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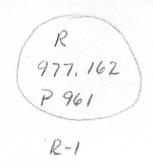
HERBERT PRITCHARD

Protchard, Herbert W.

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Interview by Dr. John E. Saffell February 12, 1975

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PRITCHARD: The little railroad that went up through Mount
Union, the LEASW over here, the Lake Erie Alliance and Wheeling. It became the New York Central, with Phalanx, Ohio,
the northern terminal, and Dillonvale the southern terminal.

SAFFELL: I see. I didn't know that. And you say there was a stop that was called Pritchard.

PRITCHARD: It was a stop....

SAFFELL: That was called Pritchard.

PRITCHARD: Pritchard. I never was there that I know of. I might of gone through it and didn't know it.

SAFFELL: That's very interesting. Well, I wonder where your grandparents had lived.

PRITCHARD: My Grandmother Pritchard was born in, I will say, Virginia. Perhaps Front Royal, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley. Her maiden name was Mary King. Just how she got acquainted with my grandfather I just don't know. But anyway I think Father was born in Lisbon, Ohio in 1885.

SAFFELL: Well now your father was a prominent Alliance businessman?

PRITCHARD: He was a railroad engineer up to 1905. Then he withdrew from the railroad and went into the coal mining business, with his brother-in-law.

SAFFELL: I see. Mr. Shidler. ed up in the big house on

PRITCHARD: No. Milo Strong's wife, well let's see, Milo Strong was his brother-in-law. And he got interested in a coal mine. In 1905 father quit the railroad and went out

to the coal mines in Colorado. It was a successful adventure. He worked there for, he kept an interest in the mine for a number of years then he came back to Alliance. Then he promoted along with J. S. Spring and John Halzwarth and Dr. P.C. Ramsey, the four of them formed a partnership and built two mausoleums. The Alliance mausoleum was built first and then they also because father was well known over in Lisbon, they built a second one. Because Mr. Ramsey was also interested in Lisbon affairs too. And they built a second one over in Lisbon, a second mausoleum.

SAFFELL: Well that's very interesting. This going back to the coal mine, now where was that coal mine?

PRITCHARD: Near Walsenburg Colorado, a little town where it connected with the coal mine was named Strong. They had a post office and all, and it was named after my uncle. Of course it's disappeared now, it's gone. I've visited out there say eight or ten years ago when it was pretty well clipped up then.

SAFFELL: Well now you mentioned building the mausoleum.

He would of then been instrumental in building the mausoleum presently at the Alliance City Cemetery, is that right?

PRITCHARD: Yes, the mausoleum was built in 1908.

SAFFELL: Oh I see. And you mentioned this Mr. Ramsey.

Now is that the Ramsey that lived up in the big house on

Union Avenue?

PRITCHARD: No.

SAFFELL: That's another Ramsey.

PRITCHARD: It was Dr. P.C. Ramsey. I don't know whether you would know Paul Ramsey. And I think the grandson might possibly be an insurance agent and real estate man up on West State Street. I think that is true that he is the grandson.

SAFFELL: Well then, your father was later in the automobile business is this right?

PRITCHARD: Yes. And he was interested in the Alliance Motor Car Company.

SAFFELL: Now where was that operation?

PRITCHARD: It was that building, they organized the company. They built out on 32 E. Main Street. The building was occupied up to about we'd say 20 years perhaps and then we discontinued business. The property was finally torn down and Kroger Grocery Company is there at that spot now.

SAFFELL: I see. Now what make of car would he have been selling at that time?

PRITCHARD: We had the Ford Agency.

SAFFELL: Now what would be the years in there?

PRITCHARD: That would be fron, say, well I don't know how long, how early it was but we had that agency perhaps in 1914 to about 1921, something like that.

SAFFELL: I see. And then would it have been Kellers that came in about that time?

PRITCHARD: Kellers came in later on. You see we had the one agency and then I think an H.W. Wagner came in and put a second in. Then Keller came in and took it, took our plant here for his first place and then he built up on Union Ave. and continued his business up there.

SAFFELL: Well now, when did your father die?

