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FOCUS: June 11th, isn't it? Yes, Monday, June 11th. This is a recording with Frank Tanner as our subject. We're going to have Frank go back over the City of Alliance from the year 1898 and give

REMINISCENCES

OF

FRANK K. TANNER

Tanner, Frank K.

*born in day
Ligon, 1898
then to Howard Public Center
Mount Union College
where this picture was taken
it was the oldest
present who was about
Alliance Ohio 85 years old
at the speaker was W. Brown*

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Interview by
Harold J. Vogus
June 11, 1979

TANNER: His cousins, and they come over here with the idea that they would go to Cincinnati, Ohio. They had studied a little bit about the United States. So they went to Cincinnati, Ohio and lived there only a short while. They were a little disappointed in the way things were in the life there. So my grand-dad with his family come to Alliance, Ohio and the other Tanner, his cousin and their family, went from Cincinnati

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a lot of them. And they started what they called the Swiss singing societies several places around the state. And they had these singing societies, they would get together every VOGUS: June 11th, isn't it? Yes, Monday, June 11th. This is a recording with Frank Tanner as our subject. We're going to have Frank go back over the City of Alliance from the year 1900 and give us his story about Alliance and especially East Main Street. Frank let's go back to the early beginnings of the Tanners and get this, and get it straight about the family. Go back as far as you can. We know your dad was born in Switzerland and then did they all come over together, that is August and....

TANNER: Yeah, there was my grand-dad William and his family come over here, then there was another family from there from Basel, Switzerland, another Tanner family come over at the same time, that were cousins of my grand-dads.

VOGUS: Oh I see.

TANNER: His cousins, and they come over here with the idea that they would go to Cincinnati, Ohio. They had studied a little bit about the United States. So they went to Cincinnati, Ohio and lived there only a short while. They were a little disappointed in the way things were in the life there. So my grand-dad with his family come to Alliance, Ohio and the other Tanner, his cousin and their family, went from Cincinnati out to Kansas City. And my grand-dad then shortly after he come to Alliance, well he lived in Alliance for quite a little while. They at that time, there was a lot of people come from Switzerland into Ohio. Settled in Ohio

a lot of them. And they started what they called the Swiss singing societies several places around the state. And they had these singing societies, they would get together every year and have contests. So my grand-dad in the meantime, he was interested in that. So my grand-dad in the meantime decided to build this place down here, what's it called, the Castle Night Club it's now.

VOGUS: What was your grandfather's name?

TANNER: William.

VOGUS: He was William.

TANNER: William Tanner.

VOGUS: William Tanner. And your dad's name was Emile.

TANNER: E M I L E. Emile they called it.

VOGUS: Emile.

TANNER: E M I L E.

VOGUS: August was your dad's brother?

TANNER: Yes, he was the oldest brother. Then there's another one, William Tanner. There were three boys and then one girl in the family. And her name was Urig. Sarah Urig. She was Aunt Sarah Urig. Three boys and well now wait a minute.

VOGUS: She married a Urig.

TANNER: There was another boy. My grandmother died and my grandfather married again then had another boy, Carl Tanner.

VOGUS: Carl then was the son from the second marriage.

TANNER: That's right. successful. And then I might tell you

VOGUS: I never could always get that quite straight and now I'm getting someplace.

TANNER: Three boys and a girl in the first marriage and then one boy in the second, is what the family had.

VOGUS: In the story in the Alliance Review about your dad during 1950 that gave his biography, it said that he came from Switzerland and that they had to make a trip, I think they walked across France or they got across France and it took them two days to get there. Then they said they come to New York and they were there for a couple of years. Did they come, go from New York to Cincinnati then do you think or did they just....

TANNER: Well their idea when they came to New York was to go to Cincinnati.

VOGUS: Oh I see.

TANNER: They stayed at New York quite a little while before they went on to kind of get acclimated to the country and the like. Instead of going to Cincinnati and staying there, they did go to Cincinnati then they spread out, the one family went west and this family come east. Now the family that went west the Tanner there he finally got into the wholesale grocery business. The largest wholesale grocery there was in the country, he took care of pretty near everything west of the Mississippi River. And he got to spread out and got very big.

VOGUS: He was very successful then in enterprise.

TANNER: Oh yes, very successful. And then I might tell you this, one of the biggest Mormon setup, fellows in the Mormon Church is a fellow by the name of Tanner there that was considered here a couple of years ago to be a head of the Mormon when this one died and he wouldn't take it because he was too old he said. And they put somebody else in. But that Tanner is from this outfit that, cousin, he's from the other Tanner outfit that come from Basel at that time and went out there, with the one that went into the grocery business. He's a son of that, (a grandson) of the fellow that started the grocery business out there this fellow that's in the Mormon. I've met him. I've talked to him and I got everything out there on account of me being.... Oh I got, I had a personal tour of everything out there when I got there.

