

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Charles Nicodemus

Interviewed by Jennifer Kinniff

October 13, 2015

Johns Hopkins University
Oral History Program

Interviewee: Charles Nicodemus

Interviewer: Jennifer Kinniff

Subject: Life of Charles Nicodemus

Date: October 13, 2015

JK: This is Jenny Kinniff and I'm here today with Charlie Nicodemus, a graduate of Hopkins from the class of 1950, so thank you for being here with me today. I'd like to start by asking you about your early life. Can you tell me where you were born and a little bit about your family?

CN: I was born in Frederick, Maryland, but my parents lived in Walkersville, Maryland. I was born March 22, 1929, and I lived on Main Street in Walkersville until I was 21 years old and married Kathryn Zimmerman, who was born on the same street about 300 feet away from where I was – where I came back to live. So, we never dated each other until after I graduated from Hopkins and we've been married 63 years. We have a son and a daughter, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and we're very blessed to have such a wonderful family.

JK: That's great.

CN: Right.

JK: What was it like growing up in Walkersville?

CN: Very small town, 750 population. It was a farming community and as the farmers would retire from farming, they'd move into Walkersville and we'd walk around this town and we knew everybody, but now, there's 6,500 people.

We've got developments all around us, but it's a very, very small town. Our tax rate is very low. It is just – people love to live in Walkersville because it's such a quiet, nice community, really. We have about eight churches and two bar rooms [laughs] so, religion far outweighs drinking.

JK: Yeah [laughs], and what was your education like here?

CN: My education was I graduated – let's see, I started elementary school in Walkersville. What year would that have been? 1935 or 1936. I started first grade and my aunt, who taught first grade for 40 years, was my teacher, and my dog and I were so attached that the dog went to school the first day with me, because we were always together.

Always together and the dog enjoyed school so much he went back for the second day and would you believe he went to school every day during my first year in school and laid by my desk. If he came late, he'd wait for one of the doors to open to the main building and then he'd come to the first grade door, scratch on the door, and my aunt would go and open the door and he'd come in. It was just – 20 children in a class and Fido was the 21st.

JK: So, he stayed all day in your classroom?

CN: And he graduated from first grade and started out in second and was doing wonderful until the superintendent of the schools came for a visit, an unexpected visit, and found the dog in the class and said "What's the dog doing in here?" and that was Fido's last day of school.

JK: Aw, poor Fido.

CN: Yeah, so I went on through seventh grade, elementary school, and then four years of high school and, let's see, when I finished high school, I was 17 years old. I had no choice of where I was going to college. My brother, who was a year and a day older than I am, Robert Nicodemus, Jr., better known as Bob, he always wanted to go to Hopkins because he wanted to be a mechanical engineer.

And he and his best friend from Walkersville signed up to go to Hopkins, so they went in 1945. So, when I graduated, I didn't have a choice. My parents said you're going to Hopkins, so brother Bob can watch out for you, so you won't misbehave. Bob was quiet and I was more active. I wasn't bad. I never committed any crimes [laughs].

[0:05:02]

JK: Did you want to go to Hopkins or had you –

CN: It didn't make much difference. What I wanted to do was make shirts. My father owned a sewing factory and I just enjoyed working there every summer with these people making men's sports shirts. So, I was told I was going to Hopkins. At the time I went to Hopkins, Hopkins had three schools. You had a choice, premed, engineering, or business, and I went in as a business student.

Graduated with a bachelor's of science in business in 1950, and we had a super class in 1950. I'll tell you all about the class. It was wonderful. In fact, let me, if you don't mind, I would like to read about the time that we entered Hopkins.

"In August of 1946, there were 407 men on campus to begin our college days. Two-thirds were fresh out of high school and one-third back from the victory in World War II. Britain and France were exhausted after the war. Germany and Japan were in ruins. The Soviet Union had lost twenty million dead. The United States had survived undamaged and prosperous.

It was under these conditions that a classmate, Paxton Davis, who was a classmate of ours, wrote a book entitled *A Boy No More*. After one year at VMI, Paxton Davis entered the service. After being discharged, he had the choice of four schools and his parents chose Hopkins for him. The annual tuition was 500 dollars a year and dorm room and board was 60 dollars per month. Under these conditions, our Hopkins memories began."

JK: When you got to Hopkins, was there a big difference that you remember between the boys that were just coming from high school and those that were coming back from the war?

CN: Four years' difference, yeah. One-third of our class was older, more mature. I had a doctor in Frederick who was fabulously intelligent and he was in our Rotary Club and he said, "Charlie, colleges and universities are jails without bars. It's where teenagers go for four years to learn to become productive citizens," and, you know, I never forgot that; college without bars – place without bars.

We didn't have any bars [laughs], but that's where we grew up, at the dormitory, Alumni Hall, living on campus. Let's see, the outstanding thing about our class that was so different from the other Hopkins classes was the returning veterans, so many of them grew up in Baltimore and attended Baltimore high schools and played lacrosse against each other. And they came back as 21, 22-

year-old boys, bigger and stronger, and played lacrosse for Hopkins.

In the big city lacrosse wasn't known, but it was a hotbed in Baltimore and these 10 guys came back from the service and played for Hopkins for four years. Never lost a game, not one game, and I have the names of the 10 fellows that are our classmates. There's something about a winning team of any kind; baseball, football, anything, that gets people together, and this lacrosse team made our class so unique because we have been close ever since we graduated.

[0:10:05]

In fact, our Hopkins class of 1950, is the only class that has a reunion every year since our 50th reunion. Everybody else is five years, but we have just been so closely knit due to sports, and it's amazing how we've stuck close together. Only two of our classmates who were on that winning team still survive, two of them. The rest are all now deceased. I'm 86 and those boys are now 89 and 90.

JK: Right, because they were veterans, so they were a few years older. Can you tell me what going to a lacrosse game was like back then?

CN: Oh, since we were undefeated, every game was big [laughs]. Yeah, it was big and there would be 4,000 or 5,000 people there and, of course, the lacrosse field was very close to our dormitory, so just walk, but the crowds would come in there. My goodness, it was just great to see our classmates out there beating everybody.

JK: Did they have a cannon back then? I've heard stories about a cannon that would go off.