PRITCHARD: 1925.

SAFFELL: 1925. What about early formative influences? Would you say that there were any special early events in your life that had a special impact on you? For instance in your later years you've been very active in the church. Did your religious interests, do they go clear back to your early life?

PRITCHARD: Yes, I would say we were a church family. Mother sang in the Presbyterian choir. Father on account of rail-roading and all he was not very active in getting into the church but he was certainly favorable to the church. I think I joined in 1907.

SAFFELL: Now as a youngster would you say that you were an introvert or an extrovert?

PRITCHARD: Well, I don't know. I think if you could have a combination of both in someone, it might possibly be where I would fit in.

SAFFELL: Well, that's a good way.... I suppose your mathematical.... PRITCHARD: As for getting into devilment around the neighbor-hood and so forth, we did our share of it.

SAFFELL: Now where did you go to school, grade school?

PRITCHARD: The old Alliance College Building, corner Broadway and Arch.

SAFFELL: Park and Broad?

PRITCHARD: No. Down here at what we called the college building you might call it. You see, it was a college and then the college faded out and the Alliance schools took over and this was the... Do you remember the big... You don't remember the big building. Well it was situated right in the middle of the big square that now has been vacated, you see.

SAFFELL: By the demolation of the present, the old high school?

PRITCHARD: Yes. The old college building, which was the Alliance College, was used for a number of years as an elementary school and high school. And then in 1910, I think, oh about in there, when the old building was torn down and the present one which has also now been torn down.

SAFFELL: So do I understand you had both your elementary and your high school in this building that was formerly the old Alliance College.

PRITCHARD: Yes, yes. I was only in two different buildings.
We were over at Broadway, Broadway and Park for seventh and

eighth over there then back here for the three year course.

Now I was in the last regular three year class. We had only three years of high school. Now just why we had that I don't know, I've always just passed it off to the fact that anyone that was going to go to college could go up to Mount Union and we had a senior academic; what they called a senior academic class up there. Anyone that graduated from high school, three years of high school could just go on up there and get in the rest of their fourth year of high school up there.

SAFFELL: But that year wouldn't have counted toward graduation, or not?

PRITCHARD: No, that would be preparatory, yes, in order to give us the required amount of high school that you'd ordinarily get in four years.

SAFFELL: Now would you have called that at Mount Union the Old Academy? Is that the term?

PRITCHARD: Yes. We called it the senior academics. And it was just simply finishing up the completion of your high school credits and all.

SAFFELL: Now, let's see. When did you go up to Mount Union?

PRITCHARD: I graduated from high school here in 1908. Then went up to Mount Union, started right in and graduated in 1913. Now if I had it to do over again there is no doubt that I would do it quite differently, because you see I took five

years there. And lots of the students would come in and they would pick up extra credits and so forth. They didn't spend the whole five years, they perhaps maybe did it in four or maybe less than that.

SAFFELL: Now back at that point did you have a major in college? Like we do now, we talk about a major field in concentration.

PRITCHARD: Well I was never conscious of anything. Although we did emphasize; now mine was scientific you see. I went for chemistry, they didn't have all of it that I could of got up here. Went for Physics, and Biology and Zoology, Physiology.

SAFFELL: Now who would of been some of your Professors?

PRITCHARD: Professor Lamb in the Biology and Physiology.

T.E. Trott he was in the Astronomy and surveying.

SAFFELL: You had some contact with Bowman did you?

PRITCHARD: Oh yes I had American History under Bowman and I took one year of Greek because so many people said a course with Dr. Shunk was an education in itself and so I had one year of Greek.

SAFFELL: Did you find it an education in itself?

PRITCHARD: Well Dr. Shunk used to say he writes beautiful Greek. That is from the script part of it I guess.

SAFFELL: Well you probably have interesting recollections about the social life. Were you a fraternity person?

PRITCHARD: Yes, I was an SAE.

SAFFELL: Oh, you were an SAE. Well, it was a pretty active group I should guess.

PRITCHARD: Yes.

SAFFELL: Now where was the fraternity house at that time?

