

NAME:ELBERT PAYTON 1993 INTERVIEW

TRANSCRIBED BY GENE G.WOOD,PARK VOLUNTEER,MARCH 16,1999

I---STANDS FOR INTERVIEWER, [BB] STANDS FOR BILL BLACK....

INITIALS STAND FOR PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED

NAMES OF PLACES ARE SPELLED AS HEARD,BUT NOT NECESSARILY
CORRECT.

WORDS WHICH ARE NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD ARE IN BRACKETS[].

TAPE IS IDENTIFIED BY WRITING ON ACTUAL TAPE.

TAPE MARKED "ELBERT PAYTON" IS ON SIDE "A".

I---TODAY IS MARCH 24,1993; THE TIME IS 1:30 P.M. AT THE FORDYCE
VISITOR
CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

MY INTERVIEWER NAME TODAY IS MR.ALBERT PAYTON.

EP---ELBERT.....

I---OKAY...ELBERT PAYTON,AND MY NAME IS TONI COOPER.
MR.PAYTON,HOW ARE YOU TODAY ?

EP---I'M JUST FINE.....

I---OKAY.....WHICH BATHHOUSE OR BATHHOUSES WERE YOU EMPLOYED
?

EP--- I WAS EMPLOYED AT THE FORDYCE FROM '38 TO '43.

I---FROM 1938 TO 1943 ?

EP---YEAH.....

I---WERE YOU EMPLOYED AT ANOTHER BATHHOUSE ?

EP---AT THE ARLINGTON...FROM '45 TO '65...

I---WHAT OCCUPATION ?

EP---JUST WORKED IN THE BATHHALL.....

I---OKAY...IN THE BATHHALL....A BATH ATTENDANT ?

EP---YEAH,A BATH ATTENDANT.....

I---OKAY...HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THE BATHHOUSE ?

EP---WELL, I JUST COME OUT OF SERVICE, AN' MR.FERGUSON,HE WAS THE HEAD BATH ATTENDANT,HE TOLD ME HE NEEDED THE HELP AN' FOR ME TO COME UP AN' START WORK FOR HIM.....

I---[BB]---WHAT YEAR WAS THAT ?

EP---THAT WAS IN 19 AN' 45.

I---IS MR.FERGUSON STILL LIVIN' ?

EP---NO,JIM FERGUSON,HE'S,HE'S DEAD.

I---WHAT WAS YOUR ROUTINE AS A BATH ATTENDANT,WHAT DID YOU DO ?

EP---I STARTED IN THE BATHHALL AN' I WAS,I GOT TO BE A BATH ATTENDANT,
GIVIN' PACKS.....

I---GIVIN' HOT PACKS ?

EP---YEAH,I DIDN'T RECALL THE HOT ROOM ATTENDANT,YOU KNOW,AFTER THEY LEAVE THE BATHHALL, AN' YOU PACKS ON ACHES AN' PAINS, AN' THEN SHOWER.

I---[BB]---WERE YOU LICENSED TO DO THIS BY THE NATIONAL PARK ?

EP---WE WENT TO SCHOOL,I WENT TO SCHOOL.....

I---[BB]---HOW MANY DAYS ?

EP---WHAT,IN SCHOOL ?

I---[BB]---YES.....

EP---I JUS' REMEMBER MR.BOLDEN,BUT IT WAS,AH,I GUESS WE WENT,MAYBE ABOUT THREE MONTHS,I THINK,SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT..SO MANY DAYS A WEEK.

I---WERE PHYSICALS REQUIRED ?

EP---YEAH,PHYSICALS REQUIRED,EVERY THIRTY DAYS.....

I---EVERY THIRTY DAYS ?

EP---UH-HUH.....

I---DID MANY BATHERS RETURN YEAR AFTER YEAR AND ASK FOR YOU ?

EP---OH YEAH,I HAD QUITE A FEW FOLLOWERS,YEAH,.....

I---[BB]---HOW MUCH DID THE BATHHOUSE PAY YOU FOR A BATH ?

EP---I THINK,ABOUT, ALONG ABOUT THAT TIME IT WAS TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A BATH WHEN I STARTED.....

I---[BB]---AND WHEN YOU FINISHED ?

