

### SS344.mp3

Carol Lynn Yellin: This is tape #2 of the Edward Hunvald interview. The date is January 16, 1973. We are at Mr. Hunvald's home at 3552 Charleswood Avenue, in Memphis. Interviewers are Joan Beifuss and Carol Lynn Yellin.

Carol Lynn Yellin: We left you in Salt Lake City.

Joan Beifuss: That ought to be a song.

Carol Lynn Yellin: (singing) I left him in Salt Lake City.

Edward Hunvald: Are we ready to go?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well yes.

Joan Beifuss: Yes, we're on.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I should say that we broke and had a delightful lunch, and we're back at Mr. Hunvald's home and ready to take him from 1927, '28?

Edward Hunvald: 1928, February 1928.

Joan Beifuss: Through the Great Depression.

Edward Hunvald: No, February 1929.

Carol Lynn Yellin: 1929 in Salt Lake City.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah. You must remember the year 1929 -- that had a lot to do with the reason we're not in Salt Lake City right now.

Joan Beifuss: Yes, go ahead.

Edward Hunvald: Well, the store was called Walker's. It was a very, very fine store. It carried fine merchandise. Unfortunately, Mr. Dreyfus decided that, and he was correct, too -- that the store physically needed modernizing. And, so we made plans to modernize and it involved the tearing out of a huge area in the center of the building, all concrete, in which were stairwells and things of that sort, and it became much more expensive because the building had to be shored up and it delayed up in the work. And we didn't open -- we opened, of course, we were doing business under difficult circumstances, while we were under construction, but we weren't finished with the job until December, the middle of December of 1929.

Well, I don't have to tell you what happened in 1929 in October. And that affected more, the people who were our customers than it did others. Really, the Depression

didn't get down to the lower -- I don't want to say lower classes, but the smaller earners until 1932, 1933. And we never recovered from it, and eventually we, in order to save Mr. Dreyfus's first store there, which was a very profitable store, a store that dealt in popular priced merchandise, and in order to save that and not drain away all its money to support Walker's we went through bankruptcy.

While in bankruptcy I tried to -- I went up and down the coast. I mean I went to Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and talked to the principle storeowners, and a few bankers there to get the interest in them taking the store over, because it would have been a good buy at that time I thought. As it developed, 1931, '32, '33, and '34 were worse than 1929. So I don't care who'd have bought it, I don't think they could have made a go of it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That's what's known as the depths of the Depression.

Edward Hunvald: The depths of the Depression, right. Like that story, what's worse than terminal cancer, April. You haven't heard that story? I am not going to tell it now. A fellow went out in the streets saying what happened to him in January, February, March, and the other fellow interrupted him, "You haven't got a hard luck story, the real hard luck story, I've lost all my money, my wife's dying of terminal cancer, and I think I've got a fatal disease. What could be worse than that?" And the other fellow says, "April." So, we thought 1929 was bad. Well, a competing store bought our stock, and they asked me to stay with them for, until they disposed of it, and perhaps they might make room for me in their organization. Well, I could see that there was no room for me in the organization because it was a family store, and they were pretty well taken care of in all the spots that I was interested in. They had a very competent woman advertising manager.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This was still in Salt Lake City?

Edward Hunvald: In Salt Lake City. So we had an understanding that I would look for some place to get a job. In the meantime I would do those things for them that would earn my, make them feel satisfied that they weren't overpaying me. So, I finally found a job back in Boston. This time with Houghton & Dutton Company. Think Hovey's was bad, Houghton & Dutton. I don't mean Hovey's -- in pronunciation, I meant that the difficulty pronouncing it. Houghton, Houghton & Dutton.

Joan Beifuss: As in Houghton Mifflin.

Edward Hunvald: And that was owned by the Sperry and Hutchinson Stamp Company. Very, very fine people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: S&H Green Discount.

Edward Hunvald: S&H Green Stamps. That's their -- Beinecke was as fine a man as I have known. And he bought the store because he wanted to put stamps in, and he

wanted to show what a store, wanted to show all the other stores in the country what a store giving stamps could do. Well, the main measure of doing, of being successful retailing, the first thing (muffled) in anyone's eyes is how much business they're doing. Are they crowded? Do they have spectacular big sales? Well, we were crowded, we had spectacular big sales and we gave stamps, double stamps, triple stamps, your favorite color as long as it's green to paraphrase Ford. But it wasn't going to last. But the work I did was, came to the notice of a lot of people, and one of them was the Outlet Company in Providence, Rhode Island.

Joan Beifuss: The what company?

Edward Hunvald: Hmm?

Joan Beifuss: What company?

Edward Hunvald: The Outlet.

Joan Beifuss: Oh, outlet.

Edward Hunvald: Now that's a -- that's a story in itself, the Outlet Company, the history of that. A very good store. Those days they were on the New York Stock Exchange, still are, which is unique among retail stores. So they wanted me to come with them. Their advertising or publicity director of 33 years was retiring, and I went to Providence. So, we stayed there for 5 years, and then I got an offer from Pizitz. P-I-Z-I-T-Z. Don't I get with the stores with the funny names. I didn't realize it until I just. And the, some of the people of Pizitz.

Joan Beifuss: Where's Pizitz?

Edward Hunvald: In Birmingham. They used to come over here when I was at Bry's, and consult with me on their problems. I don't know if I ever helped them there, but they knew me.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I know we're working our way back to Memphis now, because I know that we still have in our files, clippings from the *Birmingham News*, which date from the...

Edward Hunvald: Yes, well I can tell you're taking it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, so I know we're getting back to familiar territory.

Edward Hunvald: So I came to Birmingham in 1938, October 1938 we came to Birmingham. Now, Birmingham was the first place, and this ties in with my points of view political and social, that I encountered the race problem as it is now, is today. Of course, there was a race problem in Memphis in the 1920s, but it wasn't a problem. Everybody knew what the limits were, and they did them.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And it didn't bother you?

Edward Hunvald: Nobody pitied the black people. The black people didn't ask for pity. Really and truly, they never thought of themselves as being in a pitiful condition. Well, of course I'm sure that the enlightened ones were.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Eddie, are you saying that Memphis in the 1920s was more like white Memphis really thought it still was in 1968?

Edward Hunvald: No.

Carol Lynn Yellin: It wasn't anything that bothered most people.

Edward Hunvald: The Ku Klux Klan was the main enemy here, and of course, you know the story of C. P. J. Mooney, whom I had the privilege of knowing quite well.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The editor of the *Commercial*.

Edward Hunvald: The editor of the *Commercial Appeal*, and I guess I did fight -- there were two instances in Memphis, one in 1923 and one in 1928. In 1923, of course the Ku Klux was strong here. They would have open meetings at the Lyric Theater, which was on Madison, and up on the stage, open meetings. I would go to them. I had nothing else to do at nights, except work. And, up on stage the Ku Klux Klan ticket, at one meeting I was to they had Cliff Davis, who was a congressman from here after that for 22 years.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Until defeated by George Grider in 1964.

Joan Beifuss: Twelve terms.

