name McLeods, and their family had originally lived down in the middle of town. Liv McLeod, I remember her telling stories about either her grandfather or great-
grandfather, he had run the stage stop in New Concord when the old stagecoaches used to come through there, way back when there were just a few people there, and told stories about some of that, how one person came in frozen to death one night or something. The driver and the horses kept going and stopped at the regular stage spot, and this guy was dead up there on top, things like that. I presume those stories were all true.

Back in the twenties or thirties, her great-grandfather could have been there what, back in the 1840s or ‘50s, I suppose. So I suppose that was all possible back in those days. The home they used to live in down in the middle of New Concord, which isn’t there anymore, was the old stagecoach stop as the stagecoaches head west. Well, old Route 40 then was put through, and it was just a dirt road for a long time, I guess, and then they finally decided to pave it. When I was a kid, it was a two-lane brick road that ran all the way to Columbus.

WILLIAMS: Are you talking about Zane’s Trace or are you talking about 40 now?

SEN. GLENN: Both. They were the same. Zane’s Trace developed into old Route 40. The Zane’s Trace Trail going through there is what later on then became U. S. 40.

WILLIAMS: I thought I’d read somewhere it was about a mile difference.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I don’t know. Maybe it went off a mile or so at a time. I’m not saying it’s exactly the same spot, but it followed the same general track. In fact, about five miles or four miles west of New Concord right now, they have a museum now, the Zane’s Trace Museum, that is just a couple of miles west of Norwich, Ohio, and it’s just off old Route 40 in between Route 40 and where the interstate is now. You can stop there, there’s a museum. They have portrayals of what things were
like back in the early days and how they crossed the rivers and the creeks in the
stagecoaches and all that. It’s pretty well done. The state put that up some years
ago as a commemorative thing for the old Route 40 and Zane’s Trace.

WILLIAMS: It might well have been an Indian trail before.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I’m sure it was, back in the early days, or even an animal trail before then,
as most of these things develop. It probably was an Indian trail back at one time.

WILLIAMS: When you were a kid, what would the traffic be like on 40?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, it wouldn’t be anything like it is today, of course, but quite a few cars went
by, but you didn’t have any other kind of traffic nor were they going the speed
they go now, you know, forty, forty-five, and on a better stretch of the road I
suppose you got up to fifty, fifty-five once in a while, but it wasn’t a very fast
highway.

WILLIAMS: What about trucks?

SEN. GLENN: Trucks much smaller than they are now, of course. None of these big semis or
anything like that. Delivery trucks that came out from Zanesville of Cambridge
were just regular smaller stake trucks, something like that.

WILLIAMS: What about the railroad?

SEN. GLENN: The railroad was the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Had a station in New
Concord, not a regular operating line now. When I was a kid, you knew exactly
when a train was going through every day, and you could hear the whistle coming
way down, when the train was coming. Where we were, where our home was up
on this embankment up above the old S Bridge, it looked out over the railroad,
which is a little lower down in the valley but just a few hundred yards away, and
the trains heading west, they’d always be fired up and really getting up steam to
go over what was called the Norwick hill, which is where the railroad came up
over a particularly steep area, and they’d sort of get a run for that if they had a
heavy train on. So they’d really be chugging when they came by our place. I
knew right when they were coming through. I fact, my room, when I was a kid,
when I’d have the window open in the wintertime and the old trains would go by
chugging away, sometimes some of the black soot would actually come in
through the screen. So we were that close.

The kids played down around there some. We weren’t supposed to, but
you get one of these handcars out that the workmen had left or something when
we were a little bit older, and they’d get the cops out after you if they caught you
doing that one. The railroad had regular stops.

Let me add one other thing I do remember. When I was a kid down there,
Mr. Finley was the station manager and the telegrapher down there, and when
we’d be down there when a train was coming sometimes, if we were down around
the station, sometimes the trains would stop, if it was a freight or a passenger
train, some of them would stop there in New Concord, and others would just be
going through. When it was one that would be going through, he would have
received instructions for the train, and he’d write them out on a piece of paper,
and they were to be given to the engineer. At that time you had a big long
bamboo thing with a big long loop on the end of it, and the loop was maybe two
or two and a half feet across. You stood there by where the train was going to
come thundering by about three feet away, and you held this up, and as the
engineer came by, he’d have his arm down out of the cab, and he would catch that bamboo loop and pull it up in there as he went by, and he would take the note off of it and throw the bamboo thing back out down on the track as he went by about fifty or sixty miles an hour.

Well, as a special favor to kids, if he liked you, Mr. Finley would let you hold that bamboo thing up as the train came by, and that was quite a deal, because here came the train toward you at about sixty miles an hour, and you’d hold that bamboo thing up, and the engineer would hook it, and then after the train had gone by, why, we’d run on down and bring the bamboo thing back for Mr. Finley. I still remember doing that.

WILLIAMS: Was this the main B&O line?

SEN. GLENN: The main B&O line went north. I think this was a spur line. This went from, I think, Wheeling, Saint Clairsville, Barnesville—Cambridge was a major stop—New Concord, Zanesville, and then on up to Newark and then on into Columbus. That’s the line that my dad started working on when he came back from World War I. He didn’t like staying at the other end of the line up at Newark or Columbus all night. It’s just been a few years ago that the railroad finally stopped operating there. There’s so much competition now, of course—well, most passenger traffic doesn’t go by train anymore, of course, and the supply of equipment and material and groceries and everything else for a town like New Concord comes mainly by truck now, of course.

But that’s where I left—I actually left from that little station there when I went off to flight training in World War II. I finally had my orders and was going
to go. I had orders and went through on the—got on the train one evening, rode all night to Chicago and on to Iowa, and that was my biggest trip away from home at that time, going to Iowa.

WILLIAMS: How many trains would go through in an average day?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I don’t know. I suppose half a dozen, I suppose. I don’t remember now.

WILLIAMS: And a couple would be passenger trains?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, yes, had passenger traffic.

WILLIAMS: When you sat on the front porch of the home, were you looking south?

SEN. GLENN: Yes. It looked south, across old Route 40, and down to the right. If you’re looking south from where our front porch used to be, the S Bridge was down to the right, and then the Route 40 went across left to right, right across, but you’re looking south across the railroad and up a little valley.

WILLIAMS: And the town was to the east?

SEN. GLENN: The town was to the east, yes. In fact, the city corporation, or the unincorporated side, it was then, was maybe a hundred yards to the left of our house toward town. We were just outside the corporation limit or the town limit.

WILLIAMS: Getting back to your bicycle ride into town, as you came into town, you’d see your pals, maybe, or adults and whatnot, and you’d be saying, “Hi,” and chatting and such?

SEN. GLENN: Yes, sometimes, except most of the kids my age, and the ones that I ran around with, didn’t live out in our area. Most of them were either downtown or up on the hill by the college or over in the eastern part of the town, which was more residential than out where we lived. But the town was so small, it didn’t make
any difference, really. You ran over to somebody’s house, you didn’t think anything about it.

WILLIAMS: Talk about your pals when you were ten years old and such.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, ten, twelve. Well, we had this little Rangers Club, and all the kids in that thing were good friends. Oh, we’d have our little bickering and back and forth and fights like everybody else. Lloyd White was a good close friend of mine. Dane Hanshee [phonetic] lived out in our end of town. I used to see him all the time. George Ray was another kid. We were very close. Rex Hune [phonetic], whose father was the village blacksmith, we still had a village blacksmith back in those days with the big forge. That was another big deal. He was down by the station, and the farmers would bring horses in and actually have them shoed there. Rex Hune was a good friend.

Fred Booth was another one who lived out along the Bloomfield Road. His father carried the mail. He was a rural mail carrier. Lloyd White, though, his dad ran the hatchery in town, and they had some extra rooms up over the hatchery. That’s where we had our little club room for the Rangers Club. But these were all kids we ran around with, and I’m sure I’m leaving a lot of them out. I am leaving a lot of them out.

WILLIAMS: Did a town like this have what we’d call today cliques, little groups that hung together?

SEN. GLENN: You mean among the kids?

WILLIAMS: Yes.
SEN. GLENN: Well, you had some friends who were better friends than others. It was just that kind of thing. But there weren’t any where we were adversaries with other groups or anything like that. Everybody got along pretty well.

WILLIAMS: You and Lloyd White did a lot of things together.

SEN. GLENN: Yes. Lloyd was—oh, we were active in starting this Ranger thing. We worked together on that. Then we decided we ought to have a little newspaper, so we started our little newspaper. To raise money every year, we’d have a play and put it on up at the little auditorium in what the college library is now, or what used to be then the college library. There was an auditorium there, and they’d let us use it and put on a play, and we’d sell tickets for a quarter or something, make a little money for our group, and we’d put on a play. So we did a lot of things like that. We were very active.