EP---WHEN I FINISHED,I THINK IT,WELL, IT GOT UP TO BE A DOLLAR AN' SOMETHIN',I JUST CAN'T RECALL JUST NOW.....

I---[BB]--- THEN YOU GOT TIPS FROM,IN ADDITION TO THAT ?

EP---OH YEAH,PEOPLE AT THE ARLINGTON AND IT'S HELP WERE VERY LIBERAL IN TIPPIN',AN' I DON'T EXACTLY RECALL BACK THEM DAYS.....

I---CAN WE ASK,WHAT WAS THE LARGEST TIPS YOU EVER RECIEVED ?

EP---IN THE SUMMER DAYS,I MADE A HUNDRED DOLLARS A DAY.....

I---THAT'S GOOD

I---[BB]---GOOD MONEY.....

EP---IN SEVEN DAYS,[WORDS UNCLEAR] I MADE A HUNDRED DOLLARS A DAY,
JUST TIPS.

I---DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN ?

EP---I HAVE A BOY AND A GIRL.....

I---OKAY.....WHERE DID MOST OF THE BATHERS TRAVEL FROM ?

EP---MOST OF THE BATHERS FROM AH,WAS FROM NEW YORK,CHICAGO,DETROIT,
IT WAS KIND OF A SEASON,IN SEPTEMBER,WE'D HAVE PRACTICALLY ALL THE GOLFERS WOULD COME IN,YOU KNOW,FROM THEN TILL AFTER THANKSGIVING, AN' THEN AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR,OTHER PEOPLE,YOU KNOW,WOULD COME IN LOOKIN' FOR THE BATHERS,AN' HAD QUITE A FEW BALL PLAYERS WOULD COME AN' TAKE BATHS.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THE TEAMS ?

EP---WASN'T NOT NO TEAM,JUST THE INDIVIDUALS,I DO REMEMBER GEORGE URSHAW,HE,HE STOPPED AT THE MARQUETTE [WORD UNKNOWN] AT THAT TIME.....

I---OHHH....

EP---HE PLAYED WITH THE,WITH THE DETROIT TIGERS AT THAT TIME...

I---DID YOU EVER BATH ANY FAMOUS OR WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE ?

EP---WELL,NOT THAT I KNOW OF,I'VE BATHED UMMM,[WORDS UNKNOWN]
LYNDON JOHNSON,FROM TEXAS,YEAH.....

I---YOU BATHED LYNDON JOHNSON ?

EP---I COME UP AT NIGHT,WHEN THEY GOT IN HERE LATE,AN' AH,THEY AH,
CALLED ME UP AND ASKED ME TO COME UP TO ['EM THERE].....

I---DID THE HEAT IN THE BATHHOUSE EVER BOTHER YOU,MR.PAYTON ?

EP---THE HEAT IN THE BATHHOUSE....NO,I NEVER.....

I---YOU GOT USED TO IT ?

EP---YA GOT USED TO IT,AN' THE HEAT NEVER BOTHERED ME.[WORDS UNCLEAR]

I DON'T THINK I EVER MISSED A DAYS WORK,I MEAN,YOU KNOW,UNLESS I JUS'

TAKE OFF THERE.....

I---WELL,HOW DID THE DUTIES WORKIN' AT THE FORDYCE DIFFER FROM WORKING AT THE ARLINGTON,WAS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO BATHHOUSES ?

EP---WELL,THERE WAS QUITE,I WAS JUS'WORKIN' IN THE PACK,IN THE HOT ROOM,YEAH,BUT THAT,UP THERE,IT WAS QUITE A BIT O' DIFFERENCE AT THE

ARLINGTON THERE,COURSE YOU MADE A LITTLE BIT MORE MONEY,I WAS A BATHER.

I---[BB]---YOU WERE INVOLVED IN THE BATHS HERE IN THE FORDYCE THEN ?

EP---YES...I MET MRS.NIEMIER'S DAUGHTER DOWN AT THE JACKSON HOUSE,YEAH,I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HER BUT SHE RECOGNIZED ME,AN'SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS WORKING THERE,AN' AT THE TIME MR.LOREN NIEMIER WAS THE MANAGER HERE.....

I---[BB]---WHILE YOU WERE WORKING AT THE ARLINGTON,DID YOU AH,USE HOT PACKS ON ANY OF THE GAMBLERS ?

