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MILLER: Today is May 21, 1976 and we are talking with Mr. Paul Giovanini. Paul is Safety Service Director of the city of Alliance. He are going to talk to him about the city of Alliance. Over his boyhood days and on.

## REMINISCENCES

OF

PAUL GIOVANINI

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GIOVANINI: In

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Interview by  
Harriet F. Miller  
May 21, 1976

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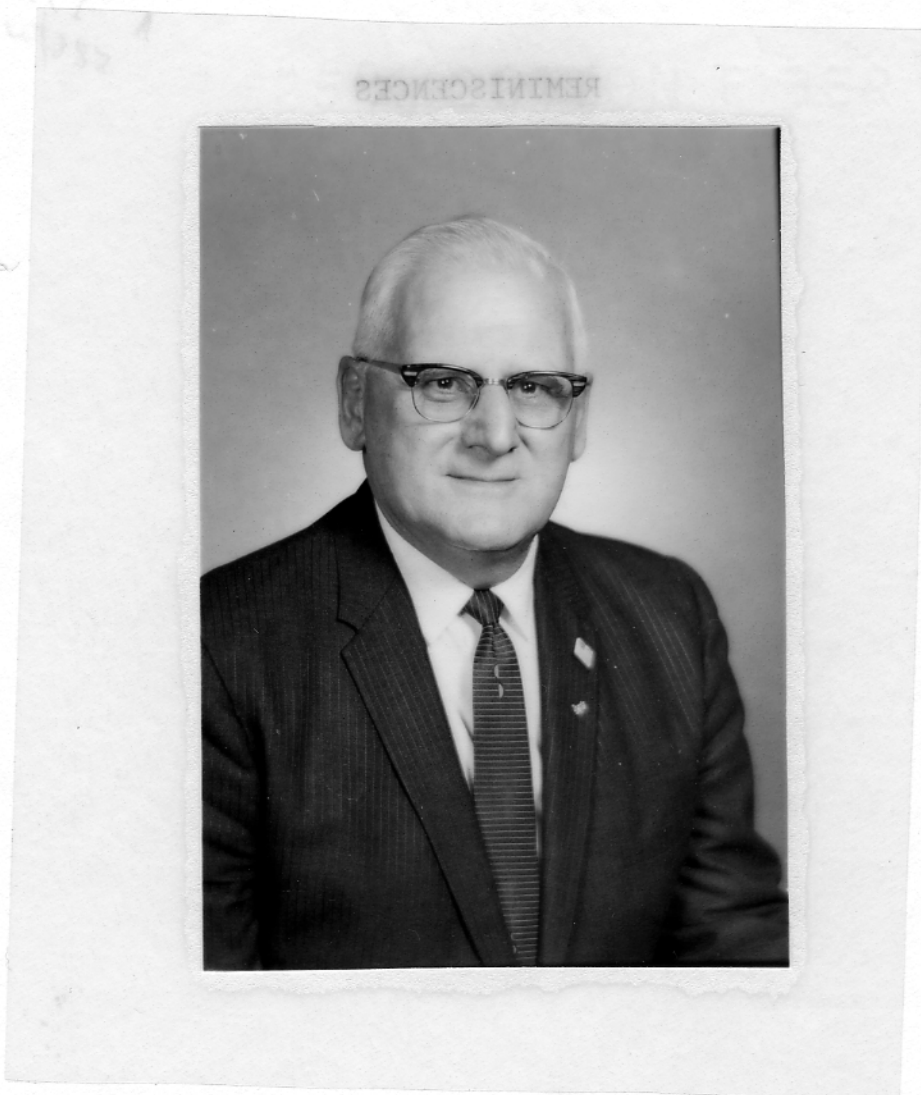
MILLER: I see.

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GIOVANINI: Back in those days and probably even today too, from Wales goat is what they raise a lot of goat over there. So wherever there was a colony anywhere of Welshmen they

MILLER: Today is May 21, 1976 and we are talking with Mr. Paul Giovanini. Paul is Safety Service Director of the city of Alliance. We are going to talk to him today about the city of Alliance as he remembers it from his boyhood days and on. Paul how long have you lived in Alliance?

GIOVANINI: They worked primarily at the Morgan Engineering Company. I worked for the American Foundries and the

GIOVANINI: All my life. Sixty five years.

MILLER: All your life. Sixty five years. So we'll have some sixty five years of memories. You came from a section of town with a particular name attached to it, not just the city of Alliance, but a section of town....

GIOVANINI: Well the section of town that I came from is down in Irish town.

MILLER: And where was Goat Hill? Where was it located?

MILLER: Irish town.

GIOVANINI: Goat Hill was right where the Morgan Ave. School

GIOVANINI: Irish town. Of course this was, there were two factions, Irish town and of course there was the old Goat Hill and then there was the East End. There was three different areas in town that was.... There were a lot of groups; ethnic groups, Irish, Welsh. The Welsh, Goat Hill came, the name Goat Hill came from Welsh people where they came from. Their thing that they have over in Wales where they came from, they raised goats. Anybody that was a Welshman was known as a goat. Is this area still known

MILLER: I see.

GIOVANINI: Back in those days and probably even today too, from Wales goat is what they raise a lot of goat over there.

So wherever there was a colony anyplace of Welshmen they were goats, or Goat Hill. And down here because there were Welshmen in that area they were Goats in Goat Hill.

MILLER: And these Welshmen primarily worked where? Do you know?

GIOVANINI: They worked primarily at the Morgan Engineering Company and of course the American Steel Foundries and the Alliance Machine.... Right in that area, right down through there.

MILLER: So most of the people who lived in this Goat Hill area were Welshmen?

GIOVANINI: Welsh. Down at the end of Broadway.

MILLER: And where was Goat Hill? Where was it located?

GIOVANINI: Goat Hill was right where the Morgan Ave. School is now, was their field, the athletic field at the time. But starting say from Forest Ave. up to Liberty and then from Summit over to Auld St. that was known as the Goat Hill area.

MILLER: I see. And that of course is located near the Morgan Engineering Plant.

GIOVANINI: Right.

MILLER: So they were very close. Is this area still known as Goat Hill today?