VOGUS: In the paper in 1950 it talked about your dad coming to Alliance and that he stayed with his mother's sister and his brother-in-law in a log cabin that was on Main Street at that time. Do you remember a story like that?

TANNER: Oh I heard that story yes, about that. They did yes.

VOGUS: Well, did your dad, did he go to work for the Kays right away or did he work other places before he went to work for Kays Hardware?

TANNER: Well that's the first job that he took. Mr. Kay, well he married a Cantine girl. Mrs. Cantine was a wealthy family. That was the most wealthy family in Alliance.

VOGUS: Well Cantine and Kay at one time were together then

I suppose Kay took on afterwards, maybe after Mr. Cantine died or something like that.

TANNER: Yes, well of course Mrs. Kay was the only child.

VOGUS: Oh yes, uh huh.

TANNER: And so she inherited all of that see, Mrs. Kay did. That's where Kay got his finances and stepped up like thunder, was from his wife.

VOGUS: Well your dad worked for him about thirty years or so.

TANNER: Oh yeah. Dad, right, he worked in the grocery all store and stuff like that when he was younger and when he got up higher he started in right away at Kays Hardware Store. That's where he worked in that from the beginning, when they started. That was his main line of business, was Kay's Hardware Store, and after Mr. Kay died, and well the two girls, I guess there were three girls, the Kay girls still kept the store, but Dad was in charge of it. And a lady that was the book-keeper and the like she was there all this time and she was a real, her name was. Dad and her were the two ones that was with the Kays Hardware all the time. Learmonth, Jennie Learmonth. Have you ever heard of her?

VOGUS: Oh yes. She was on the class of 1878 that we have down at the Museum.

TANNER: Jennie Learmonth she was the book-keeper at the Kays Hardware all her life I guess. Spent all her life there. Yeah. Well between her and my dad they kept Kays Hardware going, see. Now Kay when he owned it, he done no work there.

He used that there for a kind of a meeting place of all the businessmen in town. And what you might say there, I think the Alliance businessmen association must of started there in the like. But that's, they come in there, see they were open every night. In the back of the store as you went back the store about three quarters of the way back you went up about four steps and the back end was higher. And then, they had a railing on one side and they had a desk there where Jennie Learmonth done her book-keeping work and all of that. And then there was a table behind that with about six or eight chairs around and that's where, Ben Weybrecht and all these here businessmen and the like and they would accumulate there every night because the store was open every night. Mother used to take us down or sometimes she'd let us walk ourselves down in the evening to the store. And we get in there maybe a half hour or an hour 'till the store closed. Well we could get an ice cream cone at the Confectionary on the corner. Oh what was that guy that runs that?

VOGUS: Was it Barnum?

TANNER: Huh?

VOGUS: Was it Barnums?

TANNER: No. Anyway they had peanuts there and....

VOGUS: Well maybe that was Martin's, right on the corner of the big....

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: A big round building.

TANNER: Well you go down there and get a sack of peanuts one

tine or popcorn the next. We'd go down there and then we'd wait 'till Dad, and come walking home with Dad in the evening. So we done that, we lived on South Freedom at that time.

VOGUS: What was your mother's maiden name?

TANNER: Siddle.

VOGUS: Siddle.

TANNER: Lucinda Siddle. She's from Shreve outside of Wooster, Ohio.

VOGUS: When, do you know what their marriage date was?

TANNER: Oh my golly.

VOGUS: It's not important. In this article it told what her name was but it didn't tell when she was married. Were they married here in Alliance?

TANNER: No.

VOGUS: Or down there where she come from?

TANNER: Where she was from, by Wooster. She's from the outside of Wooster.

VOGUS: Oh, I see.

TANNER: Just west of Wooster, Shreve is. Yeah, she would come from a family over there.

VOGUS: Well Ralph, your brother Ralph was the oldest one, and then you twins or was that the way it was?

TANNER: Yeah, Ralph was about 15 months older than us. Over a year, about a year and a quarter, older than the twins, Homer and I.

VOGUS: And what was your sisters name?

TANNER: Martha. It all the time. He had no business to do

VOGUS: Martha. And she is about a couple of years younger than you?

TANNER: She was I think seven years younger than Homer and I. She was quite a bit younger.

VOGUS: Well that's got the family. Now you might tell us, your Dad had a bad accident when he went to work for the Alliance Machine, at that time he lost his hand, or his arm or something like that.

TANNER: Yeah, he was an electrical man down there. He went down there to Alliance Machine and they used to have you know motors setting up on top of the machines with belts running them, at that time a lot of them. Oh something happened to the belt. That was it. So he went in there and he threw the switch box over on the column, threw the juice off and fixed this belt. And they had a little bit of a kind of a screen thing around it to keep the man from getting in it. And he was in the process of putting that together, when the guy that run the machine reached over and turned the switch on and this darn belt started and caught his arm and pulled his arm in there and it ripped his arm so they had to amputate it.

