

Abstract for Interview of Raymond S. Bugno by Tom Sweeney

Raymond Bugno, a long-time employee of the Research Foundation at Ohio State, was born March 25, 1921 in Columbus, Ohio. His parents, both born in Pisa, Italy, had little education, but once they emigrated to the United States they insisted that their three children should obtain as much education as possible. Italian was Bugno's first language. His early years were spent in a working-class, near downtown, Italian-Irish district in Columbus known as Fly Town, but at age 13 his family moved further north. Their small house, which was close to the university, rented for 30 dollars a month, a considerable sum in those early years of the Great Depression. His father, who worked first as a groundskeeper and later for the Service Department at Ohio State, made only \$80 - \$95 a month. The house, at 278 West Woodruff Avenue, was located within the shadow of the huge Ohio Stadium. It was owned by Tony Aquila, chief groundskeeper for the stadium, and his own house was nearby. Both houses were close to the Neil Gables Apartments, a building now known as Archer House. Ives Hall, since demolished, was across the street from the Bugno's house.

In 1941 the family moved to a larger house on West Norwich Avenue. At both houses the family planted vegetable gardens to supplement Bugno's father's small but steady income. By saving every nickel or dime his mother could afford to hire needy, out of work, men, at \$.50 a ton to shovel coal into their basement coal bin. Neighbors rented out rooms to students, including married students with children. Sometimes an entire family lived in one rented room. One needy young student who rented a room nearby was Joe Sabino, who later became the President of the Pharmaceutical Association in Ohio. Total enrollment at OSU in those days was around 13,000 to 14,000.

Black families were beginning in the 1930's to move out of racial ghettos into new neighborhoods. Some had moved into Fly Town, near downtown, and Bugno has early childhood memories of white hooded KKK members on horseback riding near the river trying to intimidate black people. There were also scattered black families living near the university. Bill Bell, a black football player, often ate at one of the neighborhood restaurants since he was not allowed to eat at the team training table. Once Ohio State played Navy at Annapolis and Bill Bell was forbidden to play.

Nearby on Woodruff was the Chemical Engineering building. It was housed in a wooden framed barracks of World War I vintage, and was the Headquarters for the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). There was a railroad spur nearby which brought passengers to football games, and carried coal to the power station. In those days the stadium was never filled, and high school students were admitted for \$.25, and anybody could get in free for the 4th quarter. After the games Bugno and his friends scoured the stadium looking for change, cigarettes, or anything that might have been left behind.

In those days what later was named Woody Hays Drive was simply called the "concrete road." The university dump was located on the site of present-day St. John Arena. When trash was burned the acrid smell would drift over the nearby homes. "Wow! What a smell." Several homes were located across the street from the dump; these included homes for the supervisors of various trades, including the plumbing, electrical, and painting foreman. They were nearby in case of emergency. On the corner of Woodruff and Tuttle lived "a man named Ford", a black man, who was the sole mailman for the entire university. In those days, Bugno mentions, there was also just a single policeman for the entire

university, Bill North. Adjacent to Neil Gables there was a drug store on the south end, and a small restaurant on the north end. Harold Zigg, later a well-known realtor, was Manager of Neil Gables.