EP---OH,QUITE A FEW....AH.....

I---[BB]---CAN YOU NAME SOME OF THEM ?

EP---I DO REMEMBER ONE,I REMEMBER [STATEMENT UNCLEAR] AN' JUS' RIGHT OFF,I CAN'T RECALL,YOU KNOW,AH,IT WAS KINDA THESE,LOT OF 'EM, LOT OF PEOPLE UP THERE WHEN THEY COME IN UP THERE,THEY WOULDN'T CARE FOR NO CONVERSATION,THEY WERE HAVIN' THEIR BATH AND BACK TO THEIR ROOM, THEY WOULDN'T CARE FOR NO CONVERSATION,THAT WAY YOU KNOW YOU WOULDN'T GET ACQUAINTED WITH A LOT OF 'EM.....

I---THERE IS ANOTHER QUESTION I WANTED TO ASK YOU,MR.PAYTON,ABOUT THE FORDYCE,YOU WERE A PACK ATTENDANT 2 YEARS,(EP--YES'M),WERE ALL THE ATTENDANTS IN THE FORDYCE AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME,WERE THEY BLACK ATTENDANTS OR WHITE ATTENDANTS ?

EP---ALL OF 'EM WAS BLACK AT THAT TIME.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE NAMES ?

EP---I REMEMBER ERNEST COLLINS,HERMAN WASHINGTON,AN' AH,[OFIS PENNANT] AN' I DO,THERE WAS A FELLA NAME O' ALLAN,I FORGOT HIS FIRST NAME,UH-HUH.....

I---OKAY.....ARE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE STILL LIVING TODAY,THAT YOU JUST NAMED ?

EP---NO,NONE OF 'EM ARE LIVIN' [WORDS UNCLEAR] UH-HUH.....

I---AH,WERE BLACK PEOPLE ALLOWED TO BATH IN THE FORDYCE IN THOSE YEARS FROM 1938 TO 1944 ?

EP---NOT AT THAT TIME.....

I---NOT AT THAT TIME?

EP---NO,NOT AT ALL.....

I---WHICH BATHHOUSES DID MOST OF THE BLACK PEOPLE BATH AT ?

EP---WELL,WHEN I WAS AT THE ARLINGTON, QUITE A FEW BATHED AT THE

ARLINGTON, QUITE A FEW PEOPLE BATHED AT THE ARLINGTON AT THE TIME
WHEN I WAS THERE.....

I---WERE THERE ANY BLACK BATHHOUSES IN THIS CITY ?

EP---OH YEAH, THERE WAS THE WOODMAN BATHHOUSE AN' THE PITHIAN, TOO...

I---[BB]---WHERE WAS THE WOODMAN LOCATED ?

EP---IT'S STILL DOWN THERE ON MALVERN, UH-HUH.....

I---THE NATIONAL BAPTIST WOODMAN OF THE UNION !!!!

EP---YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, UH-HUH.....

I---[BB]---OH, OKAY.....

EP---WHERE WERE THE BLACK PEOPLE ALLOWED TO BATH ON BATHHOUSE ROW,
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN, WHEN DID THEY ALLOW THEM TO COME ON BATHHOUSE ROW AND BATH ?

EP---WELL, LET ME, [WORDS UNCLEAR], WELL IT WAS DURIN' THE AH, AH, THE
THE BAPTIST CONVENTION THEY USED TO HAVE HERE IN JANUARY, AH, IT WAS
QUITE A NUMBER O' YEARS, I MEAN, THEY STARTED T' BATHIN' BECAUSE A LOT
OF 'EM STOPPED AT THE HOTEL UP THERE AT THE TIME, YOU SEE.....

I---[BB]---THEY STAYED AT THE HOTELS AND BATHED RIGHT THERE ?

EP---YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, THEY BATHED THERE, BUT THEY WAS TENDIN' THE
MEETIN', YOU KNOW, WHEN THEY'D HAVE THEM NATIONAL BAPTIST BUILDINGS,
YOU KNOW, YEAH.....

I---DID YOU EVER GIVE THE MERCURY RUB, OR DID YOU SEE THE MERCURY RUB

TREATMENT ?