VOGUS: Yeah, those are dangerous. I worked myself in a shop that had those throw things and it always scared the life out of me when we were throwing those things. I always thought they were awful dangerous.

TANNER: This fellow that done that, I forget, I forget his name now, I knew it all the time. He had no business to do that. He wasn't even supposed to monkey with that. The electrician was to throw the switches on and off. They weren't supposed to do that. But he wanted to get that going and he'd go over there and shove it. And Dad didn't have this, and it started around and it grabbed his arm right away and pulled it in there. And Homer and I (Dad was working out there in the shop) Homer and I were up in the Engineering office when that happened. One of the fellows come running up there and told us. And we went down and was with Dad and went with him when they took him up to the hospital and the like. And we waited and the two of us made the decision then, they had to amputate his arm as a result, it was in an awful shape.

VOGUS: Now that was something unusual to have a pen with three monkeys in it. I bet all the kids in the neighborhood get an artificial arm.

TANNER: Yeah, they did.

VOGUS: The story, the way I read it too, was he got so good using his other arm that eventually he threw the old wooden arm out, is that right?

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: Well that was quite an accident to happen like that.

TANNER: Oh it was no time 'till he could use that arm just as, well everybody in town admired him. And they would stop and have him show them how he could use it and the like.

VOGUS: Yeah, that's the way the story told it. He got so good with that that he didn't even bother with the old wooden arm. Well let's go back now to, you were living there on Freedom, like this drawing that you showed me there. That was a very interesting drawing, there with a monkey pen that's part of it. How far can you remember back, that, was it before you went to school or....?

TANNER: When we lived there....

VOGUS: Yeah when you lived down there on Freedom.

TANNER: No, we were just kids weren't in school yet when Grandpa had the playground for us. We weren't in school yet. We were just I suppose Grandpa done that. We were around two or three years old when he first fixed that place up, a little play place for us.

VOGUS: Now that was something unusual to have a pen with three monkeys in it. I bet all the kids in the neighborhood had to come in and look at that.

TANNER: Yeah, he wouldn't allow us to let the kids in there, but we could go in. But other kids could come and our playmates around there, different kids, the Reeder kids that lived across the street there and oh I forget who they are. There were a number of them right around that area. We could bring them kids in there to play but they weren't allowed to go in the monkey cage. In fact he told us not to go in ourselves while we had other kids there because then they would want to go in. But I can remember that, we (Homer & I) would go in there and just stay a half an hour or so and play with the monkeys. And we would always take some little thing for

them to eat, and feed them and you know they would grab it. And this here, kind of an imitation of a tree they had in there, I don't know what they made it out of, I know it was made down at Weybrechts Lumber Yard. It was like a tree it was made and put in there for the monkeys to go up on and play around. And there was a swing in there and they would get on the swing and swing around.

VOGUS: The lot had a high board fence all the way around the property then.

TANNER: There was a high board fence as high as this room I believe around there. And I had heard one time that Grandpa done that on account of the window being open and the light from the bar which is in the back there, why that would kill the view from seeing in there and the like. Now see I had heard that he had done that and it didn't bother the neighbors down that way. Like the lady that lived right next, across the alley from August Tanners there and them people you know if they were out in their yard and hadn't been for that high board fence they could see the windows in the back end of the bar which is in there. So that was, I was told that, or heard that see. Now one of the things when Homer and I got bigger, around before we got into high school, it was in grade school and the like, but we spent pretty near every Saturday morning for Grandpa, which he would pay us for, was to bottle liquor.

VOGUS: Oh yeah. That's a good story. Go ahead and tell all of that.

TANNER: Well you see Grandpa he had his saloon there but

at that time T. A. Blue had a liquor and distillery place, he bought the liquor by the car load lots from the distilleries out at Moline, Illinois, somewhere out in Illinois there, where all the distilleries was. He'd buy these barrels of whiskey from them, but Blue bought a whole car load lot at a time. Saloons like Grandpas had, they'd buy barrels of whiskey and whiskey at that time, the biggest sale of whiskey was by half pint or pint bottels. So Grandpa would get them bottles and we had this great big round table down in the basement set up about oh I would say about two feet from the floor. And one Saturday Homer and I would go down there and we'd wash all these bottles out. And the next Saturday we'd go down and we'd take a barrel of whiskey and we had it on a beam up in the ceiling there, we had a little hoist thing that we'd hook the barrel on but we'd take and knock the plug out of the side of the barrel of whiskey, the side plug. We had a big plug that we'd put in there that had four rubber tubes in it that went down in the barrel of whiskey. Then we'd raise this whiskey barrel up near the ceiling and that left two tubes for each one of us. And then we would suck through and Grandpa would always warn us now don't get any of that liquor in your mouth, you get it running and then we'd fake.... oh we had these here bottles to fill with whiskey around this here big table there. And Homer and I each had two tubes and we'd put them down in there and let the liquor run until the bottle was filled up, we'd pinch this tube, pinch this rubber tube and pick it up and set it in the next bottle. Then we'd bottle that whole barrel of whiskey up there and then we would go