Edward Hunvald: Well, Cliff Davis didn't know any better then. He realized he had made a mistake after that, but they sponsored him, and I got to know Cliff pretty well, because when I was living with the stock company we used to have some pretty good crap games in the front room up there, and Gene Louis's parlor, and Cliff Davis and his wife were there quite a few times. I don't know whether Cliff rolled too much or not, I probably wouldn't want to say, and I wouldn't say it if he were still alive.

And then in 1928, now I'm going to go back a bit, because I made a statement that was my first encounter. In 1928 when Al Smith, I had never had an interest in politics. I didn't care who was elected president. My last interest in politics was when I yelled hooray for the Kaiser and the hell with Wilson. But, in 1928, Al Smith ran. And you could see the duplicity, the insincerity of the people here who were claiming that they were against Al Smith because he was against prohibition, and you knew deep down in their hearts, and not too deep down neither, they were anti-Catholic, and it was really bitter. Billy Sunday came to town. He had a big meeting at the auditorium. Mrs.

Hunvald and I went, and he blasted Al Smith, I tell you, it was terrible. I'll say one thing for Mr. Crump -- he carried Memphis for Al Smith, but Memphis went for Al Smith, which no one thought would be possible. And I didn't vote then -- yes, I did, that was my first ballot. I'm sorry. In 1924 I didn't vote. I hadn't been here long enough, I wasn't interested enough, but in 1938, I did cast my first presidential ballot for Al Smith, and I'll tell you. You talk about choosing up sides on this current busing crisis, you can go along and say, "I'm not interested," or get away for now by saying, "I don't have any children in public school," and avoid it but you couldn't avoid the Al Smith argument no matter where you went, because the Negroes -- they voted here.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Did they vote pretty much for Al Smith?

Edward Hunvald: Oh, they voted. Oh, yes I'm sure they voted all for Al Smith. I don't know. I didn't keep too record. I said that off the top of my head, and I don't know if that anti-Catholicism spread to them or not. I doubt it. I don't recall, though. But they voted the way Mr. Crump wanted them to vote. The minister came after Mr. Crump. So, now that I come back to Birmingham.

The first few days I was in Birmingham I was walking down the street in front of the First Methodist Church I think it was, and they were handing out handbills. Now, this is 19 hundred 38, damning Mrs. Roosevelt. Now, Mrs. Roosevelt had come there to form, to help form the Southern Conference of Human Relations. And, I never read such terrible, terrible things about Mrs. Roosevelt, all about the Negroes and Mrs. Roosevelt. Now this is certainly where the color situation really came in. Well, I didn't get myself involved too much there, coming on a new job there's plenty to do without -- and meeting new people and getting acquainted with them. And about a year or so later I was invited by somebody to come to a meeting where they were going to form a chapter of the Southern Conference of Human Welfare in -- I must have said Relations before, Human Welfare, in Birmingham. So I went, and I liked what I heard and I joined. And of course I had a standing with the newspapers and the radio stations and everything else, and they realized that I did. I didn't join it because of that. So I became -- got on the board of, on the executive board, and the other members of the executive board were a minister, the head of the mine workers, the head of the CIO, and a number of Negro important people.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now let me just interrupt there. The steel workers and the union people there were not anti-Negro then?

Edward Hunvald: Oh, no. The vice president of every union was a Negro.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So they did have integration in the steel plants in Birmingham?

Edward Hunvald: Yes, oh yeah. Well, that's because the steel plants were owned by U.S. Steel and Republic Steel, and people like that who were absentee owners.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But meanwhile, I'm -- I want to interrupt because I think this is

relevant to what happened with white union people here in Memphis during the strike. Was there prejudice among the white union members that you, that everyone was aware of?

Edward Hunvald: Well, again, we are talking about 1938. There was no -- everybody knew that colored would drink from a colored fountain, colored would go to the colored waiting room, colored would go if the restaurant served both they would go to the section for colored. There was no argument, that was the law, and our problem now is you can't get the white people to obey the law. In those days the Negroes obeyed the law.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I see, right.

Edward Hunvald: Today it's the white people who don't want to obey the law.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: And they claim they know more than the Supreme Court. They changed the Constitution...well, I don't want to get that going.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I like to hear you do it, though.

Edward Hunvald: So, the Southern Conference, we had meetings.

Joan Beifuss: What were you trying to do?

Edward Hunvald: Well, first we tried to eliminate the poll tax, which of course kept Negroes from voting, make it possible for the Negroes to earn decent money. Integration of schools was way beyond us. We didn't even think of that. That was the most hopeless thing if anyone brought it up. We had too many steps to take before that. That was never done through the South, that was done all before the Supreme Court.

Joan Beifuss: Well, that's why I wondered exactly what this kind of a group would be (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: And also, one of the things that made me -- the head of the Carol Davis was the superintendent of the Negro schools. So we had a meeting, and this was a store meeting for Pizitz. We were having a war bond auction. And of course you had a war bond auction, you had to have an auction for the whites and you had an auction for the Negroes. So I had the Negro committee meet in my office in Birmingham, preparing for it, and I had Carol Davis the superintendent of the schools, and I had other important Negro people there.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This is Mr. Carol Davis? A C-A-R-R-O-L-L?

Edward Hunvald: No, C-A-R-O-L.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was it a woman?

Edward Hunvald: No.

Carol Lynn Yellin: A man.

Edward Hunvald: A man.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I'm asking all these spellings because it makes it easier for our transcribers.

Edward Hunvald: I'm glad you do because it doesn't occur to me, now knowing who I'm speaking about to realize that there would be a misunderstanding possibly.

Joan Beifuss: Did we spell Pizitz?

Edward Hunvald: P-I-Z-I-T-Z.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, we did.

Joan Beifuss: Okay.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, did we? Yes.

Joan Beifuss: Muffled.

Edward Hunvald: So I, in every meeting I asked them, I said, "How do you prefer to be addressed, spoken of, as colored or Negro?" He said, "Negro." So ever since then it's been Negro, and now I still can't get myself away from that. However.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Into black.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah. So I got to talking with him, and he pointed out one thing to me that I've always remember. He made one statement. He said, "I'm a graduate of Columbia University, I have a degree there, and I have a Ph.D. there. I live in a nice home. It's in the Negro district. I raise my family well. I bathe every day, and I behave myself. And I have a job to do that I think is important to the city. But if a white man was to run into my car, and my car was standing still, and the white man hit me, the policeman would not listen to my story, no matter what I said. If the white man chose to lie, that would be the story. I am entirely dependent upon the white man's honesty, and I am called 'boy,' not by people I know that know me, but by anybody I chance to meet. I can't go to a decent restaurant, which I can afford." And right then and there he was the Negro I wanted to help. Now, I know that the drive is to help the mass of Negroes. But he was the Negro, that is he stood for the Negro that I felt was the most pitiable -- maybe that's the wrong word, who was suffering the greatest from this. The others -- well there was lack of education in the others, they were content with their

lot. In fact, their lot wasn't too much different or worse than the poor whites with the lack of education.

Carol Lynn Yellin: 1938, this is quite true. I think this is really pinning this period down as it was.