EP---OH YEAH,I USED,I USED TO DO THAT HERE TOO.....

I---DID YOU ?

EP---YEAH,I DID.....AH,YOU WOULD ALWAYS HAVE A [PACKING BOY],I MEAN,
YOU KNOW,THEY WOULD AH,AH,OTHER THAN, OUTSIDE OF BEIN' A, BEIN' A ATTENDANT IN THE HOT ROOM,YOU SEE,YEAH I GAVE MERCURY RUB TO QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HERE.....

I---[BB]---CAN I ASK HOW A MERCURY WAS PERFORMED ?

EP---WELL,YOU USED AH,RUBBER GLOVES,AN' IT WAS IN A TUBE,AN' IT WAS JUS' ON THE BACK OF A PERSON,JUS' PUT IT ON THE BACK AN' DOWN THE SPINE,IT WOULD TAKE JUS' ABOUT,OH,ABOUT TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES,THERE.

I---[BB]---AND YOU WORE RUBBER GLOVES ?

EP---YES SIR.....

I---DID YOU OBSERVE THE SALT BATH OR THE SCOTTISH DOUCHE ?

EP---[WORDS UNCLEAR]

I---THE SPRAY ?

EP---DID I,DID I [WORDS UNCLEAR]

I---DID YOU EVER SEE THAT OR WORK WITH THAT ?

EP---WELL,[WORDS UNCLEAR] THEY CALLED THIS NOW,IT'S MOSTLY,THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE WHIRLPOOL BACK IN THEM DAYS SO YOU 'TACH THE HOSE ONTO THE TUB JUS' AN' START UP AN' DOWN THE SPINE,THE DOCTOR USUALLY RECO',WOULD RECOMMEND THAT ON THE BATHERS AH,DOCTOR WOULD DIRECT IT,YEAH,A LOT O' PEOPLE HAVE A DOCTOR

DIRECT [WORDS UNCLEAR],HE WOULD GIVE A [WORDS UNCLEAR],I THINK IT'S WHAT YOU CALL A [WORDS UNCLEAR] UP AND DOWN THE SPINE FOR SO ANY MINUTES.....

I---[BB]---DID THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBE THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER ?

EP---YES,SIR....THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBED TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER [ON THE HEAD].....

I---[BB]---WERE YOU CHECKED REGULARLY TO SEE THAT THE WATER WAS AT THE PROPER TEMPERATURE ?

EP---WOULD I CHECK ?,

I---[BB]---WERE YOU CHECKED ?

I---DID THE GOVERNMENT COME IN AN' CHECK ?

EP---OH YEAH,MR.,MR.BOLDEN,WOULD COME IN QUITE OFTEN,I MEAN THEY WOULD COME BY THERE,IN THERE 'BOUT ONCE A MONTH,THERE'D BE A LADY ON THE LADIES' SIDE AN' THE MAN COME ON IN,TWO TOGETHER.....

I---[BB]---YOU SAID MR.BOLDEN CAME IN ?

EP---YES.....

I---[BB]---WHAT WAS HIS CAPACITY WITH THE PARK ?

EP---WELL,HE WAS OVER THE PARKS INTERIOR AT THAT TIME.....

I---[BB]---HE WAS SUPERINTENDANT ?

EP---UH-HUH.....

I---WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE FOUND SOMETHIN' WRONG ?

EP---WELL,YOU GET LAYED OFF SO MANY DAYS OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT,YOU'D

GET A LETTER FROM THE PARK [WORDS UNCLEAR] TO BE MORE CAREFUL.

I---[BB]---WHEN HE WALKED IN THE FRONT DOOR, YOU KNEW INSTANTANEOUSLY THAT HE WAS IN THE BUILDING ?

EP---OH YEAH,YOU WOULD,UM,AH SOMETIMES THEY WOULD RING THE BUTTON OUT FRONT AND THAT WOULD MAKE YOU BE ON YOUR TOES TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.....

I---WHAT WERE SOME OF THE AILMENTS OR PROBLEMS, WHAT PEOPLE WOULD COME IN TO GET CURED OF ,DO YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ?