The athletics of the Rangers, we had our football and our basketball group, and we were quite an active group. We liked to camp. One summer we had formed a little camp out by George Ray’s, down by Crooked Creek, up on a little bluff above Crooked Creek. We set up a little camp where we had our pup tents and put up a flag pole, and we slept out there all one summer. We took great pride in that we had slept on the ground for, I think, I don’t know, seventy straight days or something like that. I forget what it was. We were camping out. We’d be in doing everything at home, of course, and around town during the day, but we slept out there. It was a great little camp. We carried sawdust out from the local lumber place and fixed the place up, and we had a little edging for our little
walks and had a flagpole, and we had “Taps” every night and “Reveille” every morning, and we had quite a thing going.

That all broke up, finally, when Annie, then, inveigled us into loaning it one night to the Girl Scouts. They had a little Girl Scout troop. So, okay, we’re going to all leave one night, and the Girl Scouts were going to use it for one night. That particular night came just a gully-washing thunderstorm and just tore the camp up, knocked the tents down and the sawdust all washed off. The parents, in the middle of this thunderstorm, were out getting their little girls out from this camp. [Laughter] It just wrecked the camp. So, that sort of ended our camping that summer. We liked to camp out a lot, the Rangers. I still kid Annie about the time we loaned them that, every once in a while.

Another thing we did, too, out at the back end of the little farm that Lloyd’s dad had, there was a place out there we decided once we were going to build a cabin, and so we did. There were enough trees out there, and his dad didn’t mind. We cut enough trees, and we built a little log cabin. It was a little tiny one compared to anything else, but it was big enough for the kids. But we built it and my dad loaned us tools and things like that. So we took them out, and, boy, we worked a good part of one summer making this little log cabin. We had a little fire thing in it. We had the whole works. We had a bunk room in the back. Then we stayed out there, and we’d camp out in that thing for a while. So that was a lot of fun. We built that. I still have an affinity for log cabins today coming out of that, I guess. I love log cabins.

WILLIAMS: About how old were you when the Rangers got started?
SEN. GLENN: I suppose nine or ten. I don’t know. I don’t remember now.

WILLIAMS: What was the impetus?

SEN. GLENN: Well, we didn’t have a Boy Scout troop there, and nobody had formed one, and I think maybe we talked about having that, and nobody seemed to want to get fired up on it, so we just decided we’d do our own. And we did. It was a good little club. We had regular weekly meetings. I don’t remember what our—i think our dues were maybe a nickel a month or something. I don’t know what they were then, but it wasn’t much.

WILLIAMS: And you modeled it on what you knew about the Boy Scouts?

SEN. GLENN: Yes. In our little meeting room there, we had the—Lloyd’s dad had this hatchery there, and we always had a bunch of egg crates sitting around, these old wooden egg crates. We used those for benches, set them up in rows, and we had a great place.

WILLIAMS: I seem to recall that you had an advisor.

SEN. GLENN: Yes, we did, Reese Keck [phonetic]. Reese Keck was an unusual man. He was the fifth grade teacher in the grade school, elementary school, and he’d graduated from Muskingum. He’d been there several years. Reese, then, became our advisor. We asked him to because he was such a good guy. He’s the one, then, who acted as our advisor. Oh, whenever we had these—we were going to put on plays and things like that, why, he’d be the one that advised us on all of these things. He was great. He really took a lot of interest in the kids, and I think in me in particular. I don’t mean that in a bragging way, but he did. He and I had a very close relationship for a student and teacher. He was a fifth grade teacher.
Later on, when I was in my teen years and I was in high school, one summer he and his sister—he had bought a car from my dad, a little coupe, and he and his sister were going to take a trip one summer. They were going to drive up through northern Ohio and up along the St. Lawrence River and then up toward Montreal and up in that area, then down through New England and back to New Concord. It would be quite a trip. He invited me to go along with him, with he and his sister on this, just because he’d always been interested in me, and he and I had had a pretty close relationship. My dad and mother said okay, so I went with him, and we did.

I still remember that trip very, very well to this day, because what he liked to do—and I wish more parents would do this with their kids today—he liked to go to these industrial places and see if he couldn’t go through the plant and look at it and learn something from it, and we did that. The first time I ever saw steel being made was when he stopped at—I think maybe it was in Youngstown, and you could go through some sort of little tour through this plant, and we did that. I still remember that to this day. By that time I must have been fifteen or sixteen, because I was driving then. I had my driver’s license, I know, because I drove part of the time on that trip.

I remember we went by Niagara Falls. While there were not visits through these big generating plants, but he talked to somebody, and I don’t know how on earth he got permission to do this, but he got permission for he and his sister and I to go into one of the biggest generating plants up there at Niagara Falls. It was downriver, you know, where the water comes way down. I remember that very,
very vividly, because we went in, they let us down, and the noise down in there and all that. We went around Niagara Falls and then on up the river.

Anyway, he liked to stop at places like that, and it was just extremely educational to me. I’d never been around anything like that. But he was just a great fellow. He later transferred to Dennison, Ohio. His wife died very tragically in childbirth, and he then taught school up in Granville, Ohio, where Dennison University is, for a while, and then later went out to Kettering and Oakwood, out at Dayton, and he spent most of the rest of his time out there teaching junior high out in that area. I used to see him every once in a while and keep in touch, and later on took him to the Aviation Hall of Fame dinner one year out there in Dayton. He got a big kick out of that.

[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

WILLIAMS: You were talking about your trip to Canada and New England with your teacher.

SEN. GLENN: Yes, with Reese Keck.

WILLIAMS: Talk a little bit more about that, that trip.

SEN. GLENN: Well, another thing I remember out of that trip very well, this was in, I think, maybe early June, just after school was out, and I wanted to go swimming in the St. Lawrence River, and he thought it was too cold because the ice hadn’t melted very long. I was determined I was going to go swimming in the St. Lawrence River, and I did. I was in and out for dip, and I still remember that, because it was just a jump into ice water is what it was. But then he kidded me about that later.
Then I remember later, we came down through New England, and he wanted to go up and climb Mt. Washington, and we went up through the eastern—I forget the name of the big area on the east side of the mountains, famous for some of the ski stuff that’s been done up there, but the snow was off by the time we came up through there, and we hiked up there. That was quite a hike. And then we walked back down the road. But we climbed Mt. Washington. It took a whole day getting up on top. It was quite impressive on top.

Down through New England, to New York City, and then back from there. So, it was a great trip.

WILLIAMS: Had you taken a trip like that before with your family?

SEN. GLENN: Not like that, no. My dad, in 1933, I guess it was, when they had the Chicago World’s Fair, had gotten three or four other men. They decided they’d take a little break, and they took me along with them, and we went to the Chicago World’s Fair, and that’s the farthest I’d ever been away from home. The family had been to Washington once or twice when I was much smaller, when I was like seven years old or something like that, seven or eight, and I can remember some of that. But the trip with Reese Keck was really the biggest trip we took. Reese took a lot of interest in kids, and he was a real good friend, and I always appreciated all the efforts that he made.

WILLIAMS: You say you were about fifteen when you took that.

SEN. GLENN: I think so, because I had my driver’s license, and I’m not sure whether you could get them at fifteen or sixteen then. Maybe I was sixteen. Because I drove part of the time. Each day we’d share the driving responsibilities, and I drove some.
WILLIAMS: And it was the three of you?

SEN. GLENN: Yes.

WILLIAMS: So you were able to relate easily with adult company at that point.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, yes. Sure. He was good. If he’d be in his office sometimes, and I’d see him, why, I’d stop in when I was a kid, when I was in his class or something. I remember him giving me a battery of tests once. He wanted to know if I wanted to take these tests, and I don’t know exactly what they were except there were some reading tests and vocabulary tests and things like that. I remember him giving me those, and I passed above my grade level, and he thought that was pretty neat.

And then, later on, I had been given an opportunity to—there were two kids in our class, they said if we wanted to skip a grade we could do it. Carol Evilsizer was her name. We could skip, I think it was the fourth grade or something like that. She decided to do it, and she did. She went ahead and skipped a grade, and she was a great student. I decided not to. I just wanted to stick with the kids in the class, so I didn’t do that. And then he gave me these tests, and I remember that they came out pretty good, I guess. He always took a lot of personal interest—it wasn’t just me, but a lot of the kids, but I think he and I really did have a special relationship.

WILLIAMS: And he was your teacher in grade school?

SEN. GLENN: Fifth grade, yes.

Just while I think of it here, there were a couple of other teachers, too, that were particularly influential. One was when I was in high school, a man named
Harford Steele. Just died a few years ago. He was the one who got me really interested in government and politics. He was principal of the high school there, but he taught government and civics. The course was called civics, and it was the study of politics and government. He just made it come alive. He was a wonderful teacher, and he’s the one that really sort of, in addition to all the normal patriotic feeling you had, or responsibility to government and all coming out of an environment like New Concord, anyway, he added to that and sort of made history and government and politics into something really special, and it was largely as a result of him that I kept an interest. Even though I was away in the Marine Corps for twenty-three years and World War II and Korea and all the other things, I always kept an interest in it, never knowing that I would some day be able to run for political office myself. But I did a lot of reading on issues and politics and government all during those years in the Marine Corps, and, lo and behold, the way things worked out, here I am, but I credit a lot of that interest to Harford Steele.