around and put the corks in. All they had was corks in them, they had a little piece of paper that told what kind of whiskey it was that we'd paste on the side of it. You see. Now we used to do that for Grandpa. And that was one of the jobs that we would do about every two weeks, we'd do that. Oh sometimes maybe not quite that often but generally maybe a Saturday or sometimes maybe just in the evening a couple of days before Saturday we would wash these bottles out and get them all cleaned up and everything. And that's what we done for a long time, and Grandpa he, oh he paid us well for that. I don't remember we had, a little we could go uptown at you know, and the stores was open and we could go in and we could go into the movies or something like that or we could go in to get a sack of pepcorn or stop at the Martins Grocery, or the store on the corner up there where we would buy stuff like that you know and eat it. But Grandpa always, I think Homer and I was the two kids in town that had the most money to do that, and it was because we done these jobs for Grandpa down there.

VOGUS: Well let's go up to the time when you first started to school. Where did you start to school at? Your first grade.

TANNER: The first grade of school was at Seneca. We lived on South Freedom at that time. We went to Seneca for, I think it was two years to Seneca and then we went to North Franklin.

VOGUS: Was Professor Wherry the Principal down there when you went to, started to school?

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: And who was at Franklin do you remember? The Principal? Cause Mamie Farley was one of the teachers that was at North Franklin a long, long time.

TANNER: We were only down at Franklin, I think we only went to Franklin, now wait. We just went there a year. Not a year. We went in there for, school had started that year and finished that year. Then the next year....

VOGUS: Did they send you to Park and Broadway then from Franklin?

TANNER: We moved over to.... we went to Park and Hester.

VOGUS: Oh you mean the North Park School there.

TANNER: Park School.

VOGUS: Park School there at the old Union, of course it was a Union School then.

TANNER: Wait a minute. We done that instead of going to Franklin.

VOGUS: Oh I see.

TANNER: They started to put us in Franklin then, we didn't go to Franklin School.

VOGUS: Oh I see.

TANNER: We went to North Park School. That was the way it was. Then later on when we moved we went to North Park School a couple of years, then we had the two sisters Mary and Martha Hazen were the teachers there. And then we moved down to North Liberty. When we moved to North Liberty that's when we

were supposed to go to Franklin School, but the school that we would have went to was full of kids. All the seats were taken in that grade. So we still had to go over to Park and Hester to school from way down there.

VOGUS: Oh, well that was quite a long walk there.

TANNER: And we done that for, we done that for three years. 'Till clear up to when we went to high school we went over there that walk because it was every year when that year was up and started that school was filled up with the same kids there. We didn't get _____ we had to go over there. Then when my sister Martha was, the year we were in the eighth grade over there it was her first year in school. So she wasn't going to go to school because she couldn't go to the school where the twins were going. And she put up such a howl, she wouldn't go. She just sit down, she wasn't going to go to school. And she was going to go when the twins was going. Well, she was supposed to go down there but she put up such a howl and they couldn't get her to go to school. Dad said something to the Principal, Mr. Kay at that time was the head of the Board of Education, he was. And I forget who was the Superintendent. Anyway they used to meet there in Kays Hardware back up in there where all these businessmen and all the like and they found out about it. So they had, Dad took my sister Martha up to there to talk to the School Superintendent.

VOGUS: That was probably Morris wasn't it?

TANNER: Yeah, Morris.

VOGUS: John Morris, yes.

TANNER: And she talked to them and she put up such a howl that they agreed that she could go over to Park School so she went there. She was just a little kid. And that winter we'd haul her back and forth on the sled everyday, Homer and I did, going over to school. But she stayed there, she finally when we got through school over there then went to high school, why she agreed she went down to Franklin then. She transferred over. But for a couple of years we had to take her back and forth. She wasn't going to go to school if she couldn't go to the building where the twins was. And she was a little stubborn kid, you couldn't get her to think otherwise. But it worked out alright.

VOGUS: Well then you started at the high school at the old college building.

TANNER: One year.

VOGUS: One year there.

TANNER: Alliance College Building, we went up there for Freshman year clear up on the third floor, the rooms off where they had the auditorium on the third floor, and the like. We went there our Freshman year we come back on our second year, Sophomore year - and we only went to school one week when the back wall was trembling of that building and the stairs, you see the flooring of the different, wasn't tight on to the back wall because it was kind of open space with open stairs going up, see for the other....

VOGUS: That's when they condemned the building.