CN: Yeah, a little cannon that they'd shoot off, yeah. May 23, 1947, Hopkins students, before – it was a big game with University of Maryland that weekend on Saturday. Thursday night, our Hopkins men got together with a truck and went over to the University of Maryland in front of their athletic facility. There was a 400-pound bronze turtle, which was the mascot for University of Maryland. They stole that doggone bronze turtle, lifted it, brought it back to Hopkins, and hid it in the underground facilities.

JK: The steam tunnels?

CN: Yeah, and they put it down in the tunnel and on Friday morning at 2:00, the [Hopkins] campus police came into our dormitory. Came in and yelled "Help, help, we've been invaded by the University of Maryland! I need help." I jumped out of bed, put on my sweat suit, had no identification at all and we went out trying to find these University of Maryland men. Some of them were captured and taken into the dormitory.

They turned the hoses on in the dormitory. Every dormitory had a hose on each floor. They turned these hoses on, put soap powder on the floor. You couldn't walk, it was slippery. And they went out and tried to capture these guys. They'd get the fellows and bring them into the dormitory and shave their heads. Some of them they just left a center row down through the head. Some of them they shaved an H into their hair.

JK: So, you're holding up an article right now that says "200 Police Quell University of Maryland Raid on Hopkins Campus."

CN: That's right.

JK: There must have been a lot of Maryland students there if you needed 200 police.

CN: Yeah, absolutely. Fist fights, throwing rocks, throwing anything they could get their hands on at us.

JK: So what were you doing during all this?

CN: I was out looking for them trying to find them. I went over down behind the museum, Art Museum. It was joined to the Hopkins campus and I was in the woods looking for these fellows and [the Baltimore police] hollered, "Halt or I'll shoot!" so naturally, I stopped. They came over to me and they asked for my identification. I had none. They said "You stay with us until we can find somebody that recognizes you."

JK: Oh, so this was the Hopkins police?

CN: Yeah, Hopkins police. No, no, it was Baltimore City police. So were the 200, but finally, we ran into some of our Hopkins fellows who were out looking and they recognized me, so the police left me go, but 11 men were arrested that night.

[0:15:01]

It was 7 men from – let's see, 7 men from University of Maryland and 4 men from Hopkins were arrested and put in jail, but they only spent a little time in jail, because they left them out in time for this lacrosse game on Saturday afternoon at 2:00.

JK: Just to scare them a little.

CN: Yeah, but I don't know how in the world the fellows knew that they were coming, but they had barbed wire and they put barbed wire across the entrance into our dormitory. The courtyard in front of our dorm was just like a hurricane had gone through. It was a terrible mess when we got up the next morning. My gosh, it was terrible. It was horrible.

JK: What kind of stuff out there?

CN: All kinds of – yeah, they had these firehoses shooting after people and they're bringing these guys in that they had captured to shave their heads. And these guys would cry like everything, "I'm a senior, I've got job interviews coming up, I can't look—" but they went ahead and shaved them anyhow.

JK: So, was it the GIs on campus that were kind of taking the lead, because that sounds like a military defense.

CN: Yeah, the four guys here [gestures to photograph in newspaper article] – let's see, yeah, there's a military man. This man was a minister. This was a football player, but it was – yeah, we had big, strong men. We had the service boys. I don't know how old their fellows were, but that was really a night to be remembered. I'll never forget it as long as I live.

JK: So, what happened with the bronze turtle?

CN: Oh, the dean, president of the college said you have to return it, so that Saturday morning before the game, they took it back to have peace restored so there would be no more excitement after the game. But the Maryland men never found the turtle.

JK: And, you know, today, that turtle is still there at Maryland, but it's bolted down, so nobody can take it [laughs].

CN: [Laughs] I think you're right. I think you're right. Yes sir, now, it's interesting to note that Quint Langstaff, who was one of our class members, captain of the football team, was our class president of

our sophomore, junior, and senior year, which was rather unusual, but he was a leader of men. Everybody on campus knew that guy and he was just a natural born leader, so he was our class president for the last three years that we were at Hopkins.

JK: Can you tell me about the dorm and what it was like living in the dorm?

CN: Yes, sure can. Miss Wasserburg was in charge of the dorm, a real short little lady. The first year, of course, when you get used to living in the dormitory and going into your meals, I always was a big eater, a good eater. I played on the soccer and baseball teams and always after practice, we could eat, like, everything, but I remember so many that they'd get into food fights with fellows their freshman year. And they'd take this food and slam it at each other and get them all messed up and just actually have a riot in the lunchroom.

And Miss Wasserburg was such a little soul, that that was the bad part of it. The good part was our fellows were very respectful – of the building. They didn't beat it up, never heard anybody doing any damage, getting arrested, or getting expelled for doing something wrong. Of course, when we went in as freshman, there were so many people coming to Hopkins due to the servicemen coming back that when we went into the dorm, they had taken every single room and made it a two-person room.

[0:19:59]

Took every double room and made it a four-person room, so when I went in, we were in B entry, room 22, and the two-person room was now four. And there were four of us in there; my brother, Bob. We were known as the "Nicodemi Brothers" and we also had Bill Beggs from down south and Don Chambers, who was going to be a doctor from Cincinnati. And we four fellows got along tremendous. We had no problems, no problems at all, got along wonderful.

But at the end of the sophomore year, they decided that they weren't going to leave anybody use the dormitory except freshman, incoming freshman. So, we were told we were going to have to move off campus and find rooms in the high-rise building, 15 or 20 stories. That was two blocks away, they had bought this building. And they came to brother Bob and me and they said you boys are known to keep your room so neat and orderly.

We will leave you stay on campus, if you will leave your room clean and orderly every morning when we go to class, so we can show it to incoming prospects wanting to come. So, we jumped at the opportunity. We always made our beds anyhow before we went, even in our freshman and sophomore year, so we became known as good housekeepers. So, brother Bob and I stayed on campus all four years.

JK: You were the model students for visitors [laughs].

CN: I was never an A student, I will admit it. I was always happy to get a B, but we did – we were clean living, really, and the – it's interesting to note that Miss Wasserburg, who was there all four years with us in the dormitory, as our house mother, had a party for the seniors that she knew that had lived in the dormitory. And she had us come to her house for a senior party. All boys, there weren't any girls there, because no girls on the Hopkins campus until '47, but no girl ever lived in the dormitory during our four years.

And we went over to her house and it was the only place in my four years at Hopkins that didn't have something to drink other than beer. Her bathtub was filled with beer and she put the ice in there, in the bathtub, to keep the beer cold. She had no Coke, Sprite, orange; I had to drink a beer, and I didn't like the taste of that stuff.