PRITCHARD: The fraternity house was a building just to the north of the present Mount Union Methodist Church. It's been torn down now and a parking lot put in there. But that was where we held out all during the time I was there.

SAFFELL: Now, how large a group, how many actives would you think you had?

PRITCHARD: Oh, I suppose 20 or more. I lived up at the fraternity house for a while because the family was kind of broken up. Mother has passed away and we were kind of separated. My sister was up in Cleveland and I was here in Alliance and father wanted me to live up in Mount Union to get away from the Main Street influences. And I don't know I think he was pretty wise in it.

SAFFELL: Well then we might look into your career right after you left college. What did you do? You didn't get into teaching at once?

PRITCHARD: Yes I did.

SAFFELL: You got into teaching right away?

PRITCHARD: Well I was athletically inclined. I had two years of football. I never played any basketball and I had five

college credits of baseball. Now that was in 1912 or 1913 and it was just at the time when high schools were beginning to pick up on athletics and get folks in to coach. And a fellow that had any coaching experience just could walk into a job you see. They were just hungry for fellows that had some athletic training and could act as coach. So I was in on the van of that you might say. And my first year I was at Kent High School and I was, you might say I was the first regular coach that received renumeration for the coaching job you might say.

SAFFELL: That's interesting.

PRITCHARD: I might of been, it might be that I was the second, I've forgotten, it was a man by the name of Deitch that was up there that I followed and William Walls was superintendent.

SAFFELL: That's a famous name isn't it?

PRITCHARD: Yes. W.A. Walls was superintendent and he was a Mount Union man a very enthusiastic Mount Union man and one of Sigma Nu. And he was very dynamic. I worked with him very well. Enjoyed his work, was a good man to work with. But I only stayed one year at that, at Kent. A cousin of mine, Karl Whinnery was a teacher in Salem High School. Karl was giving up a job over there. I think he was a coach over at Salem at the same time and he was giving up the job over there. He said I might possibly get into it. So I did finally make arrangements and I was over at Salem for three years.

Then the war came along and the Board of Education dismissed me about three weeks before the end of school in 1917 and geve me an opportunity to go to Fort Benjamin Harrison in the Officers Training. In 1917, I left three weeks early.

About three weeks.

SAFFELL: Then how long were you at Fort Ben?

PRITCHARD: Well, we spent the time from about May to August and I got a Second Leiutenants commission.

SAFFELL: Then what was your port of embarkation?

PRITCHARD: Well, then we graduated in August, 1917 and I was sent to Camp Serman down at Columbus. No not at Columbus but at Chillicothe. And I was only down there for two weeks when I was sent to Camp Sheridan in Montgomery, Ala-And I went and got down there and the government wanted to get some of their newly trained officers that were in the national army that was being set up. And they wanted to get some of that new stuff to some of the National Guard people and so they sent a couple hundred of us from Camp Sherman to Camp Sheridan in Montgomery, Alabama. And I was one of the two hundred that went down there. And then after we did all that we could, I guess, we were just attached to the 37th Division group. That took in some of our Alliance people, Colonel Weybrect was there. And after we got all done that we could with them then they began to send us back. And so I was transferred up to Camp Meade, Maryland and eventually ended up with the 79th Division. The 311 machine gun battalion.

SAFFELL: I've heard wonderful stories about your good performance as a machine gunner.

PRITCHARD: Oh, I never shot them. I never shot a gun.

SAFFELL: Oh, that's not the way the stories go.

PRITCHARD: I know. Would you believe, I was always the next one to do the odd jobs. But believe me after the, here's the interesting thing, after the Armistice was signed I went to two machine gun schools, and an animal transportation school. Now that was even after, after the Armistice was signed, November 11, 1918.

SAFFELL: Did they expect war to break out again, I don't quite understand it.

PRITCHARD: No they were just trying to keep us from....

SAFFELL: Keep you busy!

PRITCHARD: Keep us busy and keep us from flying off the handle. I'll tell you those officers who had those schools where they were sending back people who had been up in the line you know, and sent them back to begin to train all over, and they had a pretty tough time of it. Because we weren't listening for anything, any of that stuff. We were just wondering when we were going to get home.