EP---WELL,MOSTLY,ARTHRITIS,BACK IN THEM DAYS I THINK THEY MOSTLY,
PEOPLE WOULD JUS',IT WOULD BE A ROUTINE,AN' YOU'D HAVE MAYBE A YOUNG COUPLE FROM CHICAGO,THEY COME IN AN' STAY TEN DAYS,AN' LIKE
THAT,AN' JUS' ROUTINE EV'RY YEAR FOR 'EM TO COME IN, YEAR AFTER YEAR. I'VE BATHED PEOPLE FROM,OH,FROM [MINNEAPOLIS] FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS,JUS' YEAR AFTER,THIS TIME OF THE YEAR THEY WOULD COME AN' TAKE
THEIR VACATION,YEAH,REST AN' RELAX,AT THAT TIME THE CASINO WAS OPEN
AN' THEY WOULD SPEND QUITE A TIME,YOU KNOW,UP WITH THE GAMBLIN' PLACE,AN' LIKE THAT.....

I---[BB]---LET ME ASK THIS QUESTION.....IF THEIR,THAT DOCTOR PRESCRIBED
THAT THEY COME,WERE THEY DEDUCTING THIS EXPENSE OFF THEIR INCOME TAXES ON THEIR VACATION ?

EP---I WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CAUSE WE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT NO INCOME TAXES, LIKE,AT THAT TIME,YOU KNOW....

I---[BB]---AT THAT TIME,YOU DIDN'T MAKE ENOUGH TO PAY AN INCOME TAX !

EP---WELL,TIPS, YOU REALLY DON'T BUT AH,LOTTA TIMES I CLEARED A HUNDRED

DOLLARS A MONTH,THAT'S WHAT I PAYED IN,PUT IN FOR TIPS,[THEN WE GOTTA PUT IN TWO HUNDRED] [WORDS UNCLEAR].....

I---CAN YOU THINK OF ANY DRAMATIC CASES OF HEALING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE,DID YOU EVER SEE ANYBODY GET HEALED OUT OF THE THERMAL WATER ?

EP---WELL,I HAVE SEEN,I MEAN,PEOPLE COME WITH WALKING CANES,AN' THEY WOULD LEAVE THEY WOULD,WOULDN'T NEED TO USE THEIR WALKING CANE,AFTER THEY TAKE SO MANY BATHS,THEY.....

I---[BB]---DID THEY LEAVE THE CANE WITH YOU THEN ?

EP---WELL,I,THEY DIDN'T LEAVE THE CANE WITH ME,THEY,I DIDN'T HAVE ANY USE FOR IT.

I---[BB]---DID YOU TAKE THE BATHS YOURSELF ?

EP---OH YEAH,I DON'T TAKE 'EM NOW,BUT I USED TO,I MEAN WHEN I WAS THERE,UP THERE,I USED TO TAKE MAYBE TWO OR THREE BATHS A WEEK,SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.....

I---[BB]---AFTER HOURS OR BEFORE HOURS ?

EP---[OH, THEY'D BE] MAYBE AT NOONTIME,SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT,YOU KNOW,
WHILE YOU'RE JUS' RELAXIN',THEN DIDN'T CARE TO GO ON THE STREET,OR
SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.....

I---[BB]---DID SOMEONE ELSE PUT THE PACKS ON YOU,OR ASSIST YOU WHEN YOU WERE IN THE TUB,OR DID YOU DO IT ON YOUR OWN ?

EP---WELL,I NE',I NEVER DID GET THE CARE [WORDS UNCLEAR] QUITE,AT THAT
TIME,ANYTHING LIKE THAT.....

I---WERE THE BATHHOUSES OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK,DID YOU HAVE TO WORK ON SUNDAY ?

EP---YEAH,SEVEN DAYS A WEEK,AN' I HAD TO WORK HALF A DAY ON SUNDAY,YA.....

I---WHEN DID THAT STOP,DO YOU REMEMBER ?

EP---NO,I DON'T,I DON'T REMEMBER,I CAN'T RECALL THAT,BUT,AH,WELL, THEY GOT TO WHERE THEY WANTED TO JOIN THE UNION HERE AN' YOU KNOW WHEN THE UNION GET TO WHERE THEY START QUITE A HO-HUM ABOUT PEOPLE WORKIN' SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AN' EVERYTHING.....