It was the first time I ever tasted beer and I went out on the front porch with my bottle of beer and watered the bushes out front. Then, I went to the back porch and watered the bushes out back. That was my Hopkins [beer drinking] experience.

JK: So, you really were clean living then [laughs].

CN: [Laughs] Yeah. My brother and I never did drink, we really didn't. We weren't used to it at home. My grandfather was a family doctor here in Walkersville for 55 years and he was just so opposed to alcohol, how it ruins your body.

He was a medical doctor and family doctor for 55 years. We have his journal. He retired, I think, in 1930, from medicine. We have his old journal where he had delivered babies for three dollars. Pull your teeth for 25 cents and fit you with glasses for 75 cents. And if you didn't have money, he'd take a chicken or garden produce or maybe part of a ham or something, whatever the people felt that they could afford.

But he was so against it. It set an example for us to never [drink] and my parents never did either.

JK: Well, that brings up one question for me. You were coming from this small town to Baltimore. What did you think of Baltimore as a small-town guy?

[0:25:03]

CN: I was used to Baltimore because we were always Baltimore-oriented. We'd get down to Washington, we'd get lost in all the circles and everything and it was just so confusing, so everything we did, we did shopping down in the big department stores, down in Baltimore. We'd go to Oriole baseball games. We were just Baltimore-oriented and it was wonderful.

I lived in the dormitory for four years and after I left, they named the street after me, Charles Street.

JK: [Laughs]

CN: You've heard of Charles Street [laughs].

JK: Yes, I didn't know it was named after you [laughs].

CN: It was named after me.

JK: So, you had been coming here a lot before you went to school here. Okay.

CN: That's right. So, no, I loved it. We'd get on the old bus and go downtown and go to movies. My brother, Bob, and I and a couple others, generally three, four, five of us would get together, jump on the bus and go down. Go to the movies and then stop someplace and get a dessert and then get back on the bus and get back to Hopkins. Brings back very pleasant memories, really, we enjoyed it.

JK: And were you coming home a lot, too? Did you have a car?

CN: No. Back in those days, everybody didn't have a car. We had a friend in Frederick by the name of Keefer Stull, who was a brilliant student, brilliant, but very low-key person. He had an old car that would go 50 miles an hour and he'd bring us back to Frederick. My parents would come into Frederick and pick us up. And I was in ROTC for a year or two and I put my ROTC uniform on and go

out on – get on the bus and go over to Route 40 and thumb a ride back to Frederick and then I'd call my parents and they'd come in and pick me up.

JK: So, you put on your uniform because it was easier to get a ride?

CN: Well, the people would recognize service. They thought well, a serviceman, they'd stop and pick you up and it's dangerous business. One time, a guy [picked me up] and he didn't tell me he wasn't going to Frederick. You know, he stopped me halfway in between [Baltimore and Frederick]. I thought oh good gosh, what am I going to do, so I stood on the road and thumbed and got somebody [to take me] into Frederick. I called home. To go 50 miles back in that time, there were no interstates. It was tough. I could save the money by not using the bus.

It's interesting to note that my mother saved ten thousand dollars and put it in a savings account for us to go to college and would you believe that ten thousand dollars got brother Bob and me through Hopkins. Didn't cost any more. I don't know how much she might have had left. We weren't a wealthy family.

We were a well-known family here in Walkersville, because we owned all the businesses. We owned a mill, we owned a bakery, and owned a sewing factory, but my father made 40 dollars a week as manager of a bakery. And it's interesting to note, when I retired from Hopkins and came back to our sewing factory here in Walkersville where we had over 100 employees, I worked for 30 dollars a week [for two years].

Got married; Kathryn was making 40 dollars a week as a banker. I was making 30 dollars a week managing 100 people. The lot was one thousand dollars, and the house we built for fifteen thousand dollars. But I came back after graduation to this sewing factory, Robert Terry Garment Factory. It was an 18,000 square foot building and we were losing [money]. My father owned it, but the manager of the factory knew brother Bob and I were coming back to this factory, so he had made plans to move out and turn the management over to us.

[0:30:04]

So, I graduated from Hopkins on June 13, 1950, and on June 14, 1950, I became the manager of the sewing factory. They had been losing thirty thousand to forty thousand [dollars] a year, so with my education as a business student and knowing this business, I

took my briefcase and went to New York City by myself, visited the Arrow Shirt Company, Van Heusen Shirt Company, McGregor Sportswear, and Manhattan Shirt Company. Three of them didn't have any interest at all in my story.

McGregor Sportswear was being run, at that time, by Joe and Danny LePore, a brother team. One was a business student, one was a mechanical engineer. I had a picture of our factory I took along and showed them, and they said we want to come down and see your factory. They came down and said, my goodness, we have a whole lot of factories down south, but they're all cement block buildings with cement floors. Here's this beautiful building with brick walls and hardwood floors. They couldn't believe it, so we signed up to do business with them in 1951, to make sports shirts, mens' sports shirts. No dress shirts, all sports shirts.

And they told us during our first year, if you want to continue to make our shirts, they've got to be made by union labor. So, in 1952, I called the employees together on Friday evening and told them, if you come to work on Monday morning, you're going to have to join the cotton Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. Monday morning came and every one of them showed, because they were making money like they'd never made before. We were making money. It was a big, happy family.

A lot of the women – we had mostly 100 women and 8 or 10 men. Most of the ladies knew me before [I was born], when my mother was pregnant with me.

JK: I was going to ask you if it was strange for you or for them that you were so young and you were managing the whole factory.

CN: That's right, yeah, but I had the energy. As I said, I was never an A student at Hopkins. I would always envy those guys who could take exams and never study. I had to read, read, read, and spend all kinds of hours, but I had enthusiasm for what I was going to do. I wanted to get out of there and get to making shirts.

JK: What you learned at Hopkins, did that help you with the business?

CN: Helped me grow up, yeah, and I learned – yeah, sure. You're a business student, sure. My goodness, keeping the books, sure, I loved that. Loved keeping the books. My brother, who was in the business with me, of course, he was a mechanical engineer, so he took care of the mechanical side, the sewing machines and all that,

and I took care of keeping the books and hiring and firing and what have you. I took care of the personnel problems.

JK: Well, that sounds like it worked out pretty well.

