

CHATTANOOGA HISTORY CENTER

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[00:01] Payne: This is Marlene Payne. I'm going to be talking to Luther Masingill. The date is October 27th 2010.

Masingill: How do you do? and I'm glad to be here today on this date. In fact at my age, I'm glad to be anywhere, you know? Eighty-eight years of age and my next birthday I'll be eighty-nine. Thought I'd throw that in. Okay, and your question is what?

Payne: Well, we'd like to talk about your memories of Chattanooga. We can go in whatever direction you'd like and talk about what it was like to work in Chattanooga or live here. [Masingill clears his throat] or in a community.

Masingill: Well let's start with work. As a young man I worked in a service station after school. [Clears throat] Excuse me. After high school after junior high. In high school I worked in a service station near my home in Avondale, the community of Avondale, which is not too far from where we're doing this in Glenwood now. And uhh, I earned a little extra money as most young people will do, you know, during that time. Was waiting on—pumping gas, wiping windshields, and that sorta thing. And umm, just a young man and I—I my wa—

Payne: What did you get paid?

Masingill: The paid us a dollar and a half a day. A dollar and fifty cents per day.

Payne: How many hours?

Masingill: Yes ma'am. A long eight hours. That's the way it was back in those days but we didn't mind. Once in a while they'd give us a Coca-Cola or something, or a Nehi Grape out of the coke box, you know, and when we got hot and tired and so forth. Worked for a fellow by the name of Bill Penny, Penny Tire and Service Station out in Avondale, and the community is about the same. It hasn't changed too much. Same houses are there. A lot of them have been improved over the years. Thank goodness. And uhh, the service station is no longer there. There's another one. The same service station that he had that I worked for is torn down and so forth. They built another very modern type of station there with a lot of

things inside, you know, what would you call them? Well just a Favorite Market sort of place. Little bit of everything.

Payne: With a catch-all kind of thing

Masingill: mm hmm.

Payne: Where did most people in Avondale work?

Masingill: What?

Payne: Where did most of the people in Avondale work?

Masingill: They worked for the city. They worked for the rail road. They worked in the grocery stores that were there and there weren't many back in those days. There's a Edwards Grocery Store not too far from this service station where I worked, Edward's. And uhh, they worked there—it's called a clerk or delivery back in those days, they delivered groceries. You order over the phone or something and they would deliver the groceries right to your home.

Payne: Whether you were home or not.

Masingill: Well, yeah a lot of times they had to leave it. And it'd be safe, really. Back in those days you didn't have to worry about somebody stealing something off your porch or back porch or something.

Payne: Where did your father work?

Masingill: My father was what they called a "drummer". You probably don't know what a drummer is.

Payne: A salesman.

Masingill: You're smarter than I thought. I mean, no. You're smart. That's correct. A drummer is a salesman. And uhh, he worked for the wholesale house. He'd go around, get in his car every day and go around and, uhh, take orders. Chewing gum, umm, let's see. what else did he sell? Chewing gum, candy, cigarettes, cigars, stuff like that, you know?

Payne: Did he work for a Chattanooga company?

Masingill: Yes, a Chattanooga company. It was the Robinson Wholesale House. No longer in existence, but it was a fairly big outfit and umm...

Payne: Where were they?

Masingill: They were on—they were across from the Court House on Georgia Avenue. And the Robinson, umm, apartment house is still there. [Marlene inaudible] Yeah, you're familiar with that, you know as much about it as I do just about.

Payne: So umm, what did you do after your kid job? What was your first grown-up job?

