

Interviewee: Charles Walter "Al" Allison III

Interviewer: Aidan Smith

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Location: Charlotte, North Carolina

Length: 1 tape, approximately 40 minutes

### **START OF TAPE 1, TRACK 1**

AS: This is Aidan Smith with Mr. Al Allison, June fourteenth, 2006, Charlotte, North Carolina. Just to get started so we have it on the tape, I was hoping maybe we could just begin by telling me a little bit about your personal background: when you were born, where you were born, a little bit about your family, that sort of thing.

AA: My name is Charles Walter Allison III. My nickname is Al because we had Charleses, so they needed to call me something different so we didn't get too confused; so they called me Al and that's what I go by. I was born in 1947, May fifteenth, and grew up in Charlotte. Early on, I lived with my grandfather in his house over on Baxter Street, which is not too far from the Belmont community. We moved into a house on Hastings Drive and Myers Park section about 1951; I was four or five years old. And I basically grew up here in Charlotte, went to Myers Park Elementary School, Alexander Graham Junior High School, Myers Park High School, and finished college at North Carolina State University in Raleigh with a degree in economics. But since 1969, my daytime has been spent here at 1201 East Tenth Street, which is on the outskirts of the Belmont community neighborhood. The office and business is Allison Fence Company. It's located at Tenth Street at Seigle Avenue.

AS: Great, and I know you've already started to tell me a bit about your family's history. Maybe you could just set us back a little bit and tell us about your family's relationship with this neighborhood, how long they've been here, and that sort of thing.

AA: Most of the history that I'm sharing with you is more past down word of mouth from my grandfather and stories from my dad that were told to me. The accuracy of them, they're probably somewhat accurate. Recently something was confirmed with the Housing Authority, that they did confirm my father signed the deed for the transfer of Piedmont Courts, but my great-grandfather, M. M. Moore, on my grandmother's side, was a doctor; he was a surgeon here in the late 1800s, here in Charlotte, Mecklenburg. He probably did surgery and barber work at the same time, most likely. The practice of medicine was certainly not what it is today and many of the doctors had to do other things in order to survive. But land was worth much and it didn't seem to be something of great value to people. There seemed to be so much land that it would never be used up or never be utilized and I think that's what happened with our family's land.

As it was told to me, my great-grandfather M. M. Moore, owned from the Little Sugar Creek up to Louise Ave and back into the Belmont area, back towards where the current railroad line is, and owned out towards what used to be Independence Blvd. This area over a period of time was condemned by the city and according to the records of my father, in 1925, the city took Piedmont Junior High School. And if you look on the front of the high school, 1925 is the year on the block on top of the school; it's still over there. In 1928, according to some records that my father provided, the city decided to pave Seigle Avenue and to put a railroad bridge, and when they did it, they assessed the taxes and they assessed the property owners along the street for the bridge and for the street.

This was about the time that the Depression was coming alone and according to my dad, it put a heavy financial burden on the Allison-Moore family. From '29 to '30, the Moore family lost heavily during the Depression and they were invested in bank stock and in mill stock. The Moore family also was involved in a mill down in Georgia. But basically, they lost a great deal of their income and their wealth like many others. The city came along and decided a little later on they needed some more land, so in 1935, they took over some more of our property and built where the city garage is currently. The present street is now called Ott Street, but it was originally called Orr Street and my grandfather, Charles Allison Sr., who they all call the old man, set up his fence business at the corner of Tenth and Seigle. But originally, it was set up in a little building with dirt floors at the corner of Orr and Seigle. A picture of that building is out in our lobby and you can see that it does have dirt floors. My father, Charles Allison Jr., negotiated with J.C. Brookshire, who was the father of Mayor Stan Brookshire, to build four family apartment houses at 801 Seigle Avenue. Laura Orr deeded the property to my grandfather if he would just pay the back taxes. No one in the Orr Estate would pay any of the taxes because of the Depression.

In 1938, my father, Charles Allison Jr., handled the sale of the balance of the Orr property to the Charlotte Housing Authority to build the very first public housing project in Charlotte. Piedmont Courts was built for whites only and Fairview Homes, which was built simultaneous to this, was for blacks only. There was still strong segregation in the United States in the 30s. The balance of the property, my grandfather in 1943 purchased for paying the taxes and bought the property that the Allison Fence Company is currently on, it's about seven acres of property, and bought it from the Orr family for six thousand dollars. It was at this time too, when he purchased it, he gave the lands to the Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church where

they built the church sanctuary where it currently stands. There were three houses in the middle block of Tenth Street between the school and the Orr property. Krauter Construction Company bought two of the houses and my grandfather bought the other house next to the school. This property was known as the Krauter Property. Excuse me, I need to go get some water.

