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Ashbaugh, Wayne

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Interview by
N. Yost Osborne
August 26, 1981

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Wayne Ashbaugh
August 26, 1981

ASHBAUGH: Yes, played football and basketball. At the time we had a, we did have a track team and a baseball team and I

OSBORNE: This is August 26, 1981, and seated in my office is Wayne Ashbaugh, who has just retired as Registrar of Mount Union College. He's worn several other hats during his association with the college and of course, is an alumnus of the institution. So I'll let Wayne talk a bit--he came from Louisville and we'll find out if that's where he grew up and how he got to Mount Union. Wayne?

ASHBAUGH: Well, Yost, I went to Louisville to school, really not from the beginning of my school career. My parents moved from, from Pennsylvania to Canton, Ohio. My father was a steel worker and we lived in Canton until I was in the fourth grade. At that time or some several years before that, Superior Sheet Steel was started in Louisville and my father moved from Canton to Louisville working in the steel mill in Louisville. For several years he drove back and forth, but transportation was a little more difficult in those times; as I recall, he had a Model T Ford he drove. In the wintertime it was pretty drafty, and after a couple of years of that, we moved to Louisville. At that time I was in the fourth grade and I finished my schooling in Louisville, graduated from Louisville High School.

OSBORNE: Oh yes.

OSBORNE: Now let me ask you, were you interested, did you play athletics at Louisville?

ASHBAUGH: Kind of rough. And the chances of going anywhere else to school would have been pretty slim. I probably have

ASHBAUGH: Yes, played football and basketball. At the time we had a, we did have a track team and a baseball team and I played baseball. Two Mount alumnuses were the guiding hands behind those endeavors. When I got into, like the seventh and eighth grade, at that time the high school athletic association did not require that the coach be a faculty member. And the man who handled the football team in the high school at that time was Jay Shoemaker....

OSBORNE: Oh yes.

ASHBAUGH: Who was an attorney in town. And so for my freshman year, through my freshman year in high school, Jay Shoemaker was the football coach. And then, another Mount alumnus came on the scene, Howard "Peg" Wilson.

OSBORNE: Oh yes.

ASHBAUGH: And he became the football coach and was my coach through my sophomore, junior and senior year. And I'm sure helped in encouraging me to come to Mount Union.

OSBORNE: That's just about the closest place you could come to at that time.

ASHBAUGH: And at the time, let's see, I graduated from high school in 1931, and if you remember the economic period was....

OSBORNE: Oh yes.

ASHBAUGH: Kind of rough. And the chances of going anywhere else to school would have been pretty slim. I probably have

a, had at that time a part interest in the Stark Electric because I rode that Stark Electric....

OSBORNE: You went back and forth a lot....

ASHBAUGH: Back and forth for four years.

OSBORNE: Well now, how long did you commute, all the time you were in college?

ASHBAUGH: Four years. Part of the, part of my senior year I had access to a car, an old Model A Ford that I drove sometimes, but all the rest of the time I rode that Stark Electric. It was interesting, I often think back on that. I played football here and at the time, the Stark Electric had a monthly pass you could buy for \$5. The \$5 pass entitled you to 20 rides, and my budget would not allow me to spend more than \$5 a month. And so I had to get here on those 20 rides. If I had a 7:20 class, I had to ride the Stark Electric to class and so I had to thumb my way home almost every night after football practice. And at that time new 62 was not in, of course, and you went in old 62 and when you came to the turnoff to Louisville where 44 goes in, that was called Death Curve at that time....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: Cars didn't go into Louisville. They kept right on going to Canton. And on many, many a night I would have to walk from Death Curve in to home.

OSBORNE: How, how far would that be?

ASHBAUGH: It would have been about 2½ miles. *rs but I did not*

OSBORNE: 2½. It's good conditioning.

ASHBAUGH: That's right. *you had an acquaintance with Bob Wright through that.*

OSBORNE: And worked up an appetite.

ASHBAUGH: I took all the courses he offered. Did everything

ASHBAUGH: Worked up an appetite, true.

that he gave us from the standpoint of his teaching, yes.

OSBORNE: And so, you came to Mount and you played for Harry

OSBORNE: He always impressed me. He was a shrewd coach and Geltz here.

could get the most out of a team. He could....

ASHBAUGH: Right.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, my recollection of the things he did--he would

OSBORNE: And Bob Wright, in basketball.

allow us, in his coaching class he would allow us to come into

ASHBAUGH: Right. Um, first year Jack Thorpe was still the football coach. *practice session in class maybe the next day; but*

OSBORNE: Oh, he was still in. *he was a real disciplinarian, I mean,*

he really required his basketball players to do the things he

ASHBAUGH: At that time freshman were not eligible to play

asked them to do the way he wanted them to do it, and he was

and so ah, we were the cannon fodder team my freshman year

not at all willing to let them get away with it done partly

while he was the head coach, the varsity coach.

right.

OSBORNE: Right. And were you out for track? At Mount?

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: No, I was not out for track.

ASHBAUGH: It had to be done right. And then I think a good

OSBORNE: All right.

part of his success was his emphasis on detail and his ability

ASHBAUGH: I participated in some intramurals--in basketball,

some basketball, I played, I only was out for basketball my

freshman year here. *him....*

OSBORNE: Uh huh. *right.*

ASHBAUGH: *to have his team members do what he asked them to do.*

ASHBAUGH: And I played football all four years but I did not play basketball all four years.