TANNER: They condemned, the state did, and so we didn't have any, we only went one, or out second year in high school we only went one week. Then it was condemned and while they were setting up everything they made it in the basement of the library. They had a couple of school rooms. The freshmen going into high school went there. The older classes they fixed it over at Park and Broadway, we went there. But they had to move all them kids out and the like so we didn't go to school until after Thanksgiving. All we done, like Homer and I, athletes, all we done, we went up to Mount Union College and practiced football in the fall. And half of the kids in school were up there watching us in the afternoons, that's all they had to do you see. So we did, our football team played but we wasn't going to school until after Thanksgiving, why we got it all set up to go over to Park and Broadway. So we went over there for two years while they were building the new school building. And the class I was in, the 1912 class, was the first class that graduated out of that building there. So that's my history in school, in that area of time.

VOGUS: Well right here I'm going to put this on the tape, that Frank and Homer are in the Alliance Hall of Fame in the sports section.

TANNER: Yeah, well we're in the Hall of Fame, we are.

VOGUS: Well let's go on now to....

TANNER: I was over to the high school here oh about a month ago and what was it they had over there, this music study club you know had a....

VOGUS: The place where Mr. Purcell offered to send you to college but you decided to take an apprenticeship instead of the college training.

TANNER: Yes, that's right uh huh. So we, we both were leading our classes in mathematics and stuff like that and we wanted to be engineers - take an apprenticeship in engineering. And Mr. Purcell he would liked to send us to Mount Union College. And then also down here Mr. Coates who was a graduate from Amherst College in the East, he, his, one of his close friends that graduated was, oh the gentleman was the head of the Standard Oil Company in New York, the headquarters part of the Standard Oil Company.

VOGUS: This was Hallum Coates then?

TANNER: Yeah. Hal Coates.

VOGUS: Hal Coates.

TANNER: So this man got in touch with me and he would like to have two real good athletes who were good students, he wanted to send them to Amherst College, he owed the College something and he thought if he could a couple like, Hal Coates was telling him about Homer and I being good students you know, and also outstanding athletes in all the different sports. He tried to get us to go to Amherst College. And he tried, he'd call us at home. And one time right before we graduated for pretty near two weeks straight, every night around 5:30 in the evening, when we were home eating, he called us before school started that fall, and treid to talk us into going to Amherst. He'd pay all our expenses, our trips back home and up there and the like in the summer

time or at vacation time. He just wanted to go all out but we turned him down. We had a chance, Mr. Purcell then told us that we, if we wanted to start there was an apprentice engineers at Alliance Machine and he would see if we started right away. So we graduated from high school on Friday June the 7th and on Monday June the 10th we started to work at Alliance Machine as apprentices in the engineering department. And we were happy at that. And we started in at 9¢ an hour for the first six months, 12¢ an hour for the second six months, 16¢ an hour for the second year, 20¢ an hour for the third year, with a guarantee that you'd get 25¢ an hour when you was through your time. But we never got that, because we got 35¢ an hour when we were through our time. That was the highest rate that was paid through the shops at that time, engineering, machinist or all the rates - 35¢ was the highest rate per hour. So we got that right off the start.

VOGUS: I hope a lot of young people get a chance to listen to this now. I thought I started cheap enough at 60¢ an hour but when I heard your story, I realized. Of course in those days eggs were a lot cheaper, bread was a lot cheaper, living was a lot cheaper.

TANNER: 5¢ or 10¢ for a loaf of bread, a small loaf for 5¢ and a large one for 10¢ at that time.

VOGUS: Well a young fellow starting out life now who will listen to that will hardly believe it, but this is something solid in the times that we lived.

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: Well let's see....

TANNER: Too, I might say, at that time you know we were very active in things and baseball in Cleveland was a big thing up there. To go to the baseball league in Cleveland, and Homer and I were very interested in that. And they played up there in the old league park at that time a little ways off of 55th Street. And even with our apprenticeship wages that we were getting we went up to Cleveland quite often to see ballgames. We'd hit on Saturdays. We'd go up, you could get a train out of here in the morning up to Cleveland and we'd go up and get off at 55th Street station and walk over to 66th Street where the ballfield was. We'd see a ballgame in Cleveland, walk back over, come back on the evening train, what they called the Cleveland and Pittsburgh local that come down. It left Cleveland around, oh somewhere about 5:00 or 5:30 in the evening. We done that a lot. Now we done that with our wages that we were getting at Alliance Machine. We had very close friends that was in the Mount Union College team at that time that played football and they played up at the University of Michigan or Michigan State every year. We'd go up to Cleveland and see them. We saw all them games that some of these same aged people were playing in Mount were good friends of ours and we used to go and see the Michigan or the Michigan State game. We'd go up to Cleveland on a night train from Alliance, take the evening train and get a boat from Cleveland, take a night boat from Cleveland over to Detroit, we'd sleep in a berth in a boat and we'd get off over at Detroit and go up to either Ann Arbor, that's the University of Michigan or to Michigan State. We'd take a train up there and see the football game

and then we'd come back on the next night, Sunday night we'd come back. A lot of times at that time, it was through the time when they were starting these Hot Stove League baseball games in Cleveland. And in the fall some of the championship games would go on at Edgewater Park or at the park up there in Cleveland, I forget what it was. It was where they had this kind of dome around it, it set, they had the big large crowds in and we'd come back generally then in the fall from a football game up in Cleveland come back on the boat that night, maybe stay that Sunday afternoon and go out to, oh I can't think of the name of the park where they used....