GIOVANINI: It still is.

MILLER: The name....

GIOVANINI: There still is a few down there from the old timers and some of the younger group but most of them are all moved away now. Ethnic groups has moved in and it's just.... I don't know they just moved away. The younger groups split up. Even the ones from East End and from Irish town and of course down by, the area where I come from was down around Mahoning Ave. and Patterson and Liberty and Webb St. and Noble St. and Pike St., this was sort of an Italian colony in the city of Alliance.

MILLER: But yet it was called Irish town.

GIOVANINI: Well Irish town was right next to us right up off of Broadway. Down at the end of Broadway.

MILLER: Now which end of Broadway would this be?

GIOVANINI: That would be Broadway and Mahoning, that would be....

MILLER: The East End.

GIOVANINI: The East End of Broadway. This was known as Irish town.

MILLER: And all of this seems to be located in the East end. I mean you mentioned Goat Hill and that's on the eastern part of town and Irish town, that's the eastern part of town.

GIOVANINI: Well you must remember Miss Miller that the town in those days was down here, in the east end.



MILLER: I see. *this makes sense that this huge growth and*

GIOVANINI: Prior to 1920, the town didn't move south. Up Liberty was hardly anything. I can remember Mr. Polonori from Polonoris Gardens up there. He lived next to us down on Mahoning Ave. He's an Italian and lived next to us. And he went up and put a little business up there on Liberty Ave. *Well, let me explain it this way. Back in those days there were no automobiles. So anybody who worked at American Steel Foundries or Morgans lived in that area.*

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: At one time I, the way I understand it, of course this was before my time down on Webb St. this was the elite part of town prior to 1885, 1880. This was where all your elite was in town. In fact your postmaster and your wealthy people lived down in that area, Patterson St. and Webb St. And then of course the town started to grow south. When my dad came to Alliance in about 1903 or 1904 all of Alliance was this side of, we'll say Grant St. And then of course on Union Ave. and of course south of Union Ave. I can remember working on a farm up on State St. when State St. was a dirt street from Parkway Blvd. going east it was dirt. And I can remember, I can just barely remember when they paved Parkway Blvd. *away from the shop. away from sales, away from rail-*

MILLER: And by paving it you mean bricking it don't you. *body lived down next to the railroad.*

GIOVANINI: Well, sure of course.

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: But in those days that end of town there wasn't too much growth that way. It came in later years. *different cities.*



MILLER: I think this makes sense that this huge growth and settlement in Alliance at that time would have been down by your industries.

GIOVANINI: That's right.

MILLER: Because this was where....

GIOVANINI: Well let me explain it this way. Back in those days there were no automobiles. So anybody who worked at American Steel Foundries or Morgans lived in that area.

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: Cause they walked to work.

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: Today they work at Morgans, they work at Alliance Machine they live at Canton with your mode of travel today.

But most of your people who worked at the old American Steel Foundries and my dad first worked when he came to Alliance, and all these fellows from Goat Hill, they were all, they all lived next to their shop. Within walking distance of their shops. They get up at 6:30 in the morning or leave the house at 6:30 in the morning and get to their work before 7:00.

But today it's a completely different thing. Everybody wants to move away from the shop. away from noise, away from railroads. Alliance at one time was a railroad city. And everybody lived down next to the railroad.

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: Because that's where they worked.

MILLER: And that's how they got to the different cities.

GIOVANINI: Right.

MILLER: Obviously if they didn't have automobiles they didn't drive to Canton, they took the train into Canton.

GIOVANINI: That's right, that's right.

MILLER: Yes, it's just a different way of life.

GIOVANINI: It's a completely different way of life. And not only that, back in those days when I was a kid where you lived is where you got your enjoyment. Or if you want to go out on a picnic we went to Maple Beach Park. At one time Maple Beach Park was a nice park. It had concession stands it had boats that you could rent. Of course as kids we swam in a river, up and down the Mahoning River all over down there. Never knew what a bathing suit was until I got to be 18 years old.

MILLER: Nobody would swim in the Mahoning River today anyway.

GIOVANINI: Well you couldn't swim in it today it isn't fit to swim in.

MILLER: No.

GIOVANINI: But back in those days we did. But whatever enjoyment you had you got it close. So Goat Hill on a Sunday in the summer or in the fall was the place to go for entertainment. And that's where the whole town went.

MILLER: Even though you live in Irish town or somewhere else, Goat Hill was the place to go.

GIOVANINI: All the kids from that end of town either went to the East End game down at East End or you went to Goat Hill.

When I got to be about 10 or 11 years old East End had just about finished and they was all merged into Goat Hill. And they had one of the finest baseball teams, semi-pro teams around. In fact prior, in 1918 the old Goat Hill football team, now on that team on that football team here we had Bud Howell. And we had quite a few. Of course the ones to us who were heroes were Leo Ganslien, Gus Ganslien, Legs Moore, Russell Austin, Mush Segel, Bud Howell, D. I. Mainwaring which was the father of Dave Mainwaring.

MILLER: Oh yes.

GIOVANINI: Bill Stockham, Abe Wise, Sam Wise. Now Bud Howell was on the team and Bud Howell's brother Eddie Howell was an official. He lived in Sebring. And their brother Bill was at Camp Sherman June 1918 war. And they brought the football team up from Camp Sherman to play the Goat Hill team.

MILLER: That's how good the Goat Hill team was.

GIOVANINI: That's how good the Goat Hill team was. And we used to have teams come in here, the Akron Mutes used to come in. Every year there was a big rivalry between the Goat Hill and the Akron Mutes. And we had other big teams come in.

In those days most of your towns around had semi-pro teams, see, which were a pride of the town. The city of Alliance followed the Goat Hill team down there and then they became the Fairmount Bulls of course. And Alliance just followed them. Every Sunday just everybody went down there. There was no television, there was no places to go except you got your entertainment in you community.



MILLER: Now, if they went to this area to see these games where were the games played?