[5:00] Masingill: Well while in that kid job, I kept waiting on a customer called Joe Engel. Joe Engel was the owner of the Chattanooga Lookouts and lived up on the lake and he took this route to and from work at the ball park and he stopped and get gas and I'd wipe his windshield and he—one day I, I had read in the morning paper that umm, he was going to open a station, radio station. And I was interested in radio at the time. And the young—the people in the radio station—we had the communication system between one building and another building, a building where the tires were was entirely separate from the part where you added up how much gas they got and everything. And umm, I—he said, "Yeah, I'm, in fact I'm having interviews tonight. Come on down." He said, "You want a job?" and I said, "Well, yeah, yeah. I could I could answer the phone." A lot of request programs were popular then. This is how I got into radio. And he says umm, "Well come on down. We're going to have a future manager there and everything and we'll interview you." And I said, "Okay, I'll see you tonight." I did. I went down and when I went in there, in his office, he said, "Okay now take this in there and read it. And I said, "No, Mr. Engel. You don't understand. I want the job as answering the phone as on a request program." Very popular then. And he said "Well I think we already have somebody for that. Take this in there and read it. And we're going to listen in this office here and you're going to be in another room." And I said okay. So I read it. He came in. He said "Well he sounded pretty good." He said, "How would you like to become our Announcer, our Cub, or Apprentice Announcer?" I said, "Yeah I can do that." I believe I'd like to give it a try. He said, "Okay. Report Monday morning" or whatever it was. I said "I can't report Monday morning. I got to go to school." So he said, "Well come in after school." Well that's what I did and that's the way my radio career started.

Payne: How old were you?

Masingill: Seventee—sixteen or seventeen years old.

Payne: Do you remember the first thing that you reported on—on the air for them?

Masingill: On the air? It was a Kay's commercial, Kay's Jewelry Company commercial. Yes, I remember. And you could—and I remember paying a dollar down and a dollar a week, you could buy a ring or a watch, or a bracelet or something.

Payne: So the first thing was a commercial. And I understand that Mr. Engel was quite a colorful character.

Masingill: He was, yes, and very generous to people and organizations.

Payne: Was he good to work for?

Masingill: He was. Yes, oh, yes, good, good, excellent to work for. Just a—I remember when my dad died, he took me aside and said, "Is there anything I can do, Luther? I'd be happy to help with the funeral expenses or anything. And I said, "No, Mr. Engel I appreciate it."

Payne: How long did you have that job?

Masingill: Oh goodness, honey. Not until I went into the Service, which was a couple of years. And uhh, was drafted into the service, and umm I thought I'd joke about it with my friends. I fought and I fought and I still had to go into the war. And I served in Australia and New Guinea and the Philippines and the Admiralty Islands and I took a radio course. That's another area where I was lucky, a radio course, and uhh, the uhh—that's just was I wanted to get into. I just wondered when I went down to sign up. Well I was drafted really and they took me in, I just wondered if there was anything that I could get a hold of, and there was. Right at the time they were recruiting, uhh, young men who could take and learn code. Code, you know, international code. And I said, "Yeah." So I took the course and passed it. I was able to type, which helped me in the course. Some of the other boys in the outfit were in this organization that day, who were drafted that day along with me and we were all in one room with a hundred and fifty typewriters and I was about the only one who knew how to operate a typewriter. They weren't electric, they were just manual typewriters. Royal I believe.

[09:50] And uhh, the—the test. He gave us a test. The test was over and he said, "Alright." He'd look through all the papers. "All of you leave except Lusingill. You stay, Luther." Okay. So I did and he said "None of those people who left this room could—none of them could type. None of them could really grasp this I don't think. So that's the reason I dismissed them. I believe you could—and you can type and we need a typist and we need people who can understand code and learn it. So I'm going to make you a clerk in the Quartermaster Corp." And I said, "Well wait a minute. I'd like to be a radio operator." And about that time a fellow came out of the barracks back there and said he recognized me cause I worked in the same building as he did. The Volunteer building. He said, "Luther what are they trying to do to you?" And I said, "they want to make me a clerk in the Quartermaster." And he said, "Well what do you want to do?" and I said, "I'd like to get in the Signal Corps and they told me I could learn code pretty easy. I had a test the other day." And he said, "Alright, let me have those papers." He grabbed 'em, went in there and I heard [thumps fist on table] stamped on it. He said—he came back out and he said, "You're now in the Signal Corp and you'll leave tomorrow morning for Camp Crowder, Missouri." And from then on I am in radio and code, taking messages. Uhh, we were attached to the Thirteenth Air Force in the Philippine Islands. We had to take their messages and everything. [Stutters] Is this—are we getting to—taking too much time now on?—

Payne: No, we're fine. Okay, you can move onto the next thing if you want to. That's fine.