VOGUS: Did they?
VOGUS: At Euclid Beach maybe?

TANNER: Yeah. They did. You could get, they had special prices for about half what the regular fare was to go on then. No, no. It wasn't Euclid Beach. It was on the west side there. It was kind of a natural park, you could sit around on the bank and the like and they had large crowds there. We saw some of them games on our way back home, 'cause we'd come in Sunday on the boat back into Cleveland and we'd stay there and see a ballgame and come back down to Alliance on the evening train.

VOGUS: I only got a chance to see him once when the little league started in Minerva they brought him down and let him throw a ball across there and I will never forget this. And I believe you told me once that softball started in Cleveland.

TANNER: Yes. Softball started in Cleveland. And that's when I was, we had baseball leagues in Alliance here, we had shop leagues and the like. And I was picked for the man to go up to Cleveland, I went up two different Saturdays, I did up to Cleveland, and watched them play softball and got the system, the information on how they worked their softball teams, and they had shop leagues and the like up in

Cleveland, independant leagues and the like in playing soft-ball. And I went up two different week-ends to get the information, come back with the rules and the like and we organized a shop league here playing softball.

VOGUS: That's real interesting there. I wanted to ask you a question. When you talked, did the railroad companies back in those early times like this, run special excursions up to the ball park sometimes. Like on a Sunday or something like this?

TANNER: Oh yes.

VOGUS: Did they?

TANNER: Yeah. They did. You could get, they had special prices for about half what the regular fare was to go on them.

VOGUS: Did you ever see Cy Young play baseball?

TANNER: Oh yeah. Was that the Buick garage afterwards,

VOGUS: Did you?

TANNER: Oh yes. We did. I saw Cy Young play several times.

VOGUS: I only got a chance to see him once when the little league started in Minerva they brought him down and let him throw a ball across there and I will never forget this. And he was well up in his years then. He threw a strong ball right across the plate and that started the little league down at Minerva.

TANNER: Oh yes, Cy Young.... Homer and I got introduced to him several times, he remembered us. And of course we was twins you know and we were acquainted with him.

VOGUS: Even his older days they got him up on the stage a lot of times to talk.

TANNER: Oh yeah.

VOGUS: Although he was some hard of hearing he still went ahead, he enjoyed it. He died shortly after this.

TANNER: Yeah. They got him different times to go places.

VOGUS: Well the Barnes auditorium was a little later on. Not only here giving talks but we had, when we used to have the old rink here where we played basketball, which was one of the outstanding basketball places in this part of the country you know. We had a shop league here that played in the old rink.

VOGUS: Was that out on Prospect Street, that rink?

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: Where the old I think they maybe had the armory there at one time. Was that the Buick garage afterwards, that same place that you're talking about, on Mechanic?

TANNER: No, I don't think so. It was on Mechanic there right through, you went back the alley between one or two buildings down there now that you go back in the alley and there's a parking lot back in there to connect the Christian Church and the like.

VOGUS: Oh, yeah. That must be the same place that we're talking about.

TANNER: Then just east of where that parking lot is where this old rink was.

VOGUS: Oh yeah.

TANNER: Then we had a shop league that played basketball there two nights a week, Tuesdays and Thursday nights. Every week through the winter we had a shop basketball league that played there. And they had a crowded house everytime. It was a place for people to go and see their teams and back them up and the like.

VOGUS: Well the Barnes auditorium was a little later on. You didn't play any....

TANNER: The Barnes auditorium, we palyed a few games, not the league no league games up there, we played independent. That was down on North Arch.

VOGUS: Yeah the high school had, used to play one season or two seasons, they played down at Barnes before the Memorial Hall was built. Then later on they went up to Memorial Hall and played their games. Then of course I believe though when I was in school between 1926 and 1930 they used the high school gym at that time to play basketball in.

TANNER: Yeah.

VOGUS: Well I think now would be a good time to tell the story of how you got in to this New York Club when these guys were amazed. Tell them the story, the back on to that story because that is good. Mr. Tanner says that this is one of the highlights that he remembers so well and it is quite a story. Go ahead Frank tell it.