Bugno felt that merely by living so close to the university that this in itself was a valuable education. He first attended Holy Name, a Catholic elementary school, which offered classes through the 8th grade, many of which were taught by Irish nuns. The parish priest, Father Donnehey, was Irish, and sometimes the Irish kids taunted the Italian ones. Bugno never experienced any serious discrimination because of his Italian heritage. His parents, especially his mother, emphasized tolerance of others. One should not speak unkindly of others. As she wisely put it, "Sometimes it's better to be more careful of what comes out of your mouth than what goes into it." After Holy Name he attended Indianola Junior High, and North High School. He walked to North High, a considerable hike from Woodruff Avenue. North High was then considered "the school," the premier public high school in Columbus, and was "a place where a lot of Columbus leaders went." Among other skills Bugno learned at school -- rarely taught today -- was how to diagram sentences, and good penmanship. He got an excellent education at all three schools. While a student at North High in May, 1938, he suffered a sudden, serious attack of appendicitis. He blamed this on eating five White Castle hamburgers that one could buy then at 5 for a dime with a coupon. The emergency room at University Hospital refused to admit Bugno (even though peritonitis had set in) since his father, who worked at OSU, could not put down \$60 as an advance deposit. His doctor, however, Dr. John Reed, called Dr. Dodd, Chief of Staff at University Hospital, whom he knew, and got Bugno admitted just in time for emergency surgery. Once admitted the University treated the family well. The university offered very little medical insurance for employees in those days. Better medical benefits were started after WW II.

To help support the family Bugno carried the Columbus Dispatch, and the Columbus Star, a weekly tabloid-type paper. He also worked as a caddy at a local golf course. At age 14 he found employment over the summer in the haberdashery business in the Linden neighborhood in northeast Columbus. He worked six days a week, sometimes to 10 P.M., and after transferring twice on the bus to reach his job, he made \$5.00 a week. Again, this was in 1935 and at the height of the Great Depression. After several summers his pay was raised to \$6.00 a week. Later he found summer employment, his first job at Ohio State, pulling weeds and picking apples for \$.25 an hour at the campus horticulture farms at Lane and Kenny Roads.

In 1939 Bugno enrolled for night school at Bliss College, a downtown business college. He was available to work during the day, and was hired by Fred Jones in Stores and Receiving. He worked as a clerk dispensing supplies and materials to clients who presented a requisition. On July 17, 1942 he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force. He served in various locations in the Pacific Theatre, including Alaska and Okinawa. Once the war ended he, along with millions of other veterans, returned to civilian life. OSU's enrollment suddenly doubled after the war to 25,000 to 26,000 students as thousands of veterans, including Bugno, took advantage of the GI Bill of Rights. There was never adequate housing or classrooms. Wartime Quonset huts were placed all over the campus. Students would arrive for class and find every seat taken. Howard Bevis was the president in the early postwar years.

Once back at campus Bugno returned to his old job at Shipping and Receiving, but then enrolled in the College of Commerce in spring, 1946. He went through 14 straight quarters without a break. Even with the GI Bill, he needed to work part-time. This required a schedule with no morning classes, and so for

each new quarter he would need to get in line at 1:30 or 2:00 A.M. in order to get his preferred class times. Thus he was free to work part-time throughout his college days in University Services.

After he graduated on September 2, 1949, Bugno went to work for the Ohio State University Research Foundation (OSURF). By then he had over a decade in service credit with the university. OSURF was located on the 3rd floor of the Administration in space just vacated by the Faculty Club. The new Faculty Club had just been completed near Mirror Lake by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the only building on campus built by the WPA. The WPA also contributed partially to building the new OSU Golf Course, which surprisingly the former Athletic Director, L.W. St. John, had received funding for from the legislature during the affluent twenties. A fortunate consequence of Bugno's job was that it enabled him to meet his wife, Audree, who worked at a nearby office. They were married August 1, 1959. In time they had three children and two grandchildren.

Bugno's first job at OSURF was to set up an inventory department. As OSURF expanded some of its offices were moved temporarily to the Communications Lab, the former airplane hangar, which had been rebuilt near the Mechanical Engineering Department. In 1953 a new building was constructed for OSURF. It was on 19th Avenue, but they stayed there only two years. Later that building became the (Old) Graduate School, and today is the Aviation Building. In 1955 the university purchased 14 acres of land from the Rockwell Manufacturing Company on Kinnear Road. It was decided to move the Research Foundation to the building at 1314 Kinnear Road. Soon thereafter the adjacent building at 1900 Kenny Road, today an invaluable property, was also purchased for the university using OSURF funds.