CN: Yeah, it was a great business. My goodness, people go through there and see us making these – we'd make 700 or 800 dozen shirts a week. Great big bolts of material would come in 100 yards long. We'd spread them out onto three long tables, 50-ply high, and then come along with a cutter and cut out the shirts. Then, we'd take them to the back end of the factory and then they'd start sewing them. Then, they'd come up front as a completed shirt, be examined, and then the pressers – 10 pressers would stand there pressing these shirts all day long from 7:00 to 3:30 in the afternoon.

Women standing there with these steam irons pressing these shirts and every week, we'd send out a tractor-trailer load of shirts to Dover, New Jersey, where it was McGregor's distribution point. We used to go up to Dover, New Jersey to talk to Danny and Joe LePore, just see the new styles that were coming out and wanted us to see how they were being made up there, so we could come back and teach our [employees].

[0:35:07]

And I loved the business. We just made good money with McGregor. We were making forty thousand and fifty thousand [profit] a year, which back in 1956 and 1957 was big money, big money. I was making a thousand dollars more a year so we built this house. It was a very interesting business, my goodness. I still just love materials and I make my own shirts. I kept a set of patterns when we no longer worked for McGregor.

McGregor came to us in 1957, and said boys, there's so much competition coming in from other countries, shirts from other countries who can do it with such cheap labor, we don't have enough work for our own factories let alone give it to you as a contract factory.

So, they said our recommendation is that you go ahead and get out of the business, because you're paying 40 cents an hour and people in the other countries are working 5 and 10 cents an hour comparable. So, they said get out of the business and save the money that you've made. We closed the business in 1957, made money for our company the year we went out of business, which is

unusual. It wasn't depressed, but it just came to a sudden halt. We couldn't get any more contracts from any other company.

JK: That's interesting, even that long ago that it was still a concern.

CN: Yeah, so I went with Northcool Suits for three years after that in their production department in Frederick. In 1960, I left there because Frederick Mutual Insurance Company was looking for a bookkeeper, so I went with Frederick Mutual Insurance Company as their bookkeeper and was there for 45 years, 3 months, and 15 days. It's the only time in my life that I ever took over the place for a US senator, Mac Mathias, Senator Mac Mathias, who was in the US Senate. He was on our board of directors. When he resigned from the board because he became US Senator, I was put on the board of directors.

There, I went on to be the treasurer of the company and rose up to be president of the company. I was president of the company for 18 years and chairman of the board for another 18 years. I retired in 1986, so that's what my Hopkins education led me into, a business making shirts, men's suits for [six] years, and then from there, I got into the fire insurance business.

JK: Did it have a big impact on your town when you had to close your factory?

CN: Yes, dear. The people were dismissed. A lot of them retired. A good many of them ended up going to Frederick Trading Company in Frederick, and also to Thurmont, but yeah, that was big news, because we had been there so long. Now, let's see, back to Hopkins.

JK: Yes.

CN: Our 25th reunion was May 10th, 1975. Our 40th reunion was May 31, 1990. Our 45th reunion was May 5, 1995, and then we met in April of 1999, at the Hopkins Club to make our plans for our 50th reunion. Walter E. Woodford, Jr. was elected chairman of our 50th anniversary celebration and we met at the Hopkins Club the year before and made our plans and we assigned duties. Each [person] was put on a committee to plan for our 50th.

[0:40:03]

And then our 50th reunion was April 28, 1950.

[Side Conversation with wife Kathryn]

JK: 2000.

CN: Yeah, 2000. Yeah, you're right. Our 50th anniversary was held at the Hopkins Club, crab cake luncheon Saturday at noon followed by a lacrosse game at 2 p.m. The Hopkins president at that time was Bill Brody. Now, I'd like to just – just a second here. I'd like to read something, which is very interesting. This is about our class reunion. [Begins to read from "The Class Reunion"]

"A group of 40-year-olds in our JHU class discussed – and discussed where they should meet for dinner. Finally, it was agreed that they should meet at JHU for dinner, at the Hopkins Club. Finally, agreed upon – they would meet there because the waitresses there had low-cut blouses and nice figures. 10 years later at 50 years of age, the group meets again and, once again, they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally, they agreed they should meet at the Hopkins Club, because the food and the wine selection there were very good.

10 years later at the age of 60 years old, the group meets again and once again, they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally, it was agreed that they should meet at the Hopkins Club because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant is smoke-free. 10 years later at 70 years of age, the group meets and once again, they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally, it was agreed upon they should meet at the Johns Hopkins Club, because the establishment is wheelchair accessible and they have an elevator.

10 years later at 80 years of age, which is what my – 86 now, the group meets again and again they discuss and discuss where they should meet. Finally, it was agreed that they should meet at the JHU Hopkins Club since they had never met there before."

[Laughter]

So, that's the story of the reunions.

JK: That's great.

CN: And we were the only class to hold an annual reunion, as I said once before, every year since our 50th.

JK: How many people would come usually?

CN: Well, I have pictures here of our 50th. The 50th we had a good many.

JK: Yeah, that looks like 40, 50 people maybe.

CN: Yeah, but as we grew older, so many of our classmates were older and they started to die off fast, my goodness.

JK: Do many of those people still live in the area or did they come from far away?

CN: We were predominantly a Hopkins – I mean, a Baltimore, Maryland class. We had fellows from all over the United States come, guys that wanted to be doctors and had such a good reputation for Hopkins Hospital, so these guys would come in there wanting to be doctors and they'd take freshman chemistry and goodness, get an F and they'd want to pack up and go home. Some of them would stay on and enter business instead, but a lot of them are [doctors] but I really don't know how many. We had 470 going in as freshman. I don't know how many of us graduated on June 13, 1950. Must have been 250 or 300.

JK: Some people just took longer or they transferred somewhere else?

CN: Yeah, transferred out, so let's see, Woody Woodford was our class chairman from [1949 to 2005], because he was chairman when we planned our 50th, and he stayed on as chairman of our class until 2005. And at that time, he wanted to retire and the class members voted me in as class chairman.

[0:45:00]

And I'd been class chairman of our class ever since 2005, so 10 years I have been chairman of the class. I enjoyed doing it for one reason. I've been a Rotary Club member in Frederick for 51 years now and when I was president of the class of the Rotary in 1970, 1971, I had to conduct 52 meetings every Wednesday at noon and got used to being in front of these people as president of our Rotary Club.

So, I fell into this job because I could be in front of people and didn't mind it.

JK: Mm-hmm, it was a natural fit.

