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**E. Charlton Pratcher:** Good. We are very pleased this afternoon to have Pamalee Barnes, who we call Peggy, here as our guest. Mrs. Barnes was the long time secretary to the State Health Officer of Florida. Actually, she had six tours of state health officer duty under five, I'm sorry, under four state health officers. Then actually spent a tour with an assistant state health officer, and had other responsible—responsibilities within the public health organization of Florida. She is a lady that sat in a high place, and who is in just the ideal position to see the progress and the regress of the public health movement in Florida from her position in the—well, for the lack of a better term, the head shed of the state health department. Mrs. Barnes, it is truly a pleasure to have you here today. And I thank you for your willingness to come. Because whether you will share with them or not—share them with us or not, you are just—just loaded with just all sorts of interesting observations of how it is that the public health department in Florida works. First of your observations—what got you involved with public health? How did you get into the public health department?

**Peg Barnes:** Well, I started in the Office of Vital Statistics in Jacksonville.

CP: Is Mr. Williams still living?

PB: I'm not sure of it.

CP: Okay.

PB: I don't know, but then I—while I was working there, I was mending birth and death certificates.

CP: Yes.

PB: And then the—Dr. Ford, who was the Assistant Health Officer—

CP: Yes.

PB: He needed a secretary, and I applied, and he accepted me as his secretary.

CP: Yes.

PB: And I worked for him—and he was also the head of the local health services, which dealt with the county health units.

CP: Ah.

PB: All of the country health units.

CP: Yes.

PB: So, that—we covered that; and he also—Dr. Ford had been in charge of the public health residency program, where the physicians would go to different counties, and serve their residency, and be certified as—.

CP: In preventative medicine.

PB: That's true.

CP: Yes.

PB: And then, uh, I worked for him and then started the legislature found fit, to send the (inaudible), which they found fit to reorganize health, and the—.

CP: Oh.

PB: To bring us all to Tallahassee.

CP: Oh yes. I remember it with—I remember it.

PB: I remember it very well. (CP laughs) And we all—

CP: You said to Tallahassee; where were you from?

PB: I'm—St. Augustine and Jacksonville.

CP: Oh, you mean—.

PB: I'm sorry, I—it all started in Jacksonville.

CP: Oh, and the legislature moved the headquarters of the state health department.

PB: They was—from Jacksonville to—.

CP: Jacksonville—to here.

PB: To Tallahassee.

CP: Uh-huh.

PB: To get us all together under one roof, I'd say.

CP: Yes.

PB: But—when I retired in May of ninety-five, we still weren't under one roof. We was all—.

CP: So you weren't?

PB: We were still spread all over the state.

CP: Huh.

PB: But it's—was—wonderful and I must say now that the thirty-four and a half years that I worked and helped in the (inaudible) state health office and just simply—just most enjoyable of my whole career.

CP: Would you do it again?

PB: Yes, I would.

CP: In spite of all the trauma you had to suffer?

PB: Well, there was a—

CP: I understand you had to stay up almost—most of the nights many a times.

PB: Well, that was during the moving from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, and I was your secretary at that time. And we all—

CP: I'm surprised you'd admit that. (laughter)

PB: But we stayed up many nights, late working to restructure health and to make the transition—make the plans for transition.

CP: Yes.

PB: And it was exciting even though—and I was a lot younger then too, so that, that—.

CP: Yeah, yeah, I wasn't—I'm still young.

PB: But we stayed up—I know one night until about one o'clock, trying to get everything; and then another occasion, it was a Father's Day, we were all working Sunday—on a Sunday morning, and I worked until about noon, and my father lived in St. Augustine, so I just—I just had to leave and go and, at least, see him.

CP: Yes.

PB: But it was all—it was just, well, wonderful years and the—health offices I've worked for are just wonderful. Including you.

CP: Um-hm. (laughs)

PB: Then after—you came over first in '76, and then, you—I came first, you came second, over to Tallahassee.

CP: Yeah, physically moved.

PB: And we—well, yes. We found an apartment, and I didn't have any ties in Jacksonville, so it was easy for me to make the transition.

CP: Oh. I've always been curious about that, because that was a significant event in your life. You lived and—

PB: And it was—very—it was a blessing really. It was just a very—it was the smartest move I had ever made and if I had turned it down I don't know—I don't know where I'd be now. But it was just—it was just—.

CP: Well, I'm glad you accepted it.

PB: And—You'd asked me to come over here with you and I was promoted to the executive secretary. Then I worked with you for about four or five years, and then—you were transferred, I think, to the district, if I'm not mistaken.

CP: Not about four or five years.

PB: And then they brought in—throughout—I was working with Dr. Ford and doing the public health residency program. Dr. Howell was doing his residency down in Palm Beach County under Dr. Broombeck.

CP: Yes.

PB: So—and it was my job to provide the information to go on the certificates—you know the years, and—.

CP: Yes.

PB: So, this (inaudible), the next one after you had moved on was Dr. Howell. And I have—worked with him in the residency program, he was—he came on board as staff health officer. I worked for him for a number of years, and he was very delightful—and there was one thing I would like to say to it—all of the health officers were different, that had different fields, different personalities, I mean it was just—you know—exciting.

CP: Did you have any trouble adapting?

PB: Well, it—at first, Dr. Howell—since he—since he was a Yankee—and—.

CP: That's all right; he knows he's a Yankee.

PB: He's a—it was his mannerisms I didn't fully understand, and it took me a little while to get used to him, but he turned out to be one of the dearest friends I have ever had. And if I had to choose my favorite, I couldn't do that.

CP: No not here, not when—since I'm one of them. I'm don't want to ask you for no favorites.

PB: (laughs) No—I have enjoyed all of them, and every one of them had different ways of doing things; different ideas, and—and all of them in different fields: you, epidemiologist; Dr. Howell's, public health; Dr. King came on next, and I'm not really sure what his specialty was.

CP: Where'd he come from?

PB: He came as federal assignee. They—

CP: This was Dr. Howell—what happened to Dr. Howell?

PB: Well, he—moved on and he—he served a number of prestigious positions throughout the state. I bet, even now, he's a secretary for the new department of—last year. So he's—he's a new head of the—the new Health Care Administration, and I think he went back to Palm Beach for a little while; and he has been a very important in the progress of public health.

CP: Yes, Very prominent in (inaudible) administration and public health for a long time.