Masingill: Well tell me what else during that period you'd like to learn about.

Payne: Oh, well anything you want to tell me really.

Masingill: Well that—everybody always asks, "How did you get into Radio?" You know, that's the story. He was responsible for my getting into radio, Mr. Engel was. And as I said he was just one of the kindest men, you know, to work for...

Payne: ...and then the Army kind of helped out.

Masingill: And then you learn more when you get in the Army.

Payne: When did you come back to Chattanooga?

Masingill: Three years later I came back after serving in the Army. Came back and secured a job. They were waiting for me to work again for that radio—his radio station, WDEF, on the fourth floor of the Volunteer building downtown. He said, “Do you want a job?” and I said, “Yeah, I’m just back out of the Army.” He said, “Okay, you got it. Start Monday morning.”

Payne: And then where—did you live in Glenwood neighborhood?

Masingill: Not then. I lived in Avondale at the time on Bradt, B-R-A-D-T Street, which is right behind the—what was then the Avondale Baptist Church. And uhh...

Payne: And how did you end up in Glenwood? How did you choose Glenwood?

Masingill: I got married. We tried the first—we started looking for a house, and we found this one. And uhh, we knew the people and knew about the house. In fact he had a contract here—he had a friend build it. The house is behind, uhh, this building right here where we’re speaking. And umm, I—we, we talked about it and bought it—made him an offer and he accepted it. He wanted to get something smaller I think, I forgotten which one was the case, but uhh, we purchased it and financed it, you know and umm, it was about—I forgotten, about sixteen hundred dollars I think at the time. And we bought it and started making payments on it.

Payne: Do you have children, Mr. Masingill?

Masingill: Two Children.

Payne: Did you raise them here?

Masingill: Yes, in that house back there. Both of them were raised back there in that house behind this building where we’re recording this. Uhh, Joanie and Jeffrey. Jeffrey is here in Chattanooga, not married. Jeffrey’s single and works for the Food Lion people and also works for a company who do inventorying work. Just inventorying. That’s all they do. They go into it with a crew of people and they go into it with machines and they count everything in the store. He does that plus he works for Food Lion Supermarkets.

Payne: What was it like raising a family in Chattanooga in those years?

[14:54] Masingill: It was pretty, pretty neat. You learn—a lot of people know you because you’re on the radio. And then in 1954, umm the ’54 deal came first. It was a—that’s when we—I joined Channel 12 Television. They signed on in 1954 on a Sunday afternoon and they asked me if I wanted to work, if I could work both the station—the television station and the radio station. And they were like, “Yeah, we can work out something like that” and that’s what we did. Jeffrey and Joanie always got tickled about Christmas time when they were very young, I would always have to work on Christmas day. The days I did work on Christmas day I would ask them to wait—Mary, my wife, would ask them to wait until I

came home before they opened their presents and it just killed them. They couldn't hardly wait to get to their gifts, you know.

Payne: Oh, sure, sure. And did they go to school in the neighborhood?

Masingill: Yes, they went to [stutters] both attended. Joanie went to GPS [Girls Preparatory School], you're familiar with that one and Jeffrey went to McCallie. And Joanie went to the University of Tennessee and Jeffrey never did get to the University, but he took some special training and he got a good education. I was just—we always were hoping he would go to college, but it was not his cup of tea.

Payne: ...not his thing. Has—how has the radio and television business changed?