GIOVANINI: On Goat Hill field, right where Morgan Ave. School is now. Of course there was a grandstand, there was a fence around the field. And of course in the summertime we really enjoyed to go up and watch a ball game. Of course to watch those who to us were the heroes, the home run hitter was Charlie Grawl who was a nice man by the way. He sold ice for the Crescent Ice and Coal. Charlie Grawl was the right fielder and of course Jed Grawl was a pitcher and then the Jones brothers, Joe Jones who played center field, Jimmy Jones who played third base, Marty Gotchling at second base the catchers were Spike Morrissey, Clyde Erisey, Kuklo brothers, Frank and Leo. Pitchers who to us were famous Emmet Claggett, Whitacker, Art Leasure and then of course Jed Grawl who had tried out for the Pittsburgh Pirates came back to us. And when Jed Grawl pitched for us we just filled up the stadium down there. It was just filled with people from Alliance who would go to watch the ball games.

MILLER: Now this team you mentined you went to watch right?

GIOVANINI: Yes.

MILLER: So this period, these were the people who were really part of Goat Hill and its Hey Day so to speak.

GIOVANINI: That's right.

MILLER: The Golden Age which would have been....

GIOVANINI: The Golden Age of Goat Hill I would say between



1910 and 1925. In 1925 they switched over from being the Goat Hill to the Fairmount Bulls. Charlie Barnes from the Fairmount Provision Company took the team over and he changed the name to the Fairmount Bulls. And their last year was 1930 I played with them. Now we're talking about an era that I played and I know these fellows.

MILLER: Right.

GIOVANINI: Now on those teams were fellows that are still around, some of them are passed away. And we had good crowds follow us there up until that last year when I played and of course this is hitting the Depression. Ray Schaffer, Harold DeBee, Oliver Shively, Bill Dixon, Louie Opprandi, Lem Stiffler, a fellow by the name of Middleton from out at Marlboro, I don't remember what his first name was. Then we had a fellow by the name of Shaw from Minerva who later became the head of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I think his first name was Bob I'm not sure. He played an end, opposite end from Ray Schaffer.

In the back field was Bob Pawley who is still around but of course a couple of these fellows are gone, Bill Dixon is gone, Stiffler is gone, Bob Pawley I just seen him the other day and of course Gene Pugh is gone. In 1930 Mount Union College was one of the first college around to put lights on their field. In 1930 they had a lighted field. And Charlie Barnes contracted with Mount Union College to play two games up there to see if he could get a better crowd, in otherwords to increase attendance because this was the Depression, 1930. So the first game that we played was the Canton Roger's Jewelers which was a spin off of the old Canton Bulldogs. They became

the Canton Roger's Jewlers and that's where I got a broken leg. I got a broken leg in that game. And the following week they played the Minerva Merchants. And then of course he dropped out because there wasn't enough people come out but that was on Wednesday night we played two games. And then of course there was Frank Hogue who was our coach, who I felt was one of the finest football players that I had ever seen. Of course he dissipated a little bit and this was wrong. I always felt that if Frank Hogue would have gone to college he could of become an All American because he could do everything with a football. And of course there was John Dann, Glen Dicken, John Zaina I played with him, Warren Siddall. And many others I just can't remember all of them. But these are the fellows that I played with that I know. Now the other ones that I am talking about is back when I was 10 to 16 years old.

MILLER: When you were watching.

GIOVANINI: When I was watching.

MILLER: Yes. Primarily football now, you played football but you watched the baseball.

GIOVANINI: I watched the baseball. The only baseball that I played was in the golden era of the softball. When they played the fast-ball pitch back in between 1935 and 1949 I'd say. That was the golden era of softball, what we used to call softball. We had teams come from all over in to Alliance and Alliance went to them. We had teams that went up to Wisconsin to play for our championship. We had softball pitchers

who were the best in the business. We had a fellow by the name of Bill Korleski, he's passed on now, one of the best. Homer Greenawalt, wonderful pitcher from Alliance and he was pretty tough to hit. We've had numerous ones, there used to be a fellow Lionel Grimes, not Lionel, Lionel Thomas was a pitcher that was good. And of course we met some of the best around. And of course then after that my ball playing games were over. Well I'm sitting next to Glen Dicken and

MILLER: Well I imagine you didn't play too much after you broke your leg did you?

GIOVANINI: I played one more year over, I went to play up at Ravenna. You know when I got hurt playing with the Fairmount Bulls, Charlie Barnes got a fellow from Ravenna to come down and replace me. A fellow by the name of Joe Delione, he replaced me when I got hurt. Two years later Joe Delione sent down for us. He wanted to form a team up in Ravenna. So he invited us to go up there to try out for the team. So me and Glen Dicken went up you know, I named Glen Dicken well we went up and we made the team of course. And so we played in the old Brimfield, what they called the old Brimfield Kennels, used to be a dog track at Brimfield. And we played inside that dog track at night. Well we played four games there and just couldn't make no money, they was going to give us three dollars a game. Then of course we decided to go on the road to see if we could make more money. So on Sunday afternoon we went up to Akron to play the Akron South \_\_\_\_\_, which at that time was the toughest something. But then you had to love the game of course.



semi pro team in all Northeastern Ohio. Well we played on a Sunday afternoon, a real hot day, we had time keepers who didn't even know what they were doing. So we played all afternoon in that football game. Well we got beat 6 to nothing. But it wasn't so much getting beat 6 to nothing as the body beating we took. Well anyhow after the game we were sitting in the dressing room to be paid, they were paying us two dollars a game. Well I'm sitting next to Glen Dicken and we're putting our clothes on and they come along to pay us. Well they handed Glen Dicken two dollars but when they came to me they run out of folding money, they give me eight quarters. The two dollars looked pretty big but the eight quarters some how just didn't seem too much. So he drove up to Akron and I had to give him a quarter for gasoline, I had to buy two hamburgers and a cup of coffee for a quarter. I come home I handed my wife six quarters for an afternoon of football. And that's the last game of football I ever played.

MILLER: How many games was that then that you played?

GIOVANINI: That was the sixth game.

MILLER: Oh my goodness.

GIOVANINI: In a year.

MILLER: My goodness.

GIOVANINI: Two dollars a game.

MILLER: Two dollars a game.

GIOVANINI: But two dollars in those days, I don't know seemed something. But then you had to love the game of course.

because I was an employee of the Fairmount Provision Company.