PB: And actually, I had served you two terms, and I served Dr. Howell two terms. It appeared in the—in the movement and all that, our health officer would be gone, and we were short; so you came in and filled in, and Dr. Howell filled in for maybe a year or so each time, and then I—

CP: Dr. Howell and I used to tease each other. You know—we didn't get enough beating one time, so we're back for a second chance.

PB: Back again. That's—that's true. And, of course, I enjoyed second—the second time, at least I understood you a little bit better. (CP laughs) And then, you—

CP: Well, I would think that different with you; you had us fairly well trained by the time we came back second time.



PB: Well—well that could be too. And then the third one was Dr. Steve King, he was a federal assignee.

CP: Oh-oh yeah-what happened to Dr. Howell? How come—Where'd Dr. Howell go?

PB: Oh I think he—let's see.

CP: Did he go to be the deputy secretary of the department?

PB: Yes he did, that's true. In November of eighty-one, he went up to be the deputy.

CP: Okay, so now we had a vacancy.

PB: Since we were short a health officer. There was a period of six months where we didn't have a health officer; but he—guided the actions and—the progress in the program. Yes, he did go to the secretary of H.R.S. [Health and Rehabilitative Services] and got the secretariat.

CP: Yes.

PB: And that was in eighty—November of '81. And then, while he—they found—after a while he was upstairs, they found Dr. Steven King, of the—federal government. And they assigned him on—I guess a federal assignment. [They] assigned him to us, and he was about three years. But—I don't—I have a hard time explaining exactly what his progress did to Florida's public health. I meant, he just seemed not to fit in, and there were a lot of people throughout the state didn't—especially didn't see what he was accomplishing in Florida's public health.

CP: And—and he was a—he was a federal assignee.

PB: He was a federal employee, and they assigned him to us.

CP: Well, that one of his maybe deficits was that he did not have formal training in public health.

PB: That's—that could very well be; because when he left, there was nothing that I'm aware of, and I could be wrong, to show what had accomplished. It just—just seemed like it was—he was just there to keep us together, I guess.

CP: Housekeeper.

PB: That's right, and keep everything going and all. And I don't mean to be ugly—you know—and make remarks about him—

CP: No, but then—then, he left.

PB: He left.

CP: Did he leave of his own volition or was he invited to go back home?

PB: Well, I think he was more or less asked to—I meant, the department asked the federal government to—

CP: To recall him.

PB: To recall him.

CP: Recall him.

PB: Yeah, that—

CP: Yeah. Okay, I just remind you that Dr. Sauder, Florida's most outstanding—or second most—Sauder corrected me—Sauder considers that he would accept the accolade as being the state's second most outstanding health officer. With Porter being the first.

PB: Oh, well I—I didn't know about Dr. Porter, and I didn't serve Dr.—

CP: Sauder.

PB: Sauder, but he was head of the department when I went to work for the state but I had no—working relationship with him.

CP: I just—remind both of us that he was a federal assignee, to when he became acting state health officer; he did that on permission as a federal assignee—

PB: And I—

CP: Also.

PB: Excuse me—and actually, during his term, I think they recalled him to Washington.

CP: That's right, for a two-year stint.

PB: Stint to—I'm not sure what—

CP: Yeah, he was continuing on leave from the public health service all the years he served.

PB: And then he would—but then—I understand and know that he was a magnificent and wonderful—but I didn't have the privilege to work for him.

CP: Yeah. Well, well after Dr. King left, who came?

PB: Dr. Mahan.

CP: Wrong.

PB: Wrong.

CP: Um-hm.

PB: You came back. (Laughter)

CP: Dr. Howell came back.

PB: Dr. Howell came back see--.

CP: Dr. Howell came back.

PB: Dr. Howell came back and I think he served about a year and a half, keeping us together. I mean, they brought these health officers in to keep us going and provided, you know, to guidance to the field—the employees in public health, and the professionals—and—

CP: Did you have trouble making transitions between all these guys?

PB: Well, when uh, actually, the thing that was my security, at that point—I was career service. So, they uh, would have to—

CP: They couldn't have any tract with you.

PB: They couldn't actually just tell me to get lost (CP Laughs). But uh, then uh, Dr.—now, it was Dr. Mahan came on after Dr. Howell.

CP: Wrong.

PB: Now who? Was it you?

CP: Yeah. (Laughter)

PB: Well, I had you again.

CP: That's right, you had to put up with me again, for two years and two months.

PB: But anyway the—they were wonderful years, as well.

CP: And then Dr. Mahan came.

PB: Now can I tell about Dr. Mahan?

CP: Yeah, then Dr. Mahan came.

PB: Yes, he was—professor at the University of Florida, and he and the secretary of H.R.S. [Health and Rehabilitative Services] signed a contract to bring him in as our State Health Officer. And that was in January of '88.

CP: Yes.

PB: And I—and you asking me if I've been about serving all of them, but by then I think I might have been exempt, career exempt.

CP: You were.

PB: So, I—asked him—

CP: So, you had to be nice to him?

PB: Well I was to (CP laughs)—I asked him if he wanted me to—stay on as his secretary or he had some other desire, people wanted to interview, what he wanted, and he told me no, he wanted me to stay on and look after him. And that's what being a secretary amounted to—

CP: What—what, what, why do you think he wanted you he wanted you to stay on?

PB: Well, maybe I had a fairly good reputation at the time?

CP: Who, who is the only person that had the answer to institutional history going back all the way? Who is the only person who had the files? Who is the only person who had the memory of it all? Who was that person?

PB: Well I—he chose me to stay, (Laughter) and—and actually very wonderful working for him, and as I said, he—the secretary of H.R.S. and the university agreed to give him to us on contract, which he did, and he performed very well, and he was just fine—

CP: Delightful person to work with?

PB: Just—just wonderful.

CP: I knew it.

PB: I mean that he was just wonderful, and I had him longer than anyone else; I had him seven years.

CP: Well, if you add up another way—you can add up another way, and you had another one, essentially, the same amount.

PB: You're talking about you.

CP: Yeah, (Laughter) but not in one—one sit.

PB: One—I had I had Dr. Mahan all one time. But he was a delight to work for and actually he retired—left, I'm sorry, he went to the University of South Florida, the Dean of the College of Public Health; and he left February 28 in '95; and then, I retired, because I had just taken all the health officers I could. (CP laughs) I retired in May. He asked me to stay on until the legislature was over, so that I could help whoever came into—through it. He wasn't really mad. That—there was other staff that could have helped, but I did stay until—and I left May 1 of '95.