Edward Hunvald: But to think of an educated man being treated like that. Now we would have a meeting -- for instance one time we wanted to have a meeting of the Southern Conference, and we never had a club room, we never had that much, so we had to go from the church of Advent, an Episcopalian church who was very good to us -- they let us have their meeting room. But once we couldn't get that, and we went to the YMHA in Birmingham, of which I was a member and I had charge of their...

Joan Beifuss: YMHA?

Edward Hunvald: Young Men's Hebrew Association.

Joan Beifuss: Oh, excuse me.

Edward Hunvald: They now call it the community centers. That's what the evolution of that has been. And so we had a meeting, and of course at our meetings of the Southern Conference there would be as many Negroes as whites, sometimes more. And, we had this meeting and I sat at the back of the meeting, and the others took their place, and they were sprinkled around. And I get a call the next day or two from the YMHA saying that they couldn't have any more of those meetings there because we didn't segregate the whites from the blacks. Well, I didn't give up on the Jews then, but I never have, but that hurt me.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You were discouraged.

Edward Hunvald: I never explained this to the Southern Conference. I always told them it wasn't available that day. I just didn't have the -- I was too ashamed, but that's what you were up against.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I want to just interrupt here, because it -- do you think that Jews in the South feel exposed? Do you think they feel more threatened?

Edward Hunvald: Now?

Carol Lynn Yellin: No, just in general about the race thing. Do they feel less able to take the stands that you would expect Jews to take?

Edward Hunvald: They don't know. It's a very difficult thing. It's a very difficult thing because most of them do business with everybody. There's no such thing as being an independent person any more, not when it comes to your bank account. I shouldn't say bank account, but your livelihood even. And, they have to be very, very careful.



That's part of public relations it's called private relations. You must be careful that everything you say will not disenchant somebody who might come against you at some time. So I think that the -- and I'm not excusing it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, -- this is where I think it may be understandable in these terms that a group that has been the target of discrimination, living in a region where they are not the prime target, that there may be some feeling that knowing that there is this hostility there toward another group, it could easily spread to them if they attract attention.

Joan Beifuss: But that's not what you're saying, you're saying it was a business consideration, aren't you, or an economic consideration?

Edward Hunvald: No, no. I'm talking about now. You're talking about the Jews now? Oh those days the Jews were sympathetic. I misunderstood you.

Carol Lynn Yellin: They were sympathetic, and yet they still didn't feel -- it would have taken more courage than they had.

Edward Hunvald: No, that was illegal. Wait a minute. What we were doing was illegal then.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh, I see.

Edward Hunvald: And as far as the YMHA?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yes.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, I'm sorry. I jumped you too much. No, that was illegal, and that's all. They had to be very careful that they didn't do anything illegal. And don't forget this. This pamphleting business about the Negroes was going full-force all the time then.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, was there any anti-Semitism mixed in the anti-Negro?

Edward Hunvald: Yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I know there always was (muffled) Ku Klux Klan.

Edward Hunvald: Yes, there's always had this.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Negro.

Edward Hunvald: It still exists. It still exists. There is no -- with the Jews it's a matter of...well, that's the become (muffled) and I don't want to get into any of that. But now, while I was -- this is an interesting thing. While I was with the Southern Conference, on

the board, there was a fine couple at the head of it, very fine people. I got to know them and liked them very well. There was Malcolm "Tex" Dobbs, and his wife, Pauline. He was the secretary, the paid secretary of the Southern Conference, and he went off to war. And his wife filled in temporarily. And then one day they brought a new secretary in, and they brought him up to my office and introduced him, "This is Sam Hall from Talladega. He's a newspaper publisher up there, and he's going to be our secretary while Tex Dobbs is off at war."

Carol Lynn Yellin: What is that name, Text?

Edward Hunvald: Tex, well he came from Texas. His name was Malcolm.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh, Malcolm, but his nickname was Tex.

Edward Hunvald: Tex.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, okay.

Edward Hunvald: And, "Fine, Mr. Hall, glad to know you, and okay." But while Sam Hall was there we didn't have too many meetings or anything of that sort. And I didn't have too much contact with him. Now don't forget, we were under fire all this time by all these Ku Klux Klan papers who were calling us communists.

Joan Beifuss: Well, why were you personally free to move that way when other people weren't? Or why did you think you were free to move (muffled)?

Edward Hunvald: I was stupid. At that same time I was also president of the ad club.

Joan Beifuss: Yeah, well that's what I was going to say, didn't you get flack from...?

Edward Hunvald: Well, they couldn't. There wasn't a drive that they had in Birmingham with which I wasn't in some way connected.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Charity drive, you mean?

Edward Hunvald: Charity drive, war drive, Red Cross, everything, and I knew everybody in Memphis. In fact, Memphis is the friendliest city.

Joan Beifuss: You mean Birmingham?

Edward Hunvald: Birmingham. I always mix that up, I'm telling you. Birmingham. I hope they ship my body to Elmwood in Memphis instead of Birmingham. The -- it was a friendly city, and the reason Birmingham is a friendly city, it didn't have the clicks that you have, for instance, in Memphis. You didn't have the people whose parents and grandparents and others so that a newcomer didn't have a chance. In Birmingham, nobody owned anything. Everybody was working for absentee ownership with very few

exceptions, maybe a little store keeper down the street. So there was nobody that could look down their nose, or even wanted to. Today I'm sure that there are, because they've had time to think it over. Not that they didn't have a country club, a very fine country club that a Jew couldn't belong, but they also had a very fine Jewish country club.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You were talking about Sam Hall, and...

Edward Hunvald: So, Sam Hall. So, eventually Tex Dobbs came back, and Sam Hall went his way. Well, I'm going to jump a few years. I remember the activities when Wallace was running for president against Truman. Now I was a Truman man. In fact, I met and I was on the Jackson Day Dinner Committee, one of the three on the head of the Jackson Day Dinner Committee in 1948.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But this is Henry Wallace running.

Edward Hunvald: Henry Wallace.

Joan Beifuss: Yes.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes. And Taylor. Taylor was his vice president (muffled).

Joan Beifuss: Was it Glenn Taylor?

Edward Hunvald: What was the first name?

Carol Lynn Yellin/Joan Beifuss: Glenn.

Edward Hunvald: Glenn Taylor. I was trying to think of it the other day. And, I met Tom Clark; I met Judge Rosemond; and I got to know them pretty well. Of course they wouldn't -- I believe they're both dead now, I don't know. But if they were alive they wouldn't remember me, but I do remember them because they were outstanding people. And so I was involved in politics, Democratic politics. I was the campaign manager for a congressman who had been defeated, and then I helped him beat the one who defeated him.

Joan Beifuss: Who was that?

Edward Hunvald: Well, Luther Patrick against John Newsom. Luther Patrick was my candidate, Democrat. They were both Democrats, because everything was settled in the primary there. See, there was no such thing as Republicans. I made one big mistake, I must -- the Negro people, I had great influence with them. They had two newspapers, and of course they were dependent upon me to a great extent, on advertising, and for going in, not my advertising necessarily, but the stores couldn't have a compact. Say we don't have a -- the stores association doesn't permit us to advertise in anything but... Well, I wouldn't go for that. So, I advertised in the Negro paper, and the others had advertised in the Negro paper, and the Negroes knew who it was. But when Bull Connor

ran for reelection as the...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Police commissioner.