I---OKAY,YOU WORKED IN THE FORDYCE BUILDING,SO DO YOU REMEMBER THE

I---[CONT]---BOWLING ALLEY BEING IN THE BASEMENT ?

EP---OH YEAH,I USED TO BOWL DOWN THERE QUITE A BIT.....

I---WHO WERE ALLOWED TO BOWL IN THE BASEMENT ?

EP---WELL,AH,WE WOULDN'T,I MEAN,THE EMPLOYEES COULD BOWL,BUT [WORD UNCLEAR] GUESTS,THE EMPLOYEE,I USED TO BOWL WITH AH,[WORDS UNCLEAR] I MEAN,AH,SPRING,I THINKS HIS NAME WAS,SPRING,I USED TO BOWL WITH HIM.....

I---WHAT TIME OF DAY DID YOU BOWL,LUNCH TIME OR EVENING ?

EP---LUNCH TIME,UH-HUH,LUNCH TIME.....

I---WELL,WE DON'T HAVE ANY PICTURES OF IT,DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE HAVE ANY PICTURES OF THE BOWLING ALLEY OR DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WITH PICTURES OF THE BOWLING ALLEY ?

EP---NO,I'M,I CAN'T REMEMBER THE GENTLEMAN THAT WORKED,HE WAS A MASSEUR,RUDY BISHOFFS' AND HIS FATHER WORKED HERE AN' AH, WE USED TO BOWL TOGETHER WHEN [I,I], RUDY AND HIS DAD ARE BOTH PASSED ON NOW.....

I---DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OF ANY OF THE ROOMS IN THIS BUILDING ?

EP---NO,I DO NOT [WORDS UNCLEAR],I DIDN'T.....

I---[BB]---HOW MANY ALLEYS WERE THERE ?

EP---THERE WAS TWO....YEAH.....

I---THERE'S A GYMNASIUM UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR,DID YOU EVER GO UP AND USE THE GYM ?

EP---OH, WELL,WELL,I USED TO GO UP AN' WORK UP THERE WHEN I FIRST STARTED HERE,I STARTED AT WITH THE BOWLING ALLEY AND GYM,THEN I WENT TO [WORD UNBCLEAR].....

I---WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE GYM,DID YOU.....?

EP---WELL,LOTTA TIMES I,PEOPLE THAT KNOW THIS,YOU KNOW THAT,TOOK EXERCISE AN' DIFFERENT THINGS LIKE THAT AN' UNTIL,OH,I GOT SICK AN' THEY WANTED TO PUT ME IN THE BATHHOUSE THEN.....

I---OKAY....DID THE,DID THE,WERE THE WOMEN ALLOWED TO USE THE GYM ?

EP---OH YEAH,WOMEN,WOMEN AND MEN,THEY.....

I---[BB]---QUITE A FEW WOMEN USE THE GYM ?

EP---OH YEAH,QUITE A FEW,QUITE A FEW,THEY LIKE ME,JUS' LIKE A ROUTINE, PEOPLE WOULD COME HERE IN AH,SEPTEMBER,AN' WE'D START OFF [FALL IN THE AIR],AN' AT THAT TIME,MR.CHESTER WAS MANAGING THE BATH,AN' MAYBE IN THE DULL MONTHS HE WOULD LET US OFF A MONTH TO DRAW OUR UN-EMPLOYMENT TO,YOU KNOW, HELP US OVER THE BAD TIMES,YOU KNOW....

I---[BB]---SO YOU EXPECTED A LAYOFF, THAT PART OFF THE YEAR ?

EP---WELL, YES, THEY GET, IF AH, PEOPLE DOESN'T, DIDN'T GET TO COME, [WORDS

UNCLEAR], WELL SOME PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, JUS' THEY DIDN'T HAVE NO AH, AH, YOU KNOW, A WEDDIN' OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, IF YOU WANTED TO STAY ON, YOU WANTED TO GET OFF AN' DO A LITTLE WORK AROUND THE HOUSE OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW, IT WAS NICE FOR ME TO GET OUT

IN THE FRESH AIR, YOU KNOW, AFTER BEIN' IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, AT THE BATHHOUSE UP THERE, YOU CAN'T HARDLY TELL WHEN IT RAIN UP THERE,

I MEAN, YOU KNOW, 'LESS YOU GO TO A WINDA', SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT AN' LOOK

OUT, YOU CAN'T HEAR ANYTHIN'.....