CP: Yeah, your knowledge of the files in the past history, though, Peggy, was profoundly valuable.

PB: You know, time passes, and you don't remember all these little incidents. They're all —

CP: I know it. I heard, just this morning; I was—having some conversation with Dr. Howell's secretary. Dr. Howell's secretary at the Department of Health and she was speaking to my address and she has no problem, I had Peggy's Rolodex. I have all the knowledge I need.

PB: And I—and they have complimented me on my files, too. That, you know, if they needed it—I think they called me one time trying to, not find something that there wasn't in the file. They wanted to know the—had a question about something. That—they have complimented me on the filing systems so—I hated the files so that was—

CP: But you did it very well, and you kept up with it.

PB: But I had to. But I had to.

CP: You know I had other secretaries. You ask for then for the file, it would take them thirty minutes because there was large stacks of paper.

PB: I try to keep it—I like that. (Laughter)

CP: And you did very well, or at least you kept it hid. Yep.

PB: But anyway, you know, of all the years, and all the people we've worked for, the public health professionals have just been outstanding; I don't know of any that have not proven themselves to help—with other (inaudible).

CP: Yeah, you started with the State Board of Health.

PB: Yes, I—our campus—actually, they changed things so much it's hard for me keep up as to which way it followed, The State Board of Health.

CP: Yep, and then we became the Division of Health.

PB: Then, the Health Program Office.

CP: Yeah, we stayed as individuals—you became the secretary to the State Health Officer while we were still a Division of Health, but it was just a few months after you joined that we became the office of—

PB: State Health Office?

CP: No.

PB: It was the Health Program Office—

CP: Health Program Office. We became the Health Program Office.

PB: And then we became the State Health Office.

CP: That's right, much later. When you joined, you joined when we were division, then—but just a few months after that; we became the Health Program Office. Try to remember some of that transition. You were brand new to Tallahassee, we were trying to get used to the name, we had just lost about sixty five hundred staff, and we were in the process to trying to get a state level public health organization out of a hundred and fifty seven people. Can you remember any of that? That—that's the beginning of your beginning in the State Health Office.

PB: Well, let's—

CP: With the State Health Office.



PB: Well, it was a wonderful and a learning session for me. Actually, I began to understand what public health was all about; and it's just a wonderful— you know, a wonderful field, but I had not been able to appreciate what—the extent of what we did about diseases and all—we had to be sure to have cover and work towards eradicating all that. It was one—just one thing after—and public health has never been dull, I'm telling you. If it wasn't one thing, it was something else.

CP: No two days alike, either.

PB: That's true.

CP: Not even for the secretaries.

PB: Well, I—when I first came over here, I could hardly wait for daylight to come so I could get up—

CP: Come to work.

PB: Come to work. That's, that's—

CP: Well—I remember you were here about daylight every morning.

PB: Well, actually in the later years, I was here at seven, and then I conned Dr. Mahan into letting me leave at four thirty. (CP laughs) But I did; I worked early, and it was very —learning experience; and, like I said, all the health officers had different ideas, and they were in different fields. But you had just—I mean, the whole realm of public health; you have to get a little bit of everything, so you could at least follow through with whichever area. You may not know the whole thing, but you will know enough to—to handle it, and get it on through the—

CP: In those early years of me and you, I remember your, for the lack of a better word, networking with the—with the—with the secretary to the departmental secretary, and with the secretaries of the other program officers.

PB: Yeah, that was very crucial.

CP: Very crucial indeed. And I don't recall that any of us tried to stimulate you to do that. You did that of your volition. Speak to that.

PB: But you had to have a rapport with the other girls and all the—you know—if you needed them and they needed you; and I, actually, I was going through the files to get—try and [get] information for this interview; and there was a little piece of paper—and your handwriting was on too, but this little piece of paper from one of the girls that was an executive staff, at that time, and she made the remark of how pleasant it was to handle the things, the mail, the correspondence, I sent to the executive staff, which was the secretary as well. That it was so well organized and it wasn't—I meant she could understand it and it was complete, and which made me feel good, and then you had written a little kind note on it. But we had—with all the—the other secretaries like, Larcell, who is now a—I think she's Dr. Howell's secretary.

CP: Yes, yes.

PB: She has—over the years we've worked together and—and been very wonderful, and actually all of the executive staff, the ones at the (inaudible), and the different ones and legislative planning. The—the young lady that was legislative planning, and I always had a habit of saying “darling,” on everybody “darling.” So, one day she said something. She said I—I have tried to quit saying that but it doesn't work. And she told me not to, and it was too, uh, personal, you know, it made you feel comfortable. So I have been—  
But, but working with everyone and—and they tried to help me and be useful and you know, help me with what I needed. Like (inaudible) and personnel, and everybody was just—as I did too. I tried to help them and give them information—accurate information—is what you try to do.

CP: Amen, and timely.

PB: It worked out.

CP: You did that very well, you did that very well, but I want to recall that was on your own volition. Did your other—other bosses notice this?

PB: Well, they never pointed it out to me like you—like you did.

CP: They just assumed it.

PB: But they felt, they felt they—I guess they saw it a just assumed it was part of the plan.

CP: Part of being executive secretary.

PB: That's right.

CP: Yeah.

PB: I meant you—I meant you didn't have to be told and took it upon yourself. Which—I mean, that's what my job was to look after them, the health officers, keep them in their right place at the right time and—

CP: And you did that profoundly well.

PB: And have them, as far as the meetings, and then when they traveled and make sure all their hotels—you know and airline was all correct and they didn't get stranded somewhere. One time—one time doctor— I think it was Dr. Mahan went to a meeting and I'd had—I had the reservation, I had the—the umber and all. He got there and they didn't have a room, but they had—

CP: Oops.

PB: Loused up.

CP: Oops, you had the reservation number.

PB: But that's the—but that's the only time I've ever heard of that they got there and they didn't have a place to sleep, so—(laughter) but they found him one so it turned out all right. But you tried to—making their job as easy, that's the main thing, making sure that their job is easy, because they've got enough to worry about. About where they're going to sleep and what plane they've going to catch, you know.

CP: Thank you for that. That reminds me, what do—what sort of secretarial pre-training did you have had—how did you come up to be a secretary?

PB: Well, I was—

CP: Instead of a governor of Florida or something.