Edward Hunvald: The commissioner. I got, arranged a meeting with the Negro leaders, and I told them that this fellow who was running against Bull Connor hasn't got a chance. Now look, let's use our heads. Let us go to Bull Connor and tell him what we want, why we're against him; discourtesy, unfair treatment, calling every Negro man a boy, things of that sort, and tell him that we think that he's honest, we know he's honest. In fact, there was never a dispute about that, and we think he could make a good commissioner if he could just mend his ways, or moderate his ways. And they all agreed, and damned if he didn't win by only a few hundred votes. If it had been the other way he would have been defeated. Well, I tell you.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Do you feel personally responsible for Bull Connor?

Edward Hunvald: I feel personally responsible.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And his police dogs, and his fire...?

Joan Beifuss: What year?

Edward Hunvald: No, no, no, no, no -- that would've happened. But this was in 19 hundred and maybe 46, something around there. So, see what kind of prognosticator I am. There's a (muffled) worthy of Nixon.

Carol Lynn Yellin: There's a what?

Edward Hunvald: The deal was worthy of Nixon, what I -- (muffled) Nixon. I didn't have the luck of coming up with a new suit, falling into a sword, coming out with a new suit. So, that -- anyway Taylor came to town. Glenn Taylor came to town, and they arranged a meeting, because I wasn't active at all in that campaign, because I wasn't for Wallace. And he was arrested because the white person couldn't be in the Negro home. Couldn't be in a Negro home. Well, they had a trial at night. It was at night. And I went and Bill Mitch, who was president of the mine workers went, and several of us, and it was mobbed.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Mich, M-I-C-H?

Edward Hunvald: M-I-T-C-H.

Carol Lynn Yellin: M-I-T-C-H.

Edward Hunvald: Bill Mitch. A very fine man. He was the head of the mine workers. And I don't know what the aftershock was. I think he was fined and he appealed, and something of that sort. Well, to show something in my favor, I guess, I was sitting next

to a policeman there, and I got to talking with him. You know there's lapses when the judge calls the people up, and I learned at that time for the first time that the police had to buy their own uniforms, their own bullets, and when they had to testify they did it on their own time. I thought that was outrageous. So, a few days later I wrote to the police commissioner. I still have the file upstairs. This is 1948. The police commissioners of all of all our cities, and I created sort of a questionnaire. I also told them what my motive was in writing to them. And to find out what the arrangements were about the uniforms, about the bullets, and about the time put in, things of that sort, and I was going to make that an issue. Well, before the election the (muffled), 1948, I, my birthday -- October 8, 1948, I realized I had been there 10 years with Pizitz. And I had never been that long with anybody, and so I wrote a letter of resignation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I think Mr. Hunvald is going in to look for his letter of resignation that he has on file, I'll bet. Well, it's now 4:00 in the afternoon. We've had a little recess. We're resuming the interview, and Joan Beifuss is no longer with us, but it is still January 16, 1973, and Carol Lynn Yellin interviewing Edward Hunvald.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I ran across the letter, and I don't know whether it is important or not, but...

Carol Lynn Yellin: This is the letter in Birmingham.

Edward Hunvald: Resignation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: I knew I couldn't pass -- I had no reason for leaving, and if I didn't do it on some occasion, it would be my tenth year there, so I had to make up my mind then. (muffled) Pizitz. I came with Pizitz on October 10, 1938. Today completes my 10<sup>th</sup> year in your employ. They have not been unhappy years. They have seen my children graduate from elementary and high school, and seen my daughter through college, marriage, and motherhood. My family has been most happy in Birmingham. I have been most happy at Pizitz. They have not been unsuccessful years. Our store volume today is more than triple what it was in 1938. It is a volume that is stable and secure, not over-stimulated, and can result in a profitable operation if properly managed. Our total advertising costs have been reduced from 5.0 in 1938 to 3.5 in 1947. We have climbed in local and market prestige, higher and over a rockier road than some realized. Ten years ago I brought with me to Pizitz a score of years of experience and executive capacities with some of the best stores in America, and I enjoyed your conference and your respect for my ability. My work has never been easy. I have put in hundreds of nights and scores of Sundays. I have sacrificed more than one vacation, but it has always been pleasant, and I have no regrets. Perhaps 10 years is long enough to remain with one organization with retailing. Perhaps we both need a change. I don't know, but I do feel that it may be to your best interest and mine that we both make that change. In order for this to be done in a matter befitting our long and happy association, I am submitting my resignation herewith, to take effect February 1, 1949. This will permit

me to remain through the launching of our 50<sup>th</sup> year, permit you to find a suitable replacement, and permit me in the little free time I will have to seek another connection. Please believe me when I say that I regret this step. It involves a great deal more to me and my family than you will probably ever know. Believe me when I say that a good share of my thinking and my decision is in your and the store's interest. If I take with me nothing more than the friendship of your family and you, the ten years will have been well worthwhile.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, this was -- I can't remember whether it was after the tape was turned off that we discussed the fact that you always felt that it was wise to shift everyone around.

Edward Hunvald: It was after the tape was turned off. Yes, I have always had a theory -- I have never had a chance to put it in practice, that no one should occupy, particularly in retailing the same job for more than five years. You get tired on the job. You know of all the things that cannot be done, which is always a handicap, and you have made friendships that will influence your decisions, and that is wrong. I just read in the *Wall Street Journal* today that about executives socializing with subordinates, "Promotions can create a special problem. New divisional president of a large textile firm recently had to fire an old friend who had decided he could start goofing off since his buddy now was his boss." Those kind of things can be avoided by the five-year shift in responsibilities. And as long as the same people are there you needn't worry about a person not knowing every detail of the new job, because the person who had the old job, assuming that he was successful or he wouldn't be there, could be sought for advice. I want to make one correction. When I spoke of the superintendent of the Negro schools in Birmingham, I gave you his name as Carol Davis. It's Carol W. Hayes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right. Well, now I am going to ask us to go on -- I assume that your next move was then to Memphis, because as I recall you said you had retired from Goldsmith's after 17 years. So, I'm quickly putting together the years, and I assume you must have come to Memphis.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I came to Goldsmith's, who the family had long been friends of mine, and to take charge of their basement, merchandising.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, was this the only place that you applied, or that you looked after when you made this decision in Birmingham?