SAFFELL: Now about when did you get to France? You were in France?

PRITCHARD: Yes. July, 1918, I think we arrived in France.

And I had the privilege of going over on the Leviathan.

SAFFELL: Really, well that's an interesting thing.

PRITCHARD: That was the takeover ship of the German's you know. And that ship went by itself, they didn't send it in the convoy because it was so fast it could just go by itself so we went over and landed in Brest about July 14, 1918. Then I got back to the states here in about the later part of May, 1919.

SAFFELL: Quite an experience.

PRITCHARD: Yes.

SAFFELL: How did the French receive you? I've often heard the stories that the French were very glad to see the Americans.

PRITCHARD: Oh, they were, they were, yes. Some of the officers would be in with nice residential people. And a number of us would meet with the young folks. And the girls especially wanted to learn how to talk English and the fellows were interested in learning to speak French so we had lots of nice pleasant relationships with the French.

SAFFELL: Well now let's see, were you married when you went abroad?

PRITCHARD: That's another story which is very interesting. Julia Pritchard or Julia Goddard and I, we were engaged and had already set the date for our marriage. And we thought we had things pretty nicely set up. I was stationed down at Chillocothe and she lived at Charleston, West Virginia.

But it so happened when I was sent down to Montgomery that kind of threw some water on the fire. But anyway we went ahead and carried out our plans and we were married September 29, 1917.

SAFFELL: Well then you were married in the South at the camp?

PRITCHARD: We were married, I've often said that we were the ones that started this Saturday wedding business because that was the time you could get off.

SAFFELL: Well now where had you met Julia?

PRITCHARD: Met her as she visited her married sister, Mrs. Ralph Fawcett in Salem, Ohio.

SAFFELL: When you were teaching there?

PRITCHARD: When I was teaching there. And we just followed on.

SAFFELL: Now had her family lived for a long time in West Virginia?

PRITCHARD: Oh yes. She had a, her father was a Grand Army Man and very active in the GAR in Charleston, West Virginia. Of course it wasn't the GAR until after the war was over. But anyway he was very active, I don't know whether he had a commission or not. I don't think he was a commissioned officer.

SAFFELL: Then your marriage you say was 1917.

PRITCHARD: 1917 yes.

SAFFELL: Well now when you got back from the war you resumed teaching?

PRITCHARD: No, being married made quite a little difference in things and father planned on getting me into the automobile business.

SAFFELL: Oh, I see.

PRITCHARD: When I came back then I went into the automobile business with him.

SAFFELL: I see.

PRITCHARD: After he passed away, I continued in the business but I'm sure I was no salesman. I wasn't born as a salesman at all.

SAFFELL: You always tell the truth.

PRITCHARD: And so Mr. Stanton came along one day and he said he needed a teacher in mathamatics and we connected up.

SAFFELL: Now that would have been like about what year?

PRITCHARD: That would be in....

SAFFELL: Mid 20's.

PRITCHARD: That would be in 1927.

SAFFELL: 1927. It think teacher attitude has

PRITCAHRD: Yes, I was in the automobile business from about 1919 to the middle of 1927.

SAFFELL: Oh I see. I suppose the Alliance High School when you went there was a pretty new building. The building must have seemed almost new back then.

PRITCHARD: Oh yes, uh huh.

SAFFELL: And as I remember the auditorium part hadn't been built so long at that stage. You've seen a lot of building, a lot of changes on that site. How many students would there have been in the Alliance High School when you went there in the 20's?

PRITCHARD: Oh I think we had a pretty good bunch of them it seems to me. About the same size as ______.

SAFFELL: Is that right? I suppose a good many people came in from the country then.

PRITCHARD: Oh yes. Yes, we had the rural section. They had a seven period day and their schedules had to be all arranged so that they could leave at the end of the seventh period. And then the rest of the others stayed until the eighth period.

SAFFELL: You've probably had a chance to observe the changes of students attitudes over the years. I used to have an old professor who used to say he could just catagorize the student attitudes decade by decade.