He used to remind me that when I was in his class in high school, I did a special term paper once on the U. S. Senate for him. I don’t know whether I still have that somewhere in all the files or not. I may have. So he was another teacher that had a particularly great influence on my young life as I was growing up in New Concord.

Another one, who taught physics in high school, was a man who’s still back there now, still living there, Ellis Duitch. He was good. He was our
assistant basketball coach. In fact, I saw him last week back there when Annie
and I were at the Muskingum Board of Trustees meeting.

WILLIAMS: You say he was your physics teacher?

SEN. GLENN: Physics teacher in high school.

WILLIAMS: A couple of questions. In New Concord, as you were growing up, what was your
sense and your peers’ sense of the outer world? How big was your world, and
what about places beyond it?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I suppose at that time, compared to now, of course, it was small horizons.

People were mainly interested in a vocation, what they were going to do, what
they were going to work at during their life, and getting trained for it. Back then,
probably, a smaller percentage of kids went on to college, even though the college
was right there in New Concord.

You read about things that were off someplace else, and you had current
events studies in school, and the current events paper that used to be put out for
each class. So you studied things nationally, but you were not nearly as tied into
things nationally, of course, as people are now and didn’t pay much attention to
them. It was local, and it was what was going on within the state. You knew
there were bigger things that influenced you. Like World War II was coming
along, people were much more aware of that kind of thing. We weren’t isolated,
certainly not, but there wasn’t the same kind of instant information flow that there
is today.

You got the daily paper. The paper that I delivered in New Concord was
the *Columbus Citizen*, it was called. And then later on it combined with another
paper and became the *Columbus Citizen Journal*, and then they went out of business back some years ago, but when I was delivering the paper, it was the *Columbus Citizen*. So we got that paper every day, and in our home we got the Cambridge paper, the *Cambridge Jeffersonian* every day, which is still published there in Cambridge.

So you had that, and I think we listened to the radio news. I think almost every evening we tuned in to, I don’t know what it was, 6:30 or 7:00, I guess it was and you got the radio network news, the NBC News or CBS News back at that time, and that gave you the national news right up to date. I think they were fifteen-minute broadcasts back in those days. It wasn’t ‘til much later on they went to the half-hour format. That was sort of your window to the outside world.

Of course, we’d go to Columbus several times a year and be up around the state Capitol, things like that.

**WILLIAMS:** What would prompt a trip to Columbus, and would that be a day trip?

**SEN. GLENN:** Oh, a day trip, shopping, something like that, or the State Fair. My dad loved all the fairs. He liked to hit every county fair within easy driving distance almost every year, and some of the bigger county fairs were located within easy driving distance of New Concord. More years than not we would go to the State Fair. Sometimes you’d go up the night before, because a trip to Columbus back then was about an hour and forty-five minutes to two hours by the time you got into downtown Columbus, where it’s just about an hour now. We’d go up and maybe stay up there someplace and then go to the State Fair all the next day and then drive home the next night. He loved the fair. He’d grown up on a farm, and so he
loved all the stock exhibits, the animal exhibits, and liked to go around and see those. I’ve been drug through more hog barns and chicken barns than you can imagine. [Laughter] I sort of get a kick out of going to the State Fair today to see what’s going on in that regard.

Just as an aside, though, the thing about my dad coming off of the farm like that, my grandfather, who had a little farm—I think it was, I don’t know, forty or eighty acres, something like that—forty-some, I think, out southeast of New Concord near Claysville, Ohio. East Union was the name of the little spot. East Union Church is right by where they lived, little Presbyterian church, and that’s where my dad grew up, but my grandfather, who I never knew, I can just remember when he died, and they had the body in the casket at the end of our living room, and I can remember that as a little kid. I don’t know how old I was, but I wasn’t very old. I can still remember what that looked like. That impressed me.

Anyway, he had about a fourth-grade education. Then my dad went to a little rural school out there where it was mainly reading, writing, and ‘rithmetic, and the building is still there. It’s been converted into a little home now, but the building is still here. My dad just had a sixth-grade education, and that was about the norm for kids back in those days, and then they went to work on the farm or went into town or did something, and it’s hard to believe that that was what it was.

Then my mother had grown up down at Lore City, Ohio. Her dad had been a teacher, and they put great stock in education. To get Mother to high
school, they lived on the B&O Railroad down there, same railroad we were talking about. When it came time to go to high school, she got on the railroad every day and rode into Cambridge, which was about ten miles, I guess, and went to school and rode back in the evening. That’s the way she went to high school. Then she went to Muskingum Academy, it was at that time, and what you needed was two years of college to get a teaching certificate, a teaching degree. So, Mother then got a teaching degree and went to work in Cambridge, teaching in the public schools in Cambridge, with her two-year certificate, and that’s where she and my dad got together and got to know each other.

So, the whole education level of what’s expected or what’s required for people to get along sure has changed since those days. But I always think of what the opportunities are now compared to what was the norm of about four years for my grandfather and about six years for my dad. My dad had a very successful business, was one of the most respected businessmen in New Concord, and did it all on a sixth-grade education. I think that’s great.

WILLIAMS: Talk about the trip to Chicago in ’33. I’m assuming that was you first trip to a big city.

SEN. GLENN: Well, Columbus is a big city, and being in Chicago wasn’t much difference as far as being in a city from just being in Columbus, but we went to the World’s Fair. I still remember it very well. They had some of these visions of the future that GM, General Motors, had put up in their big exhibit, and we went to all the different exhibits. I remember my dad wanted to go out to the stockyards, out to the slaughterhouse area with Armour, I guess, big meat packers.
I still remember that, because we were out there and watched how they slaughtered hogs and how they slaughtered cattle and all. I still remember that very well. I remember they drove the cattle up, and you drove the steer or cow up into this little chute where just it was tight in on each side, and there was guy who stood up on top of that with his feet spread out, and he had, I suppose, a ten- or twelve-pound sledge with a point on the end of it. He stood up above there and—wham!—hit the cow right between the eyes and killed it. It would fall down in this place where it was, and then the side of the chute came out and the body rolled out, and they hooked the thing on its hoof and up it went, and they started the butchering process, and down the line it went. I still remember that, because it was the first time I’d ever seen anything like that. And sort of the same thing with the hogs, too, and that impressed me, because I didn’t know how they did all that stuff. This great big strong guy was up there with his sledgehammer, and he just hit them right between the eyes with it. That was impressive to a kid, I’ll tell you. [Laughter] It would be impressive to me today, too.

WILLIAMS: And then you mentioned a trip to Washington.

SEN. GLENN: That was much earlier. That was when I was, I don’t know, six, seven, or eight years old, something like that. Mother’s sister, Florence Thompson, they lived in Cambridge, and she was almost like a second mother to me, her son was Robert. His uncle, his father’s brother, lived in Washington here and was a researcher at the Library of Congress, as I recall, and they lived out on East Capitol Street, and we came to Washington on vacation with them once or maybe twice and stayed with them and then saw all the sights in Washington. We still have some pictures
of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the amphitheater up there by the tomb and some pictures like that around the Capitol that we still have someplace around here. So I remember those trips to Washington.

I remember the old route, too. The old Route 40, now, that it was a long, long, long full-day trip to get to Washington if you didn’t have to stop someplace. You came through all the little towns. [Tape recorder turned off.]

WILLIAMS: You were talking about the drive to D. C.

SEN. GLENN: It was on the old two-lane road, like the road I described going by New Concord. It was typical all the way to Washington like that. And that was a long trip when you went to Washington. That wasn’t just something you ran back and forth on every day, so it was a major trip. But I remember being very impressed with all the government buildings and the Washington Monument and all that sort of thing.

WILLIAMS: What were your first impressions of seeing New York City?

SEN. GLENN: Well, it was quite impressive. Anybody going into New York for the first time, I think, had to be impressed with New York City. I was there with Reese Keck. That was very impressive. Then later, when we graduated from high school, four of us decided we wanted to take a little trip, and so my dad let us use the family car, and we almost recreated that trip I had been on with Reese Keck, because we went up along the St. Lawrence and down through New England, and that’s when the New York World’s Fair was on then, in—what was that? That would be in ’39, because it was the year I graduated from high school. And that was a minimal-cost trip, I’ll tell you. We didn’t have any money, and we slept out. We
took some blankets. We camped out every night. We were never under a roof, and we’d just pull up and sleep in a corner of a field or off on the edge of a park someplace, and we stopped at little grocery stores and got bread and bologna and mustard and milk, and we had a great time, and came down, went to the World’s Fair in New York. It was sort of a futuristic thing, too, with the big globe that’s still out there. Then drove back to New Concord, and, I don’t know, we were gone two weeks, I guess, or something like that, but that was another good trip.

WILLIAMS: Who was on that trip?

SEN. GLENN: Lloyd White, Dane Hanshee, I think, and my cousin Robert Thompson. I think the four of us went on that one.