PB: Well, I, uh, had, uh—after my husband was killed, I went back to Jones Business College, where I took a secretarial course, and then when I went to, uh, work in vital statistics, uh—I, I, uh—worked there because I just wanted to get into something and not especially secretarial; that didn't really—but then when uh, in vital statistics and then uh, the doctor's secretary—Dr. Ford's secretary had left—who was Lewis Willis, who was a dear friend of mine, he encouraged me to refresh my secretarial position—uh, talent and apply for Dr. Ford's secretary. So I did, I took the—they gave you exams and I meant the regular secretarial exams so I took that. And then he chose me with Lewis's help, I'm sure, but he—uh, chose me and then another new offside thing that happened while I was there, Dr. Ford's wife became very ill with cancer; in fact, she passed away.

CP: Yes, I remember.

PB: And he was—and I tried to—there were things I tried to make his life—his office life more easier, you know? And (inaudible) they would call; and he'd be in a meeting; and if it wasn't too important, I'd go get him, and put him on the telephone; just tried to ease his problem with his wife and—and—

CP: And you're aware he's passed now.

PB: He was a very—a very wonderful man.

CP: Yes he was.

PB: And then I applied for that, and then when they reorganized, then you were coming over; and then you—and, of course, you were sitting—I meant—you were—you were state health officer over there in—across the hall, with Mrs. Ballard and the others; and then, you had asked me to—if I would be interested in coming over here. Of course, I was—

CP: Ms. Ballard didn't want to come.

PB: She didn't? Sorry about that.

CP: You know she's passed away too.

PB: Your kidding?

CP: Just for your knowledge. She did pass away about—about three months ago.

PB: I didn't know that.

CP: Too bad.

PB: (inaudible)

CP: Very bad—cancer.

PB: I'm sorry to hear that. She wasn't a very good friend of mine but I—

CP: But I interrupted your train of thought. Just keep on—I'm trying to get you to outline, your secretarial training and experience but—

PB: Well, when I had—I'm sorry, I left out a little bit in there too. In vital statistics, Mr. Carter came onboard as assistant director in vital statistics, and he needed a secretary, so I worked for him. I'm sorry, I was—that slipped my mind.

CP It's okay.

PB: But I worked for him as uh, uh—I was a steno at that time.

CP: And that was your—your beginning real secretarial job?

PB: That was—that was the beginning and then after—work with him in the secretarial—position and all—with that knowledge he uh—Dr. Ford chose me.

CP: Yeah. All right, that's good. Then you came—you came uh—to the state health officer directly from Ford's office?

PB: Yes, I came up with you to um—because he was—Dr. Ford was not—would not have accepted the state health office. He didn't want to leave. And he didn't really have to; he was retired from the federal government also. So, uh—when you became it, you asked me to come with you, which I did, and we came over here and had a good time.

CP: We did, and—

PB: We worked, I'm telling you, it was—it was exciting though.

CP: Yeah, and you—you demonstrated all the executive secretarial qualities, you know, of independence and self-thinking.

PB: A little instinct. But that's what I have—I guess I—the last thirty—thirty years I have (inaudible), because I was over here twenty years and I was secretary through all of—all of—

CP: Yeah, that's right. Just uh—not all of your highlights but give us some examples of highlights of your career with the state health office. I know you know all of—where all the skeletons are, and I know you know where all the interesting little files are; I'm not asking you exhume any of that; some of the highlights of your career.

PB: Well let's just—let's see (pause). This—this time you forget as you get older.

CP: Well no, I can't—I don't—

PB: You don't know about that.

CP: No, I don't know about that. (laughs)

PB: Well, there's one—this is—has nothing to do with uh, the uh, action of a secretary of the state health officer in any way, but that was doctor—I was Dr. Ford's secretary, and there was local health services who Dr. Ford was over also, and this one incident they—came Christmas time, and everybody—of course all the sections were planning on having a Christmas um—

CP: Decorations.

PB: No—dinner out. Well, there was only Dr. Ford and I. I meant, that was all that was in our office, so—Dr. Sauder's office and his assistant, they planned a big luncheon—a Christmas luncheon for their group, and someone—and something was said as to Dr. Ford and I were attending with him. Well, that was a no-no. I meant, we were told right then, no. So Dr. Crane, who was head of local health services, he and his group asked us out to have Christmas with them. So, that—it worked out.

CP: (Laughs) You got—you are loaded with those, tell me some more.

PB: Well, I—

CP: Tell me another one.

PB: I don't know exactly which one's would be—

CP: I remember you laughing a lot.

PB: Oh, well, I have—you have to, or cry. (Laughter)

CP: Did you want to use my highlighter?

PB: No, this is fine. One of the things that—was uh, part of the health offices job was doing the hurricane of Miami of '92—

CP: Two, yeah, Andrew.

PB: When it—when it was quite devastating. And Dr. Mahan um, flew down there uh, we spent quite some time down there.

CP: Yeah, yeah, he spent several months down there for essence.

PB: Trying to—trying to—and he and—actually, he and the Governor flew down in a helicopter together over—I meant, over the area.

CP: The impact area.

PB: Seeing, surveying the, the—to see what was—what was really being needed, and there were uh, a lot of people—uh, actually, they were recruiting throughout the state, people to—

CP: To go down and help.

PB: To go take turns and go down and fill in for that and we were trying to—to keep in planes and busses and all available to take them, and they would take turns to go down and assist with that so, but there were a lot of—our professionals volunteered their time, left their families to go down there and it was—it was needed and everybody filled in and worked.

CP: Hm. You didn't go, but, apparently, that was very traumatic for you; that you would remember that; that you were responsible [for] coordinating all of that?

PB: No, well, not actually coordinating. I was involved in it. I meant, and they ensured that everybody was—well, of course, they would be contacting Dr. Mahan, and I would be the go-between to do—to do that, because he was—he would stay up to, uh—get people to volunteer to go, and then, they would call; and then, between it, I would have to relay messages of, of—you know—not per se—I was not that deeply involved, just the go-between to the—

CP: But it was an impressive event, even for you.



PB: Yeah.

CP: Yeah.

PB: But it was, and uh—hear everyday it's something traumatic happening down there and all. Actually, they did one of the newsletters—our (inaudible) state health office newsletters; the whole thing was dedicated to the hurricane, because it was devastating and it—it took years to recover from that.

CP: They really haven't recovered yet.

PB: Nope.

CP: They're not totally recovered yet.