CN: Yeah, it was a good fit, so our 55th reunion was May 8, 2005. Our 60th reunion was April 9, 2010, and our 65th was this past April 2015. And at that time, it was announced – we had some guest speakers from Hopkins at the time and also one of the men who is in charge of the scholarship money. And it was announced at that time, at our 65th, that our class had given \$1,013,783 to our 1950 scholarship fund during the past five years. That was from [reunion years] 60 to 65. The total, which our class has given to our scholarship fund since 1950, when we graduated, is \$4,100,000.

JK: That's very impressive.

CN: I think it's impressive, but I'm sure there's some classes that some of the men who have become mayor of New York or managers of big corporations maybe have given five million or ten million themselves, but I don't know of any single Hopkins person who was tremendously successful in business. I've never heard that.

We had people become stars on television, but some of these men give huge amounts of money, but I don't know of any – of this four million that we've given, I don't know if there was ever anybody that gave even a hundred thousand.

JK: Yeah, well, that's even more impressive, I think, because it shows that everybody's giving a little, right?

CN: Well, that's true, that's true, yeah, all right.

JK: I do want to ask you about some of the things that you were involved in when you were at Hopkins, some of your activities.

CN: Oh, right. Yeah, alrighty. I'd be happy to share that with you.

JK: I did see – so, you and your brother were both in the Glee Club, is that right?

CN: You're right. You did your homework. Hot dog, yeah, all right.

JK: Tell me about that.

CN: We were in the Glee Club all four years at Hopkins, my brother, Bob, and I. He was a true, good tenor, on key. I couldn't sing, but I stood beside him, tried to do my best, but I went all four years and we had 120 men in our Glee Club, 120 of us. Brother Bob was the business manager of the Glee Club in his junior year and I was manager of the Glee Club in my senior year, 1950. And it was our

job, as business managers, to arrange all concerts for the Glee Club. We'd go around and sing at colleges. Is it [Union] Memorial Hospital near Hopkins?

JK: Uh-huh, Union Memorial?

CN: Union Memorial, we'd go to the Hopkins nurses at Hopkins Hospital and sing for them. We'd go to small places, colleges, to sing and after the concerts, we had our Blue Jay Band with about 8 or 10 members, and they would play for our dances after.

[0:50:04]

So, these places would advertise that the Hopkins Glee Club would be here on Saturday night and the Blue Jay Band – their band will be with them and we'll have a dance from 9:00 to 12:00. Did the same thing in all these places, but the highlight of every year for our Glee Club was going to Atlantic City when it was still booming. Big hotels, people by the thousands were there, and Haddon Hall, Chalfonte Haddon Hall Hotel would put us up for a night.

We drove up on Saturday morning, we'd sing Saturday night. Our Blue Jay Band would play for us for our dance that night. They'd have a meal for us before the concert. We'd have the concert dance. Next morning, we'd get up and go in that dining room. It's the only time in life I had lamb chops for breakfast. I've had them since, but that was a remarkable memory to go in there and have lamb chops for breakfast.

But it's interesting, we would wear our tuxedos [for concerts]. We went out on the boardwalk this one night. My parents had come up from home here in Walkersville and stayed at Chalfonte Haddon Hall, so they could hear the concert and see us. We went out, brother Bob and I and two other boys went out on the boardwalk with our tuxedos on and here come four girls towards us and we'd say "Do you girls want to go to a dance with us?" and they said "Yeah, where are we going?" We said, "Well, Chalfonte Haddon Hall."

We'd go back, go into the entrance and here who in the world should pass, but my parents. And here I had this girl, didn't even know her name [laughs]. We went out and had a good time that evening. It was outstanding. The baseball team would go south and play games for a week during Christmas break or something, but our outing for the Glee Club was to go to Atlantic City.

And then we'd leave there Sunday after breakfast and come back to Port Deposit and sing at a [Methodist] church where one of our classmates, Chester Kimble, [was a member of the church]. So, we came back and would sing a concert there for them and well, they'd feed us our evening meal and then we'd have a concert and then get back on the bus and come back into Hopkins. That was very, very pleasant, our experience with the Glee Club. Osmar Steinwald was the director all four years and he was excellent. We liked the man; he was very good.

JK: And I saw there was one story in the yearbook about how you were headed to Hood College, but your bus broke down?

CN: How in the world did you know that?

JK: It was in your yearbook. I think it was your freshman year, right? It had a whole story about it [laughs].

CN: One bus got there. Two buses got there and a third bus broke down halfway between. Here we had the – Brodbeck Hall. It was full and we had to announce that we were going to have to cancel the concert because the bus broke down and we didn't even get to have the dance, because the dance band was on one of the buses.

JK: Oh, did you make it or were you on the bus that broke down?

CN: I was on the bus that made it.

JK: Oh, okay.

CN: Yeah, my brother, Bob, and I were on the bus that made it.

JK: I bet you had family and friends that were coming to see you here, too.

CN: Sure, sure, because in the [local] paper [it said] that the Hopkins Glee Club would be in there, yeah, absolutely. Yeah, the thing that I was best known for at Hopkins, other than being with the Glee Club, was being a member of the Student Activities Committee. Student Activities Committee was composed of three members.

JK: Just the three of you, I see that, yeah; Nicodemus, Becker, and Messer, who are in the yearbook.

CN: Yeah, that's right. George Becker, my classmate and a good friend, turned out to be a doctor.

[0:55:05]

He became a famous brain surgeon, but he was president of the Student Activities Committee and I was the treasurer and the other gentleman was the vice president [laughs]. What we did, the school would give, say, quarter of a million dollars to our committee and it was our job to distribute the money to the organizations, which would apply for a grant. The yearbook would need so much money, the college newspaper would need so much money, and the various organizations that needed, and then they'd apply for so much, say five thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars to get them through.

It was our job to review these grants and issue the money according to what our feelings were. As it says in the article, in the yearbook, we were the first class that got through without having to request more money from the university.

JK: Oh, and you were the treasurer.

CN: Yeah, we paid the bills. They'd present the bills to us, but if we gave them ten thousand dollars, they couldn't exceed the ten thousand dollar limit, so we got through in great style. George Becker was good [laughs]. He was president and he'd have to put the screws on them, if they were going to exceed their budget. He would just say we just can't do it, we don't have the money.

JK: That's a big responsibility to distribute that much money.

CN: So, that was my one job other than being with the Glee Club business manager.