WILLIAMS: Let’s go back and talk a little bit about your family again. You say you were a close-knit family. How did the dynamics work? Who was leader?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I guess my dad was the leader, but they were partners, really. I don’t know that there were any major decisions that were made in the family they didn’t make together. My dad was the businessman. He was the one that knew what was going on there, but Mother worked so closely in the business and kept books and did all the ordering and everything else. They worked together. It was a hand-in-glove-type thing.

The family relationship, I think they had lost a child that had been before me—I don’t know if it was stillborn or what, anyway, the baby didn’t survive, and Mother had had a rough time. Well, then they were trying to have another child, and they could not for a while. And then I came along. And then, later on, when I was growing up, they were trying to have another, and they lost another
child in childbirth. Then they decided to adopt, and they did, and so then they adopted, and my sister Jean was adopted. I guess she’s about five years younger than I am, and she hasn’t been in good health. She’s in a nursing home down in Tennessee now, Madison, Tennessee, just north of Nashville. So she’s taken good care of down there, and we do that for the family.

WILLIAMS: So you were about five when she was brought into the family?

SEN. GLENN: I think that was about it, four and a half or five, something. I can’t quite—I can remember that, but don’t really know whether I’m remembering this completely as I’m just thinking off some of the pictures, but I think I can remember when she came, and I can remember sort of playing with her. I guess I’d be about five. But the family relationship was very close.

My dad and mother always took a lot of interest in my education, always were very supportive, and whatever I wanted to do to branch out or look into new things, they were always extremely supportive of things like that.

WILLIAMS: What were your parents’ personalities like? How would you describe them?

SEN. GLENN. Dad tended to be overweight, a very husky guy, very husky build. He wasn’t obese, but he was just very husky and muscular. Mother was—when I was a little kid I remember my mother was rather slender. She put on some weight later on and was a little more matronly later on. But they were always—my dad was sort of a joker. He always had a joke or a practical joke on someone, and he was quite given to that, and Mother used to be chiding him about that a lot of the time.

They were both very religious people, and that’s something I should talk about a little bit, I guess, because my dad—there were two varieties of
Presbyterian churches in our town at that time. One was the United Presbyterian Church, and the other was the Presbyterian Church. The United Presbyterian was a smaller denomination at that time, and there was some rivalry back and forth, good-natured rivalry. Annie and her family were members of the United Presbyterian Church, which is what the college is. My parents were members of just the straight Presbyterian Church, which is now the Westminster Church. In town at that time, which is not there now, they even had a Reformed Presbyterian Church. Then we had a Methodist Church in a little town like that, so we had churches all over the place. We used to kid back and forth about the UPs versus the Ps over there. Ours was the smaller church, so we always felt embattled. But there was a lot of joking back and forth. Later on, then, the Presbyterian churches all got together and formed one church and took the name the United Presbyterian Church. So that’s what it is now. But we still have the two different churches, still, back there, and we still support them.

But my dad and mother—my dad was an elder in the church, which in the Presbyterian Church, was part of the church hierarchy and you’re ordained, supposedly. Once you become an elder in the church, why, you’re an elder for life. He was very proud of that and took that seriously, and as far as doing church work and helping people, things like that. He was very, very active in that and used to go to some of the church meetings.

My mother, then, became the first woman elder in our little church, and that created a lot of raised eyebrows back in those days. For a woman to be an elder in the Presbyterian Church, everybody wasn’t sure that’s the way it ought to
go. But she was, and she was just an example of what you’d want somebody to
do or be in that position. So, that was sort of the background.

When I was growing up, we had a pastor there named Houk, and his son
was one of my close friends, Ed Houk, still living now, but he was a minister, and
he was a fire-and-brimstone type. I guess today he’d probably be called a
Fundamentalist, but they didn’t put that terminology on it. He was just a straight
Presbyterian preacher back in those days. But they had a very active Sunday
school, and I was active in it, and you were expected to lead certain programs and
study up on your—so you could lead the program for the other kids, and that was
passed around, of course, and we did all that and had some special vesper services
and things like that. But it was a community that was centered a lot around the
churches and religious life, and it was a good thing to grow up in that kind of
environment. I think it gives you a sense of ethics and values that most people
don’t get unless they are involved with some sort of religious activity like that.

WILLIAMS: What were the differences between the United Presbyterian and the Presbyterian
Church?

SEN. GLENN: I don’t think between the United Presbyterian and Presbyterian there wasn’t a
nickel’s worth of difference, actually. We used to kid back and forth, when you
said the Lord’s Prayer, as to whether you used “debtors” or “Forgive us our
trespasses.” Those were the biggest differences. [Laughter] The RPs, though,
the Reformed Presbyterians, which had a church down on Main Street, they were
a little different. They didn’t use any artificial music or anything. They had a
pitch pipe, and everybody sang a cappella and things like that. And they were a
little different. They were very fundamentalist. By today’s standards, they would be a very, very Fundamentalist group.

There would be occasional joint services back and forth or something of other. Usually between the UPs and the Presbyterians over at our church, that was fairly common. The Reformed Presbyterian, though, they didn’t join in as much as everybody else. But there wasn’t any feeling of looking down on anybody like that. There was a Methodist Church, and there were a lot of combined services at the college, things like that.

WILLIAMS: So their differences wouldn’t affect how people interrelated outside of religious services?

SEN. GLENN: No, not at all. Now, Annie’s dad, he was the town dentist, and they were members over there, and my dad, of course, had the plumbing and heating store, and we were over at our place, but there wasn’t anything where people looked down on each other because they were in a different church or anything like that.

WILLIAMS: And Presbyterians were throughout that region of Ohio?

SEN. GLENN: Well, Presbyterians have been pretty strong all across the whole country. That’s one of the largest of our Protestant denominations, of course. It was strong through there. Methodists are strong through there. There were not as many Baptists; some Baptists. The farther south you get, I think, the more you get into the Baptist territory. But Lutheran. Weren’t many Catholics around. At that time at Muskingum, there were not many people came to Muskingum who were not Protestant, of Protestant background, I guess.
Today at Muskingum you find many, many Jewish students and Catholics. Back when I was in school, and Annie and I went to school there, out of our thousand or so students, not very many would have even been Catholic back in those days. They just went to different schools, that’s all. It wasn’t anything that they weren’t welcome, but they just went different places. Now, of course, we have all [unclear]. So, just the levels of tolerance of people and where they go and what institutions they fit into have broadened out so tremendously just in my own lifetime back here. This is the way it should be, you know.

WILLIAMS: What about tolerance within the Christian framework of these Protestant churches? Does that become an acquired skill?

SEN. GLENN: You mean with each other, or what?

WILLIAMS: No, more for outsiders. You paint this as kind of a cohesive group, everyone in town was pretty much a member of the Protestant Church.

SEN. GLENN: Well, they were, and back in those days, you know, I don’t think it was so much that the town—the town didn’t operate to keep them out. It was just that people chose not to come into that environment; chose it themselves. That’s broadened out terrifically since back in those days. The black students then were a little bit different than the black students who would go there now, in that the black students back then came straight from Africa, and we had a few. There was a man there, a professor of education at Muskingum, named Professor Work. He’d been asked by Haile Salassie, I think it was, to come over and set up the school system in Ethiopia, and he did. He went over and spent some time and literally was the first person who set up a school system in Ethiopia, and out of that
relationship, then, Haile Salassie’s sons came to Muskingum to school. When they came, I don’t know that there were any other minority students in the school. I don’t think there were at that time. I remember, as a kid, seeing them around town. They were accepted. There wasn’t any problem, but others who were of what we now call minority status just chose not to come into that environment. They felt more comfortable going somewhere else. I think they’d have been welcomed, but it just was that kind of place. So it wasn’t something where they were kept out; it was something where they just chose not to come in.

WILLIAMS: How much time did your religious life demand on you during the week?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, not a whole lot during the week, but you were expected—not expected, but most people in town went to church on Sunday morning. There were a few that just never went to church. Those people who never went to church might have been sort of looked at a bit askance by some people, but most people went to church on Sunday morning, and there always was a Sunday evening service. You got far, far, far less attendance on Sunday evening, but the more devout member…

[Begin Tape 2, Side B]

SEN. GLENN: And then once a year most of the churches had sort of a special emphasis week or two weeks where there’d be sort of an evangelistic preacher or somebody for a series of special every-night services, brought in for a week or something like that, and that would be kicked off on a Sunday, some sort of a church rally, and
then there’d be services every night for a week, special, and they’d bring in somebody for that, and those were always weeks of very special emphasis.

WILLIAMS: Anything else you want to say about the religious aspect?

SEN. GLENN: No. That’s about it. It was a major part of the community life.

WILLIAMS: What about radio? You mentioned listening to the news. What other uses did you make of radio growing up?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, we listened to radio a lot. My dad used to like to listen to music on the radio. He’d grown up out on the farm, and he liked country music in particular, and I remember there used to be a program out of Wheeling, West Virginia. I think it’s still on, as a matter of fact, out of WWVA called the—I think it was “The Jamboree,” and it was on every Saturday night, and my dad used to like to listen to that sometimes. It was on every Saturday night.