Edward Hunvald: No, but most of my other interviews were in advertising positions, very good ones. I don't know if I could have gotten them or not, but they never got to the point where an offer was made, because I did want to get with a bigger store, and a more important job; and, merchandising, which I had done on and off, and actually was doing in Birmingham, except without the title, was where the money is and why it doesn't give you the civic prestige, in fact you became almost a monk, and I found that out soon, because the heads of all the organizations in Birmingham wrote to their like number in Memphis like the Red Cross would write the Red Cross here, and the

community chest would write the community chest here, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews would write them here, and I was invited all of these, by all of these people to participate. Well, it didn't take me long to find out that, 1) I wouldn't have the time to do all that, and 2) that I was of very little value to them, because my value to these others was my contacts with the media, and my friendships. Now, I think I left the impression before that my contacts were all muscle, that is the amount of money I spent. I think I had many really true and sincere friends in the communications field, and they would have done things for me without the muscle of a budget, but I would never have gotten to know them as well as I did if it hadn't been for that, and here it was impossible to get to know them from my position in the basement. So I devoted my time here to my work.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now before we get into that, before we leave Birmingham I suddenly realize that we haven't included this tribute you've got, that I want you to tell just a little bit about that.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I was the head of the War Activities Committee in Birmingham, and I guess every city had such a committee, which coordinated all the war activities of the city, and it was a -- we did an excellent job. We gained honors from every, the Marines, the war bonds, and all those organizations, and as the head of it, the War Activities, I had a great part in it. And then I was elected president of the advertising club, which was organized while I was there. I was the second one to become president, and when I left, of course everybody was very kind to me, and the competing merchants gave me a dinner. The communications people gave me a dinner, and the store organization gave me a dinner, and the advertising club gave me a luncheon, and while they all had very nice things to say and (muffled), the one that the Birmingham Advertising Club produced (muffled) matrix.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, let me read what it says. It says, "Eddie Hunvald was good for Birmingham. What finer thing could be said of any man that that he was good for his town. For Birmingham is and always will be 'Eddie's town.' Even though he is leaving us, his work in hundreds of patriotic, civic, religious, and charitable causes was always fine, and true, and worthy. He gave them an unstinting and unselfish share of his great brain and heart. There will be others to carry on for Birmingham when Eddie has gone, but none will approach our problems with more zeal, intelligence, and ingenuity. The word fidelity comes to mind when we think of Eddie. Surely no man was ever more faithful to his family, his employers, his friends, and to his highly developed sense of civic responsibility. It has been said that no man is irreplaceable. If such be true, then our prayers are that Eddie's replacement will make his appearance soon, very soon, for we shall miss Eddie sorely until an equally competent civic worker, and an equally loyal friend comes along. Eddie's work may be done by another, but his place in our hearts and our memories will always be his own." And it's signed the Advertising Club of Birmingham, January 28, 1949. Good, we've got that into the record.

Edward Hunvald: That happens to be my anniversary day, too. Wedding anniversary, too. Before we leave Birmingham also, I want to tie up the Southern Conference. I

think we left, I was at the police, at the trial of Glenn Taylor.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, and you said you were going to tell us about what happened on this Southern Conference.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, now after the trial was over, Bill Mitch and I walked down the street together, and Bill said, "You know, I'm a little bit leery about the Southern Conference." At that time we didn't know that Sam Hall, who Sam Hall really was, we hadn't found out. But the fact that there were -- they were getting too much involved in the politics that had nothing to do with the human welfare, and I had a similar feeling, more or less of a hunch. So we both agreed -- we both decided, I don't want to say agreed. We both decided for each of ourselves that we would drop out.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You thought it wasn't what it had been when it was originally formed.

Edward Hunvald: That's true. Now then, Bill sent his letter of resignation in. He said he was going to the next day, and because he is a very well-organized person I'm sure he did, but I didn't. Shortly after that, incidentally, Tex Dobbs had come back. The *Birmingham Post* came out with two big headlines naming, and with big pictures, one of Tex Dobbs and one of Pauline Dobbs on the front page, accusing them of being communists. Well, as I told you, I like Tex Dobbs, I liked his wife. In fact, his wife ran for state legislature at one time while he was away at war. I called up, you know, I don't have a clipping of that page. Why I didn't save that I don't know. I called Tex Dobbs, and I told him, I assumed he had seen the paper. He said, "Yes." I said I want to ask you frankly, "Is there any truth to this?" He said, "Absolutely none." I said, "Well, I tell you what you do. Come down and have lunch with me tomorrow. Now this is maybe two days after this headline appeared. And he came down to the store and had lunch with me out on the open balcony. Everybody -- I wasn't afraid to have lunch with him openly. He already told me it wasn't true. So, I said, "Tex, this is a bad thing, a bad thing for you and a bad thing for all of us who were in the Southern Conference, or are in the Southern Conference." I wasn't resigned yet. "And, let me ask you again, are you or have you been a communist." He said, "Absolutely not." I said, "Well, then I'll tell you what I want you to do. I will put up \$100 of my money, and I will guarantee to raise money among others, and I insist that you sue the *Birmingham Post*."

Carol Lynn Yellin: For libel.

Edward Hunvald: Whatever it is, libel, slander.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Defamation.

Edward Hunvald: Defamation of character. In fact, I didn't name these choices, and I don't recall ever needing it. And he said, "Fine." So, I said, "Well, you pick your lawyer, and bring him to me. I don't want to have anything to do with him, he'll be your lawyer, not mine." And I said, "Make it quick, because that should appear in the paper"



just as quickly after this as possible.” Well, he didn’t bring his lawyer, he didn’t bring his lawyer, and I kept calling him, and later on I could only get Pauline, and soon I couldn’t get anybody. And I could only draw one conclusion, that it was true. That they had really, they had infiltrated quickly, in fact almost organized it from the start. Now whether he became a communist after it or not, but later on after -- there was nowhere to send a letter to anymore. There was no office, and he moved to Mobile, and he was one of the first ones to become an organizer for this municipal workers thing that has recently become a tremendous thing. That -- what’s his name, this very competent labor leader?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Jerry Wurf?

Edward Hunvald: That Jerry Wurf is the head of.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Oh, really?

Edward Hunvald: Now, I would still like to believe that Tex Dobbs wasn’t a communist, but I could no longer say I didn’t do anything about it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, I don’t think you said on tape about Sam Hall. Had you found, were you aware of...?

Edward Hunvald: No, I wasn’t aware of Sam Hall until I was in New York one day, a number of years later. Wait a minute, I can tell you exactly when he died.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, okay, I’m going to turn off our tape. Okay, Mr. Hunvald’s filing system is working.

Edward Hunvald: All right. Now here’s Sam Hall’s card, and here’s Sam Hall’s picture when he came up to meet me. Sam Hall died on January 8, 1954. Well I know was in New York because every January when I was working in Memphis I was in New York because that’s the market’s time and I usually stay three weeks. And I had written on his card, it develops this fellow is head of the communist party in Alabama, and that’s what his obituary said, that he was the head of the communist party in Alabama. He was introduced by Tex Dobbs as his substitute while Tex was in the service, introduced as a Talladega newspaper man.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And his brother you said was?

Edward Hunvald: Gus Hall is his brother. That’s the only reason that Sam Hall got the job. This is Gus Hall’s brother. So, I have had my experience with infiltration. I would say, wouldn’t you?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Yes. And now it was after that point that you did resign from the Southern Conference?

Edward Hunvald: No, I never did send a letter.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You never did?

Edward Hunvald: No, but I consider that -- well the Southern Conference as far as Birmingham was concerned was through. No, I don't think I had to.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Because that story of Tex Dobbs finished them, and the fact that there was never a counter-claim, or a...?