TANNER: Well after I had left Alliance here I went to, one of the reasons that I left Alliance was when the welding come in to do away with rivitting and the like. And I found out I could get a job at Cleveland Crane Engineering. They

wanted to swing all their products both their tram-rail department and their crane department into welding design as soon as possible. And I thought it was the coming thing, so I left Alliance and got this job at Cleveland Crane. Shortly after I was up there one of the large jobs we got was for the Continental Cement people up in New York state - a welded crane for a new building they were putting up. So I had to take the drawings, when we had it all designed, to get them approved to New York City to the headquarters in Wall Street to the Continental Cement people for approval. And so I took them there and the chief engineer went all over them and approved them but when we were through a man by the name of Mr. Harrison who was President of the Continental Cement people told the chief engineer that when they were through well the chief engineer was going to take us out for lunch that noon, the salesman Mr. Jones who was the salesman for the Cleveland Crane down in that area and I were there and he was going to take us out to lunch but he said he wanted to take us over to the President's office he wanted to talk to me. What he wanted to do when we got over there he asked how the drawings was, were they alright. And his engineer said oh they were real good he approved of all of them. Well he said the reason that I brought you over here Mr. Tanner, he says you're from Ohio and he said I want to know if you have any relations, any relatives or know any Tanners that live in Alliance, Ohio. And I said, oh yes I do. I says, I was born and raised in Alliance, Ohio. He said, oh you were were you, well, he says, you don't happen to know any Tanner there that had the tavern there in Alliance, Ohio

right down from the railroad, he says. And I says, oh yeah that's my grandfather had that. Grandfather he says. And he started to guess about how old I was and the like and he says you couldn't be one of the twins could you? And I said, yes sir, I am. And he said your name is Frank and he thought a minute and he said your brother's name is Homer. And I said you're right. He got up from his chair and he come over and he shook my hand again and he said, you're the man I want to talk to, he says. Then he told this here chief engineer I used to see this fellow when he was just a little baby running around back of his grandpa's place, he had a playground for him back there, he said. The twins, there was twin boys and your grandpa used to just love you boys, he had a little playground back there. He said when I first started to work for the corporation he says and the Board of Directors, the U. S. Steel Corporation owns the Continental Cement People too, we used to go to Pittsburgh every month to a Board of Directors meeting. And every other month at that time he said they were building the big steel mills in Gary, Indiana, and every other month we'd stay, when we were through with our Board of Directors meeting there he says, the next day we would take a train for Gary to see how everything was going on out there. And he said, that train we took, come to Alliance he said you never saw a place in your life that had so damn many passenger trains, be setting at the railroad station making connections with others. He said, the train that we would come in there on had a hour and twenty minutes lay over, so instead of sitting in the train which we did the first time we found out what you do

when you come in there is tell the conductor where you were going, you walk up the railroad track to the street that comes down from the square, which is, I said Freedom Street and he said that's it, he says and your grand-dad's place was right down just a block below there on the corner. We'd go down there, he told us we'd see all the businessmen around the bar there, Mr. Tanner's place, they'd be in there getting lunch over there. So we'd, that's what we done.

And we met some of the nicest businessmen around Alliance there, but then we would go there. You was just a little kid he said, we'd come in there and ask grandpa well how are the twins? He'd go over and look out the back window and if you were out there playing he'd motion us, for us to come over there, he says, and I saw you playing in that back yard many a time, he said, down there. So when we were, we talked this all over, he says to his chief engineer, you're going to take Mr. Tanner out for lunch are you and he said, oh yeah. Well he said, I'll take you out. So what he done, he took us to lunch, he took us to the New York Athletic Club, the most snooty place in the world to get into. We had a nice lunch there and had a, enjoyed a lot of talking and the like. And when we was through we come back, we took quite a long time for lunch though, why this Mr. Harrison he had an appointment right away and so he had to excuse himself. He had a couple of men from Wall Street that was there for the appointment too, so he excused himself. After he went his chief engineer he gets up and he comes over and he said I want to shake your hand again, he said that's the first time I've ever got into the New York Athletic Club, he says. I've been on this job

for nineteen years, as chief engineer and have been trying to get in that place ever since. So now I've made it.

VOGUS: That's a real good story. Let's go back now, you were telling me at one time about the Alliance Transfer and that you and your brother used to make some money and they used to pay you in fruit and things like this for watching some of the places where the customers would come in and get the produce.

TANNER: Oh, the grocery stores in Alliance used to have in Canton the wholesale grocers. One was called the Canton Supply Company and I just don't remember. But all the grocery stores used to get their, practically all their groceries from this Canton Supply Company. And the railroad car, they'd come a whole car load of groceries, everything that a grocery store would come in or a whole car load. Then they would hire a drayman from town here with his horse and wagon and these would all be boxed up in there with the grocer's name on them. Then generally the salesman that would come over here, he'd be here too. And they'd load these in this whole car would set there in the side right off of Freedom Street there, just west of Freedom Street on the railroad there was a siding there and the car would rest there. And while they were delivering around town, which took them maybe a half a day to deliver to the different stores around town, their vegetables and groceries and all that stuff, why Homer and I they used to hire us to watch the car when they were away from there. Sometimes we'd get up and sit in the car or sometimes just sit outside but watch it so nobody could get in.

in the car or the like. During, and well especially vacation time when we were little kids in grade school and the like, they'd hire us and maybe they'd give us a half dozen bananas and a sack full of oranges and stuff like that. That's what they'd hire us for to give us stuff like that. We supplied our family there for a number of years with all the vegetables and fruit that we needed. We had quite a little bit in our basement, we had a cool basement where we lived on North Freedom there. We had all that kind of supplies that we could use for us watching out these, that was really a good pay we figured. Just like that we never got any money from them we just got, they'd give us some of these, some oranges and some lemons and maybe a half a dozen bananas and stuff like that. And we thought that was real good pay and the like. And Mother she knowed where we was at and we'd come home with some vegetables or some fruit.