Although a lot of times on Saturday we’d go maybe to Cambridge or Zanesville and do some shopping or things like that. People came in off the farms, the local communities in Zanesville and Cambridge, and did their shopping on Saturday. A big shopping day then, pretty big, and, of course, back in those days, none of the stores were open on Sunday. Sunday business was just zero except for gas stations. That was about it. It wasn’t like it is today where all the shopping malls are open on weekends and on Sundays.

WILLIAMS: What was Zanesville like and what was Cambridge like? Was there a difference between them? Characterize them.

SEN. GLENN: Not a whole lot. Both had larger downtowns, of course, than New Concord. Cambridge was about eighteen or twenty or twenty-two thousand population.
Zanesville, I think, was around thirty-five, something like that, a little bigger town, and they had several different men’s stores for clothing, and shoe stores and things like that that New Concord didn’t have. They had some bigger markets and places where you could get different things than you could get in New Concord. So the folks liked to go over there every once in a while and do some shopping.

Saturday night was sort of go-to-town night for all the farmers and everybody else. The farmers would come in and buy their supplies for the coming week, and a lot of the shopping—I think my dad and mother did a lot of shopping on Saturday for the coming week, too, because Mother worked at the store all day, and my dad would be out working, and there wasn’t going to be a lot of time to stop by the grocery. So they’d sort of stock up on things on Saturday, too.

WILLIAMS: And they wouldn’t open on Saturdays?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, yes. My dad would be open on Saturday. Yes, normal business hours back then were—well, I think it was about eight to five. He’d always have the store open by 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning, and maybe he’d get things going there, and then Mother would come in as soon as I went to school. By that time he’d have the truck loaded, going out on whatever job they were going out on. And you’d close up at noon for an hour, which most business did back then. A high percentage of stores just closed for an hour at noon. From twelve to one, they were closed. A lot of the business people closed on Wednesday afternoon for half a day back then. A lot of the businesses, like Annie’s dad, I think, who was a
dentist, I think he had office hours until noon on Saturday, and had Wednesday afternoon off.

My dad ran a little differently. I don’t think he usually took Wednesday afternoon off. The store would be open, though, keep our plumbing place open, well, all day on Saturday usually, up until at least five of six o’clock, something like that, then maybe he’d come home and we’d go to Cambridge or Zanesville or whatever.

Or if it was warm weather, my dad and Annie’s folks, they loved to cook out, and quite often, even during the week, one would call the other one up, say, “Hey, let’s go out and cook out at Bear Camp,” which is west of town where they had a little bear in a cage and some stuff, and some tables, and they’d go out, and there was a fireplace, and you could throw the wood on there and cook. They’d have a great big old black skillet, and you’d cook potatoes and eggs and stuff out there and eat until it got dark, and drive home, and that was a quite normal way of doing things.

On weekends, what we did as kids a lot of times on weekends is we’d make ice cream in the big old freezer, you know, gallon freezer and twist it. We still do that. Well, we haven’t done it in recent years here, but we used to do that with our kids when they were growing up, too. We had a couple of freezers, and the kids that were growing up with our kids, particularly down in Houston, when we were down there and lived by the Space Center, on weekends a lot of times we’d make ice cream in a couple of big gallon freezers, and all the kids would come over and have a big time. That comes from our own childhood where we
did that. We did a fair percentage of the weekends back when we were—oh, from about junior high on until we got out of high school, I guess.

WILLIAMS: On these outings and whatnot, would there be other members of the family? Did you have a lot of relatives living in—

SEN. GLENN: Not a whole lot. Once in a while the Thompsons from Cambridge, my mother’s sister, and Robert Thompson and his dad would come over, or the Castors, and Annie’s dad and mother and my folks. They were usually the guests, but sometimes invite somebody else. The Cox family in New Concord, they’d be out once in a while.

As far as social things around New Concord, there was a little group that my parents and Annie’s mother and dad, there was a little group of people who sort of were all good friends, and they’d get together once a month, and they called it Twice Five, because there were five couples. They had the Twice Five Club, and once a month they’d get together at a different home each time. Somebody brought a big thing and they all shared dinner, and they had dinner together at somebody’s home once a month, and the kids all came and everything, and that was one of the main things our folks did. There were five couples involved with that, and the kids were always there, and we always played, and it was a lot of fun, so it was that kind of social activity. Far less emphasis on movies and things back then than there are now, and, of course, no VCR or TV back when we were growing up.

There was a man there in town who ran the local appliance store in town, named Waller, Roy Waller, and he decided to form a theater, and so he did, and
down in one place in the Town Hall he had the Roy Theater, and they used to
show movies. So they had movies there in New Concord, and we’d go to that
quite often. Or, on Saturday, we’d go to Cambridge or Zanesville and maybe go
to the matinee. You could get in for a dime or fifteen cents, whatever it was.

WILLIAMS: In those days, too, it was two features, right?

SEN. GLENN: Sometimes you had double feature, but you always had the serial that took you
on to next week, and they usually had some cowboy show on Saturday afternoon
so we’d go and see those.

WILLIAMS: So movies were part of your—

SEN. GLENN: Oh, yes. Sure. We didn’t go every week or anything like that. It wasn’t a
regular thing. But we’d quite often go on Saturday afternoon, particularly in the
wintertime when the weather was bad outside. Summertime, I don’t recall that
we went to the movies hardly ever in the summertime. Maybe we went to the
Roy Theater there in New Concord. It was a tiny little place, but you had all the
same films that everybody else had.

WILLIAMS: What about sickness in an earlier time?

SEN. GLENN: Well, you had a couple of doctors in town: Dr. Curtis and, later on, Dr. Bane.

When I was growing up, one of the doctors was Dr. Forsythe, and he was quite an
elderly doctor at the time, but he was our family doctor until he retired, and then
we went to Dr. Curtis more than any other one.

It was just regular standard medical treatment then. There wasn’t much
else to it. There were periods when school would be closed each year for an
epidemic of measles or, one time, for polio. That was before the polio vaccine.
Scarlet fever, I remember that closing the schools down a couple of times, and all the kids, you were restricted to being at home, and you weren’t supposed to get together with any other kids, you weren’t supposed to visit back and forth, and they pretty much enforced that.

During some of those times, I recall, is when I went into building model airplanes more than anything else, and these were the old ones that you built where you actually had a razor blade, you carved out the little piece of balsa wood and put together the form on the wing and put them together with glue. It was quite an operation, and you had a little plan, and you put the pieces down, you cut them all and put the spars on the wing, and you actually built the airplane. You covered it with tissue paper and shrunk it with water and all that. You made your own little airplane, and it operated with a rubber band then that drove the propeller. During some of those time periods when we were under some sort of medical quarantine because of problems, that’s when I built some of my best model airplanes. I remember that, and used to fly them, and they’d crash, and I’d put them back together again, and away they’d go.

But the medical stuff back then, you didn’t have some of the antibiotics you have now. You remember antibiotics really came into common use along about World War II or just before World War II. So when you had an epidemic going around, whether it was measles or scarlet fever or whooping cough or whatever, when it got bad enough, why, the health officials would just recommend the schools be closed, and they were, and we’d be out maybe a week
or two weeks sometimes, and that was the way you got it under control. You
didn’t have antibiotics to do it.

Occasionally there’d be some kids would come up with some sort of
problem. There weren’t many polio cases around there, but there were a few.
There was one kid I went to high school with, he’d had very, very bad polio, and
he was really left in bad shape, and he used to be a good friend of mine, and he
had trouble, but he stayed in school. He died many, many years ago now, after he
was out, but he had had polio, and he limped from it, and his arm was bad, and he
couldn’t walk right and couldn’t talk right from it, and he had a lot of problems.
He was a good friend.

WILLIAMS: Anything else that occurs to you about life in the town? You talk about the
airplanes. What other little hobbies did you indulge in?

SEN GLENN: Oh, model airplanes was one. I think the first time I ever went up in an airplane,
my dad, over in Cambridge one time, there was somebody at the local little
airfield there, little grass field, with one of these old open cockpit Waco airplanes.
I don’t believe my dad had ever been up in an airplane either. We were out there
watching this guy hop passengers, you know, take them up and around town, a
couple trips around town and back down again. I don’t know what it was, five
bucks a head or something like that. I remember my dad asking me if I wanted to
go up, and I said yeah, but I didn’t think he meant it. Well, he did mean it, and so
here we were both in the back end of this Waco with the open cockpit, with us
sitting side by side, strapped in the back of this thing. I still remember that flight,
because it was the first flight I was ever up in an airplane, and all the wind and up

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and looking down on Cambridge, Ohio, which is where I was born, and a couple trips around town and back out. That was something.