Masingill: Oh it's just amazing how that has changed. We started out with wire(?) with disks to record on with a needle, you know. And from there it went to—in the service we went to wire recorders on a little reel of wire and then by the time the service—the war was over and we got out, they started taping on a, uhh, paper-coated, paper tape on the reel and then from that to plastic-coated tape on a reel. Then from that they went to a different material, which made better quality and that eventually led into color photography, you know. And the voice thing, the voice got so good. The voice, years ago if you were going to do a remote broadcast, you had to take oodles of equipment with you and a truck to go out to a company to broadcast there. But not too recently, a few years ago, they developed this little device, which is a cell phone and you can punch up a little number here and they can hear me say—talk to them all the way at the station regardless of where they are, even out of town and that saved all that equipment and time and material and then putting together a broadcast from a place other than the—you know. These were just amazing.

Payne: What about the content of radio? How do you see that's changed in recent years?

Masingill: Honey, I—when I first started there was Bing Crosby and Perry Como and, you know, people like that. Then that changed. The Rock and Roll Age came along. We didn't play Rock and Roll. We continued with our, uhh, what do you call it, Adult Contemporary music. And uhh, it changed, honey, it did and not all of it was to my liking. I wasn't real crazy about the way it went and we finally ended up jumping way ahead and jumped up to what we call a Soft Rock format. They determined through a lot of analysis and so forth that, umm, the age group we were appealing to at the time were dying off. So in radio and TV, radio especially you had—you'd better kind of adjust your music patterns to—to the audience that you were trying to appeal to. So that's what they were doing and did that and we changed our format, which I never have been really happy with it. They just called it Soft Rock, but we got a good audience on it—with it and our ratings are good and we're grateful for that.

[20:30] Payne: What about the changes in Chattanooga? How did you feel about...

Masingill: I worried about when industry left like everybody else. Industry kept leaving, going to other countries, especially other countries. In some cases going to other states, but mainly other countries. And we had some big companies here that made manufactured parts for automobiles. And Wheeland

Company and Combustion Engineering Company and just a lot of them, and they ended up in China and some other countries. Mexico.

Payne: Were you concerned about the environmental issues of the day?

Masingill: We worried about that. We were in an area where your car was just coated with a rust, little specks of rust because of the particles, the medal particles, that came from these two factories: Combustion and Wheeland. And you don't—you have to have your car painted every two or three years if you kept the car. That wasn't good for your lungs either, but on a foggy day, that stuff would settle on your car and you'd go to work in the morning with a nice shiny car and you come home and it would be covered with this, which if you didn't wash it off right away it would eat down into your paint, but that was one of the industries that we were famous for and just hired hundreds and hundreds of people working there in those plants and we lost that to foreign powers, you know.

Payne: And of course we lost—and we know the factories were lost there was, you know, an unpleasant period there. But then I'm sure you were aware of Chattanooga Venture and Vision 2000. How did you feel about those movements?

Masingill: Oh, all of 'em. It tickled me when anything positive—I'm a positive person and I love positive things and I get bored around people who are always complaining about something, about we not going the way that we should and "Hey, we should be doing..." And I was just impressed with all the forward movements that we had including those. And I don't know, I just—the part that was a disappointing was a continuous "Bye-bye the industry's gone. Bye-bye." You know. And, but, we—there are other things that came in that hour—and Jack Lupton is a fellow I want to mention and what he had to do with the downtown area and the whole thing that he practically with his money built that whole area down there and it was just—he's gone now. He died a short time ago and—go ahead. You were saying...

Payne: Did you participate in any of the meetings about the downtown revival session.

Masingill: Some, very few. I didn't have the time with the schedule I had. I didn't have the time. But I always requested of them that they send us notification of their meetings and the general things to discuss and I would put that on the air, which would create a little more interest in, you know, in the organization itself.

Payne: So the radio and TV station contributed in that way...

Masingill: Right, right.

Payne: ...which is important.

Masingill: ...trying to help them too.

Payne: Is there anything else you'd like to talk about?

Masingill: Honey, I'm going to leave it up to you. It's good to see you. I don't ever remember meeting you. Did I ever meet you before?