PB: And uh—actually—there's a publication in this-this 1988, uh—printed by the institute of public—uh, institute of medicine, and it's called *The Future of Public Health*; and it is just filled with—and I didn't really realize it as much. I had a—I've got a copy and I kept it so that would—and getting prepared for this interview, I highlighted, you know, and looked it over, and it is just filled with what public health was about, what it should be about, and what they're hoping it will be about in the future. And Dr. Mahan was on one of the committee's—I meant, not the committee member, but he was asked to —

CP: Make a contribution at least.

PB: Contributions and thoughts towards that, and it was a really exciting book. Although, I don't know how they—I think, the institute distributed a bunch of them. Of course, since it's so old, they might not be available now, but it was really—it really gives you an insight into public health.

CP: And that was a highlight for you?

PB: Yes.

CP: The reading of that book?

PB: Yeah, I enjoyed it and I just the—last few days did that because—

CP: Yup, read it again.

PB: Well, the highlights of it. And all the areas of a—public health, you just think maybe it's AIDS or VD or you know, syphilis and all that, but that's not the—it's a whole realm of—

CP: Everything touches a human being is—

PB: That is true, maternal and child health, health education, toxicology, waste management.

CP: Did you see in the future of public health--much that Florida was doing or does Florida have a long way to go?

PB: Well it—well it wasn't—it didn't pinpoint it. It had various charts, which showed uh, the life span—

CP: Relative standing of the states.

PB: and how much, you know—how much—did not—it was not set out to point out in a particular—in this state, it was overall—the future in public health. About the whole—

CP: Yes, well we should be some time in the future.

PB: Yup. Well that was towards the end of—

CP: Are we getting there? Are we, Florida, moving in that direction?

PB: Well, I hope so—

CP: From your observation?

PB: I hope so. It seems like they—with all the re-organization, I can't really keep up with it, since I'm not dealing with it any longer.

CP: Yeah, and it's hard, it's moving quickly these days.

PB: It is. And so, not being immediately involved, it's hard to see what's going on and what they're trying to do.

CP: Yeah, with our new Department of Health I don't know either, I don't either. I don't.

PB: I don't um, and I can't keep in the know—like the children's, the department of childrens and medi—uh, no—the children and medical services.

CP: Children and medical services, children and families, yeah, the department.

PB: (Inaudible) has been nice and qualified. He used to be our—

CP: Deputy.

PB: That's correct.

CP: Yeah, he was a number of positions with you.

PB: Really?

CP: Yeah.

PB: He was—

CP: Yeah, all right. Dr. Howell, who is now the new secretary—or was it Dr. King? Do you remember the environmental agriculture department? We had some sort of chemical pollutant that appeared in the water, while on Dr. King's watch, we call it. That became a state wide—a very critical issue. I can't remember the chemical, but Dr. King was on TV, and he'd travel around, and went a lot with the Commissioner of Agriculture.

PB: This is Stephen King?

CP: Yes. Do you recall any of that? You personally didn't get too much involved with it.

PB: No; but there were a lot of epidemics and like—you know—with seafood parts, and oysters in particular, and the oysters were hazardous to the public health. And, I think, one time, you just quit eating oysters, if I'm not mistaken.

CP: That's correct, I don't eat them raw at all.

PB: So, there was dangerous thing to do because you never knew when they were going to be—

CP: That's right, that's right. I'm trying to get you to think about highlights with each of your—with each of your state health officers. You spoke of one with Ford, which was an interesting one, and I—I don't necessarily want to go in order, I'll jump to Howell. What was a highlight of your career with Dr. Howell?

PB: Well, it was exciting. (Laughter) I have to tell you this one thing about Dr. Howell, he—he is the—I guess antsy would be a good word.

CP: He's got a lot of energy.

PB: Ah well, maybe that—

CP: A lot of energy and he can't stay still.

PB: But—he would have—he would be on the telephone, he would have two meetings going on. One in the office he was in and one in (inaudible), and he would participate in all of them, I meant he would just go from one—and he knew what he was doing. I meant he carried through it. (Laughter) But he—he was a—[the years] they were wonderful.

CP: Did you have any difficulty keeping him straight?

PB: Well not really, because—you just go along with him. You follow him and—and then—if there was a problem with something you could talk to him about it.

CP: Okay, good.

PB: But he, but he was—

CP: Okay, in the normal sequence of things, give me a highlight of your career with me.

PB: Well, now that's hard to say.

CP: All right, go to Mahan.

PB: Well, he—and you know, this is what surprised me; I had breakfast with Dr. Mahan about three weeks ago.

CP: Good.

PB: He had called me, and I had—this is the first time I had seen him since I had retired and he had left, and it amazed me—we were talking and conversation and he has a—a doctor that works for him in his office down there; and he said he—Dr. Mahan made the remark that he was not a good administrator, and it had never entered my mind to think that about him. I meant, I guess he was good at carrying out what should be done and he left, I guess—I never thought of it in that way.

CP: You never thought of Mahan as not being an administrator?

PB: No. And—uh, because he's always so involved and so—he's established so many programs that, you know, health and others, healthy babies, and he had—he told me he had been working on a program—I think it's the headquarters is in the university now—with the governor, and the governor had sent back to—he didn't want his name to be put in, you know, in with it or be connected with it; that he would have to—doctor—they would have to get funding from some one on the outside, he didn't want to be—

CP: Part of the funding right now, yes.

PB: But then, he—Dr. Mahan did say that—I think it was—the governor's wife and his daughter came in to see Dr. Mahan, down in Tampa, and they had changed their mind; that they were willing to have the governor's name mixed in with the programs of child health, and then have his name in with—on the program as part of it, and they would do what they could to have—that was—

CP: And this is—

PB: That was—so that was a big step.

CP: Just another one of the programs that Dr. Mahan has initiated.

PB: They had uh—I forgot the name of it. It was one of the—since the governor wasn't back and I didn't—you know, get involved in—at the t[ime]—the beginning—I meant, just his name was used. So, uh—I couldn't really, I can't remember, but it had to do with child health, which is—is one of Dr. Mahan's—

CP: So, that part of the highlight of working with Dr. Mahan was all the programs he initiated, and the fun that you had with—

PB: (Inaudible) with all—with uh—

CP: You had to do all the paper work—(inaudible) all of them.

PB: I had to contact—you know, make the appointments, and all the stuff like that. So, now—and now you; let me see what I can think of.