I was always interested in airplanes. [Charles] Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic in ’27. I remember that. I remember one time they had said—there was word out on the radio that Lindbergh would be flying right straight through, over that area to Columbus at about a certain time. There weren’t many airplanes went by back in those days, and so there was an airplane went by up high, and we always thought that was Lindbergh. I don’t know whether it was or not, but, anyway, we always claimed it was as kids. [Laughter]

It was funny, later on, then, during World War II, I knew Lindbergh a little bit, not real well. When we were flying the F4-Us, the Corsairs, later on in World War II, the Corsairs had a lot of trouble, and he was working with—not Chance Vought at that time, but Pratt and Whitney, I guess he was working with. They had worked most of the bugs out of the airplane, and then he was coming around to the different squadrons to demonstrate it, and he came out to our squadron when we were in training in El Centro before we went overseas in World War II, and I got to know him just a little bit there.

Later on, overseas, we were out in the islands flying combat missions, he came out and stayed there with us a couple days and flew a couple missions with us out there. So I got to know him a little bit. I never knew him well, but knew him a little bit later on.
Anyway, I was interested in airplanes all during when I was a kid and built the models, and then later on, when I was in college and had the opportunity to learn to fly, and that led on to other things.

WILLIAMS: So your first trip was this one you describe in Cambridge. Then when was the next time you were up in an airplane?

SEN. GLENN: The next time I was up in an airplane, when was that? I guess the next time I was up in an airplane was in 1940 or ’41 when I was in college and the government had started this old—it was called the Civilian Pilot Training Program, CPTP. The government would pay for you learning to fly and getting your license. They wanted to build up a cadre of pilots. I suppose somebody foresaw what might be coming along with World War II. I don’t know. But anyway, they had this program, and you could not only learn to fly and the government would pay for it, but—and this was too good to be true—you could get physics credit for it in college, because you were studying aerodynamics and heat transfer and thermodynamics and navigation and all these things. So you could get college credit for it and get you private pilot’s license, too, and that was too good to be true.

So I took that, and that’s when I learned to fly then. Muskingum-New Concord had no airfield right close, but there was a field where they gave this at New Philadelphia, Ohio, which is just south of Canton. We had a station wagon that the college provided, and three afternoons a week those of us taking the course would drive up to New Philly, and we’d go through our flight training up
there and drive back that evening. It was about an hour or an hour and a half trip up there and back. And out if that, then, I got my private pilot’s license.

Then when World War II broke out in December of ’41, why, it was natural for me to—I volunteered immediately, went into military flight training. So my next flight after that old open Waco, I guess, was when I made my first flight in New Philadelphia, which was—what would that be? Heavens, that would be ten years later, I guess, would be at New Philadelphia flying the 65-horsepower Taylorcraft, which was made in Alliance, Ohio. It was a lot like the old Piper Cub.

WILLIAMS: Was flight sort of—were you possessed by it, or was it just one of your many interests?

SEN. GLENN: Well, I had many interests, but I was really interested in flying. I loved that when I got in to it and got my license. I really took to that in good shape. I really loved it. The only problem then was it cost so much to buy time on an airplane, you couldn’t afford to do as much flying as you wanted. So I used to save my money, and every time I got enough money together, I’d go rent another hour and go flying. I think I had managed, by the time World War II started and I volunteered to go into military training, I think I had a total of maybe sixty hours of flight time, something like that, about forty of which came out of the government program, and the rest of it was what I had managed to do myself.

Then one time I took my dad up in a little plane, too. That was fun. I took him over to Zanesville when I was going to go up, and took him on a little flight, and he got a kick out of that.
WILLIAMS: He sat behind you or were you side by side?

SEN. GLENN: It was side by side.

WILLIAMS: When you were doing the training in New Philadelphia, did you go up with someone?

SEN. GLENN: Well, you did all instructional flights with somebody flying with you until you came to your solo flight. Then, of course, you flew solo. Then after that, your flights would be split. You’d do some of them where you were still working with the instructor along with you and others where you flew solo. By the time I actually had my private pilot’s license, I don’t know, I suppose I had ten or twelve hours solo, something like that.

WILLIAMS: I know this is an obvious question, there’s probably an obvious answer to it, but what was there about flight that really attracted you?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I don’t know, just the whole thing, I guess, or no one thing. I guess the freedom of it or something like that. You’re up there, you’re navigating in the air now, you’re not tied down to roads. You’re three-dimensional now instead of two-dimensional. That’s the basic difference between driving on a road and flying an airplane. Driving along the road, you can go left and right and speed up or slow down, and up there you can go up and down, left, right, speed up, and do all sorts of things, and the view of things from up there, I’ve always been fascinated with looking at things from up there. It was a whole different experience.

When I was going to college then, I liked flying enough that I even did a thing once, I remember, in speech class we were supposed to give a presentation
on what you might want to do after you were out of college or something like
that, I think was the assigned thing. Well, I chose as mine that I might want to
fly, I might want to be an airplane pilot and go into training for that and probably
do—and this was before World War II broke out in December ’41—and that I
might want to volunteer to go in for military flight training and get that kind of
training as a prelude to going into the airline work if I could get on with that. I
did this little speech on that, giving different pros and cons on it. I remember that.
But I didn’t know at that time what I wanted to do for sure.

The other thing that I probably would have gone into, had World War II
not come along, I was always interested in medicine. I don’t know where that
came from. There wasn’t any doctor in the family or anything, but I was
extremely interested in medicine. I was also interested in chemistry, and I know
where that came from, because there was a girl who roomed at our house who
went with a fellow who was a chemistry major, whose name was Julian White.
Julian sort of took me under his wing. Sometimes on Saturdays when he’d be up
at the college doing some lab workup there as part of his college courses, he’d
take me along with him. I’d go up there and bend the glass tubes, and I’d bubble
the stuff and put on the Bunsen burner, and I thought that was pretty good stuff.
So, for a long time, when people would ask me what I wanted to do when I grew
up, I said I wanted to be a chemist like Julian White. Well, I got to where I had
said it enough times, I guess I believed it.

But out of that sort of beginning, then, I was interested in medicine, and
I’d always been sort of interested in medicine and animals and doctors, what
doctors do that was good and all sorts of stuff. So I was sort of leaning in the direction of medicine. I think if World War II had not come along, I probably would have gone into medicine eventually. Maybe my son reflects that interest today, because he’s a doctor, and he carried on in that area, and he’s a good one.

But then World War II came, and in December, just a few days after Pearl Harbor, I decided I was going to volunteer, and I did, and then I didn’t start active duty until March. They had a backlog of people. So then I started training in March. I dropped out of school in the middle of my junior year. Once I got into flying and got into flying with big airplanes, that was it. I loved it. I was out in the Pacific, and then at the end of World War II, my CO [Commanding Officer] at that time talked to me about putting in for a regular commission, which I decided I would do, not knowing whether I really would stay in or not, but I really liked flying, so I then spent twenty-three years in the Marine Corps.

WILLIAMS: Going back for a moment to this speech class where you said you wanted to be a pilot, was that in high school or in college?

SEN. GLENN: College. I don’t know if it was freshmen speech class. It may have been freshmen speech class, so that would have been in 1940, or whether it was the beginning of the next year before Pearl Harbor in ’41, one of those years.

WILLIAMS: Let’s talk a little more about high school. What was that like?

SEN. GLENN: High school was a good time. Annie and I both were very active in high school. We had all sorts of activities going, and we both were pretty good students. I ran
into a summary of my grades not too long ago in high school. It was in some folder out here. We had pretty good grades in high school, so academics wasn’t all that much of a problem. I particularly enjoyed physics and the physical sciences and those things.

Annie was the musician, and she became a very accomplished musician. Later on in college, she majored in pipe organ, and everywhere we ever were stationed for the next twenty-three years in the Marine Corps, she wound up playing the organ at the base chapel or local church someplace. She really was very good. In fact, right at that time when she was coming out of college, to go ahead of high school just a little bit, she had a scholarship to Julliard in New York. She was that good. And then we were going to be married and decided that that was more important than her scholarship, but I still wish she had had a chance to do that, because she can just make a big pipe organ talk. I mean, it’s just beautiful. I always think about it, because they talk about coordination in flying, you know, hand and feet and eye coordination. There’s nothing like an organ. I swear, a person playing a big organ like that is reading at least four lines of music, maybe six, at a scan at the time, both feet are going on the basses, you have two manuals that your hands are working on, and doing this all at one time. It makes flying look simple.

Anyway, she was great, and in high school, Annie was active in all the musical organizations as well as what they called the Girl Reserves, which was sort of a YMCA thing for high schools at that time. I was active in Hi-Y, which was a YMCA program that was in high schools at that time, which sort of had a
religious bent to those. We both were in the band and the choral group and the town band, as well as the high school.

I was into athletics. I lettered in three sports, in football and basketball and tennis. I must say I enjoyed the basketball more than anything else. Football was okay, and it was fun in high school, but, frankly, I never enjoyed getting beat up that much. I enjoyed basketball, I guess, and the skill involved with basketball more than I did football.

Also, football, I guess I played the wrong position in football, because I had, for some reason or other, started out as a center, and the center in those days, you didn’t have T-formation football yet in those days. It was all single-wing and double-wing football, and that means every play was a running play, except for a few pass plays. But every play was a running play right or left from either a strong single wing where the backfield is overbalanced on direction, or double wing.