JK: And what about – you played sports, too, you mentioned, right?

CN: Yes, I was goalkeeper on the soccer team my freshman year and I was third on the depth chart. Jerry Cooper was the number one goalkeeper and he was excellent. He got injured. The second man behind him was put in the game and he got injured, so they went to the third man, third on the depth chart, and that was me. And I got in the game and I didn't allow a goal and I didn't get injured, but that was the only game that really I'd ever played [laughs].

JK: Oh, really? [Laughs]

CN: Yeah, because the other two guys were always in good health and never got injured.

JK: But you went to all the practices and all that?

CN: Oh yes, sure did. Yeah, get the exercise, but then you go back eating and study all night.

JK: And did you play soccer in high school or did you just decide to try it out?

CN: Yes, and I had great success [in high school], because I had a man in front of me who they couldn't get the ball by him, the fullback. Yeah, I was soccer goalie for junior and senior year in high school. We had an undefeated team. Baseball was my favorite sport. I tried out for basketball. I played three sports in high school; soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Then, went to Hopkins and tried out for all three teams. I made the soccer team. I didn't make the basketball team. I made the baseball team, but for me to put a basketball through the net, hardest thing to do. I could hit a baseball. I could kick a soccer ball, but I just didn't make the basketball team, but I played on the baseball team and had a good time, yeah.

So, alrighty. I'd like to just say about three of our best known classmates that I – Quint Langstaff was our [class] president for three years, the last three years at Hopkins, co-captain of the football team, well known by everybody and their Hopkins group. Just a leader of men.

The second person who was very well known was Lloyd Bunting. He was a Hall of Fame lacrosse player on defense.

[01:00:01]

What a great man. Everybody knew Lloyd. I had his picture, but that's all right, but anyhow, Lloyd made Hall of Fame along with four or five other classmates. The Lacrosse Hall of Fame is in Baltimore. Lloyd's right in there. He was a big, good-looking man. My gosh, what a handsome man, but I tell you, when it came to playing lacrosse on defense, he would squash the players. They'd run up against him, it was just like running into a brick wall. He would knock them flat.

And then one of the big reasons, as I say, our class was always close was because of this lacrosse team and we'd have these get-togethers every year after our 50th anniversary.

The next person who I thought was very outstanding was Walter Woodford, an engineer from Chestertown, Maryland, and he was our class chairman for six years, especially during our 50th anniversary celebration. But, Woody, his [nickname], was a head engineer on building the second bridge across the Chesapeake Bay.

We went to his memorial service, [after] his death, and they had state troopers and people there like you wouldn't believe. He was with the highway administration – what a great guy, wonderful. He roomed right above me in the dormitory. We were in Room B22 on the second floor, and he was right on the next floor above me [and my brother]. He roomed with George Delaplaine, who was owner and editor of the Frederick Newspaper for many years.

And I would say today that George Delaplaine, who graduated two years before me, is without a doubt, in my mind, the most – how should I say it? The wealthiest man in Frederick, [who graduated with a] Hopkins education. That man reads four newspapers every day. He owned a cablevision company, a newspaper, and he sold both of them and [gesture and sound effect of an explosion].

JK: Yeah, did well for himself?

CN: Piled it higher and deeper, yeah. Yes, sir. Let's see, highlights of my four years at Hopkins.

JK: Yeah, go ahead.

CN: All right, undefeated lacrosse team for four years. We have mentioned that numerous times. Glee Club manager during my senior year. The annual trip to Atlantic City with the Glee Club. Being one of the three members of the Student Activities Committee and I'll never forget being captured by the Baltimore City Police the night of the riot, May 24, 1947. I had no identification, but they didn't shoot me, thank gosh.

[Laughter]

And those are some of my highlights of my years at Hopkins.

JK: That's great. One thing I didn't get to ask you was if you had any particularly memorable professors or things that happened in your actual classes that stood out to you.

CN: I knew Dean Shaffer pretty well, because being on the Student Activities, but there isn't a single professor there that stood out. I wasn't much of a student, I really wasn't.

JK: And what about Dean Shaffer? You worked with him a lot?

CN: I worked with him as Dean, but not as – he didn't teach me.

JK: Okay, so what were your impressions of him as a Dean? Was he a good friend to the students?

CN: Oh, yeah, very well liked, very personable. I liked the man, yeah, and the reason I got to know him is on the account of the fact I guess he's the one that nominated me for this Student Activities Committee.

[Side Conversation with wife Kathryn]

I can see that old guy up there at the blackboard now. So stiff and formal. He was talking about banking, but gosh, I can't remember his name.

[01:05:00]

Just can't – no, there was no one. Generally, you have one teacher that – high school, boy, I knew them there, very good. Yes, sir. Not bragging, but I was number one in my class in high school, straight As. You go down to Hopkins and compete with these brains from all over the United States, you'd soon find out that you aren't smart. You really do and I will admit it.

JK: That's a good education in itself, though, right? Just to see what a big world it is.

CN: Yeah, that's right, yeah.

JK: And did you know any of the presidents? President Bowman, or President Bronk was there while you were there.

CN: Not that close. Not that close, dear, no. Knew where he lived, see him on campus very seldom, very seldom, but I just didn't – Milton Eisenhower became president, didn't he, at one time?

JK: In '53, I think, maybe.

CN: '53 after I was gone, yeah. Yeah, I guess he took over after President Brody.

JK: President Bronk, I think, right? Brody came later, but you probably knew some of them if you were coming back for your reunion, so you got to see them.

CN: That's right, yeah. For our 50th, President Brody was the one that presented us our medal and I got it back here on my dresser now, [laughs] yeah, I got my medal.

JK: So, when you go back to Hopkins now, do you find it very different than when you were there, in terms of what it looks like?

CN: Of course you remember the buildings that were there when you were there, but there's so many buildings. My gosh, they just cover [the campus with new buildings].

JK: Yeah.

CN: There's no parking.

JK: That's true, and the library that's there right now, the Eisenhower Library, that wasn't there when you were a student, right?

CN: No, no, and the glass pavilion. See, we had Levering Hall. That's where the students gathered, Levering Hall, still there?

JK: Yeah, still there. There's a cafeteria in the basement.

CN: Yeah, that's right, and our Glee Club practiced on the first floor every week. Yeah, but the big difference is all the buildings. There's hardly any green grass anymore.

JK: And you would study at the – or, you would go to the library in Gillman Hall?