Edward Hunvald: They had, you could, I had -- there were sometimes I had merchants in the city contributing to the Southern Conference. I had Mr. Pizitz put \$1000 in every year. I felt terrible.

Carol Lynn Yellin: This is -- that's fascinating, and I hadn't realized...or I mean I think the tie up that Tex Dobbs went to Mobile and started organizing municipal workers.

Edward Hunvald: Well, I wouldn't want to -- I make no accusation there.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Did you think of -- do you know whether it's the same union, or was it named the same thing?

Edward Hunvald: Yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Okay. You're going to look for another file, okay, just a minute.

Edward Hunvald: Here are my pictures of Tex and Pauline Dobbs, taken in my office. I had a fine office with north light. I took a picture of everybody who came in my office.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, they are a most attractive...

Edward Hunvald: Aren't they?

Carol Lynn Yellin: An extremely attractive.

Edward Hunvald: And brilliant, brilliant. She -- now here. Now, a letter in the *Southern Patriot* of July 1945. I'm quoting this now from the back of my card, "Malcolm Davis, former secretary of League of Young Southerners, comes from the (muffled) youth division received his commission battlefield variety, and was wounded." Oh, this was his war record, which is a very good one. Denounces communist by *Birmingham Post*, denied it to me, but refused to sue, so that finished him with me, I have here. Now, her parents lived in Birmingham, so she evidently was from Birmingham, and they moved to Mobile, but I don't have the initials of the organization he was with. But I know it was the municipal workers because it was new at that time. State of, you know, all those initials.

Carol Lynn Yellin: State, County, right.

Edward Hunvald: So.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm not familiar enough with the history of the...

Edward Hunvald: The Southern Conference was cited by the House Committee in Un-American Activities. Those never impressed me. I wouldn't give a darn who they cited, because they -- a citation from them didn't mean anything to me.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And this was, of course, the Southern Conference that was -- that they were handing out the pamphlets or the flyers about criticizing Mrs. Roosevelt.

Edward Hunvald: No, that wasn't them.

Carol Lynn Yellin: That wasn't this...?

Edward Hunvald: No, it was during the organization of the Southern Conference that the anti-Negroes were turning out these against the Southern Conference. That kind of opposition just made me all the more anxious to fight for them.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, that's what you said got you into it in the first place, right.

Edward Hunvald: That's right.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Good, well, this really -- the philosophical background is really fascinating, because when you came back to Memphis then, you'd had this experience, and you did feel that you had seen infiltration.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, well, I'm quite certain of it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And so, when you got back to Memphis, and you're into -- I want to ask one other thing about your thing in Memphis, your reaction to Memphis. Did you feel that things had changed in Memphis, and I'd say particularly do you remember your feelings about how the race situation was here?

Edward Hunvald: No, the race situation -- I realize that you could see that they were dragging their feet, but when (muffled) came back, of course it was 1949, and that was before the school desegregation. No, no. I couldn't feel that. I -- Memphis was really good. The only feeling we got, now we came back to Memphis 20 years after we had left, 20 years, almost to the day, and it was a peculiar experience to go through. We had so many close friends here at that time, but we get 20 years apart -- even though you may have been communicating as we did with Christmas cards. We sent out thousands of Christmas cards every year because we liked people and we liked to keep in touch with them, and they enjoyed hearing from us, I hope, they said so anyway. Well, when you came back and you looked to renewing the social activities that you enjoyed with them,

there was no room for you. They had made other groups, and they had other activities, and we soon found out that the old people, with few exceptions of course, there were a few exceptions, were no longer anxious for us. And, we'd probably feel the same way if someone came back after 20 years away.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Thomas Wolf said it, "You can't go home again."

Edward Hunvald: Well, he did, that's right.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And this, in spite of the fact that your wife had finished...

Edward Hunvald: Was born and raised here.

Carol Lynn Yellin: ...high school here?

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. But that was the only thing we noticed about Memphis, but that was a good stroke for us, for me anyway, because I really did a lot of work. I worked every night and every Sunday here while I was with Goldsmith's. Well, I say every, I did take a few nights off.

I did put applications because I went to New York at least 10 times every year from one, two, and three weeks at a time, and Mrs. Hunvald went with me three of those trips, and the others she went to, not all of them, but some of the others she went to visit my daughter in New Orleans, and I would go home by way of New Orleans, and then fly back with her, spend the weekend with my daughter, too. So, it would. All I need, I don't need vacations. I don't know what to do with vacations, because I can't sit still. I don't need rest. What I need is a diversion, a change of scenery, and I got it, and so I didn't mind working, and this gave me the time to work.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, now did you get involved in politics, or you said you found you didn't necessarily get involved in the same civic activities?

Edward Hunvald: No, I didn't at all. What got me here was, right after the school segregation, you could see them dragging their feet and all that, all these cute little tricks, and I started. I kept the *Birmingham News* coming here for I'd say 15 years after we left Birmingham, and the -- and I would clip out these little things. I was fascinated with a book on the Civil War by, I think it was somebody the name of Bolls. Now I don't know the exact name, I could have it wrong. And all that was, was a series of quotes from newspapers, actual quotes from newspapers in chronological order, that by little incidence, by little decrees and little laws passed, and little resistances, and little statements, and defeats of liberals, and things of that sort, you could see how, and the elections of liberals you could see how gradually, but reluctantly the South was coming around, and then Forbess -- to me he's enemy number one. I think this whole picture would have been no Oliver Forbess.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, I'm going to stop you for just a minute. The book on the

Civil War was done by clippings, right?

Edward Hunvald: Evidently, evidently. It's the only way it could have been done.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So that, but I thought you were saying at first that it was done with clippings from newspapers of that time, but you...

Edward Hunvald: Yes, of that time.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, and so you were applying this same thing, you started clipping.

Edward Hunvald: I thought it would be possible for me to do a book that way. And I kept a -- my files originally were Memphis, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and another one for the South. And everything pertaining to it I threw in there. And I, of course if I ever really went to work on it, I would have put them all in the chronologic order because I dated each one, and it would have made, I think, an impact on anyone reading them.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I'm sure. Well, let me ask. When we first spoke you said you had cleaned out some stuff, and is that part of what you cleaned out? Did you (muffled)?

Edward Hunvald: Well, the reason for my cleaning it out is my eyes began to fail. In fact, I only had one eye. I knocked my left eye out in June 6, 1926, here at Overton Park playing golf.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I never knew that.

Edward Hunvald: I was angered by a shot I made, and I slammed by club to the ground, and the club didn't like being slammed to the ground, so it picked itself up and just tore my eye out, and so that's been an artificial eye, lo these many years. And then my right eye got -- I began forming a cataract in it. And I soon had to give up golf, and I had to read through a magnifying glass. I have magnifying glass all over the house, anywhere I could possibly sit I have a magnifying glass, like this one here. And, that's one of the reasons why, plus the fact that my diabetes wasn't under control, and my doctor suggested that I, if possible, to retire. And I knew I would be too effective in my work, and I certainly wasn't going around with a white cane. So, I retired. And, I wasn't financially able to retire, not as able as I would like to have been, and I would have been in another few years had I been able to wait until I was 65, but I did it when I was 62. The Federated Department Stores had a pension plan, which permitted retiring at the age of 62, and the government came down, of course with some 20% less than you would get when you're 65, and with what little we had saved, we figured out we could do it. Well, I decided that I wasn't going to have time. I was going to travel a bit, and so I did away with this files. Believe me, they were taking up all the room in the house.