But what that meant to the center was, the center didn’t sit and look the other guy in the eye and then put the ball back through. You had your head down, looking back through your legs where the ball was going to go, and you had to lead the guy back there who was starting. So there was a lot to it, but the important thing was, you were looking back, and as you centered the ball, the guy who was opposite you, the guard, hit you right in the back of the head on every single play, and that was just standard, so it wasn’t a bright position to play. [Laughter] If I was going to play football again, I can guarantee you it wouldn’t be center.
T-formation football now is a little bit different. The center—the quarterback’s right up behind him, and you shuffle the ball and you’re looking the other guy in the eye as you center the ball. So I guess I never quite enjoyed the football. I enjoyed high school.

When I got to college, they were expecting too much out of college, and I never was that good in college, quite frankly, although after my orbital flight, there were things written about how I was named a Little All-American in college and all, which was the farthest thing from the truth you could ever think of, because I was lucky to be on the squad in college. [Laughter]

But anyway, in high school I thoroughly enjoyed basketball. Loved that. Loved to see basketball season start and hated to see it end. And I played tennis in the spring. I was on the tennis squad, so I did some of that. So there was the athletics.

There were plays. I was active in the drama presentation of plays and had the lead in a couple of plays during that year. I was president of the junior class that year. Some of the people I mentioned before, Hartford Steele, he was the one that had more influence on me than anyone else, taught civics. Ellis Duitch, who was our coach, a fine man. Al Baisler had come out of Muskingum, and he was named Little All-American. He was a wonderful football player and he was coach, but he also was a fine, fine gentleman, too, along with it and worked with all of us, not just as a professional coach, but as faculty friend and sort of the best that you could think of in the way of coaching. He was great. I liked him very much. So he had an influence on us, too. Those years were extremely active.
Annie and I went steady from about junior high school on. We had never known a time we did not know each other. Let me talk about that just a second. Annie’s a little older than I am. Annie and I never knew a time we didn’t know each other, because our parents were real good friends and visited back and forth at least once or twice a week or whatever, and ran around together some. Annie was a little more than a year older than I am, and so she was a little bigger, but our parents used to kid us about how they had us in the same playpen together, and literally did. We were literally put in the same playpen together as kids, so we never knew a time we didn’t know each other. In fact, our daughter some years ago found a little bitty T-shirt like a little tiny baby’s T-shirt, and she had a thing put on it, “Your crib or mine?” We toss that on—it’s one of the pillows on our bed up here right now.

So, Annie and I knew each other all our lives. When we got to high school, she was one grade ahead of me, but I had liked her from way back, as long as when boys starting having interest in the opposite sex, I guess that’s where I got an interest in Annie. So if you ever go together steady in the seventh or eighth grade, I guess that’s what we were doing, and certainly in high school, we were steady in high school, and then in college I never dated anybody else.

Back in those days, Annie—Annie’s an unusual person. Let me brag on Annie just a minute. Her dad stuttered, a bad stutter. He was the town dentist and it didn’t hurt his business or anything like that. Annie grew up with a stutter, and during high school in those days—she was later assessed to be an 85 percent stutterer, which means that 85 percent of the words that she would try to say, she
would have some hang-up with. And that’s quite a handicap. It didn’t bother me. I was used to it, and I knew her for the type person she was and the wonderful person that I thought she was and that I grew to love, of course.

But it was a horrible handicap for her, and she never was in a school play and was never asked to give a recitation in school, was never asked to do anything like that. Now, maybe that’s one thing led her so much into music, although she had a natural talent, but in music that didn’t make any difference. And singing, she didn’t stutter singing, which is the way with most stutters. But in school, that was a little different for her than it was for me. But we went together steady all during high school, and she had been through all these things back then of things that they talk about that never did any good—psychotherapy and all this sort of stuff and all the testing and speech therapy, but it didn’t do her much good.

Just to continue this out of the frame of reference we’re in right now, but it wasn’t until later, just before I was coming to the Senate, there was a program down at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia. Ron Webster came up with this new theory on stuttering, that, for a lot of stutters, what you hear through you own audio feedback as you speak is what gives you the speech patterns that let you go ahead with more speech. His theory was that the audio feedback lets you set your own speech patterns and if there’s a weakness in that nerve connection with your brain or it never was trained properly when you were young or there was something wrong with it, maybe it could be retrained. So he took people and brought them down there and put them into what they called “slow speech,” where you talk at two-second syllables, and you talk like that for the first week
you're there to retrain you speech mechanisms. Then the second week is slow speech, and that is slow normal, and then they have some special training for explosive sounds that are different, like “king,” they used soft onset. Annie would say “k-ing,” sort of a breathy sound.

It turns out that with that training, a three-week course, it will change the life of maybe 80 percent of the stutterers. Some people have other problems that you can’t fix with that, but Annie is one who this really worked well with, and she has to work on it every day and practice still, but it just changed her life. Anyway, so in recent years, she’s out giving speeches for the first time in her life, and it’s a very emotional thing for her.

Anyway, back to high school. She, because of her stuttering, was never in plays or gave any presentations. She was always active in things, and she was secretary and treasurer of this organization or that or something else and was active and was popular as anybody in school, but it was different for her. But we were both very active and I guess both of us reasonably popular students. A lot of stuff evolved around athletics and student activities and things like that.

WILLIAMS: You ran for class office in the junior year. You were president.

SEN. GLENN: I was president, I believe, in my junior class in high school.

WILLIAMS: But you did not pursue politics in your senior year.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, no. Back then, I think if you had been a class officer, it was sort of expected you would not run later on for another one. There were no kids that I recall that ran every year for something and worked up where they just ran a real campaign every year or anything like that. I don’t think that was done. I think once you’d
been a class officer or class president, I don’t think you were expected to run another time for that. Pass it around to some of the other kids, I think.

WILLIAMS: Describe what school life was like. Between classes, what was it like? What were after-school activities?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, usually during my time, after-school activities, there was always athletics right after school in the afternoon, and because there was something going on on that I was involved with athletically all the time I was in high school, football in fall, basketball during the winter up until about March, and then tennis in the spring. So there was always that. Every evening there was something. I think Monday evening was band practice. Tuesday evening was Hi-Y for me and Girl Reserves for Annie. Wednesday—I don’t remember what there was on Wednesday, but there was something almost every night in the week that we had as a schedule and start over again the next day. Weekends were—Saturday was off.

Usually the athletics were on Friday. There would be a couple of basketball games during the week, but football was always on Friday or Friday evening. We played our games in the college stadium, which was lighted. That was always where New Concord played their games. And then there was tournament time when you came to tournament in basketball. If we made it by the first round on that, why, there was always that big excitement of tournaments. If you got far enough, some of those tournaments were played in the Muskingum College gym for that eastern part of Ohio, so we’d be playing there at the college gym.
The kids in town at that time—I don’t know whether they still do it or not—in town at that time, they’d let us use the college gym. We’d go in and practice on weekends. I remember going up there lots of times in the wintertime on a Saturday morning, going up and getting the basketball out of the cage and going up and shooting baskets in the college gym.

WILLIAMS: What position did you play in basketball?

SEN. GLENN: I played guard.

WILLIAMS: And your height?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, height at that time, I guess I was about five-ten, something like that. I wasn’t as fast as a lot of the kids. I had big legs. I wasn’t as fast as a lot of the kids, but I was a pretty good shot, and that was—they didn’t shoot like they do now. Now you do all the one-handed shots. Back then, everything you were supposed to do was a set shot, two hand, and all that. We had a lot of fun with basketball, and I really enjoyed that.

WILLIAMS: Were you a sure at the foul line, too?

SEN. GLENN: No, not sure shot, but back then they even shot fouls a lot differently. Then you had underhand. You had two hands on the ball down between your knees and then back up like that. I was a pretty good foul shot, but I wasn’t a sure shot or anything like that.

WILLIAMS: And did you make it pretty far in statewide tournaments?

SEN. GLENN: We got to the sectional one year. We never made it to state while I was there. We made it to sectional one year, and that was as far as we ever got. That was
pretty good. We made it to district, I’m sorry, went through the sectional, and that was pretty good for a little school like New Concord.

WILLIAMS: And did you have a particular rival?

SEN. GLENN: Well, the league that we were in, everybody was a rival, but we had some particular—Philo. They were down along the Muskingum River, and they were a particular nemesis of New Concord, and we always had some big games with them. Matter of fact, the biggest game we ever had was one that we had against Philo, and it was in the sectional tournament, and we won that. I remember that one very well, because Al Baisler was our coach, and his mother had died, and he couldn’t be with us that night. It was the biggest game we’d ever had, and he had to be off with his mother. A man named Anderson, Homer Anderson, was our—and Loyal Borton [phonetic] were the two, I think, who were involved with our—they coached us that night.

We used to pass the captancy for the game around from player to player. We didn’t have a permanent captain. We’d let one person be captain each different time, and that was a big deal for me, because that just happened to come up. My turn was on that game. I was captain, we won that game in an overtime—I think it was overtime—against Philo, and we won. We wanted that one really bad for Al Baisler because of his problems. So I remember that one in particular. Probably of all the basketball we ever played, I remember that one more than any other one in high school.