OSBORNE: But at least you had an acquaintance with Bob Wright through that.

ASHBAUGH: I took all the courses he offered. Did everything that he gave us from the standpoint of his teaching, yes.

OSBORNE: He always impressed me. He was a shrewd coach and could get the most out of a team. He could....

ASHBAUGH: Yes, my recollection of the things he did--he would allow us, in his coaching class he would allow us to come into practice and observe--and then we would discuss parts and elements of the practice session in class maybe the next day; but my recollection was that he was a real disciplinarian, I mean, he really required his basketball players to do the things he asked them to do the way he wanted them to do it, and he was not at all willing to let them get away with it done partly right.

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: It had to be done right. And then I think a good part of his success was his emphasis on detail and his ability to, to get the cooperation of the men that worked for him. They did it. Of course, once he proved he was successful, it was much easier for him....

OSBORNE: That's right.

ASHBAUGH: to have his team members do what he asked them to do.

OSBORNE: Yeah. No, I can remember and you too, that some of his teams, it was just as you say, the attention to detail; they'd just demoralize another team and there was just no contest after that.

ASHBAUGH: That's right. As I, I don't mean to, I wouldn't mean to, underestimate the caliber of the basketball players he had, but I think that at the time other schools had good caliber basketball players too.

OSBORNE: Sure.

ASHBAUGH: I just think that Bob Wright got 100% out of his....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: Maybe 110% out of his teams.

OSBORNE: Yeah. I think that's, I think that's true. So your ambition was to be a coach then, is that right?

ASHBAUGH: Yes, I think that's what I always wanted to do.

OSBORNE: Okay.

ASHBAUGH: It's never rubbed off.

OSBORNE: And you left here in that, that was kind of a rough time to get a job. Because I tried to get a job the next year, and you did a lot of interviewing.

ASHBAUGH: Right.

OSBORNE: Where did you start out?

ASHBAUGH: Started out at Louisville.

OSBORNE: At Louisville.

ASHBAUGH: Which was, I guess, unique and exceptional. Because I had graduated from the high school four years ago and to go back to that same school four years later was....

OSBORNE: Well, it was....

ASHBAUGH: at least not supposed to be the easiest....

OSBORNE: That's right.

OSBORNE: All right. So you started out as a football coach.

ASHBAUGH: But it was exceptional in that, that that position opened up, that I had a chance to take that job in that position. Strangely enough, the qualifications--I had taken the certification requirements for health and physical education; at that time the college gave the minimum number of hours necessary to be certified by the state. But my major was English. And my teaching responsibilities when I came to Louisville, I was hired as an English teacher.

OSBORNE: This is an odd combination.

ASHBAUGH: And was not hired as a coach, but the coach at that time was still "Peg" Wilson. And so I volunteered my services and for that first year I helped him coach the football team on a volunteer basis. After that year he went--he moved into administration, was an assistant principal and eventually the principal of the high school and the man they hired to take his place asked me if I would continue as an assistant, a volunteer assistant, and I did that. The man was Harry Stroebel, who was a teammate of Paul Brown's at Massillon, and went from Louis-

ville to Barberton and from Barberton to Ohio State. Was an assistant at Ohio State. But he was only there one year, and at the end of that year my two years as, on a volunteer basis as a football coach, got me the football job.

OSBORNE: Oh, I see.

ASHBAUGH: So I took the head football job two years after I had signed on as a teacher.

OSBORNE: All right. So you started out as a football coach. How long did you coach that?

ASHBAUGH: Well, I coached football for ten years at Louisville. From '37 through '47. Two years after I came there as football coach I was also given the basketball job and so I was the head basketball coach from '39 through '47.

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: And during that period of time we were permitted at that time to have spring football practice. And I was a real advocate of dedication to the sport of football--and so, I always had spring football practice, but it only lasted about one year and the state then put through a regulation that banned spring football in high schools. And so to, to try to compensate for the fact that you couldn't have spring football, I started track; and required all my football players to be on the track team. And so I became track coach in 1939 and we had a track team from that time on while I was there. But I had had, in that, that eight year period, three championship teams, an undefeated and untied team one year in football, and

Louisville was a good--that, that was a good community.

OSBORNE: I think that's right.

ASHBAUGH: They're fine people, I had great cooperation from the school, from the community, and I think that's still true.

OSBORNE: I think it is, but I think maybe even more so when you were there, because you didn't have the building up....

ASHBAUGH: No.

OSBORNE: That has been the last, you know, 10-20 years.

ASHBAUGH: It's true.

OSBORNE: And it was more of a community unto itself.

ASHBAUGH: Uh huh.

OSBORNE: It's become so much, extended out so far now.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, true.

OSBORNE: It would make a difference. Well, then you had an opportunity apparently to strike out somewhere else, is this when you went to Zanesville?

ASHBAUGH: That's when I went to Zanesville. The opportunity was to take the head basketball job at Zanesville and be an assistant in football. That was a, that was not the easiest decision, I guess, at that time because football was my favorite sport at that time. I had been more successful in coaching football at Louisville than I had in coaching basketball. I had had, in that, that eight year period, three championship teams, an undefeated and untied team one year in football, and

I had one championship team in basketball. But you know, the ambitions of a young coach was to see whether he could do the job at the next level.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And Zanesville was a good level. Zanesville was a good-sized city with a good-sized high school that actually would allow you to compete with any other high school in the state. It was in the classification at that time of A, which were, those were the biggest high schools in the state, and so the opportunity to take the basketball job meant that I had a chance to get into the big school system and to find out what happened. The assistant football job didn't divorce me from football completely, and so I accepted the challenge to go to Zanesville.