MILLER: Yes. That's true. Plus you're telling me you got two hamburgers and a cup of coffee for a quarter.

GIOVANINI: For a quarter. I probably didn't even carry insurance.

MILLER: And you had gas to get to Akron for a quarter.

GIOVANINI: Yes. Those days, well if you got hurt they would probably have a charity for you. Have a gaze, give all the receipts.

MILLER: So it was a different amount in those days. But you were paid.

GIOVANINI: We were paid, we were semi pros. Well when you fellows played on your teams at this

MILLER: These teams that each city had were paid.

GIOVANINI: Each game that we played we got two dollars. With the Fairmount Bulls I was getting seven dollars a game.

MILLER: My. This was something extra money, these two dollars

GIOVANINI: That was big money. Ends like it was a pretty en-

MILLER: What a big success. Well when these, now Fairmount would have sponsored the team in other words, they actually paid you.

GIOVANINI: Fairmount, oh yes, they paid us. through? How many

MILLER: And they collected the receipts because you charged admission, right? We didn't, we drove up to the Ravenna Arsenal.

GIOVANINI: Oh yes, they collected everything was theirs. They paid us a salary. In fact we were their employees.

MILLER: I see. In that big building was where we trained.

GIOVANINI: Of the Fairmount Provision Company. When I got hurt, broke my leg, I got paid through Workman's Compensation because I was an employee of the Fairmount Provision Company.

MILLER: Would this have been true with the old Goat Hill team? In those days?

GIOVANINI: No, they probably didn't even carry insurance. Like up there in Ravenna there was no insurance. I mean in those days, well if you got hurt they would probably have a chairty for your. Have a game, give all the receipts, that's the way they done it in those days.

MILLER: Well when you fellows palyed on your teams at this time and you were paid you had other jobs though didn't you?

GIOVANINI: Oh sure, everybody did.

MILLER: This was spare time.

GIOVANINI: This was something extra money, these two dollars you know.

MILLER: Yes, right, and it sounds like it was a pretty enjoyable way to earn the extra money.

GIOVANINI: Well there was a lot of hard work for a dollar and a half.

MILLER: What kind of hard work did you go through? How many times during a week did you train?

GIOVANINI: Well we didn't, we drove up to the Ravenna Arsenal, the old Ravenna, where the National Guard....

MILLER: Yeah, it was an amunitions plant wasn't it?

GIOVANINI: Yeah, in that big building was where we trianed.

We didn't really train, all we did was run plays up there.

Most of us had some football and we were familiar the way

plays were run, where holes are, blocking assignments. We were familiar with all that from being played in high school and playing years before. This we knew, see. So all we did was run through plays mostly. As far as training was concerned there wasn't too much training like they have on the football today. Even with the old Goat Hill there was no training during the week. They used to get together and run some plays and that's about all there was to the training in those days.

MILLER: When you played your game was it a pretty rough game?

GIOVANINI: Rough game.

MILLER: Rules were, were a little different than they are now.

GIOVANINI: Rules were just a little bit different than they are now. That's how I got the broken leg.

MILLER: I suspected that. How about the rivalry? In the days when you played on the team and had football were you pretty much all of the same ethnic background or were you different?

GIOVANINI: Well no, I'm Italian, there was the Welsh, there was the Irish, there was the Gansliens, they would have been Welsh I suppose. Russell Austin was from Minerva, I mean from Marlboro. Russell Austin was one of these mighty mites, just a little guy but he was fast and he was tough. And of course Mush Segel was small but he was tough. The Gansliens there again as I say they trained mostly in the local saloons back in those days I suppose and that's the way they were



but they were rugged tough, don't come up against them because they would tear your head off.

MILLER: My.

GIOVANINI: That's the type of football players they were.

MILLER: You didn't have much protection in those days either did you?

GIOVANINI: No you don't have the protection you have today.

MILLER: No.

GIOVANINI: You had a pair of football pants, you had shoulder pads that were mostly thick felt. But even up until as late as 1942 or 1943 even in the high school it was mostly all felt.

But now they have these plastic. In fact I really think today that the helmets that they have in the high school today they are a dangerous weapon because if somebody spears you with a head gear they can't hurt themselves but they sure can hurt you. Not only in football in the high school but in fact now they have a penalty now for spearing in high school. Because they spear you with a head gear and as hard as that head gear is you can hurt somebody, you can crack ribs or you can hit them in the stomach or hit them in the back. This is against the rules now.

MILLER: But you didn't have those kind of helmets.

GIOVANINI: No, the helmets we had then were felt, I mean there was....

MILLER: Very little protection there.



GIOVANINI: Very little protection. In fact when I first went out for the Alliance High Football there was very little protection you had in those days, in 1927, you didn't have too much. But things are just a little bit different.

MILLER: Just a little bit. Yes. How about going back to the games that you used to watch at Goat Hill. Now those would have been more the Welsh teams wouldn't they?

GIOVANINI: Yes, yes, they were all those fellows around Goat Hill.

MILLER: And who were their chief opponents?

GIOVANINI: Oh I forgot to tell you about the manager.

MILLER: Oh, okay.

GIOVANINI: Their manager of both teams was a fellow by the name of John Hallman. Everybody called him Tody. Tody Hallman was the manager. And he was the manager always. He played baseball with them, he played second base or even some short stop once in a while. And of course he was just a little guy, he wasn't too big of a man but he was the important man in all of Goat Hill. Because he was the manager. And of course one time Legs Moore who was a real good center they had back in those days tall man, was a center got hurt. So Tody who always dressed up for the games went in to play center, I think he lasted two plays. He's just a little guy.

MILLER: He couldn't make it.

GIOVANINI: But he was the manager and even in later years when we met at reunions up until, John left town here, I don't

know where he's gone. He's retired, I think he's passed away now. But even at all the reunions here comes the manager.

MILLER: Yeah, well I don't know of many managers today that if the center got hurt that they would step in and even try.

GIOVANINI: Oh he was just the, in those days, you know just the manager. And he handled things pretty good, he scheduled all the games and he done all the work for them.

MILLER: And that was in his spare time too?