Carol Lynn Yellin: I can believe that.

Edward Hunvald: My attic has got quite a few files in it. What I don't have is a real transfer system. The only reason I don't have it is because it takes so much work to really do it. So, then I decided I'd have a cataract operation.

Carol Lynn Yellin: What is the date of this, you retired?

Edward Hunvald: I retired in 1962.

Carol Lynn Yellin: '62.

Edward Hunvald: And, I went along and my eyes -- you know I wasn't anywhere near blind, but I couldn't read, I couldn't concentrate, and I couldn't read without a magnifying glass, which at home you can do anything you want, but in business you can't pull out a magnifying glass and read as much as you have to read, because as much mail and information that crosses your desk, plus all the record keeping you have to do, and observe, you couldn't do it with a magnifying glass. So, but I was able to keep up the files for a while until my eyes got bad. So I retired in '62, and I gave up and I decided to have the, in 1966, I decided that I was ready for the cataract operation. I could have had it earlier, but the doctors say, no wait a while, wait a while, wait a while. I don't know what that purpose is. Maybe they, when they say it's not ripe yet that there is something to that. I think it's possibly easier for them to do the operation at a certain point, which is all right. That's good advice, except that it's terrible to get nearer and nearer to blindness. And so prior to going into the hospital -- I was scheduled to go into the hospital on January 6 of 1967. About the right after Christmas in 1966 I went down for a final physical examination to see whether I was able to go into the hospital, and Mrs. Hunvald came along and she took a physical. Dr. Stern called me up that night, and he said, "You look, you're all right, but I want you to bring Mrs. Hunvald in tomorrow." He said, "I want to retake her tests." So we did, and he took Mrs. Hunvald, and called for a wheelchair right from his office after the reexamination, and took her right over to the Baptist Hospital through the tunnel. He's in the doctor's building across the street, so there was no walking. And, then she needed rest, and it would be all right. And it seemed to be. She was scheduled to go home on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, and but on the Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> she died. And she was buried on the 14<sup>th</sup> instead of coming home. So then I went to...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Was it totally unexpected? Had she not been...had she?

Edward Hunvald: Oh, it was totally unexpected, the heart condition.

Carol Lynn Yellin: It was a heart condition?

Edward Hunvald: Yes, he said she had had a silent coronary. And they was still stuff to be corrected there. And we had heard so many stories about people who had had coronaries that were given time to heal -- they were good as ever. I know people, many people, who lived many years after they had it. So we were in (muffled) in the best of

care, but somehow or another, it didn't work. And, so I was supposed to have the operation here. Well, a cataract operation requires post operation care more than it does anything else. It's more important than the operation itself, and there was no one here for me -- who could give it to me. So, we went, I went to New Orleans with my daughter, and we got a doctor down there. And had my operation down there, and I stayed there for three months, until I got my glasses. You're not out of the woods until you get your first prescription glasses, and then I came here. I came back home.

I hadn't decided -- when I went down there I was sure that I would never move back to Memphis again, because I had never done anything around the house. Mrs. Hunvald did everything. Yes, I'd mow the lawn and things of that sort, but I never broke an egg. I knew how to put a piece of toast in the toaster. I feel bad about it every time I think of it -- how neglectful I was of the things that Mrs. Hunvald was doing all this time. She'd paint the (muffled). I'd help her, but she did the painting. She wallpapered. Anything to be fixed she fixed. I was absolutely the clumsiest, and still am, in the world, but I wasn't down living with my daughter too long before I realized that having been the head of the household for 40 some odd years, my temperament would not permit me to keep quiet, as I would have had to do. I didn't get into any fusses, because I sensed it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But you were making a lot of marginal comments to yourself.

Edward Hunvald: That's right, and I knew it wasn't for me. I'd rather die here attempting.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well now, was this house rented at that time?

Edward Hunvald: Oh no, oh no.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You just closed it up?

Edward Hunvald: Just closed it, oh yeah.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So this was, what, spring of...?

Edward Hunvald: I came back April 13. Now, while I, the end of the time I was down there my daughter taught me how to do certain things, and of course I had a very good diet. I had an excellent diet because Mrs. Hunvald would read everything there was about diabetes, and she made all my diets, and we had it all on a schedule, so I knew everything what I was supposed to eat, and what I wasn't supposed to it. We went out quite a bit, and she ordered my meals for me, so I remembered what she ordered, and I knew. So, I came back, and the day after I came back I asked the power and light company to send their, what do you call it, home economics to spend the day with me. I explained my situation. So they sent a very, very charming girl by the name of Mrs. Patterson, and she spent the day. I had a friend of Mrs. Hunvald's in the house at that time because I knew she'd feel more comfortable there. I didn't want to -- and she told me how the stove worked, and how the washing machine worked, and how this worked. I

wrote everything down, everything. And then some friends told me how to make a hamburger, and others told me how to do hot dogs. And Mrs. Cohen, Zelda Cohen, she was most valuable. She showed me the complicated things, how to make a brisket, how to bake a chicken, how to bake a trout, and things of that sort, which I do, because I can't live on hamburgers and franks. So, I do have a good variety of things to eat. I don't vary it, except I do have frozen things for emergencies in the freezer. That's the only variation in case I don't get home in time to prepare things. And, I have surprised myself. I was so proud of myself when I first came home after a short time I felt that I had command of it, that I invited several friends to come out and have dinner with me, not at the same time, one at a time. None of them have asked to come back, so I think that I must satisfy myself that I'm a good enough cook for myself, but not for anyone else. And I keep the house fairly clean. My maid gives me A for -- well, I don't know if for effort or not, but she says that she goes around to the houses, and she goes once a week to their houses. She says they don't keep the house anything as nice as mine. So, now she only comes about once a month, because, well what she does for me is irons, which I can't iron, and she cleans the bathroom, which I hate to do. I don't know how to do it really. You're supposed to get on your hands and knees I know, and I just can't do that. And that's all. I have everything else here. I have the washing machine, the dryer, and really living isn't too difficult.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And you do your shopping by either walking, or...?

Edward Hunvald: Well, I walk to (muffled), which is about 8 blocks down on Summer Avenue, and I walk back, and that's fine because I have to walk. I'm supposed to walk every day. In this last week of snow I didn't, and I think probably my woozy feeling last night may be the result of that. And then I walked over to, about 4 blocks to High Point when I need milk and things of that sort. Yes. And my neighbors, and I have wonderful neighbors, they take me to the supermarkets. When I go to the supermarkets -- I'll show you my pantry, I load up.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Now, what I want to ask a little more about, because one thought occurred to me -- during this period back in the mid 1960s, after '62, '63, '64 -- in your clipping files you still have clippings from those years, and you were doing this despite your cataract.