OSBORNE: What is that, Zanesville Rosecrans?

ASHBAUGH: No, Zanesville Rosecrans was the parochial school.

OSBORNE: All right.

ASHBAUGH: The high school in Zanesville had been Lash High School.

OSBORNE: I see.

ASHBAUGH: It was a downtown high school and while I was there, they built a new high school, just Zanesville High School. And at the time that new building and grounds was the envy of a great number of communities in the state of Ohio because it was a fine high school at that time.

OSBORNE: You were there at the old "S" bridge and the circuitous route through Zanesville at that time?

ASHBAUGH: Right. You had to go right downtown.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: On Route 40 you had to go right through the downtown area.

OSBORNE: If you wanted to go to Columbus....

ASHBAUGH: Right.

OSBORNE: That's where you went down through.

ASHBAUGH: You went to the middle of the bridge and turned

left, if you wanted to go to Columbus....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: People always questioned about that--how you could turn left in the middle of the bridge, but that "Y" bridge, it was quite....

OSBORNE: Yes, the "Y", I said "S", it's a "Y" bridge. The "S" bridge was on the old National. That's where they had the "S" bridge.

ASHBAUGH: Right.

OSBORNE: The "Y" bridge was--that's right.

ASHBAUGH: The "Y" bridge was in Zanesville. So....

OSBORNE: Yeah. Well, you were there, let's see--was there still glassworks, and potteries in Zanesville when you were there?

ASHBAUGH: Yes. Yes, Roseville Pottery had a plant in Zanesville. It closed down during the period of time we were there, but those, that was the tail end of the emphasis on those glassworks in that area, yes.

OSBORNE: Did that do anything for your team? Some communities, you know, feel that if you have steel works, you get a hard-nosed boy as a result of that.

ASHBAUGH: Well, I don't believe so. There was a steel plant in Zanesville, the Armco Steel Plant was in Zanesville and it may have helped us. At the time, the time that I was in Zanesville, the same I guess as, say, here in Alliance; we didn't have the district or area high schools built up on the outskirts. There was not the high schools that took away your students that were at the edge....

OSBORNE: Yeah.

ASHBAUGH: Or the fringe of the, of the territory. You got all of those, there weren't any of those. That helped me. So Zanesville was the community that covered that area, and quite an area. And as I said before, I think that that kind of school is the ideal kind of school to try to reach the top in state, in the state competition. You have to have enough, it has to be large enough to get reasonable candidates, to get enough candidates, and you have to be large enough to get enough community support to do that. And Zanesville did it. Now, we had another thing going for us in Zanesville, I think. The

man that I went down to help in football, who was the head football coach and athletic director, was a man by the name of George Vlerebome, a Muskingum graduate, and a native of Dalton, Ohio, I believe. But he had had success already in the football program. Zanesville played in what was called the Central Ohio League, which was a league composed of Marietta and Lancaster and Chillicothe, and Dover, and New Philly, and Cambridge, and those schools, it was a good competitive league. But he had been successful. So the athletic program from the program standpoint was a successful program. Now the basketball program hadn't been very successful. But the community was behind the high school athletic program because of the success of the football program. So that I think was....

OSBORNE: Was a big help.

ASHBAUGH: That was right. That was in my favor.

OSBORNE: All right. Well, you had success with your basketball program there, Wayne. You had a pretty good record.

ASHBAUGH: It took a couple of years....

OSBORNE: Oh sure. That certainly would. That's, and as you

ASHBAUGH: To get it organized.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: But yes, I went down there in '47 and it wasn't until, it was in '55 that we won the state championship. We'd had a competitive team in '53 and in '54, but then we reached the top in '55. And then we made the so-called "Sweet 16" in

'57 and we made it again in '58, so once we got over the hump, the momentum of success really helped a great deal. We had baskets up in everybody's back yard and every little guy that could throw a ball was throwing a ball and that's a great help in developing a high school program. nesville.

OSBORNE: Right. Oh yeah.

ASHBAUGH: No question about it. I was able to engineer the-- we had three junior high schools and I was able to coordinate the junior high programs as real good feeder systems into the high school, and we even were able to set up elementary school programs. We didn't have gyms, we only had one elementary school gymnasium at that time; but we set up outdoor courts on most of the playgrounds of the elementary schools and got an elementary league going, which was helpful, I'm sure. But the success of the high school program certainly contributed to the . . . to the . . . use that, and implement it, and I

OSBORNE: Involvement. our lack of size. We did not have the

ASHBAUGH: the involvement of the community.

OSBORNE: Well, while you were playing that, was that before the real fast break or were you just the beginning of that? OSBORNE: Right. That certainly would. That's, and as you know, there's nothing like that kind of enthusiasm that you....

ASHBAUGH: It was just the beginning of that. Yes. Just at the beginning of it. Successful--it was successful enough in

OSBORNE: That you have that way. Did you use any, I don't know the better word, the Wright system--did you use your own approach, or how did you tailor it to meet, to meet your boys....