CN: When there were four people in our room, as freshman and sophomores, if you really wanted peace and quiet, real quiet, you'd go to the library. Sometimes, I would go into the dining hall and there was a desk in the back corner of the dining hall and I'd go back there and study, do my accounting. I can remember going in there and trying to solve accounting problems. Oh, good gosh. Hot

dog, yeah, so either the library or into the dining hall at a desk that we had and a light there, so I could go in there.

But then during the junior and senior year, when there were only two of us in the room, my brother, Bob, and myself. We each had our own desk and we'd just sit in there and study. I had poor eyesight. I've had my eyes operated on four times, but I was never a good reader. It was a struggle for me to read and today, it's terrible. I read the newspaper and that's about it. Back in the school days, I was not a fast reader.

These other guys would go through page after page and here I'd spend all kinds of time on a single page, so I wasn't a great student, but I was enthusiastic about what I was doing. It's amazing what enthusiasm does for a person.

JK: That's right, and they say hard work is the most important thing. And one more thing I wanted to ask you about. You mentioned that you were in the ROTC for just a year, is that right? Or two years?

CN: I started, I think, in my junior year. Junior year, I think, and we had a physical two or three months into it and I was found to have a hernia, which I'd had a hernia in high school and they wouldn't leave me continue on in ROTC.

[01:10:00]

And the colonel in charge of the ROTC called me in and he said, Nicodemus, you're no longer fit for the ROTC. We can take you to Fort Meade over the Christmas holidays and have you operated on and you'd still be in the ROTC. But he says, "I'll tell you now, you're crazy as hell if you leave us operate on you," so I dropped out.

JK: Wow [laughs].

CN: And I was always 4F and my buddy's that graduated in front of me, class of 1950, ended up going to the Korean War, many of them did, but I was always stayed 4F, because they told me not to get operated on.

JK: Was that true in high school, too? So, did you just not get drafted or you – yeah, I'm trying to think if you were too young.

CN: No, I remember going down on the bus for an examination and this one guy was drunk [laughs] and the old guy that was in charge of us said if you don't quit misbehaving, I'm going to see that you get shot with a square needle [laughs], but the draft was called off. It was near the end of the war, but I was called in to be examined, yeah.

JK: Is there anything else that I didn't ask you about that you want to tell me about?

CN: Offhand, dear, I don't know. I don't know. I think we pretty well covered it.

JK: You gave me some good stories.

CN: [Gestures to newspaper clipping] This is Dr. Joe Elliott. That's me in the yellow coat, and the article was in the local paper.

JK: Okay, the Frederick Paper and that's for your 65th reunion?

CN: Yeah, and when we showed this amount of money that our class had given in the past five years.

JK: Mm-hmm, well, that's great. So, do you think you'll have a 70th, or you're having reunions annually now, right?

CN: Yeah, the big one will be 70th. Oh, and another thing that's interesting. I hadn't thought about this until just now. At our 50th reunion at the Hopkins Club, everybody that attended that as a graduate in our class, we gave them a [wood-carved] blue jay. [Speaking to wife] Show Jenny, get it.

JK: What kind of blue jay? Like a pin or –

CN: Hand-carved. We have a friend down in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, that we went into his shop where he only sold these hand-carved birds and we fell in love with the things, and my gosh, we had birds like you wouldn't – that is the Hopkins blue jay. Red birds, blue birds, do you have some of them up here?

[Side Conversation with wife Kathryn]

JK: Oh, I see. That's beautiful. So, it's a wood-carved blue jay that's painted.

CN: That put us on the map with our class, because we gave – Kathryn and I gave them a bird for our 50th.

JK: So, everyone who came to the reunion got one.

CN: Yeah, and our 60th, we gave each of them one of these. [Shows a hand-carved, painted Baltimore Oriole figurine.] Our 65th, we gave everyone that attended a Baltimore –

JK: An oriole?

CN: Yeah.

JK: Oh, that's beautiful.

CN: But we paid for them ourselves and gave them to them. And the fellows – it's interesting, when we went to Lloyd Bunting, the great lacrosse player's memorial service, in the glass pavilion up on the podium was this blue jay we had given him [at our 50th reunion].

[01:15:00]

JK: Oh, that's nice.

CN: His wife, Lloyd Bunting's wife, had a sister who married Tommy Gough, who was one of our Hall of Fame lacrosse players and those two couples were the ones that were first and foremost in our class as getting together every year. In fact, every year since 1950, the lacrosse players gathered once a year for a meal, and that's the reason we picked up on that was our 50th reunion and started – but the lacrosse players had it every year, just had dinner together.

JK: So they'd been meeting the whole time?

CN: Very close. It's amazing what sports does for a school. Hood College in Frederick here was an all-girls school. Fourteen years ago, they hired a man to come in here as president, Ron Volpe, and he told them – he said, if we don't get enough women to come to Hood College in the next two years, we're going to have to go co-ed. We were losing millions of dollars a year, ready to close the door, absolutely close the institution after 100 years.

Then we admitted men, our enrollment practically doubled. Our dormitories the last two years, when it was [just] ladies, one dormitory didn't even open. We didn't have anybody in it. Brought

in these men, have 22 sports programs and Ron Volpe was enthusiastic about sports. He says you can't have a successful college without a sports program, and it's just melded the thing – it's proven it. Hood now is not losing money.

We're on the plus side. We're not in the black in the sports – just get school spirit, enthusiasm. You've got to have something to root for, something to cheer about, and it's amazing. Hopkins had the sports. Boy, I'm telling you, with that lacrosse team.

JK: Yeah, it seems like that was most important –

CN: But sports and men helped us save this college here. We now have 2,200 students, I think, in here. Have you ever been to Hood College?

JK: I never have. I've heard it's beautiful.

CN: It is a beautiful campus. It is that, yeah. Very successful and it's just interesting that Ron Volpe just retired and the new lady gets installed as president this coming Saturday at Hood and they're expecting around 1,000 to 1,500 people there for the inauguration. She is a lady from Albright College up near Hershey, Pennsylvania. Albright, have you ever heard of Albright?

JK: I haven't, actually.

CN: No, neither have I. there were three candidates for the job and this lady got it. Very, very intelligent. She was Dean and all sorts of things at Albright that, so far, seems to be doing good, but Ron Volpe was unbelievable. He just absolutely saved the college.

JK: I'm glad he turned it around.