CP: You—you can—you can skip me. That's perfectly all right. (laughter)

PB: No, I—See, that's my first news is—

CP: You were brand new.

PB: I was brand new.

CP: You were young and uninitiated.

PB: And you were an epidemiologist, and involved with all those good diseases that came through.

CP: That's right, really, all the juicy stuff.

PB: You were—that's when public health first meant to me was all these diseases, and infections, and viruses, and E. coli, and all that kind of—that stuff.

CP: Yeah, yeah, let me change your focus to the colorful personalities that you run into as being the secretary to the state health officer; some colorful personalities that you've dealt with, whether they be with the feds or locally.

PB: Well, um, can I say—

CP: Yes, yeah—you can say, then we'll decide.

PB: Well, I—I'm stuttering because I'm thinking whether I should say this or not. But anyway, Dr. Stephen King was fed to us by the feds, I already said; but, in my eyes, and I have heard from many people throughout the—not everybody, but throughout the state that he was a health officer who contributed the least memorable activity, you know, notable—memorable activities. Now, you may think differently, that may be true, but what I think and a lot of other people throughout the state, and I have heard others tell the same thing.

CP: That's too bad.

PB: And I think he was a self-centered—

CP: Person.

PB: Person, he wasn't cut out for Florida's public health. I think—

CP: He was one colorful person. Surely, you would have others that would be useful for us to know about.

PB: Well, I've always thought you, in your mannerism of—

CP: Present company excepted, we'll except this—

PB: No, I've got to say this. That you, in the way you always present yourself, and like nobody else does, I meant, you just—

CP: That's because I'm a redneck.

PB: Well, (laughter), you make everybody feel very warm and comfortable; I was about a nervous wreck before I came on this program.

CP: Well, I don't notice it now.

PB: But you have certainly—but you make everybody feel at ease and welcome—

CP: Whether I'm at ease or not.

PB: Well, you always appeared to be. (CP laughs) But—even with the staff whom we've had problems and you—you found time to talk to them.



CP: Don't tell me we had problems?

PB: Well, some.

CP: Okay.

PB: But you—you always found time soothe their feathers—

CP: Wasn't that necessary? That's necessary.

PB: That—That's true. I meant that when they're not happy, then our job isn't—

CP: Okay, but there are other colorful personalities, let me think of some that came through—that you had to relate with that caused you great pleasure, too, and—the other sides. Those which you had to deal with that didn't—that caused you pain. Highlight some of those that it was a pleasure to work with outside—as a part of your duties with the state health office.

PB: Are you speaking of the people who were not state health officers?

CP: Yes, yes, yes, yes, staff and otherwise.

PB: Okay, well—there are several of our wonderful professionals who have now passed on, and who have—need to give credit for what they have done.

CP: Oh, please tell us.

PB: Dr. Dell Miller, who is—was loved by everybody, he was head of the dental health program.

CP: Okay, he was a dentist.

PC: He was a dentist, and he was just a delightful—

CP: And how did you know him?

PB: He worked—he was—he was over here in Tallahassee—in the district office carrying on, as he could from the Jacksonville; so he was a go-between us and them. And he was here when I came—when I came over.

CP: Yes, and he befriended you very quickly, and helped you get settled in.

PB: He and his family were just wonderful; helped me with all my transition. And then, Mr. Fred Ragon, who is also passed away, he was head of—in Jacksonville—he was head of the finance and accounting area over there, and he came over here with—with us, and, actually, one time—at the time of his death, you were having a meeting down at, I think it was uh—Capital Inn and one other—you were having a meeting—

CP: It was at Capital Inn.

PB: He had a—Mr. Ragdon had been there.

CP: He was supposed to be there. He went home to lunch, went home to lunch.

PB: He went home, and he—expired after he got home. His wife, was—

CP: Yeah.

PB: But he contributed—he carried on, over here, with the financing end of our part. Yeah, the things we had to do to keep our head above water and keep—

CP: Kind of. He was largely expanded; his duties were largely expanded. He was a great person. You and him as a team, in which I kind of looked at him as a chief of staff.

PB: Well that's—that's a good way of doing it. Because he helped—he helped in all areas.

CP: Yes, he did. Yeah, it would be fun to interview him some—and who else do you remember?

PB: Of course, these right now I'm mentioning have passed away, and um—Ken Skutter.

CP: Ken Skutter, now, who was Ken Skutter?

PB: He was—he actually—he was in Jacksonville, also, but then he came over and transferred over here; but he was more or less involved with administrative matters. I mean, helping everybody and everything and all. And there was a period of six months that we didn't have a health boss; he more or less kept us from sinking. So, he was really—he was in Jacksonville, but he left here, they found—they thought it would be better if he went back to Jacksonville, so he went back and worked for Duval County Health Department. Then, I think he retired. But he was riding his bicycle at the beach and had a heart attack and died.

CP: Oh, boy.

PB: He was—you know—these people that have given their lives and all, I'm sure the stress and the strain of all of this work and worrying and, you know, trying to keep everybody happy and doing good things.

CP: Well, obviously, me and you didn't have to work and strain too much because we're still here.

PB: (Laughs) I didn't think I was going to be. (Laughter)

CP: Who else do you remember, Peggy? That's worthy of notable mention?

PB: There was one young fella—this is before we ever came up here. It was working for—and we were in the process, I mean, we had not actually moved. Vernon Keys, I don't know how many people now remember him, but he worked in sanitary engineering. He was head of the seafood program, and he was uh—over in this area, over the panhandle area; working and—I think they had to—the bill had passed that we would be coming over here; and I think with his working, and worrying, and caring, you know, trying to do

a magnificent job; the strain just got too much; and he was uh—I think it—I understood they said he had gone to a filling station, somewhere to get gas or something, and he died by heart attack while he was trying to get everything—

CP: Yeah, he was actually in Pensacola. Yeah, I remember Vernon with great affection.

PB: And uh—in other words, Mr. Red Board, who passed away not—about a year or so ago. He has been involved with—had been involved—in fact, he's married to a nurse. That's Charlotte Board, and he uh—but he was involved in the—data processing and uh, uh—

CP: Which I recall, he was a statistician.

PB: Yep, statistician and he went back and uh—the last uh, years he transferred back to uh, vital statistics and—

CP: Yes, director of vital statistics.

PB: After Mr. Williamson retired, so. And then uh—

CP: And he's passed away too.

PB: Who?