ASHBAUGH: Well, I think I used the Wright system at the beginning and used--I hoped that I had followed his philosophy of his adherence to detail. And to the correct teaching of fundamentals, and I think that, that that certainly was borne out in the success of that program in Zanesville.

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: I think the other thing that was new at the time was, that contributed to our success, was a full-court pressing defense.

OSBORNE: Oh.

ASHBAUGH: And at the time no one played a full-court pressing defense.

OSBORNE: I see.

ASHBAUGH: And I think that was a great help to us--we were successful being able to use that, and implement it, and I know that that offset our lack of size. We did not have the 6'6" and 6'7" boys down there.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

ASHBAUGH: Well, while you were playing that, was that before the real fast break or were you just the beginning of that?

ASHBAUGH: It was just the beginning of that. Yes. Just at the beginning of it. Successful--it was successful enough in that respect that, you know, I guess your ego is fed on the fact that other coaches feel that what you've done is worth finding out about.

OSBORNE: Well, let me backtrack a bit here more domestically.

OSBORNE: Right. Helen, she's a Louisville girl.

ASHBAUGH: And I know that for several years I was asked to discuss the fast break system at a number of coaching clinics; not only in Ohio but outside of Ohio, in Pennsylvania and New York. Which I guess, you know, feeds one's ego a bit.

OSBORNE: That's right. But you've got to have success or you don't make that level, that's....

ASHBAUGH: That's true. So she and I were classmates in

OSBORNE: That's the thing. You had pretty good material, or like Wright, you utilized what you had to use.

ASHBAUGH: Well, it was good material. They weren't big men, that's all. We didn't have--the year that we won the championship, our biggest boy was 6'2".

OSBORNE: Oh, that's....

ASHBAUGH: And we played, in the finals that year, we played Cincinnati Hughes, and Cincinnati Hughes had two 6'6" boys.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

OSBORNE: Is that right? Or did she teach prior to that then?

ASHBAUGH: Well, we offset the size at that time, we were able to offset the size with the full court defense. Which the bigger teams didn't play a full court defense and didn't play a full court offense, and when they were forced to play the full court offense, they usually could not play it for four quarters.

OSBORNE: Well, let me backtrack a bit here more domestically.

You met up with Helen, she's a Louisville girl. They were all in

ASHBAUGH: Helen was a Louisville girl. Helen was from a little crossroad place between Louisville and Canton called Fairhope.

OSBORNE: Fairhope, yes. Was here in Alliance.

ASHBAUGH: She went to--they had a grade school in Fairhope but they had no high school. And those, that community came to Louisville to high school. So she and I were classmates in high school. We both graduated at the same time and we were married in 1936 after, one year after my graduation from Mount. She spent two years at Kent and was certified. At that time the two-year teaching program was in force at Kent, and she had been teaching. She'd gone to Kent straight out of high school also, and so she had been teaching for a couple of years when we were married. I'd been teaching one year.

OSBORNE: Then she taught after you came to Alliance.

ASHBAUGH: Yes.

OSBORNE: Is that right? Or did she teach prior to that then?

ASHBAUGH: She taught in Zanesville.

OSBORNE: I see. All right.

ASHBAUGH: She taught--she did not teach when we first went to Zanesville. When we first went to Zanesville, the obligations of the family were great enough for her to stay home for several years. Once the family got organized and the youngsters were

big enough to maneuver a bit for themselves--they were all in school, she went back, and....

OSBORNE: I see.

ASHBAUGH: And taught. And then when we came here, she taught half days most of the times here in Alliance.

OSBORNE: I see. Well, now you've got here. You're--of course, you were an alumnus of Mount. And our basketball situation here--we're looking for some leadership, and you had demonstrated at Zanesville; you were talking about different levels, did the college level appeal to you at this point?

ASHBAUGH: Well, I suppose that same, that same question arises in one's mind, the same thing that made me move from Louisville to Zanesville, I guess, was a force behind my moving from Zanesville to Mount Union. You know, suffice it to say, I think I could have stayed in Louisville for an extended period of time and run the Louisville program.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: I mean, it was successful enough that there, there was no, I was under no criticism from what I was doing there.

OSBORNE: Right. And probably would have become Athletic Director, that's usually the pattern, isn't it?

ASHBAUGH: Right. And I think the same thing could have been true in Zanesville. Because the community was really enthusiastic about the basketball program. And I was getting every

kind of cooperation that I could possibly get from there. But again I say--you know, in the coaching profession, the same as in maybe any other profession, your ambition makes you want to try.... or failure of your program. And so, that part didn't

OSBORNE: Sure.

ASHBAUGH: to see whether you can do it.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: If there's another level to do it.

OSBORNE: Another level, right. (Checking it to be sure we're not--no, we're not) Well, you came here and inherited a sputtering sort of basketball machine.

ASHBAUGH: Well, yes.

OSBORNE: We'd gone through three or four, as I recall, three or four coaches, short tenure, at that time.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, right. Right. I followed George Hunter, who on that list of coaches from after Bob Wright left....

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: Had probably had the longest tenure of that group.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And had had, certainly had success in his coaching tenure here. He was ready to accept some other challenge, I think, in that his basketball team that year had graduated most of his top players, and so he was facing a lean year from the standpoint of returning veterans. Of course at the time, I

was very green and very inexperienced in all the ramifications of recruiting and all the questions that might arise. And all the responsibilities that would arise from the standpoint of success or failure of your program. And so, that part didn't really sink in on me until after I was here. I was interested in coaching basketball, only..... when you took a team out on

OSBORNE: Right. Only in high school, it's a different approach.