The leaders of the Research Foundation were known throughout the university community as "powerhouse guys." The 1st Executive Director was Hurlbert S. Jacoby, formerly of the Engineering Experiment Station; the 2nd was Dr. A.R. Olpin (1939-1946); the 3rd was Dr. James S. "Sam" Owens (1947-1951). He was the Director when Bugno joined the staff of the Foundation. The 4th, hired in 1952, was the physician, Oram C. Wolpert, known as a sympathetic listener. The 5th was Robert C. "Steve" Stevenson (1963-1975), previously with the Geological Survey in Washington, D.C. whom some saw as a well-meaning but unduly abrupt person. The 6th was Kenneth Sloan (1975-1988).

Sloan, a veterinarian, and specialist in Veterinary Radiology, came to OSU from Baltimore, Maryland. He understood well both the business and faculty side of the university. Later he left OSU to become Associate Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois. Under both Stevenson and Sloan there were occasional disagreements with Bob Smith, the Vice President for Research. At other times OSURF reported to Provost Jack Corbally, or to Albert Garrett, a chemist and the first Vice President for Research at OSU. Garrett was remembered as one who treated OSURF with understanding, but one who might not back you up as he had said he would. In other years the Research Foundation has reported to Jules Lapidus, Vice President for Research, Bob Nerem, Richard Armitage, Arliss Roaden, Roy Koenigsknecht, Tim Donahue, Jim Garland, later the President of Miami University, Jack Hollander, and Ann Reynolds. Tom Sweeney later served as both Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of OSURF.

Among those who served on the Board of the Research Foundation were Charles Kettering, the inventor of the electric starter and a graduate of OSU, and the influential industrialist, Jim Lincoln, from Cleveland. Unfortunately, some have said, this extraordinary Board was reorganized in 1953, and some of these "powerhouse" men could no longer serve. Tom Davis, known as a "go-getter," served as the business manager of the Foundation until the late 1970's. Jack Spires served as Accounting Director of

OSURF for many years. Alpheus A. Smith, later Dean of the Graduate School, served as President of OSURF, and he, working with Oram Wolpert, reorganized the Board in 1953 to bring it more closely under direct control of the central administration. In reducing the independence of the Board, they sacrificed much of its flexibility. For example OSURF had purchased the valuable property at 1900 Kenny Road for the University with Foundation funds, an expedited transaction that might otherwise have been impossible. Also, an attempt had once been made at the federal level to divert certain university funds -- specifically funds designated for the Research Foundation -- back to the federal government. Senator John Bricker stopped this effort on grounds that the Foundation was a separate, independent corporation. Once the Board was reorganized in 1953, and stronger university control asserted, some influential Board members were eased out or resigned. Starting in 1986, following a reorganization of the federal Social Security system, employees of the Foundation were placed on the university payroll. This further reduced the independence of the Foundation, but otherwise they would have been forced to pay Social Security taxes. Another prominent campus organization, the Alumni Association, took a different direction and chose to become completely independent of the university.

Bugno was named the Assistant to Tom Davis, the business manager of OSURF. Later, when Bob "Steve" Stevenson was named Executive Director, he assumed responsibility for the services department, purchasing, travel, accounting, and publications. Les Stout handled patents, some of which, such as a feline vaccine, brought income for a time to OSURF.

Bugno stayed with the Foundation his entire career, and retired after 38 years of service in July, 1987. Counting his earlier part-time employment, plus his years in the military, he retired with 48 years of service credit at Ohio State, if not a record then close to it. He expressed gratitude for the opportunities his years at OSURF had provided for being around, and learning from, so many interesting and innovative people. Tom Sweeney, Executive Director of OSURF, and the interviewer for this transcript, suggested that the new Research Foundation building on Kenny Road should have been named the "Bugno Building" in order to honor a man who had spent almost his entire adult life working for the Research Foundation. To date it is still known as "1960 Kenny Road."