GIOVANINI: Oh yeah.

MILLER: In his spare time too?

GIOVANINI: Oh sure, everything was in spare time. And the umpires down there was Bill Russell back there umpired. He would be the father of Larry Russell who was pretty famous at Alliance High School. He was a real good athlete in Alliance High School. But Bill was the umpire, I can still see him. He would go out in the middle of the field and he would yell, "the battery for today", he would say. He would name off the batters and then they would throw a ball out in the middle of the field and he would say, "play ball." I tell you to us, as kids, just to watch it you know was really big stuff.

MILLER: Oh indeed. Well then they had, they usually had two teams, a baseball team and a football team.

GIOVANINI: Every year.

MILLER: Every year. And then the Golden Age of Goat Hill, one man managed them both.

GIOVANINI: Yeah, Tody.

MILLER: Tody.

GIOVANINI: And as I can remember Tody Hallman, well if there was any back prior to 1920 I wouldn't know if there was a different manager, but Tody Hallman everybody would call here comes the manager.

MILLER: How about when you were kids and wanted to watch the games and if you didn't have the price to get in. What was the price to get in?

GIOVANINI: Gee, I can't really remember. But I think adults was 50¢ and for kids I think was 15¢ or 20¢. But we just waited outside until a foul ball came over the fence and we grabbed it and went over and handed it to the ticket agent and he let us in.

MILLER: That was free admission.

GIOVANINI: Except if that foul ball came over the fence in the ninth inning. Then we would grab it and run home.

MILLER: How about football games, there aren't many foul ball in football games.

GIOVANINI: No, no foul balls in football games, but we had to go up around, close to the Alliance Machine and come in through the swamp. We had to sneak in somehow. Very seldom we paid our way in but most of the time they overlooked it, you know they had fellows around the field, you know they let the kids in. Comes around the half they say, "alright come on in boys," they let us in. There was no great thing about it. My dad came out a couple of times but he wasn't too much of a



sports fan. But we were always up there, a group come from Mahoning Ave., we always went up as a group. And we never got into too much of an argument with the fellows from Goat Hill but Mahoning Ave. East End and we used to have a little problem with the Irish town gang, of kids. Across the railroad tracks. We'd have stone fights.

MILLER: Stone fights.

GIOVANINI: The railroad, pick up these "gooneys" along the railroad and throw them across the railroad at each other.

MILLER: Oh yes.

GIOVANINI: If we'd have hit each other in the head we would have killed them.

MILLER: It would of been too bad, huh? This would have been the Irish group then.

GIOVANINI: The Irish and the Italian.

MILLER: The Irish and the Italian. And yet you lived fairly close to one another.

GIOVANINI: Yes.

MILLER: But each had his own....

GIOVANINI: But of course then the Italians lived on both sides. The Zainas, which was G. G. Zaina was a councilman here and his folks and my folks were real close. They were real close. Of course John Zaina he played football with the Fairmount Bulls. Even today we meet, him and his wife and me and my wife and John Pizadaz and his wife we meet on Sundays and we play cards. We, I don't know, we just have a good time.

MILLER: There seemed to be quite lasting friendships develop from this football team.

GIOVANINI: Oh yes. The rivalry was during the game. After the game was over then of course, the East End and Goat Hill used to have good rivalry in baseball. East End never had a football then they always had baseball teams. And they played their game down where the Alliance Manufacturing is now.

MILLER: Okay, down on Lake Park Blvd.?

GIOVANINI: Oh Lake Park Blvd. right where the Alliance Manufacturing factory is now, used to be their baseball field. But they never had a fence around it. So it was easy to watch....

MILLER: You could get in free.

GIOVANINI: They had a few little stands to sit in but no fence around it. So if you want to sit in the stands of course you had to pay but the rest of us kids we just stay out in the field and watch the game.

MILLER: And watch. Alliance though has quite a football feeling even today and I can see that if goes far far back.

GIOVANINI: Oh yes. I don't know, sports always gets into somebodys blood and I don't care where you're at, if you're a sports fan you'll go most any place to see some good game.

MILLER: A good game.

GIOVANINI: I've always said a football fan is a football fan. And he'll go any place as long as you have a good game for him to see. And it don't conflice with one of the games

that he wants to go see. For example I follow Alliance High School, I've followed them ever since I got out. Now I'll go to their game no matter where it's at and if there's a Mount Union game the same night I won't go see Mount Union. And if there is any other game, but if they split, see when Mount Union started playing on Sunday afternoons now see I don't miss any of their games either now. See? Now of course West Branch, my children all are in the West Branch area, my grandchildren go to West Branch School. But I don't miss any of their games as long as they don't conflict with any of the Alliance High School games.

MILLER: I see. Well you pick your team that you want to watch and the other ones come second.

GIOVANINI: So I still say if you've got a good game to go see that a football fan will go see a good game.

MILLER: Indeed they will.

GIOVANINI: On any given night.

MILLER: And these were the only sports that were played in these areas, there was nothing else? No basketball?

GIOVANINI: Basketball, there wasn't too much basketball played in those days. Now in the high school they played some basketball but not in the, well as we call the neighborhood. There was no neighborhood team. There is no neighborhood football team today, there used to be a lot of neighborhood football teams. Now besides Goat Hill and besides East End. Well not beside East End but beside Goat Hill football



teams there used to be the Eagles, the Buckeyes. There was another one. I played on what they called the Junior Buckeyes when I was a kid. The Junior Buckeyes, the Buckeyes and the Eagles. Sam Artino is an old timer. He played a lot of football with the old Buckeyes and the Eagles. And he was a good football player but he never got, in other words he wasn't with Mount Union. He was down there on Mahoning Ave. close to us. On Front St. right off of Mahoning. And Sam was a good football player but he was more with the Buckeyes and the Eagles.

MILLER: How old were you when you started playing football with, it would have been, it was the Fairmount Bulls at the time....

GIOVANINI: Oh that was when I was semi pro, yeah. But when I started playing football, you see this nose....

MILLER: Oh, it's played football for a while, huh?

GIOVANINI: On the streets about nine years old.

MILLER: But when you actually joined a team, an organized team.