ASHBAUGH: That's right. In high school, you didn't have to go out and recruit those players.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: Those players were all coming.....

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: And your main responsibility was coaching. And I really loved coaching.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: I really liked to coach. So the recruiting was a new aspect of it that didn't really hit me until during that first year, after I had been here and started work. So it was a--it took several years for me to orient myself to the recruiting responsibilities.

OSBORNE: What was it, '65? When did you....

ASHBAUGH: I came here in '58.

OSBORNE: '58, all right. I was....

ASHBAUGH: I came here in '58 and then I left in '65.

OSBORNE: O.K. Well, as you say, your material was a little

ASHBAUGH: To the Registrar's Office in '65.

OSBORNE: That's the '65 date there.

ASHBAUGH: Right.

OSBORNE: What were your feelings when you took a team out on the floor of Memorial Hall?

ASHBAUGH: Well, you know....

OSBORNE: The first time?

END OF SIDE 1.

OSBORNE: Now, we're talking about your initial reaction to coming out on the court at Memorial?

ASHBAUGH: Well, I guess you would have to realize and have to

remember that I had experienced and witnessed and had watched

Bob Wright's teams play for four years in Memorial Hall--and to have the opportunity to coach a team coming out on that same floor in Memorial Hall was quite a thrill, it really was.

Bob Wright had, you know, in my book, was one of the great basketball coaches in the country....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And this is where he coached.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And to be coaching a team in the same institution and playing on the same floor was a, gave me quite a feeling, it really did.

OSBORNE: Right. Well, as you say, your material was a little lean and the recruiting was a problem; and you peaked in your basketball here about the time you went to the Registrar, wasn't that right?

ASHBAUGH: That's true. It took me, as I say, several years to get this recruiting thing organized, and in our '64-65 year, we had a good bunch of boys. They were all freshman and sophomores and we finally had gotten enough size that we were competitive in the Ohio Conference and we were able to hold our own against most of the conference teams. The whole team was back that next year, and in fact that next year, the team won the Ohio Conference championship, that same team.

OSBORNE: That's right. I always thought that was a little ironic--you work that hard and....

ASHBAUGH: A difficult decision, it really was, Yost. I--that year in--along about the end of May, the President called me into the office and said I have a proposition for you; and he said, I want you to think about it. And he said, I'd like for you to consider moving into the Registrar's Office as Registrar. And I was flabbergasted. I didn't have any answer--I couldn't say anything at all to him; and I said well, I finally said, well, I really will have to think about it, if you'll give me any time. And it so happened that I was scheduled to make a basketball presentation at what in that time was considered one of the top coaching schools in the country, one at Kutshers, New York. And I was enthused and you know, was feeling very

good that they had asked me to come there and do this; and then at the same time I had an offer to quit coaching and go into administration. So I went to Kutshers and made the presentation and came back and I really did a lot of soul-searching. At the time, and I guess these are things that entered into my ultimate decision--but at that time I was past 50 years of age, the chances of anyone hiring a basketball coach at the college level at that, of that age....

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: Would have been slim, very slim, to move from here to another basketball coaching job. The advancement here would have been athletic director. Jack Rafeld was entrenched in that athletic director's job with no thought, and no apparent steps being taken....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: From his standpoint, of moving. And so it looked like maybe the wise move from the standpoint of my family and my own future would be to attempt this change in position. I know at the time my wife didn't think I would do it. I know that members of my basketball team didn't think I would do it, and I guess I surprised them both when I finally did. I really believe though that it was a wise decision from the standpoint of our family, and from the standpoint of my own personal career goals and my own life. I think that the move into administration was a good move, and I think that it changed my career, that's for sure.

OSBORNE: That's right.

ASHBAUGH: It changed my whole objectives and aims and so on and so forth, but at the same time it, you know, it kind of revitalizes one when you do that....

OSBORNE: That's right.

ASHBAUGH: In that you get renewed enthusiasm and you put forth renewed effort and you try to find out everything you can about the new area you're going into; and I think, you know, I think that's important and I think it's helpful; and I think it helped me overcome the transition from coaching into administration. I had been--I had finished my 30th year in coaching and I know I've talked to many people that say, well, after 30 years in one career, it's pretty tough to change to another career.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: But I really think it was a good change. I really think it was beneficial to me and to my family, I really think it was.

OSBORNE: And of course, as you sit back now, you did sort of have the best of both worlds, because you were able to be athletic director in the final....

ASHBAUGH: Yes.

OSBORNE: Result there.

ASHBAUGH: That's true. And I, you know I suppose the other, one other thing about the Registrar's position I think that

helped me decide to do that was the fact that I didn't, the position didn't divorce one from contact with students.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: I had enjoyed the contact with students in coaching, and in the Registrar's Office, you certainly weren't divorced from that.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

ASHBAUGH: Because you saw a lot of students, you had a lot of contact with students, so you, you weren't divorced from that.

And at the same time I had the opportunity to work with the Athletic Board of Control, which kept me in touch with the athletic program and with the Ohio Athletic Conference.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: I was--I became the faculty representative of the conference, so it wasn't as though I shut everything all off. I did retain some of that, some of that contact that I think helped the changeover to be less traumatic as far as I was concerned.