Payne: No, you didn't. This is the first. So that's nice.

Masingill: I'm lucky. [Laughter]

Payne: I'm lucky too, but thank you.

Masingill: But this is—what you're doing is good and if I can add to it, if you'd like to get into another phase of it, why let me know and I'd be happy to come in and sit in with another session.

Payne: Okay wonderful, we very well may do that. This will be an ongoing kind of project.

[25:05] Masingill: 'Cause honey, with eighty-eight years old I can remember so many things, but it just takes some time, a little nudge...

Payne: I know how that is.

Masingill: If you don't...well I remember that it was—oh I'll tell you one other. People always, "You did?" I was able to see Lindbergh. I was here, lived in Avondale and he landed at a place called Mars Field, which is over on Amnicola Highway...was. And I went over. Didn't actually get to shake hands with him or anything, but I saw him get in a car and leave and he left his plane there at the field and with a guard. And we all had the chance to look at it and actually get up in—not in where they fly, but in the one door that you get in. And we got in and sat down in the Spirit of Saint Louis.

Payne: Wonderful. Well do you know why he was here?

Masingill: Did what?

Payne: Why was he here?

Masingill: He—just, honey, he wasn't as famous as he is now as he was when he—the Lindbergh kidnapping and all that. But he had some meeting with some officials of the city he had to talk—and it had to do with an airport. So he met whoever the mayor was at the time. I don't remember who it was and they had their meeting downtown, came back out, got on his plane and took off.

Payne: I wonder if that's the current airport.

Masingill: No, no. The current airport is—I got to tell you another quick story about the airport. Have you got enough time on it?

Payne: Sure.

Masingill: I'm coming—leaving the Rivoli Theater one night in East Chattanooga. I went to a movie during the summer and I had to walk home, of course, 'bout a mile, mile and a half. I stayed until eleven o'clock. I stayed until the last showing was over 'cause I wanted to get my money's worth. Cost me a dime. [laughs] And I'm walking down—I walked out in the middle of the street, so nobody grabbed me on the car—on the side and I heard "hmmm [hums]" a humming sound, you know, and I happened to turn and look back and there was a beam of light, strong blue-ish like light from a, from a, uhh, flood

light beaming down. And he wasn't going the way I was, he crossed my path and was heading toward the airport and at first he scared the villy wookie(?) out of me because I didn't know what it was, then I realized it was a Dirigible, it's a balloon and he's heading for—trying to find the airport. He turned that light on looking for somebody to—oh gee. [Laughter]

Payne: Well...

Masingill: I thought you'd be interested in that.

Payne: Oh, that's fun. Did funny things happen very often?

Masingill: Oh yes, honey. Especially in my—in this crazy business. Things are always happening that just—I used to work with a guy. He was so funny. He's dead now. His name is Buddy Howtz, always practical joking, you know. And I can't think of anything right this second, but he was always pulling some kind of practical joke on me or on somebody—Well let me tell you this one. He—there's a woman that always—that people used to—they don't do it much anymore—They bring these cakes that they made, ladies, real nice ladies. And they'd bring it and leave it at the station for all the staff to eat, and the engineers and the announcers and so forth. And this one woman brought in one one day and left it and we thanked her and so forth, and the guys started coming “Yeah cake, oh yeah”, “Can I have a piece?” “Oh, yeah she came by and wanted all of you to try some.” They start cutting off a piece and getting a napkin and they're eating and so forth and “Who brought this in, Buddy?” And he said, “Mrs. Jones, I think was her name. She's a patient up here at Pine Breeze Sanitarium.” And, what do you call it, TB?

Payne: TB Asylum?

Masingill: TB Sanitarum.

Payne: Sanitarium.

Masingill: He said, “The only thing...” “What's that?” They keep eating. “...She has TB and she won't wear her mask and she coughs a lot. They say she coughs fifteen times while she's making a cake.” And they start—and that was one of Buddy's jokes and she wasn't the one with TB [Laughter] but he was always doing something like that.