Edward Hunvald: I had -- now the ones I threw away were the North, South, those things, because I knew that book would never be written.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: I did keep files where people made asses of themselves.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Back in '59.

Edward Hunvald: '59, '60, '61, '62.



Carol Lynn Yellin: We have some (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: I have those anti-Kennedy things. Now, from the Kennedy assassination I kept the whole thing on him, and I wouldn't throw that away. No, no, I kept some.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So you, and you integrated some of those into other files.

Edward Hunvald: I continued.

Carol Lynn Yellin: For instance you have some early clippings as I recall on Henry Loeb, say, or on that mayor's race.

Edward Hunvald: Yes, well because he's been a horse's ass for a long time.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, when did you start writing, did you always write your own comments on -- to remind you of why you had kept that clipping, or you would underline...?

Edward Hunvald: They weren't to remind me...oh underscore?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: I underscore so that I could tell at a glance whether it contained what I might be looking for, yes, but my comments, that's automatic. That's a knee-jerk action.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You're talking back to the newspapers.

Edward Hunvald: I'm talking back to the, whoever it was that...

Carol Lynn Yellin: To Frank Ahlgren, or?

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, Frank, dear old Frank, yeah. And, very often I would make a comment on the first paragraph, "Why the hell didn't you think of this?" And sure enough the fellow thought of it in his third paragraph, which was rather awkward, and you'll find that take place. He's more patient. After all he had to fill four columns. He couldn't do it as fast as I wanted it.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You would write this -- do you write before you clip sometimes?

Edward Hunvald: Yes. Oh, I write it right in the paper. Oh, I do everything before I clip.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, that's what I'm wondering. When you did go through it, do you mark which clippings you want to clip, and do you mark on them which...?

Edward Hunvald: I clip the page. Now you ask whether I make my notes -- I make my notes and comments as I read.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right.

Edward Hunvald: Then I wouldn't turn to another page. Of course I'd always look to see what's on the back of it, and very often I'd have to make a choice. And also I only take one paper because I took the *Press-Scimitar* for a while, and 95% of the things there were duplicates of what was in the *Commercial Appeal*, differently worded, and all that, but still, in essence the same thing, and I'd need a house twice this size if I was going to keep duplicates.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You know, I want to say, it's interesting during this period that has come since the 1968, Joan Beifuss reads for some reason, only the evening paper. She doesn't have time to read the morning paper. And you read only the morning paper. Joan's been clipping, you've been clipping, and I've been clipping.

Edward Hunvald: Well, good.

Carol Lynn Yellin: So, among us, I think we've pretty well covered a lot of things.

Edward Hunvald: Wonderful.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But it hadn't occurred to me until now that it is true -- you had only the *Commercial Appeal*.

Edward Hunvald: Yes.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But this is...

Edward Hunvald: Now, let me tell you, the other things that I think probably would be worthy of projects. I think the John Birch Society.

Carol Lynn Yellin: And you've done a lot of clipping on that.

Edward Hunvald: Oh, I really have for years. I think they are without a doubt both the stupidest and the most dangerous of all organizations.

Carol Lynn Yellin: You didn't ever -- we didn't ever have those files. Those aren't among those we Xerox'd?

Edward Hunvald: No, no, no. I loaned those files to, oh what's his name -- at the University?

Carol Lynn Yellin: Mike Osborn?

Edward Hunvald: No, I loaned Mike Osborn the Kuykendall file. No, I -- anyway he's a professor at the university.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Do you remember what field? History, or?

Edward Hunvald: History, he's a professor of history. He's on (muffled) every once in a while (muffled).

Carol Lynn Yellin: (muffled)

Edward Hunvald: He made a statement to (muffled) one time that the John Birch Society lied, or didn't tell the truth. I think he was a little milder than I would express it. And, sure enough comes on this battering ram of (muffled), Mrs. Rivalto.

Carol Lynn Yellin: The one who's the regular caller (muffled).

Edward Hunvald: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. She's the epitome of all women in the John Birch Society. I call them an organization of shrieking women and henpecked husbands -- and she came on and said she wanted a transcription of that. She's going to write to Belmont. Belmont (muffled) headquarters, and (muffled) factory must be up there. And she was going to sue, or hold them accountable. So I didn't (muffled) called you. I looked him up in the book, and I called him, and I told him that -- he didn't hear Mrs. Rivalto's challenge. What was that, is someone here?

Carol Lynn Yellin: No, I believe they're going to the house next door. Yes.

Edward Hunvald: And I told him that I had a John Birch Society folder, that I was sure that he could more than meet any challenge or defense of their veracity that they believe in. So, I loaned him my file, and I loaned my files on Kuykendall to Mike Osborn when he was running against Kuykendall, and recently I loaned them to Charlie Gillespie, who worked for Nader here on that, on his Resume of Congress, or breakdown of Congress. But I have a John Birch Society file, and that is one thing. Then I have the files on the hospital situation here, complete. I have a file on the, on HUD, and of course in the housing file I have to have all the welfare and everything else. When you're filing you can't keep one welfare and one for housing because they all interlock. Housing and welfare are all one. So I have that. And of course I have a complete Loeb file, and of course my police file. That is really complete. That would really make a good story.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Of course some of these things do get into more material that perhaps we should borrow some more of those files because part of what we're doing is the total background.

Edward Hunvald: Well, you'd carry too remote from the King thing. Well, it couldn't be done under the same...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, see actually we're, well we call it the sanitation strike project, and of course your sanitation department file.

Edward Hunvald: Yeah, that had to be amalgamated with the King.

Carol Lynn Yellin: But trying particularly the period around 1968, what we're trying to do is as complete a community picture as possible, so we have material on housing, on welfare, and on the police, mostly that refers to ongoing things that were really important there.

Edward Hunvald: That's right. Even if it only reveals, usually if a person is familiar with, we'll say Chandler. He can almost recite all the misdeeds, all the things that Chandler did that were foolish and wrong, and you find those in the file, but he may find one thing he didn't think of, he had forgotten completely about. That's the only purpose of those files, just as you were going to use it to check up with what you may have missed.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Right, and of course, what has happened with the project is that the files themselves have become more important than any use that we particularly will put to them, in that I think that the final historical judgment on a lot of things has to wait, and preferably on Martin Luther King. I think that these will become more important as his place in history...

Edward Hunvald: Especially when we're talking about King, I wouldn't want this interview to end without my...

Carol Lynn Yellin: Well, I'm not quite ending, I'm going to...

Edward Hunvald: ...my expression of a conviction that it was a plot. I don't think that it was a one-man job.

Carol Lynn Yellin: Why is that?

Edward Hunvald: Why? Because I don't think that one man, who had nothing to gain financially and was as avaricious as this Ray was, would spend all that time for his own self satisfaction. I think Ray would just assume kill any Negro he met on the street as King.

Carol Lynn Yellin: We're almost to the end here, and I'm going to stop here and put on another tape, because we're getting into some other -- this and other things that I do want to ask you more about.

**END OF RECORDING**