OSBORNE: And of course, in a sense, you've been, as you look back now, you were an assistant coach, a head coach in high school, you were coach of a college and, as you say, on the Athletic Board of Control and then Athletic Director; so you've been on all the spots, haven't you?

ASHBAUGH: I just about touched all the spots.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: That's right. I had an opportunity in the Ohio Athletic Conference to serve in most of those responsible positions. I, they have organizations in basketball--the basketball coaches were organized and I served one year as President of the Ohio Conference Basketball group, and then they organized the Faculty Representatives and I spent a year as the President of the Faculty Representatives, and then I guess the culmination of it was that I was elected President of the Ohio Conference, and served a term there. I think that I enjoyed, and hopefully I fulfilled, the responsibilities of those various assignments.

OSBORNE: Yes. No, I, there isn't any question about that, I think you had a fine, fine record, and that attests to it, Wayne; but I was just interested here, that you touched all those bases that way. So many people you know are a basketball coach period, and that's their experience.

ASHBAUGH: The Athletic Director's job--I think that I took for the last two years. You know, I suppose somewhere in the 30 years that I had been in coaching, Athletic Director's assignments had always been a part of that somewhere.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

ASHBAUGH: That was an ultimate goal somewhere and I never, I guess it never got completely washed out. It was always there somehow and when, when the President came to me and made the suggestion, and I said, well, I'm not about to leave the Registrar's job at this time....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And change over completely. And so it required some study on the part of the college administration and some, certainly deep thought, on my part to finally come up with that combination that allowed me to do both for those last two years.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And I appreciated that opportunity and I'm glad I had the experience of....

OSBORNE: But I remember just a time or two after that, when you walked over to Timken--I could just tell by the way, your attitude and the way you walked, you know, this was, you were relishing and looking forward to that.

ASHBAUGH: I think that's true.

OSBORNE: Yeah. So it's been an interesting sort of a many-faceted type of career. Well, I'm sure the experiences on the court and in the athletics, but what about some of the frustrations or the happier moments in the Registrar's Office?

ASHBAUGH: Well, I suppose the first couple of years were really learning years--to learn the details and to learn the responsibilities of that office. And to determine the real routine that had to be followed. You know, in the background, Bob Tripp had been Registrar and Admissions Director and had only in the latter part, I believe the latter part of his stay in that office, had it been separated into a....

OSBORNE: Separated, yes.

ASHBAUGH: Registrar and Admissions Director. And then, the following Registrar was only there for about one and a half years or something like that, and so the establishment of procedure and routine in the office--it was a great opportunity to establish that because it really hadn't been established.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: From the standpoint of the various procedure to follow and the forms that had to be developed and so on and so forth. And I kind of relished that. I enjoyed that, the opportunity to be able to set those things up. I suppose if you would consider frustrations, I don't know whether the, how frustrating they would be. They were probably more frustrating to the students and the faculty than they were to the Registrar, but scheduling was a frustrating time sometimes--it's frustrating to students, it's frustrating to faculty members. But I really think that when the effort is made and the cooperation is given by faculty to establish their teaching schedules and to extend themselves to try to take care of students who are in a bind from the standpoint of the scheduling; I think that, you know, the frustration is, is certainly modified considerably. And I certainly think that happened in my experience in the office because I had, I had great cooperation from faculty in setting up teaching schedules, in setting up room assignments, in getting grades in and so on and so forth. I couldn't, I don't think there were very many cases where I could have asked for

it to be improved.

OSBORNE: You were there before, or after, I should say, the days of Joe Oberholt then, who used to take his final examinations on a bus to Mexico with a group of Mennonites and sing, and forget about sending them in.

ASHBAUGH: Yeah. We had a couple of experiences like that. We had one with the choir once where they left on a tour like they always left on a tour at Christmastime and then they left on the Spring tour and one time they took their grades with them; and I had to call St. Louis or someplace and have those grades given back to me over the phone, but that was only one time that I recall that that happened.

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: You had, I guess you have, we've had times when professors have been negligent in getting the grades in as fast as, you know, our office would like to have them.

OSBORNE: Yeah.

ASHBAUGH: They might have been, they might not have been negligent in their mind because they were doing it to the best of their ability....

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: But it would have been, you know, much more expedient if we would have had them in earlier to get our grade reports out, and I guess there have been times when I've called professors and asked them about their grade. But I've always had

good cooperation from them from that standpoint--that hasn't been....

OSBORNE: That wasn't one of the problems.

ASHBAUGH: That wasn't one of the great problems.

OSBORNE: Yeah. Well, you had pretty good help. Did you inherit that? Your girls in the office there.

ASHBAUGH: Inherited my secretary, Mrs. Norman Hans. She had been hired by Jim....

OSBORNE: Jose?

ASHBAUGH: Yose, Jose. Jim was the person who took over for Bob Tripp, and was only in there about a year and a half or maybe two years at the most. Mrs. Hans was hired by him and so she'd had that year and a half or two years with him. The Recorder that I had for most of the time, I guess--well, for maybe half of the time, the one I inherited was Mrs. Martha Lutz, which was--she was a real fixture.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: In that Recorder's Office. She really knew that from beginning to end and really maintained those academic records with great integrity, no question about that. About....

OSBORNE: You could get along with her Scottich accent?