PRITCHARD: Yes.

SAFFELL: Do you have that sort of a feeling?

PRITCHARD: Yes, I'd say. I think teacher attitude has changed quite considerably. I just recall when the Second World War got started and there were kidders who were needing help and all and the things were at logger heads and we were running short of money and the teachers volunteered one

month and perhaps your father remembers that. And it wasn't welcomed at all. Some people thought that we just ought not to stay, just quit and that's all. But actually the teachers were willing to give that one month. Now you can see how that would match up with what they are doing now. And it makes, it's pretty sad you might say because I think they're a little bit too domineering.

SAFFELL: There isn't quite the same sense of responsibility that there was.

PRITCHARD: No.

SAFFELL: Would you say that the faculty members in the 20's were in general a more capable group than the people who have come in more recently or not?

PRITCHARD: Oh, I wouldn't say that, no.

SAFFELL: You wouldn't say that. It's a matter of dedication then.

PRITCHARD: I think they've been steadily helped by getting new people in with more training and all.

SAFFELL: You have seen great changes in teacher expectations. I suppose salaries when you began...

PRITCHARD: I started at \$1500.

SAFFELL: That would be in the mid, or that would be when you just got out of college?

PRITCHARD: No. My first job was about \$90 a month and, oh it just increased slightly on that. But when I started at

the Alliance High School here I think that my first year of pay was \$1500.

SAFFELL: Of course \$1500 bought a lot more.

PRITCHARD: Yeah. Oh yes.

SAFFELL: What sort of a teaching load did you have in the 20's? How many classes a day would you teach?

PRITCHARD: Oh let's see. I think we had about six. Six classes. Six classes and a study hall, something like that and a free period, I believe that's about the way it ran.

SAFFELL: Then this would mean you would ordinarily have to do a lot of work at home in terms of paper grading, preparation.

PRITCHARD: Oh, if you wanted to do it I guess.

SAFFELL: But you didn't really feel it for any pressures.

PRITCHARD: No.

SAFFELL: Were you ever involved in the extra curricular programs at the high school?

PRITCHARD: Yes, I was in the sponsorship of the HI-Y-Boys for quite a number of years.

SAFFELL: Over the years did you notice that there was any change, any noticeable change in the way the high school was run? Was there a tendency for there to be a greater faculty involvement in the governance of the school?

PRITCHARD: Oh, I didn't notice anything exceptional. New things would come in and we would absorb them and go ahead on the new arrangements. SAFFELL: It just seems to me that there is so much talk at the college about faculty involvement. You see, they want on the Board of Trustees and they want to be a part of intimate details of administration. I just wondered if you'd detected a similar trend in high school.

PRITCHARD: No, I can't recall that.

SAFFELL: Do you think athletics have been too prominent in the Alliance system or not?

PRITCHARD: No, no, I don't think so. I don't think that we've over emphasized it. I think it's pretty well balanced and controlled.

SAFFELL: It might be interesting for you to indicate who some of the outstanding teachers at the high school have been during your long tenure there.

PRITCHARD: Well....

SAFFELL: Or is that an unfair question?

PRITCHARD: Ralph Coppock and Miss Hartzell and Miss Mary Dilley.

SAFFELL: I was just curious what three or four would come to your mind. Well, we might just say a little bit about your relationship with the church. It's been very very close over the years. What official positions have you had at the First Presbyterian Church?

PRITCHARD: Well, I was a member of the Session and that's the governing body.

SAFFELL: Probably for many years.

PRITCHARD: Yes. Well, in fact I was on for practically fifty years, yes. And received a couple little citations to that effect. Approximately fifty years.

SAFFELL: Who was the first minister at the First Presbyterian Church that you remember, I wonder. The first one that you....

PRITCHARD: The first one that I remember. Well I faintly recollect Rev. Samuel W. McFadden who was the minister during the years 1895 - 1898.

SAFFELL: It wouldn't be, would you know a Dr. Grimes or not?

PRITCHARD: Dr. Grimes, he was still living but I don't ever remember of him. I think he baptized my sister.