GIOVANINI: The first time was with the Alliance High School of course and then with the Fairmount Bulls first and then with the Ravenna Gulf Oils. Oh I started to tell you about Joe Delione. When we went up there to play, of course, then I quit I didn't play after that, game up there. Well now there's a boy, there's a football player on the Cleveland Browns now by the name of Tom Delione. Well I was in Ravenna were a team up until oh, fairly recently ten or fifteen years ago; they used to call them the House of David used to have a

here last fall and talking with the fellows that I played with up there and I said, by the way I said, that fellow that we used to play football with, Joe Delione, would this be his son playing with Browns that used to play with Ohio State? Well that's his grandson.

MILLER: Grandson. Oh my word. Well it shows football really gets in your blood too and they are still interested in it.

GIOVANINI: So Tom Delione, I played with his grandfather.

MILLER: How about that. You ought to write to him sometime. Tell him that. Going back to the early Goat Hill when you were still watching the games how about the rivalry on the field and off the field then. When these were the Welsh against the Irish teams.

GIOVANINI: Well, you misunderstand. Most of the teams that came in to play at Goat Hill as far as baseball is concerned once a year they would play the East End. But then the House of David used to come in, remember there used to be a famous team the House of David, always had long beards. They came every year to play at Goat Hill.

MILLER: Were they Jewish? Is that how they got the name?

GIOVANINI: No, no. All they did was call them the House of David.

MILLER: And wear the long beard.

GIOVANINI: And they wore beards and long hair. And they were a team up until oh, fairly recently ten or fifteen years ago, they used to call them the House of David used to have a

baseball team. And the Homestead Grays and all these famous semi-pro, or you know local teams.

MILLER: City teams.

GIOVANINI: Every community had a local team back in those days. Between 1910 and 1920 every community had a team. There were teams down at Hanoverton, there were teams down at all those little communities down, Minerva, Magnolia. They all had teams.

MILLER: We were just mentioning the teams that used to come in and play at Goat Hill.

GIOVANINI: Yes. And of course in football the most famous that everybody went down and watched was the Akron Mutes.

MILLER: The Akron Mutes. Why would they be called the Akron Mutes.

GIOVANINI: Because they were suppose to, whether they were or not I don't know, they would be in the backfield and they would....

MILLER: Use sign language.

GIOVANINI: They would grunt. All you could hear was grunts. None of them shouted and they never called signals. Because back in those days on play signals was called by the Quarter-back at all times. You could hear him all over the field. But the Mutes all they did was use fingers.

MILLER: Use sign language.

GIOVANINI: The Akron Mutes game was a big one to go down and watch.



MILLER: Oh yes.

GIOVANINI: In football. And the big game in the summer-time with baseball was when the Homestead Grays or when the House of David or of course when Camp Sherman came here to play football too that was a big one.

MILLER: Oh, I'll bet.

GIOVANINI: And of course these were big games down there. And every given Sunday afternoon in the summer or the fall Goat Hill was crowded. No cars parked around because people walked.

MILLER: They walked.

GIOVANINI: There were no cars. Well later on there was a few cars.

MILLER: Was there public transportation?

GIOVANINI: Oh, the streetcar ran of course.

MILLER: Streetcar.

GIOVANINI: Oh sure. They came up from Sebring on the Trolley and get off there at Summit Street and Morgan and walk over. Or they would come from the other end of town and get off there at the same place. See there was a trolley car, Stark Electric.

MILLER: I would imagine that would have been a pretty popular stop on a Sunday.

GIOVANINI: Oh yes.

MILLER: How about then later if they wanted to take a picnic. Were there any other areas or....

GIOVANINI: Picnics, in Alliance? on Maple Beach Park oh.

MILLER: Yes.

GIOVANINI: Rockhill Park was pretty famous. They had a race track over there. I can remember some racing over there. I never remembered any horse racing but I remember motor-cycle racing. And they had a good swimming hole over there. Had a real nice pavilion until it burned down here, oh it's been recent, oh about 10 or 15 years ago, somebody set fire to it. But they had a nice dance hall out there at the pavilion and had a bath house and a nice picnic grove. And of course then there was Lake Park down here.

MILLER: Yes, off of Lake Park Blvd.

GIOVANINI: Off of Lake Park Blvd. Every Sunday it was jammed. On a Saturday night the dances they had down there you couldn't hardly get into the dance hall. Cause the trolly and the streetcar line went right by there. I can remember when they had swim meets down there. Every Sunday it was crowded with swimmers. They had the old, the dance hall was on this side of the lake and many years but formarly it was across the lake and the dance hall was upstairs and downstairs was a penny arcade and then there was a lot of concession stands all along there as you walked up the.... And there was a place where people went on a Sunday.

MILLER: Yes, a nice place.

GIOVANINI: Sunday you went down to Lake Park or you went to Maple Beach Park, of course Maple Beach Park was the first

one to fade. We had picnics down on Maple Beach Park oh, up until World War I, the Italians had picnics down there. And of course we had picnics all up and down the river wherever we could get a grove we'd have a picnic.

MILLER: Now Maple Beach Park is located where?

GIOVANINI: Right at the dead end of Mahoning, well it's right almost where our Maple Beach Playground is now. Of course it run all the way down to the river then close to the river was where they had a few concession stands down there and where you could go down and rent a boat. On a given Sunday they would rent out ten or fifteen boats for, a young couple would get into a boat and row up the river. You don't see that anymore.

MILLER: Nice recreation. No nobody rows around on that river today.

GIOVANINI: In otherwords you had to get your recreation in town. There was no way to jump into a car and go after it. And if you didn't go to Lake Park or Rockhill Park you went to Maple Beach. Of course like I say Maple Beach was the first one to fade and then of course Rockhill Park faded and then down there. And then when their lease run out the Williams, I don't remember his first name, the older, they had a fifty year lease down there and finally their lease run out and then the dance hall was torn down. And there is nothing there.

MILLER: Now where was that located?

MILLER: No.

GIOVANINI: It would be located just directly east of where



GIOVANINI: And at one time they had a nice swimming beach and a big dance hall for picnics or anything you wanted. A lot of recreation because everybody from Alliance had to go there. See.