ASHBAUGH: Oh, I got along all right. We got along all right. When we were in the old administration building, the Recorder's Office was separated from the Registrar's Office.

OSBORNE: I remember, it was down the way, yes.

ASHBAUGH: It was down at the end of the hall and I know, I remember the problem we had with Mrs. Lutz--we wanted to be able to converse with her without having to leave the office and go down there and we wanted to put a telephone in down there. And we had a real argument with her putting that telephone in; she did not want that telephone in at all. We finally convinced her to put the telephone in and I really think that she appreciated the convenience of that phone, because it saved her coming up to our office....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: for very minor questions many times. Both of us had to make those trips back and forth, plus the fact she now had access to faculty members that she didn't have before.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: But that was an interesting point. And I remember, you know, that was the time when all grades were handwritten.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: And our records were great cardboard squares that we had handwritten all the students' names in and all their, all their courses, their schedule, and then we had to hand write the grades in and from that we computed and made out the grade reports. But we usually typed those grade reports for they all, all had to be typed individually, but Mrs. Lutz figured every one of those GPA's. (Grade Point Averages) She would

not even use an adding machine to do it, she didn't believe in those mechanical....

OSBORNE: Oh, I know.

ASHBAUGH: Those mechanical inventions. She didn't want to touch those either. And it was probably a--you know, about the time she left was right when we were getting into the computerization.

OSBORNE: Computer, yes.

ASHBAUGH: And it was probably a good thing that she didn't have to live through that because she would have really had trouble.

OSBORNE: Well, she told me one time--she went to church over here so I knew her; and she told me what she thought of the computer one time.

ASHBAUGH: Yeah. She didn't have much confidence in....

OSBORNE: No.

ASHBAUGH: that mechanical thing at all.

OSBORNE: No, she was the old school.

ASHBAUGH: Right. And then, the person that replaced her, Mrs. Margery Pennybaker, had been hired in the computer center, when we first opened that center, as an operator of the machines over there. And she had problems because of the air conditioning that had to be maintained in that computer center. She had that office, did a tremendous job from that standpoint.

a problem from the standpoint of being able to function in that atmosphere, and so we talked to her about the possibility of her interest in the Recorder's job here, and she seemingly was interested and anxious to make that change, and she's been the Recorder the whole time that I've....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: had that. So she probably, the two of them probably shared the period of time close to being equal, I suppose, in the Registrar's Office. Maybe Mrs. Pennybaker probably had a little more time than Mrs. Lutz did when I had the Registrar's position, but....

OSBORNE: It's a big help when you have consistent person-- good personnel, that way.

ASHBAUGH: Right. Those people know, eventually know the routine and, and in the Registrar's Office, you know, you can establish a routine pretty well because you have to get grades out at a certain time, you have to schedule at a certain time, you have to get transcripts at a certain time and you can pretty well organize that office on a routine basis. And if you have people that can help establish that routine and then follow it, you've made a great....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: step forward, there's no question about that. And the two people that are in the office, and worked with me in that office, did a tremendous job from that standpoint.

OSBORNE: Right. With a special light, even.

OSBORNE: You know Marge is down at Wilson now.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, I understand that she's

OSBORNE: She's gone down to there.

ASHBAUGH: Right.

OSBORNE: Well, tell me about the routine. Now how do you classify, or where do you put the fern in the Registrar's Office?

ASHBAUGH: Interesting. The fern was given to me by a public school teacher. This public school teacher had kept the fern in her room for some twenty years. Mrs. Ferner kept the fern....

OSBORNE: Ferner, all right.

ASHBAUGH: Mrs. Ferner retired from the school; and so the fern had to go. She had given it to a friend of hers to keep in the summertime and the friend would just put it on the front porch, and leave it on the front porch; and each fall, Mrs. Ferner would come back and put it back in the school room. Well, the fern didn't have any place to go in the wintertime. The person that handled it in the summer had no place to put it in the winter. And so, I don't know why I was chosen as the person that they were going to ask, but I knew both these people, and the one asked me one time--would you have any place in that new administration building where you could use that fern? And I said yeah, I think maybe I do. And so the fern became a fixture in the Registrar's Office.

OSBORNE: Right. With a special light, even.

ASHBAUGH: With a special light even. And they told me, Dr. Brueske told me that the fluorescent light, from the fluorescent lights in the building, in the office, would not maintain that fern--that I had to have an incandescent light.

OSBORNE: Uh huh.

ASHBAUGH: And he said if you just put a light bulb on, well, that will serve the purpose if you can't get it by a window. And we couldn't get it by a window, so we put an incandescent light on the fern.

OSBORNE: And it thrived.

ASHBAUGH: And it seemed to grow, yes.

OSBORNE: Very, very interesting. One of the adornments you have there in your lapel is a service club--you've been active in Rotary for how many years, Wayne? At Zanesville, Louisville?

ASHBAUGH: Yes, in Louisville. I joined Rotary in Louisville about 1944, I think. Transferred my membership to Zanesville and retained my membership there, and when I came to Alliance, I transferred it to Alliance; so I've been a member of Rotary for a long time.

OSBORNE: Yeah. Been active in that--travelled abroad with a Rotary group a few summers ago.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, been fortunate to be able to make a tour of Europe with a Rotary group, yes. Had the opportunity to serve as President of the local club in Rotary.

OSBORNE: Yes. 's right. Those are.