WILLIAMS: What about the sort of mood or tone in high school? The reason I’m asking is because high schools tend to be pretty loud and boisterous type places.
SEN. GLENN: Oh, no. It wasn’t that way back then at all. You know, the kids were all well-behaved, and there wasn’t any—you know, if you did anything out of order, you’d get called to the principal’s office, and you were given some restriction of some kind. You had to come in and spend so many extra hours in study hall after school or something like that, and I don’t recall there was any—I don’t think there were ever any serious discipline problems, not compared to today, that’s for sure. There would be fights once in a while between the kids. There were two brothers that used to get out and battle once in a while, Luberg. I can still remember seeing those two guys fighting. They were two brothers. But there was never anything else.

WILLIAMS: So they were sort of the rowdy ones.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, they weren’t rowdy. They’d carry their problems from home over to school and once in a while on the playground or something, they’d get in a fuss. But I don’t recall anybody getting into fights or anything like that. It was not a huge school, you know. Our graduating class in high school was forty-some, I think. It wasn’t that big.

WILLIAMS: So there were no outrageous fellow students?

SEN. GLENN: No.

WILLIAMS: What about dating protocol? Describe that in high school.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, I don’t know that that was much different than it is today. People would get interested in each other and they’d date, and there’d always be dates after the games and things like that or we’d get together at somebody’s house, or we’d go down—that was usually what happened, was after the games on weekends, some
parents would invite all the kids to that house or something like that, and that was more common than anything else. Of course, by that time we had cars, so we’re out in cars driving around and things like that. I don’t know that that was particularly different from today, except you have bigger cars and fancier cars and more places to go today. That’s about it.

WILLIAMS: But you and Annie were sanctioned to go off on your own and stay out in the car late at night?

SEN. GLENN: No. Her parents wanted her in at—I forget what the restrictions were. I think maybe on weekends they wanted her back by eleven, I think. No, I think on weekends after a ball game, I think she was supposed to be home at midnight or something like that. We were pretty good about that. We weren’t too tough to deal with on that. But we were together all the time. I saw her every day, of course, and between classes, why, we’d see each other at the locker. We got to where other kids sort of dated around a little bit once in a while or shifted off once in a while, or changed relationships. I think everybody just expected Annie and me—we were just an entity.

WILLIAMS: Were there others in your class—

SEN. GLENN: Who dated steady? Yes. There were a number of couples like that who dated steady and who later got married, as we did, and we still see some of them back there occasionally.

WILLIAMS: So that was not uncommon.

SEN. GLENN: Oh, no, not uncommon at all. In fact, I guess most kids back then had a fairly steady relationship. There weren’t too many couples that were together for a
while who really broke up then in high school, maybe a few. If they formed a permanent relationship, it sort of went through, and I didn’t remember too many of them breaking up. That doesn’t mean that they got married eventually, because once they left high school and people went to different schools and colleges and did different things, well, then, that broke things up some. Ours was sort of cemented in.

Annie and I were still going together in college in the middle of my junior year. She was a senior. Then when World War II broke out, we probably would have gotten married right then, except that you were not allowed to be in flight training and be married. You had to wait until after you got your commissions, got your wings. So when I was leaving to go to flight training, we were engaged and got a ring. Didn’t have any money, but we got a ring. That’s sort of funny, too, because I think the ring was $125 or $150 at a little jewelry store in Zanesville. The store is still there. It’s a different store now. But it was a little diamond, not a very big diamond, and since that time I’ve offered a zillion times, I wanted to get her a bigger ring, and she won’t hear of it. So her engagement ring she still wears is that little one that we got back then when I was leaving to go into flight training.

We planned, then, to be married as soon as I got out of flight training, and that’s what we did. I graduated down in Corpus Christi, got my wings there. I think I graduated on a Thursday, was on the train back to Ohio, and we were married the following Tuesday, I think, and then since I’d been away so long and was going to be away, why, we wanted to stay around home anyway. So we went
to Columbus for three days for a honeymoon in Columbus, back to New Concord and spent the rest of our leave there, and then on to Cherry Point, North Carolina, to start my military career, military training.

WILLIAMS: And she came with you?

SEN. GLENN: Oh, yes. Yes, she went with me then. From then on, when we left New Concord, she was with me there, then we were transferred to the West Coast and drove across country, trained out there, and when I left to go overseas, why, she, then, with some other women, drove east, came back home and lived back in New Concord, then, while I was overseas.

But anyway, we were a steady all through that time, and when people thought of couples or inviting people or something, we were just considered as a unit, is the way the other kids looked at it. It was that steady and had been since we were in about the eighth grade.

WILLIAMS: And there was no temptation for dalliance?

SEN. GLENN: No, I don’t think, either one. We were happy with each other. I don’t know, I suppose there were other people who were attractive, but it was never anything that meant anything. It’s been the same way ever since.

WILLIAMS: This will be the last question because we’re getting really near the end of the tape here. While you were in high school, what about the summertimes?

SEN. GLENN: Yes, summertime was a little bit different, in that some of those summers in high school I worked with my dad and worked on some of those crews. That was hard work, out digging septic tank holes and ditches and things like that. That’s really my first real manual labor, real job, and my dad paid me, paid me whatever he
would pay. He said, “You work as hard as anybody else, and I’ll pay you the same as anybody else,” and that was fair enough. And so that was big money to me, you know, getting a few bucks an hour for some of that stuff, or not a few bucks and hour, about—I don’t know what the wages were then. What were they, a dollar an hour or a dollar and a quarter, something like that, but that was big.

I worked with him, and then my last year in high school, I wanted to try to get a job on my own. My dad though that would be good, too. And so I had been in Hi-Y, and there was a state YMCA camp named Camp Nelson Dodd, and it was up not far from Mt. Vernon, Ohio, near a little town called Brickhaven on the Mohican River, and about three miles up the river from Brickhaven they had this state YMCA camp. Well, I had thought I wanted to go to that camp one summer, and I didn’t have enough money to go and pay my way to the camp. But I went to Columbus, and the fellow that ran the camp was also the head of the Columbus YMCA. He was a good person. So I was going up to Columbus for something, and I though I would stop by and see him and see if there was any chance of my getting a job. I was a—was I a junior in high school? I guess I was a junior in high school. Donaldson was his name. I went in to see him and told him what I wanted to do, I’d like to work in his camp, and lo and behold, he hired me.

So I got the old cruiser all fired up, and that summer I went up there. I was hired up there and was up there the whole summer. What I started out as, I worked there three summers, and the first summer I was in charge of the clean-up crew and the serving crew in the kitchen. We had four kids that had been hired for this, and we then were responsible for washing the dishes and setting the
tables and making sure all the food was brought out to the tables and everything, four of us hustling this stuff for about 125 or 150 kids three times a day. Then we washed the dishes there, and we had a regular routine on this, and we cleaned up the mess hall, and that was it. That was our job.

There was a little cabin off in the woods that had been an old, old log cabin, and they had it fixed up where we could stay in there. We each had a little bunk in there. And then, of course, we got to work with the kids and play in the athletics and tennis and all this stuff they did there, as well as take part in the counseling and the inspirational programs and things like they had at this camp, and it was a real wonderful summertime experience. They had a little rifle range. They had a whole bunch of stuff.

Well, the first year I worked in the mess hall. The second year, then, I worked up there part time. I drove the camp truck, and I’d go back and forth to town to bring the mail every day, which was about three miles down to Brickhaven, or, about three times a week, I’d go about twenty-five miles into Mt. Vernon and bring back a great big truckload of supplies and stuff from a place in Mt. Vernon, a grocery wholesale supply place, brought back a whole truckload of stuff. So I did that, and then worked as a part-time counselor with the kids, also. Then the last year I did pretty much the same thing, did some of the driving, but did more counseling work with kids, and it was a great experience for somebody like that, a senior in high school and college, and I enjoyed that. That’s the first job away from the family I ever had. It didn’t pay much, a few bucks a week.
Then as far as other employment went, then when I got to college, we still didn’t have a whole lot of money. My dad was willing to do whatever it took to do it, but I put in for a work scholarship at the college, and I got that, and that was for part of my tuition. So my dad paid part of it, and the rest of it I worked off working for the college. So, some of the time, in the summer when the camp wasn’t on, I’d be working mowing lawns with the power mower out on the college campus, and working with a man who was a college maintenance man, Ernie Wylie, a great guy, and he’s the one that took care of all the grounds and all the maintenance and the halls, and I’d be waxing hallways and mowing grass and swinging a scythe out on the high grass and all that kind of stuff.

Didn’t get much. In those days, I think you got a quarter an hour for that kind of stuff, and when you were a sophomore, you went up to thirty cents an hour. That was about half pay on what kids were getting out working out on the road crews and things like that, so it wasn’t much. Then when it got real bad weather in the winter, you did stuff like shining the floors in the hall and working in the cage with the athletic stuff, passing out towels and things like that.

[End of Interview]