GIOVANINI: No, Garwood. No, no, this would be where

MILLER: Yes.

GIOVANINI: Or you took the trolley and you went over to Myers Lake.

MILLER: Uh huh, into Canton.

GIOVANINI: But that was special when you went over there you understand.

MILLER: Yes.

GIOVANINI: That was a special Sunday. Usually you went around here.

MILLER: What else did they have at Goat Hill? You had mentioned they had a big field which was....

GIOVANINI: Oh, they had a swimming pool.

MILLER: Okay.

GIOVANINI: At one time they had a swimming pool. It was one of the first concrete swimming pools in Alliance. And then there were two boys drowned in there. The last one drowned in there was a boy by the name of, I can remember that one, Bill Rampelt. 1921 I believe it was he drowned, and then they closed it off.

MILLER: Now where was that located?

GIOVANINI: It would be located just directly east of where

the Morgan School is now. Just probably I would say fifty feet west of where the school is now.

MILLER: And so that would be right where Forest dead ends.

GIOVANINI: No, Garwood. No, no, this would be where Wade Street comes across and Garwood. And then it would be probably east from Wade Street probably twenty-five, thirty feet. I don't remember it when it had water in it, I can't remember that.

MILLER: Okay.

GIOVANINI: The only time I remember it they had abandoned it, it was full of junk and cans and everything else in there. When it was determined not to use it any more after the second boy got drowned. A fellow by the name of Bill, I think his name was Bill but his last name was Rampelt, and he got drowned in 1921 and I can just remember them talking about it. And that's when it was discontinued. But that was part of Goat Hill. And they had an athletic group down there that had this field.

MILLER: And this was a multi purpose field. In other words they had stands there and they watched football but you also played baseball on it.

GIOVANINI: The field belonged to the Morgan Engineering Company. And Goat Hill either leased it or they got the use of it or they was using it. And Morgan Engineering just let them have it for whatever they wanted to use it for. And this grandstand was erected and it was a fairly substantial

grandstand they had there. And there was a fence all the way around it. And then of course in later years when the crowds dwindled the fence got dilapidated and there was no more. Of course we used to delight in watching Charlie Grawl to see if he could hit a homerun.

MILLER: Over the fence.

GIOVANINI: I can remember, a homerun, Nobil Shoe Stores used to give a new pair of shoes for every homerun that was hit over the fence. He would have to hit it up onto Morgan Ave. He was a left handed swinger. Everytime Charlie came up everybody screamed and wanted a homerun.

MILLER: Homerun.

GIOVANINI: And he would get one every once in a while. And he got a pair of free shoes from the Nobil Shoe Store.

MILLER: Pretty nice, pretty nice. So you could see that lots of people were interested in this.

GIOVANINI: Oh, I tell you, it was a drawing attraction all of Alliance. Not for just the area of Goat Hill. They came from all over Alliance down there. Well, like I say, a sports fan is a sports fan. He wants to see a game he'll go. But then later years when there was other attractions, when the radio came in and of course when television came there went everything. But even when the radio came back in 1925 or 1926 along in there, I don't know, it just changed the picture altogether. Your younger group came up and you couldn't get them interested to go down and watch the players down there.



MILLER: So it faded about what time?

GIOVANINI: Well of course the last, the last year was 1930 when the Fairmount Bulls had their team. From then on there were no more teams.

MILLER: I see.

GIOVANINI: Down there.

MILLER: And then the place just generally....

GIOVANINI: Then from, oh I'll say this. From then on they had what they called the Goat Hill Juniors used to have teams the younger groups. The teenagers, they still carried on as a group having teams, meeting some other teenage team. But nothing any where near organized like it was before.

MILLER: How about people who formed a group and had reunions. Was there not a group of Goat Hill friends?

GIOVANINI: Yes, starting in 1940 they started to have reunions, out at Rockhill Park. And Bud Howell who was one of the fellows who played with them back in the days in the "Hay Day" of Goat Hill, used to take moving pictures of the thing. He took them in 1940, 41, and 42 three years, and he passed away. And then of course they come and they asked me, they knew that I had a moving camera. I said, okay I'll come out and I took them. And I met with them every year out there. And it was a nice group. And we used to meet out there, usually it was on a Sunday and we would meet at the pavilion and we would have refreshments and food and everything. And then every year we would have a little recess and go across

was a big one.

the lake. On the other side there used to be a ball field, there used to be a ball field on the middle of the race track over there. And we would play a softball game. All of the old timers. You know I got some pictures showing this ballgame. Now Spike Morrissey, I don't think he ever got married but he used to be the catcher of the old timers, and everybody loved Spike, but he was one of these old timers you know. And he hit a ball out there, I'll never forget, and he goes swinging around second and goes into third base and overruns third base and the ball comes over there. And he went back in with a hook slide that would be as well as any big leaguer would make today. I tell you, and I got a moving picture of it and you wouldn't believe that an oldster, oh he had to be at that time at least pretty close to sixty.

MILLER: My.

GIOVANINI: And of course when we would adjourn from the refreshments that we had and by this time everybody was feeling pretty good.

MILLER: Well refreshed, yes.

GIOVANINI: And walk around the lake to go over to, well Goat Jones who used to be the first baseman with the old team, he said no sir, I will not walk around that lake, I will swim across. So every year he used to take off his clothes and swim across the lake. We always had to wait on him because it took time for him to swim across. And Goat Jones was, in later years probably weighed about 280 pounds, he was a big one.

And when he jumped into that lake, the lake went up a couple of inches. But everybody used to laugh and watch him come swimming across, and I got pictures of him swimming across the lake.

MILLER: But you mean he swam across the lake and then he played ball?

GIOVANINI: Yeah.

MILLER: He played ball too.

GIOVANINI: We would take the clothes around for him. He would play ball, he wouldn't play too much. He would play a little bit at first base, and he would take a couple of swings at the ball. The one that was really active and really surprised me was old Spike Morrissey. And old Spike he was a catcher back in those days. And of course you always had a feud with umpires. And the umpire back in those days was a fellow by the name of Neil Lorden. He worked for the Ohio Edison as a line foreman. And when we come out to the reunion and when the umpire came old Spike Morrissey would grab a bottle and I'm gonna kill him. He's always killing an umpire when he gets close enough to him. And old Neil would come over and they would have a little set to there, all friendly you know.