[30:11] Payne: Do people still do things like that.

Masingill: Oh yeah, in that business, honey, it's just a routine to pull jokes.

Payne: But do they still make cakes?

Masingill: They don't do it like they used to. They'll send you something at Christmas time if you've done something for them.

Payne: Why do you think they did it?

Masingill: Honey, I don't know. They just—the radio was new and TV was new to a lot of them and I think they just wanted to do it. It made them feel good to do it and to make us feel good with a cake.

Payne: And they felt like they knew you.

Masingill: That's right. A little closer.

Payne: That's very—it must have been a very interesting profession too.

Masingill: Yeah, you had people—I have people today who walk up to me in a supermarket or in a shopping center, "You're Luther." "Yes." "You don't remember me, but twenty eight years ago, is it twenty eight or twenty nine, honey, twenty nine okay, twenty nine years ago you helped find my german shepherd."

Payne: Oh, my goodness.

Masingill: They remembered all that time. I said, "Did you ever get another one?" "No, we got out of the dog business when that one—it was actually run over. They never did find it.

Payne: Oh dear. Oh gees. It's is a profession that took you close to people.

Masingill: You make some notes of things that you'd like me to include the next time, or any of your friends who know me and know my background and so forth. I'm active in my church. I love my church.

Payne: You do a talk show, don't you?

Masingill: What?

Payne: Don't you do a talk show?

Masingill: No...

Payne: You don't do talk radio?

Masingill: No, and not here. No ma'am. I do what they call a community calendar. I do, on radio and TV an announcement, a series of announcements, sent in by people who want something: A lost dog or a lost cat, a festival coming up, a church activity, a school activity, and I try to get them on the air at least once.

Payne: What do you think the biggest thing you ever talked about on the radio?

Masingill: I guess Pearl Harbor. I was on duty when Pearl Harbor occurred. And that the time I was just a young boy. I was still in high school. And it didn't hit, it didn't hit me quite like it should have. The first bulletin, your bulletin at that time came in on a machine that would ring a bell. DING DING DING DING DING DING DING and it would just keep ringing until you—and on a real big news story it would keep ringing until you came back and tore off that piece of paper that showed what the message was. And that Sunday afternoon, it started ringing and I went up and got the message, brought it up and sat

down, “on the Island, the Japanese have attacked and bombed the Island, the pier, the waterfront at—on the island of Oahu.” I said, “Well...” back in those days there was a lot of that stuff going on. The attack of one nation on another by ship or something, mainly by ship. And I didn’t—it didn’t hit me right. The next bulletin ten minutes later on one ship was completely sunk, was sinking. You know, and they started describing some of it. Then I knew “Oh crap, we’re in—and I’m just at the age I have to go into the service.

Payne: Is that your first thought, is “I’m going to have to fight.”?

Masingill: No, I really didn’t think about it at that time, still young, still in school, you know? And it didn’t come ‘til later.

Payne: What did you think?

Masingill: I thought...I didn’t think in terms of war. I don’t know. We’ll get even with them or we’ll—oh shoot it was such a war. Goodness gracious.

Payne: Is that when you were drafted?

Masingill: Yes, shortly after that. Had one woman...

Payne: ...very young.

Masingill: Yeah, I had a woman with a draft board. She called me one day. She said, “Can you come down here, Luther.” And she knew about my dad dying and she said but they still take you into the service even though your dad was gone and left you and your mama, you know, to take care of whatever children were left. There were two children, my sister and my younger brother. And she said “Would you like to stay out here and do—you’re due to go into the service. You know that don’t you?” I said—she said, “You’re in our next draft list next month.” I said, “Well what do you have in mind?” She said, “I can take this, move it over here.” [Laughs] I thought, “What in heaven’s name am I getting into here?” And she said, “You won’t have to come in for another year because of your daddy and your pre-responsibilities.” I said, “Honey, I appreciate that and I want to take you up on that I think, but let me talk to mama and see what she thinks.” And we talked it over and decided to go ahead and go in and get it over with, you know. So that’s what we did.