VOGUS: Well you were really enterprising boys. Tell us now, about your newspaper carry. And especially about going to see Matthew Early and down that direction.

TANNER: Yeah, well before we were clear into high school and several years after we was in to high school, well the first two years, we carried Cleveland Presses, we had a Press route, Homer and I each did, carried Cleveland Presses. They used to come in on a 3:30 train from Cleveland, everybody here called it the Press Train that come down. Because there was several different boys had Press routes where they had in town but Homer and I we each had a Press route we did. But then we transferred the papers that come in.

We had a little wagon that we kept down in the baggage room of the Stark Electric Street Car and we'd go down there. And we had a bundle of Presses for different places that we would put on the street cars. We sent one to Sebring, and one to Damascus and one to Beloit and one to Salem and one to Station A which is, put it on the street car and run it up to Mount Union and another one to Maximo. And we had them bundles of papers that we each, and also in our bundles of papers that we got we had extra papers. We took, these, they had stamps on them that they got from the street car people that cost so much and we would put them stamps on them bundles and also in our bundles of papers that we got we had some extras that we put them on the street car then we'd give the conductor and the motorman each an extra paper for handling them. Them extras were in our bundles so we'd take them up and put them on the street car going to Sebring and Beloit and Damascus we'd put the, bundle the papers each one and give the motorman, give him two papers one for him and the what's his name. And then we done the same thing for Mount Union which was called Station A and then also, we sent them over to Maximo or to Louisville and Maximo too, we did. So we for a number of years we done that. And we, which was quite a thing and we got, I don't remember what it was that we got paid ofr that by the Cleveland Press but anyway it supplied Homer and I when we were a couple of years there in school and the like. We were, we had more money to spend than pretty near any of the kids around town, we did. It wasn't a real big amount of money but at that time it meant something.

VOGUS: Well on your paper route you told me Matthew Early was one of your customers. Can you tell me just a little bit about him. He was, I know he was a politician and....

TANNER: I had this Cleveland Press route I had, I had several merchants on Main Street up to the square. I went up to the square and I had three or four different business places then. Then I went down from the square, down Freedom and I went down across, and my route went down Freedom Street clear down to Park, I had customers around.... And I went down Park to Earlys there. He was always sitting up, he got a Cleveland Press, he was always sitting in the nice big chair on the porch waiting for me to come along. And I'd go up and hand him a Press and talk a few minutes with him and then I'd go over, in my route then I went over past his place to North Union out North Union to Gaskill over Gaskill Street to the waterworks and then I went out Webb a little bit. Or is that North Liberty, is it? No it isn't, Rockhill, over to Rockhill. And then up Webb. Anyway at the waterworks I went out a couple of houses out beyond there and then I come back up to North Freedom and up North Freedom home, where Webb Street you know hits North Freedom. Come up Webb and then home. And that was my paper route. But Early, practically every night he was sitting on his front porch waiting on the Cleveland Press.

VOGUS: Was his wife still living at that time? Or had she died, do you know?

TANNER: Oh I don't believe she, I don't remember her at all.

VOGUS: Well I think she died in the late 90's, so I imagine

she was gone by then. from high school in 1895.

TANNER: It was around that time this lady started to live there with him, look out for him. What was her name? She was a school teacher.

VOGUS: Was that Gwendlyn?

TANNER: Huh?

VOGUS: Was that Gwendlyn Hartzell?

TANNER: No, no, no.

VOGUS: It was somebody older than....

TANNER: It was a young lady who was a school teacher.

VOGUS: There was a lady, there's always been a little mystery that, we have a picture of Lucy Early. And we can not place where this lady belongs. It's not, wasn't Matthew's mother, but whether it was an aunt or somebody else....

TANNER: Wasn't her name Mabel Hartzell. Wasn't there a school teacher by the name of Hartzell?

VOGUS: Yeah, Mabel.

TANNER: Mabel Hartzell.

VOGUS: Mabel was there and her sister did live there for a while with them but I don't know at what time.

TANNER: Well it was during that time that they were there, some of the time. Mabel Hartzell.

VOGUS: Mabel was there, they adopted her when she was about eight years old, so she would have been there yes.

TANNER: Yes, she was in and out of there.