CP: Mr. Board. Yeah you said he'd passed away. Yeah, about a year ago.

PB: And then, um—Oh, right, Clark. I don't—I don't know how many would remember him. He was head of—

CP: Well, we don't care how many you remember or don't remember.

PB: Well I—but the thing is uh, the people that are—they have a—knew this, they might, you know, recall.

CP: I think it's very appropriate that we drop the names, though, for people that in your mind are outstanding contributors to Florida's public health who are no longer here.

PB: Well, they have, uh—

CP: You know, Ray Clark is a good one.

PB: He was head of radiation control and he's—he uh, dedicated his life to his profession. He was widely known.

CP: Yeah, yeah, yeah, and he's radiological health—he's a radiological physicist, and he too has passed on. As I recall, he retired one month, and four or five weeks later, he died of a heart attack.

PB: Isn't that (inaudible)?

CP: Yeah, down in Bartow.

PB: You retire to have a good time—and rest and—so.

CP: Okay, these are—these are very notable—highlightable people that you've done there, but I'm sure there are others that are living. That are colorful characters that uh—you kind of—you kind of stand out in your career. Bruce Willis, John Witty, uh, uh, oh there's a physician—a physician that came early, head up—head up disease control.

PB: Talking of Witty?

CP: No.

PB: Oh.

CP: Long before Dr. Witty. Kind of a stout, big man. I'm just dropping names.

PB: Sorry I can't—

CP: I—I think were colorful characters and that you had special relationships with.

PB: Well Dr. Witty was very colorful.

CP: Oh, Dr. Witty is a colorful character. Okay.

PB: He uh, he was the head of our disease control, and um—he—all—God, sorry—

CP: You aint'—you can't be fired. You is retired, like me.

PB: Dr. Mahan and—I've got a tickle—Um, Dr. Witty's secretary would call and—first of all let me state Dr. Witty would always have some reason to leave around four o'clock to go home. I meant he—he'd put in his stay or what ever. So he would leave. So his secretary would call me to her department to meet with Dr. Mahan. So I would give him a four o'clock appointment. (laughter)

CP: (laughter) Did he make it?

PB: No, because uh, he couldn't make it. He had some business to take of. Nine out of ten times he'd cancel.

CP: Really?

PB: But he knew what—Dr. Mahan knew what I was doing but he'd never get after me. (CP laughs)

CP: I think that's a worthwhile note.

PB: And he—Doctor—he transferred down to one of the districts.

CP: Oh. Okay, he was around here for a long time.

PB: Yeah, he was a fed, too, that came to us in the—

CP: That's right. He—yeah-he—yeah—Public—U.S. Public Health Service. You remember the—the large physician, uh—that came to disease control. I can't remember his name. Mike was his first name. From South Africa.

PB: Oh, yeah, okay.

CP: Was he not a colorful character to you?

PB: Oh, yeah. Yellow.

CP: That's right. I knew it was colorful, Yellow.

PB: Dr. Yellow, he was something else too. I don't remember too much—I didn't work that close with him, but he—he was a character. I don't—I don't recall any special—

CP: Features about him.

PB: Features.

CP: Okay. Okay, well let me mention Dave Wolf.

PB: Oh yeah, he was in the—was it the (inaudible)?

CP: WT's.

PB: WT's. Well, he was up there. He—is he deceased?

CP: I don't know. I don't know.

PB: The last I—the last uh—saw him, or somebody else saw him in the credit union several years ago. I don't know, but he wasn't well.

CP: But he—he was—he was neat, acute, and he patted on you. He didn't physically, not physically pat on you, but he had figuratively loved you up every time he was by.

PB: Um, there were a lot of them that were very attentive and—

CP: Which one used to bring you all that candy that I ate?

PB: I don't—

CP: Some employees bring you a lot of candy.

PB: I don't—

CP: I don't think they made it through your guard. Though I don't think they got to my office.

PB: I don't remember that but I do remember Dr. Crockett who is now—still head of disease control. I used to—on the weekend—since I'm not married—nor ties—got plenty of time—I would fix food for the—you know, snacks and all to take in for everybody. Being a good mother, you know. And I would take it in and—and—and you could bet your bottom dollar Dr. Crockett was going to be down there. I mean, he—

CP: First thing Monday morning!

PB: He would be about the first one; and, I'm telling you, he could eat.

CP: He still walks around constantly with a cookie or a piece of candy in his hand.



PB: Well, he—he got to the point where he would call from upstairs to see if they had brought any food, and then, he'd come down (CP laughs). I don't think he did that on a regular basis, but he did do it.

CP: I think, for the record, we need to note that Dr. Crockett looks like a toothpick, but he's about six feet two tall.

PB: Have you ever seen him riding his bicycle on that old St. Augustine road?

CP: I'm told that he won't pick up anybody and give them a lift.

PB: I wouldn't want to ride on his bicycle. (Laughter) But I—the other day, I was riding down old St. Augustine road and I saw this—and it was cool, too. This character, he's on the bicycle, and the seats about this high, and here is (inaudible). The wind was blowing, and I didn't dare wave at him, because—

CP: Don't distract his attention.

PB: But I'd imagine he was going over to the coast.

CP: Yeah, I'm sure he was, because that's the way he goes; he rides his bike back and forth.

PB: But he was just—

CP: That's part of the way he keeps his energy up.

PB: It was cold; he didn't have a shirt on.

CP: Yeah, he's highly energetic. He's—he's got as much nervous energy as Dr. Howell.

PB: Well, he—

CP: Okay, who are some others? Who's—who's—who's some other outstanding characters in your career?

PB: We're about to give out some—

CP: You're not—(laughter). I haven't asked you about the low points in your career. I'm going come to that. I'll do that right now. I've been trying to get you to focus on the high points of your career. Now, what's some of the low points? What was the thing that caused you closest to quitting?

PB: Well, actually, the only time I've thought of retiring was before Dr. Mahan decided—was when I would have my—I guess—my thirty years. And uh—I saw that all went well. This—this probably time for me to move on and get out. But then he was so kind, and I really didn't know what I was going to do with my time at that—I wasn't—I was a little younger then.

CP: Oh yes, of course.

PB: So I—and he had—more or less, I think, at that point, said he would be making a change too, and I had enjoyed working for him; that was one reason I considered it. So, I said, "Well, I'd just stay on."

CP: Do you—and we'll both go at the same time?