ASHBAUGH: And as a result of that, was able to, was given the opportunity to attend an international convention at Houston, Texas, which was quite an experience.

OSBORNE: It would be. Of course, I remember your Registrar's meetings got you around a bit, too.

ASHBAUGH: Registrars' annual conventions were always held in big cities, and I think that I attended, I believe I attended every one during the period of time that I was the Registrar and they took us to--the first one I think I attended was at Phoenix, Arizona. But they took us to St. Louis, to Minneapolis, to San, to San Francisco, to Los Angeles, to Miami, to New Orleans, to Dallas, all big cities. And I'm sure that without those conventions being there, and without my interest in the Registrar's activities, I wouldn't have seen all those cities.

OSBORNE: All those cities, right.

ASHBAUGH: But I became interested in the activities of the state association and served on a number of committees in the state and we have an annual convention also in the state. And I served three years as Treasurer of the State Association, and I served three years on one of the national committees as a Secretary for non-traditional study and as a result of that I had an opportunity to get an extra trip or two in because the national committee held a meeting once a year to plan for the convention. And I think those were interesting experiences.

OSBORNE: That's right. Those are.

ASHBAUGH: They helped in the locally, in my local situation, because it gave me a wider perspective of the office of the Registrar and the responsibilities and I think helped my position here.

ASHBAUGH: And taught a Sunday School class, right.

OSBORNE: Right. Well, there are probably some other facets, but you have also been interested in and active in your church, too. You've been in the same church all your life, is that right?

ASHBAUGH: Yes. As a youngster, the church was the Reform Church.

OSBORNE: Well, I suppose I couldn't let this pass without saying that the success and the pleasure you've had have

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And in Louisville, we went to the Reform Church in Louisville. Ultimately that church made the combination to become the United Church of Christ and we retained our membership in that church. When we moved to Zanesville we then joined the United Church of Christ in Zanesville. When I came to Alliance, we joined the United Church of Christ in Alliance. The governing body of the local church in the United Church of Christ is a consistory, it's an elected group of men and women who are elected by the congregations to manage the church, both spiritually and commercially, if you want to say that.

OSBORNE: Yes, the everyday operation.

ASHBAUGH: The everyday happenings of the church. And I think I was fortunate enough perhaps to serve on the consistory in all three of those towns. I was on the consistory in Louisville, and on the consistory in Zanesville. In Alliance, I was on the

consistory for a number of years and served as President of the consistory for about ten years.

OSBORNE: And taught a Sunday School class.

ASHBAUGH: And taught a Sunday School class, right.

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: The experience was very rewarding. I don't think I would trade that--I think that the dedication to, my dedication to my church; I think was well worth while, I really think it was.

OSBORNE: Well, I suppose I couldn't let this pass without saying that the success and the pleasure you've had have probably been due in a large part to a diet of pancakes every Saturday morning, is that right?

ASHBAUGH: Yeah, that's right. That's right.

OSBORNE: How long has that been a

ASHBAUGH: That's been going on for some time.

OSBORNE: Some time, okay.

ASHBAUGH: Yes, usually we had a little more time for breakfast on Saturday morning, and I inveigled my wife into making pancakes. I like pancakes and we never had time to have them during the week. We were always in too much of a hurry.

OSBORNE: Rushed, right. Well, as you look back on coaching, how, do you think the attitude of boys has changed? In talking about Bob Wright being a disciplinarian and being exacting, do

you think you can have that approach today or do you have to modify that?

ASHBAUGH: Well, you know, I've been out of coaching for 16 years.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: On the, you know, the day-to-day contact with the boys. I think that there's been some changes. I think that the, and I don't know how much this would affect coaching, but I think there are so many things that the young person today has access to that tends to water down his dedication, or her dedication, to an athletic endeavor--I mean it has a chance to do that. The temptations are much greater. You know, the great number of things that are available to young people today to do were not available....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: In 1937 when I took over the football team at Louisville. We didn't have the great number of interferences with the time of that candidate for a football team. And we didn't have it in Zanesville even. Through the '55, '57, '58, the three years we made the state tournament, we didn't have as much interference then as you do now. I never had, I never to my knowledge had any kind of a drug problem. And I've never had that experience. And I'm sure that that's a question and a problem that does face....

OSBORNE: You have to face it.

ASHBAUGH: Many of the coaches today. I think that the wide range of recreational activities that are available become deterrents to dedication, to their practice and their time. I don't say that that's true in all cases, but I think that's a factor that enters into....

OSBORNE: You have to consider it.

ASHBAUGH: The, the consideration, I think. I really think it is.

OSBORNE: I noticed that earlier you qualified, you added, you said to his or her, and you, a few years ago, you wouldn't have had that in, that's a new asset.

ASHBAUGH: That's right. That's true, see. That has only been in, you know, that's....

OSBORNE: Recent.

ASHBAUGH: Very recent.

OSBORNE: Yes.

ASHBAUGH: When you consider that we built the Timken Building here and opened it in 1970, and at that time there was no consideration for varsity dressing rooms for women's athletics....

OSBORNE: Right.

ASHBAUGH: And there's no provision made in the Timken Building.

END OF TAPE

ASHBAUGH, HELEN.....	Ashbaugh 17
DEATH CURVE.....	Ashbaugh 3
FAIRHOPE, OHIO.....	Ashbaugh 17
FERNER, MRS.....	Ashbaugh 34
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