I---MR. PAYTON, I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A CHIROPODY ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR,

EP---OH, AT THE.....

I---A FOOT SPECIALIST, ON THE SECOND FLOOR, IN THE FORDYCE, AND THERE

WAS A COUPLE BLACK DOCTORS, DO YOU REMEMBER THEM ?

EP---YEAH, I REMEMBER DR. HARRISON, (I--DR. HARRIS), HARRISON, HARRISON,

(I--OKAY), HE LIVED ON DAVIS STREET, [WORDS UNCLEAR], THE SECOND HOUSE FROM GRAND AVENUE ON THE CORNER, YEAH, (I--HE STILL LIVIN' ?), NO, NO, HE

DEAD, (I--ALSO DR. BARNES ?), WELL, HE STILL LIVIN', (I--RIGHT).

I---[BB]---AND THEY PRACTICED AT THEIR OWN OFFICE PLUS COMING HERE ?

EP---OH YEAH, THEY PRACTICED THEIR OWN OFFICE, RIGHT DOWN ON THE RIGHT

THERE, BEYOND AH, THE CAFE THERE, RIGHT ALONG PAST THERE BY THE, AT THAT

TIME DR. HARRISON, HE HAD A PLACE IN THE WOODMAN BUILDIN' DOWN THERE,

YEAH, HE COME AROUND SO MANY DAYS.....

I---[BB]---CAN WE GET BACK TO THE BOWLING ALLEY ONCE,WHEN YOU WERE DOWN AS EMPLOYEES BOWLING,DID YOU SET PINS FOR EACH OTHER ?

EP---THAT'S RIGHT.....WE,WE JUS' TAKE,YOU BOWL TODAY MAYBE,AND TOMORROW YOU SET PINS,JUS' TAKE YOUR,YOU KNOW,ROUND,JUS' A LITTLE EXERCISE TO KEEP FROM SITTING THERE,[CHUCKLE].....I REMEMBER,LET

ME SEE AH,I CAN'T RECALL HIS NAME,HE WAS HERE FROM ST.LOUIS,HE USED TO WORK,COME HERE AND WORK AH,WE HAD A BOXER,CLYDE EDMUNDSEN,HE USED TO BOX HERE YEARS AGO,HE WAS BLACK AND AH,HE USED TO TAKE,PRACTICE,QUITE A BIT OF PRACTICE.....

I---[BB]---WHEN THOSE BOXERS WERE TRAINING HERE,DID THAT ATTRACT OTHER PEOPLE TO COME,COULD I EXERCISE IN THE GYM AT THE SAME TIME THEY DID OR.....?

EP---NO,YOU JUS',JUS' MIGHT ASK A FEW PEOPLE JUS' IN,AND LIKE I SAID, WELL,UM,MOST OF THEM BALL-PLAYERS,THEY'D GO UP THERE [WORD UNCLEAR],TO,YOU KNOW,PLAY CATCHUH,LET ME SEE,AH,I CAN'T THINK OF

THAT MAN,ALLEN,HIS NAME WAS ALLEN,HE LIVED OUT HERE ON THE LAKE FOR AWHILE,HE PLAYED FOR THE CLEVELAND INDIANS,THERE,I USED TO GO UP AND CATCH WITH HIM SOMETIME,YOU KNOW,OCCASIONALLY.....

I---[BB]---HE'D PITCH AND YOU CATCH 'EM ?

EP---THAT'S RIGHT,AT THAT TIME...I LIKE SPORTS,BUT I COME 50 YEARS TO SOON.

I---[BB]---DO YOU REMEMBER SOME INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE STILL LIVING TODAY THAT WORKED IN SOME OF THESE BATHHOUSES THAT WE MAY NOT HAVE CONTACTED ?

EP--- THAT'S LIVING TODAY ? LET ME SEE,.....

I---[BB]---IF YOU DON'T THINK OF IT TODAY,AND IF YOU THINK OF ONE IN A FEW DAYS,GIVE AH,TONI A CALL.....

EP---I CERTAINLY WILL,AND I'M QUITE SURE.....

END OF INTERVIEW.....