CN: Would you believe Ron Volpe was told at the next trustees meeting, we want you to have a detailed plan on how you're going to shut this –

[Side Conversation with wife Kathryn]

I was on the board. Yeah, I was on the board and in there for 12 years; served two 6 year terms, but anyway, told him next trustees meeting, you come with a detailed plan on shutting this institution down and it came around. The chairman of the board said we're ready for you plan to shut this institution down and avoid liability on our part. He said folks, I was hired to run the university. I have

no plan whatsoever of ever shutting it down. If you want to shut it down, you'll have to hire somebody else and today it's wonderful, wonderful.

JK: Oh, well, good for him. That's wonderful.

[01:19:59]

CN: We even went to Hopkins to ask them to take over Hood. [President Volpe] went down to Hopkins, talked to the president. I forget who it was, and had them [think about being] a training ground for seniors to become freshman at Hopkins the next year.

JK: Oh, I didn't know that. It didn't work out, I guess.

CN: Did not work out, nobody saved it. I know they tried different things. Ladies didn't want to go to a single-sex institution. There are definitely merits of it, because the merit – when there was just women in there, all the leading positions and leaders had to be women. But if you put men on there, the men take over the leadership positions and the ladies follow. That's the single advantage of a ladies' institution.

JK: Yeah, that's a good point.

CN: Yeah, but boy, [prior to] when we opened it up to men, the only man that was [allowed] to live on campus was the president or the president's husband.

JK: Well, that's great. Okay, well how are you feeling? Anything else that you want to share before we go?

CN: Not really, dear. I think we've pretty well covered it. I enjoyed doing homework yesterday and this morning recalling my Hopkins days, because it was a great experience.

JK: You did a great job remembering stuff.

CN: Great experience.

JK: I'm going to get my camera, so I can take some pictures of these things.

CN: Never dreamed. Never dreamed that one day I'd be chairman of this class, but my leadership skills with Rotary Club for 51 years made it easier for me to take over as chairman.

JK: Well, I look forward to seeing you guys on campus next year and the year after that.

CN: That's right, yeah. Yes, sir, we come here every year.

JK: Sounds good. I'll look for you at the Hopkins Club.

CN: We always go – it's a Friday night before the crab cake luncheon on Saturday and lacrosse game. We always meet at the Hopkins Club and this past year, let me see. [Gestures to a photograph] Here's our 65th – I don't know how many of them are there. You can count them. I got my yellow coat on.

JK: I can definitely pick you out with that.

CN: Yeah, we gave every one of them a Baltimore oriole.

JK: I see, so there's about 16 people that were there. This was from April?

CN: Yeah.

JK: Okay, well that's pretty good. Great. All right, well thank you so much for your time.

CN: As the chairman, I don't know of another member of our class, who has accumulated so much Hopkins material.

JK: Uh-huh, you certainly do have a lot here.

CN: I take this to the reunion and the fellows all just flock over it to see it. So, I'm a collector of all of the historical items.

JK: I see that. That's really great.

CN: Yeah, have you ever gone to a lacrosse game?

JK: I have not yet.

CN: You have not? You've got to give it a try.

[Charlie's wife Kathryn hands Jenny a carved blue jay.]

JK: Oh my goodness.

CN: Take one.

JK: Really? Thank you so much. That's so kind of you. They're so beautiful.

CN: You'll have to show it to your people in your office.

JK: I will. Well, I work in the archives, so it might end up in the archives.

CN: Yeah, yes, sir, and that's very good of you, dear. Thanks.

JK: Oh, thank you so much.

CN: [Referring to his wife Kathryn] She's been my supporter through this. Unfortunately, she never got to go to college. She went right from high school to teller in the bank and then secretary to the president.

JK: Oh, I see.

CN: She just loves our Hopkins experience, going down for these reunions and been a big supporter.

JK: Well, that's great.

CN: Now, the Hopkins songs, I don't know if you've ever heard this or not. [Begins to read a song from a lyrics sheet.]

Dear Old Johnny Hopkins, varsity we love so well. School of all the fairest, JHU. Dear Old Johnny Hopkins, cheers for thee will fill the air. None there are that can compare with the Black and Blue.

[01:25:00]

Remember Black and Blue? Bruises, yeah, bruises. [Begins to sing.] On the line, on the line, on the side of the line, we're yelling for the eleven and the rain and the shine. When the eleven's in the rain we're yelling all the time when we're out on the side of the line. For we are the glory and the halo, too, the pride of the women and the JHU. The pride of the women and the JHU combined in one big "Hullaballoo!"

[Laughter]

Now, here's a good one, too; "A Man without a Woman." Now, you'll be interested in this one. This is "A Man without a Woman."

JK: Appropriate for an all-men's school.

CN: Yeah, that's right, yeah. Yes, sir. Here it goes. Now, a man without a woman is like a ship without a sail. It's like a boat without a rudder or a kite without a tail. A man without a woman is like a wreck upon the sand, but if there's one thing worse in this universe, it's a woman, I said a woman, it's a woman without a man.

Now, you can roll a silver dollar across the ballroom floor and it'll roll because it's round. A woman never knows what a good man she's got until she turns him down. So, listen my honey, listen to me, I want you to understand like a silver dollar goes from hand to hand, a woman goes from man to man. A woman goes from man to man. A woman goes from man to man. Hot dog. You can take that. [Hands song lyrics to Jenny.]

JK: [Laughs] Thank you.

CN: If they want that in the archives.

[Side Conversation with wife Kathryn]

Yeah, I've got plenty of them over there. Yeah, I've got about 50 of them.

JK: That's funny. Did you sing these in Glee Club or were these just ones that students would sing?

CN: Well, no. We knew them, but we'd sing them at games and stuff. We never sang them in our Glee Club.

JK: Okay, there were like school spirit songs.

CN: Now, the second page there, it's full of old-time favorites.

JK: Mm-hmm, "I've Been Working on the Railroad." I sing that one to my son.

CN: I wish we had that on whenever we get together, group singing, all of the old songs, the words and stuff. I remember that now when you go to [Capon Springs, West Virginia] and we'd sing on the porch.

JK: That's a good idea. You could sing "Dear Old Johnny Hopkins" at your next reunion.

CN: Yes, sir. Now, you said it was going to take two hours? Ten to twelve, and it's five to twelve.

JK: Yeah, we pretty much nailed it.

CN: Oh, you've got to take some pictures.

JK: Let me go ahead and turn off the tape recorder now.

[End of Audio]