MILLER: All in fun.

GIOVANINI: And here come the umpires, I'm gonna kill him. Old Spike Morrissey, I tell you. It was just fun to be with those boys. And then of course all these fellows would come.



There was Dan Shay and old Man Shay, John Shay. And I got pictures of them, Irish as they come, all from that area down there. One of the finest first basemen around. Of course after Goat Jones couldn't play any more then Dan Shay became first baseman of the Goat Hill. And he was a good one. And of course Ralph Fox, who I thought might have been able to go to the big leagues because he was a real good short stop, and he was a good one. And of course there was Jimmy Jones, and like I say Joe Jones and there was all that group who to us were heroes to us. Cause we're talking now about me as a group of ten or eleven or twelve year old kids. But those were the Heydays of Goat Hill. And I don't, well of course there's no such thing as saying they'll come back. But it was a Golden Era I think.

MILLER: It was.

GIOVANINI: In the city of Alliance. Of a place where people were close, everybody knew everybody. And I don't know, somehow we got away from that.

MILLER: Well it was a special kind of spirit.

GIOVANINI: I don't know if the force that knitted them together was the teams or whether it was the clans or whether we was Irish or whether you was Welsh, whether you was a Goat or whether you wasn't a Goat. But anyhow there was a spirit. And of course down on Goat Hill D. I. Mainwaring had his little grocery store down there. And this was the meeting place. Anytime they grouped, you went down to D. I.'s you found a group of the Goat Hillers in there. They're

always in there talking, of course he sold sporting goods and he sold groceries and of course this would be Dave Mainwaring's dad. One of the finest fellows you ever met. A real fine fellow. And you know he passed away with a heart attack at an early age too. He died I think he was 48 years old. It really shook me up because he was a real good friend of mine. And you know, a lot of these people you see today that, sure they'll talk to you but I don't know you just don't have that feeling. I run into one of these guys once in a while. Tick Hurford will come around, I'll be down on Main St. and he'll be a block away and he'll yell at me, "Hi, Paul."

MILLER: Yes.

GIOVANINI: You know this is the kind \_\_\_\_\_.

MILLER: This is friendship.

GIOVANINI: Yeah.

MILLER: This is friendship.

GIOVANINI: Not that it means different. But today people you almost have to brush them before they will speak to you.

MILLER: Yes. It's not as outgoing as it was then.

GIOVANINI: Yeah, I don't know maybe we were better off then than we are now.

MILLER: Well regardless of how we are now they were good times then.

GIOVANINI: They were good times. They were good times for

everybody. And of course starting from 1920 to 1933 we had that Prohibition era in there that all through that area down there was the bootleggers and all these speak easies and all that thing went on down through there. And I don't know it just changed the whole picture.

MILLER: Yes.

GIOVANINI: It just changed the whole picture.

MILLER: Because that signaled the end of it didn't it?

GIOVANINI: The fellow who was the, oh I don't know, I always felt as far as Prohibition is concerned. I don't think that there is any way through legislation that you can legislate the habits and the morals of the people. And these fellows who were of I don't know, Welsh, these old timers and the Irish, you just made them sneak back in the alleys. To them it was just an awful thing to have to do. I think that's when, I'm not here to speak for or against Prohibition, for or against booze. I don't approve of anybody over indulging. I never have and I don't myself. But some of those fellows really took it hard and it changed the whole picture. Not only in Goat Hill in the USA. USA. In 1927 I went to New York. I was a kid 16 years old. I went down there with my sister and my brother-in-law and met with a lot of people who were from Alliance went down there. Why there was saloons on every corner like there was before. It was no different than it was before. I mean in New York City they have flaunted the lawn. Down through here we try to hammer it down people's throats. I don't want to get into that.



MILLER: Well yes, it doesn't, it pertains to Goat Hill in a way.

GIOVANINI: Yes, it pertains to the changing of the complexion of the attitude of the people. See?

MILLER: It definitely was a change in that area too. How about other people who became successful. Now we have you and you've served as Safety Service Director for how long?

GIOVANINI: Well I've been in City Business now this is my 19th year. I was Safety Service Director for six years, then Bailiff of the Court for eight years, and now I'm back at Safety Service Director for five years and possibly for three more if I stay at that. I'm sixty five years old now and I'm gonna stay for a while yet.

MILLER: Okay. And then you had mentioned someone else from that area who went to become the head of the State Highway Patrol.

GIOVANINI: Oh Patrick, I can't remember his first name but he went on, he became the manager of the Hopkins Airport at Cleveland.

MILLER: That would be Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

GIOVANINI: Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

MILLER: And he was from Goat Hill.

GIOVANINI: He played with Goat Hill. He played on the old football team.

MILLER: And you had also talked about someone who had went on to become the head of the State Highway Patrol too.

GIOVANINI: Oh that's Bob Shaw from Minerva. He played with me on the Fairmount Bulls in 1930. I think his first name was Bob. And anyhow he went on and became at least a Division Head of the Highway Patrol down in Columbus. And I think he's retired now. He was a tall, a big man, good end, about six foot two or six foot three. Just an ideal man for an end. But he was a good football player.

MILLER: Well I would think in those days when you didn't rely so much on your equipment you all had to be pretty good size.

GIOVANINI: Yeah, you had to be able....

MILLER: To take care of yourself.

GIOVANINI: Yeah, you had to be able to dodge around out there.

MILLER: Anything else to cover in this?

GIOVANINI: Oh I don't know. Alliance as it used to be and Alliance as it is today, I don't know. Oh it's my town and I think it's one of the finest communities around and we try to make it better. And beings how things have changed from those days. I most certainly don't want to go back to have those kind of times. We're much better off we are now than we were then. Alliance is still my town and I like it. And I think it's one of the better communities around and I want to keep it that way.

MILLER: And I think there are a lot of people in Alliance that

would agree with that too. You who have lived here all your life and those of us who have moved into it too. Thanks much for being with us today.



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