[36:05] Payne: And that’s when you ended up in Australia.

Masingill: Yeah, Australia for a couple of weeks and then New Guinea and the Philippine Islands and the Admiralty Islands.

Payne: And the whole time was in the Signal Corp, right?

Masingill: In the Signal Corp, yeah, attached to the Thirteenth Air Force. We did all—we did most of their communications.

Payne: Was there anybody else from Chattanooga with you?

Masingill: I ran into two or three. The first person killed in the Service with me overseas was a Chattanooga and his name was Engel, by the way, my boss's name. And he was—we had a raid, an air raid over the island where we got off the ship and started digging foxholes and a group of planes came over, firing straight down and dropping bombs and he was killed. He was shot. He didn't have anything over his, over his foxhole. No cover, no protection of coconut tree stumps or anything, you know. And a shot got him and killed him instantly and I wrote Mr. Engel later and I said, I told him it was a gentleman by the name of Engel killed. He said, "Well he wasn't no relative of mine." He said because he didn't have no relatives who were that age to go into the Service.

Payne: What was the reaction do you think of people, of most people in Chattanooga when that—after Pearl Harbor?

Masingill: Honey, they were indignant. They were fighting mad, cussing. Those sons—my daddy said, "sons of bitches." [laughs] Gee whiz, I used to get so tickled at him. It was sons of bitches, [laughs] oh, lordy. Just, and he just keep on, you know. And I said, "Daddy, you shouldn't be saying those words." Mama was jumpin' on him about it too. But [laughs] oh, he was great.

Payne: So people were outraged.

Masingill: Oh yes, honey, they were so mad, you know. And you talk about going into the Service, man you'd have a line lined up a block long. Men who were joining up going into the Service...

Payne: Is this right after Pearl Harbor?

Masingill: ...to fight for their country.

Payne: And then as the war went on, how do you think they felt about things?

Masingill: The same way. It wasn't any different. We saw what Hitler was doing and anybody with any common sense at all knew if somebody didn't do something, and we were the only ones with the power to stop him, with the industrial power and so forth, that he would win out and we would be speaking German over here, you know. And the Japanese would have us by the toes too.

Payne: And was the community aware at the time do you think that Chattanooga was doing so much to make ammunitions and parts and things?

Masingill: We weren't I don't think we realized how deep into industry we were. That showed up the fact that we were. And took on more immediately with the help of the government and financing it and enlarging the factories that we had we took on more things and made more things for the, for the Army and for the Navy and for the Marine Corps.

Payne: And then you came back home. What kind of Chattanooga did you come back home to?

Masingill: Well it didn't change that quickly. I was—I came home right after the war was over, but things were still just about the same, but then a short—a couple of years, a year or two after that, maybe

maybe longer is when it started changing. The industry started moving from here, from Chattanooga, to China, Mexico, places like that.

Payne: You've seen a lot.

Masingill: Yes, ma'am. Eighty eight years of it. I [laughs] sons of bitches. [laughter] you see?

Payne: Is that the happy moment?

Masingill: My daddy saying that and mama sayin, "Daddy, don't say that. That's not nice." He said, "Well they not nice to bomb us and all that."

Payne: Well I bet he wasn't the only one saying that.

Masingill: Yeah, meanwhile the rest of us today say it.

Payne: Yeah.

Masingill: But if you think of some other things that you'd like to hear about...

Payne: And we well might do that. Thank you for that.

Masingill: I might make a note of it.

Payne: Okay. Wonderful. And thank you.

Masingill: And honey, as many as we can get.

Payne: well good.

[End of Audio—41:23]

*Some of the "umm"s and "uhh's" have been eliminated for the purpose of flow. Dashes indicate an interruption of one's own thought. Ellipses indicate pause or interruption of one another.