PB: So he—and that was my plan. I would have left the day he did, if I could have; and he asked me to stay until the end of the legislative session.

CP: That was very valuable to this office.

PB: So anyway that's what I did and for—I got out. I think my time of departure helped—was very opportune.

CP: Why?

PB: I don't—I don't know what—first of all, my—I was getting older as everyone is, but my hearing was getting to be very much of a problem.

CP: Oh, I'm sorry.

PB: And, just recently, I had cataract surgery, so—but anyway, it just seemed like it was time to move on, and in—uh, my financial situation was such that I could—

CP: It was that that good?

PB: I could do it. I don't regret it at all. It was—it was just—I think I was guided by God to—to—uh, make—

CP: Well, praise the Lord for that.

PB: To make—to make that move, and I have never regretted it.

CP: Yeah, okay. What other low point? Won't you go by health officer? What was the low point with your service with me?

PB: Well, I don't think I had a low point.

CP: I'm sure you did. I came in lots of times and found you crying.

PB: I don't think I remember all of the low points.

CP: I know it; I forget them, too.

PB: I uh, I can't think of any.

CP: Huh, all of us have low points, but um—I put those out of my mind too. The unhappy events I don't remember.

PB: But I have been very happy; and I'm sure there are mornings I wish that I didn't have to go to work, but it wasn't because of who I was going to work for. But, then, it wasn't ever, ever dull. It was just—

CP: Never boring.

PB: Thirty four and a half years. It was really—It was exciting. (CP Laughs) If I had to choose my career over again, I wouldn't change it.

CP: You wouldn't?

PB: Um-hm.

CP: And you would come along the same path?

PB: I—Yes I'm sure I would. It was a blessing for me to leave Jacksonville to come over here. That was—I now own my—I have a mobile home and it's all mine.

CP: Hot dog.

PB: And my car—everything's—everything's just—

CP: Everything's paid for.

PB: Everything is just ship shape.

CP: And you're keeping all your friends?

PB: Oh Yes.

CP: You're still having fun?

PB: I have wonderful friends, and, actually, I've told my children—my daughter and the family that uh, I would not move back to Jacksonville or St. Augustine unless it—my health made me. I'm—there's no reason. I've got so many things here, and then I go over there; it isn't that far.

CP: Yes, yes. You can go busy with them.

PB: And it's far enough that I don't get involved with the day-to-day family problems.  
(Laughter)

CP: I understand that. What—what final note would you want to tell your viewers, about a career in public health as an executive secretary, in the highest level of the administration?

PB: Well, they certainly would not be making a mistake, and it would be just—just wonderful, and the salary is now getting to be—

CP: Reasonable.

PB: Reasonable, and uh, and if you have a good boss, like I've had, you'll be blessed and you'd enjoy it. I—I would recommend it to anybody.

CP: What kind of preparation would you want them to have before being an executive secretary? You're probably the best executive secretary that has ever existed, period.

PB: No, no—

CP: Yes, you was.

PB: But they—they need uh, high level secretarial uh, like handling the irate people that call in and the—to be able to make decisions on their own. I mean, my—when you were gone—when the boss is gone, sometime you [have] to make the decision, which you're sure he'll back you up with; and then you have to handle the guests that come in, and the people that are visiting, and see that everything is handled. It's just the little thing—

CP: Is there a preparation you can do for that, or does that kind of come in your genes?

PB: That comes—that comes, I think in training, through experience. I mean, you can't go to school to get it, but if you just pay attention and be attentive and—and dedicated. That's—that's the thing. I wasn't—I—I've learned since I have retired that I don't have to be so stern and so un—so businesslike. I can, you know—

CP: You can smile.

PB: I can let my hair down and then just enjoy.

CP: Somebody told me I had let mine down too much and now I don't have any.

PB: But um, just enjoy and um, do your very best; and that you may have somebody that'll appreciate you, but you can't do anything about that.

CP: When your great-great grandkids are looking at this tape, do you have a message for them?

PB: Well, I just want to tell how dear everyone has been to me, and I hope they're as fortunate with whatever field they go in to, and I—my—actually, my granddaughter's talking about going to—back to school to be a physical therapist's assistant, and then she may go on to be a physical therapist. She works at the residence hospital in Jacksonville.

CP: Yes, yes?

PB: And my daughter is the secretary uh, to the uh, to one of the vice presidents of this hospital over there.

CP: Wow!

PB: So, she's doing—she's very well. In the medical field, see, we're all in the same—

CP: You're all the kind of same family.

PB: So they're all involved in—

CP: Any advice to your great grandkids?

PB: Well, I just got my first great grandson, so—

CP: Go one more for that, great great.

PB: And he's—well, my grandson, now, he's twenty-five and he's doing his own thing. He's working, and is not in the medical field at all, but my little great-grandson who is three months old. So, he's got a long ways to go. We'll just see. And of course if Jennifer, my granddaughter, goes into some medical field, I'm sure you'll try to encourage her, because she's very excited about it. And they just—the people she works for, they just love her. She has a very pleasant personality.

CP: She always has.

PB: A wonderful smile and uh—

CP: She's outgoing.

PB: Yeah, oh yeah.

CP: She'd even hug my neck, if you remember.

PB: So, but that's a—I just [feel] grateful that I've had the opportunity that has been presented to me, and that I took advantage of it; because I could have turned it down, and then (inaudible).

CP: Your—your—your notes that you brought with you. Is anything there that we haven't covered?

PB: Yeah, I don't think so.

CP: Did you look through them? I don't want us to miss anything.

PB: I don't think so.

CP: Okay. Take a second to look over them.

PB: Like I've said, I've enjoyed public health; and I—it's been the most enjoyable years of my life. Because your working in your careers [and] that's what it's all about.

CP: True, that's right. That's right.

PB: If you don't accomplish something—

CP: And it was the most of your life.

PB: And if you don't—you [don't] accomplish something, then you've goofed.

CP: Well, kind of. You did good, you didn't goof. You did good.

PB: Well, I'm just grateful that I've had—

CP: You kept a lot of important people straight, and on time, and where they were supposed to be, when they were supposed to be there. That is critical.

PB: Well I had people to work for—that—that—that helps too you know. You don't do it all by yourself.

CP: Yeah it does. Well Mrs. Barnes, on behalf of the University of South Florida library system and the School of Public Health of the University of South Florida, we just thank you sincerely for your contributions to our oral history collection and—(cuts off)

***End of Interview.***