SAFFELL: I see. So that just gets about to the area.

PRITCHARD: So he was right into the area there. And Rev. McFadden baptized me and I joined the church under Rev. Robert A. Carahan in October 1907.

SAFFELL: Now those are names I'm afraid that I don't recall.

PRITCHARD: Yes.

SAFFELL: You remember the Tait's probably?

PRITCHARD: Oh yes, yes.

SAFFELL: They were there just before Stephens, is that right?

PRITCHARD: I believe, I believe that's the way it was yes.

SAFFELL: Do you think the present church seems to see it's mission very differently from the church thirty or forty years ago?

PRITCHARD: Oh, yes I think so. They're involved in so many activities that are, well you might say are quite much further out than the old originial cut and dried material of the older churches.

SAFFELL: You don't concentrate on soul saving quite so much.

PRITCHARD: No, no.

SAFFELL: Do you feel this is a step in the right direction this greater social involvement or is the church losing something by this kind of emphasis?

PRITCHARD: Oh, that's awful hard to say. It just seems as if so many people want a certain thing to be done and if that isn't done they think nothing will take its place at all. But in my church relationship, the years, I've gone through the period of Sunday morning service and a Sunday evening service and Wednesday evening prayer meeting and now we don't have the prayer meetings but we do have other things that have come in and taken their places. Which I don't think there has been any loss in not having a particular mid-week service.

ALLIANCE CITY CEMETERY Pritchard 3
ALLIANCE COLLEGEPritchard 6
ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOLPritchard 15
ALLIANCE MOTOR CAR COMPANYPritchard 4
BOWMAN, PROFESSORPritchard 8
BROADWAY AND PARK SCHOOL BUILDINGPritchard 6
CAMP MEADEPritchard 11
CAMP SHERIDANPritchard 11
CAMP SHERMANPritchard 11
CARAHAN, ROBERT APritchard 20
COPPOCK, RALPHPritchard 19
DEITCH, MRPritchard 10
DILLEY, MARYPritchard 19
FAWCETT, MRS. RALPHPritchard 14
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHPritchard 19
FORD AUTOMOBILESPritchard 4
FORT BENJAMIN HARRISONPritchard 11
GODDARD, JULIAPritchard 13
GRAND ARMYPritchard 14
GRIMES, DRPritchard 14
HALZWARTH, JOHNPritchard 3
HARTZELL, MISSPritchard 19
HI-Y BOYSPritchard 18
KELLERSPritchard 4
KENT, OHIOPritchard 10
KING, MARYPritchard 10
KROGER STOREPritchard 4
LAKE ERIE ALLIANCE AND WHEELING RAILROADPritchard 2
LAMB, PROFESSORPritchard 8
LEVIATHANPritchard 12
MAUSOLEUMPritchard 12
MCFADDEN, REV. SAMUEL W
MOUNT UNION
MOUNT UNION COLLEGEPritchard 7
NATIONAL GUARD
OLD JERK WATERPritchard 1
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRITCHARD, JULIAPritchard 13 PRITCHARD, MARY KINGPritchard 2
PRITCHARD RAILROAD STOPPritchard 1
RAMSEY, DR. P. CPritchard 3
RAMSEY, PAUL
SALEM, OHIOPritchard 10
SENIOR ACADEMICSPritchard 7
SHIDLER, MRPritchard 2
SHUNK, DR. JOSEPH LPritchard 8
SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITYPritchard 9
SIGMA NU FRATERNITYPritchard 10
SPRING, J. SPritchard 3
STANTON, DR. BENJAMIN F
STEPHENSPritchard 20
STRONG, GRANDMOTHERPritchard 1
STRONG, MILOPritchard 2
TAITPritchard 20
TROTT, THOMAS ELMERPritchard 8
UNION AVENUE METHODIST CHURCHPritchard 9

WAGNER, H. W.....Pritchard 5 WALLS, WILLIAM.....Pritchard 10 WEYBRECHT, COLONEL CHARLES C......Pritchard 11 WHINNERY, KARL.....Pritchard 10