[break in conversation]

AA: In 1948, my grandfather, the old man, and his foreman, Kathy, planted a residential real estate development for their property and they actually laid out a street that's still on the maps called Atomic Place. 1948 was after World War II and the bombs had been dropped on Japan and the word "atomic" was a new keyword that people used. Today they use the word "nuclear," but at that time, it was atomic and they called it the "atom bomb" rather than "nuclear fission" and all that stuff; people didn't know those terms. He poured several foundations and one house was built, which was located at 722 Seigle Avenue, and that house stood until approximately 1990 when we sold the property on the corner of Tenth and Seigle to the Krauters to expand Krauter Construction Company.

Also during this period of time, World War II had come to an end. Many supplies and many of the raw materials became in big demand as people came back and we got the United States back, started building houses and neighborhoods and Dilworth that had been planned and had been built. And they started the Myers Park Neighborhood and other neighborhoods were also being built around the Charlotte area. But there was surplus left over from the Army and my grandfather actually built some quanza huts, which were sort of a funny-looking building. They looked like some of these new farm buildings. They looked like a half a tin can, like a Coke can, cut from end to end and just set on the ground. It was just a crescent-shaped curved building. The thing about it is they can be set up very quickly. Due to four years of war and no

buildings had been started, there was a big demand for rental property when people began to return from the war.

During the 50s, my grandfather continued to try to produce some other buildings over on this property and he actually built a metal building at 1100 East Tenth, but it was removed two years later and the present brick building, which is the Allison Fence Office, was up the street, but 1100 was down on the corner and it was a rental property, a brick building that was originally rented to Carolina Time Equipment and my father, Charles Allison Jr., built two buildings. One was like right off the Atomic Place building and it was the very first location for a Lays Potato Chips warehouse. It was a distribution warehouse. On the corner next to the Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church, a building was built by my father and put in trust for my brother and me for our college, and it was built in the 50s, late 50s-early 60s, and it still stands and it is still a viable rental property. My brother and I have been able to utilize the rent in order to sustain our life.

During the time of, as I grew up as a boy, on the corner of Tenth and Seigle, there was a business called the Chicken Box and the Chicken Box was a very popular place where people came and bought carry-out chicken. This was before Colonel Sanders and before Bojangles and everybody came to the Chicken Box from all over the community. It was owned by a Jewish family named Shiftman. They remained good friends of my parents even after the Chicken Box reached its demise and didn't make it anymore. There is another restaurant near here called Price's Chicken Coops. It's located over in the south end area of Charlotte, over off South Boulevard on Camden Road, and it's very familiar to the Chicken Box. It reminds me a lot of that happening.

I can also remember growing up, getting on the bulldozers, and seeing this land graded when we built the Allison Fence Warehouse, which was in the 60s, which in 1959-1960 I would have been about eleven or twelve years old. I just remember riding on the bulldozer, just sort of a fun thing for a young kid to do. I don't know if they'd let a young kid get on a bulldozer today with all the rules, but I think those are important things that people remember and sometimes I think the rules don't give us the chance and the opportunity to really appreciate things. They're there for safety reasons, but sometimes those safety reasons probably ought to be broken so that someone can have an experience like I had, a young boy riding on a bulldozer. That's something I still remember.

From 1969, when I began to work full-time for Allison Fence Company, over the years, the whole Belmont community went through a transition and particularly the Piedmont Courts housing project. With the end of segregation and the fact that we had more integration, the Piedmont Courts converted from a white public housing project to a mixed public housing project to basically, and in fact in 2006, it's now being torn down, it converted to a totally black public housing project. So that was quite a transition that occurred from 1959 to the year 2006. During that period, some rough times occurred in the neighborhood and although we were just right downtown, we're within six-tenths of a mile of the new Bobcats arena and we're less than a mile as the crows flies from the center of Charlotte, the property should have become very valuable at earlier stages, but the fact that the Belmont community and Piedmont Courts and the fact that the city of Charlotte had a pretty large industrial complex here, which also housed all the garbage trucks, it sort of just kept the community from growing.

It became somewhat of a slum. Piedmont Courts got all kinds of problems and one day they ended up having a war over there. This was in the mid-80s, early 80s, and there were lots



of gunshots and the mayor stopped everything and they formed a Piedmont Courts Task Force. Although I didn't serve on it, I guess Krauter did, and Otis is a contemporary of mine, the same age as I. Otis did communicate with me and I was asked on several times to participate and did as to some input, as to what could be done to try to improve the violence and sort of the beginning of drug use that became a real problem for all of us in America and still remains a problem. That was one initial input I had.

In 1985 or '86, they formed a Belmont Community Task Force. It was headed up by a fellow who is now retired from the city named Gus Psomadakis. Gus used to work throughout the whole taskforce meetings, which probably went on for a year. He used the word "holistic," which means in order to make a change, you can't just change one or two things. You have to try to really take a stab at changing many facets or all facets to some degree. And I think that is the right approach to making some change, but there seems to be a fear of relocating people and I think that fear is understandable, but it's not realistic. If we don't relocate and we don't try to do things with any of our communities, they'll always remain stagnant and we won't change. Change could be worse and it could be better and I think that's what people need to understand, but everybody seems to fear change just for the fear itself, and not that the end results might be so much superior. That's just my philosophy toward that.

But anyway, Gus, we had a bus tour, we had the city council all come, we had almost every city department, from the streets department, from the sanitation department, the police department, engineering, zoning, and they all participated in the Belmont Task Force headed by Gus Psomadakis. We recognized in the Belmont neighborhood that there were some problems with housing that was substandard, so they had the building code enforcement people

come in and rate the housing and they basically condemned the houses that weren't suited to be habitated.

The Habitat for Humanity was part of this and the Belmont community became the largest Habitat community in the United States to my knowledge at that time, and there were more houses in a concentrated area. The interesting thing about Habitat, later on I served on another community task force called the Belmont Revitalization Task Force and I currently still have some of the notes and stuff here with me and a full file drawer of that task force. It was done very similarly to what Gus Psomadakis had done in 1985. This was done in 2002. This was headed up by Debra Campbell, who's currently the head of the Charlotte Planning Commission. She was on the planning commission at the time and it was her challenge and the challenge of this revitalization program how to come in here and how to change the housing, how to get the people to change, and what's we're going to do.

It was interesting that the community did not like the Habitat houses. I found it sort of a real interesting concept. I had been real involved through Rotary and through my church and through a couple organizations with building Habitat houses and it was just very, very interesting that the neighbors that lived there didn't particularly like them. The reason was because they looked all alike. They just looked like trailers on slabs and they wanted their front porches to look better. They wanted it to have a different approach and I think that's the right thing to do. I think the neighborhoods need some character. I believe that Habitat needs rehatat, which means you come back and put new roofs on them, just like we would do on our houses, because a lot of the owners of these new Habitat houses do have limited resources and don't have some of the things that they need.



But Susan Hancock headed up Habitat back in the 80s and it was real interesting that we built a park and our company, Allison Fence Company, helped. We donated the fencing for the park and we went over there. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, were there and they worked the entire day with the hammers and all of us. It was real interesting to be part of an event with the president of the United States. The Krauters were very involved with that as well.

The new Belmont, I think it's happening and there's a lot of changes. The Highland Creek Mills have been now converted to condos. There's the presence of the Johnston Memorial YMCA and it's still a subsidized YMCA, but the area is changing. With the Belmont Revitalization Plan, in 2002, the Charlotte Housing Authority, which is currently headed by Charles Woodyard, applied for a Hope Six grant. They'd applied for one in 1998 or so and had failed because they didn't have enough detail and they had an idea and not a plan, so they needed to have a plan. So they came up with this revitalization program in 2002. They were able to buy some properties along Davidson Street back in Belmont and they were willing to tear down Piedmont Courts. Piedmont Courts, it's half-gone as I do this interview. They want to build back market-rate housing, houses for sale.

There was a term called "regentrification" or "gentrification" that was used in a lot of these meetings, which basically meant that a community of folks were relocated and it was a very negative term, which I didn't understand either, but it seemed to be something that was more of a racial concern that the black community was being moved from their homes and their houses and that this wasn't right or wasn't good. Again, as I say in my early comments about change, it takes some courage, it takes the fear out of there. But public housing has shown that

when you put a concentration of low-income people together, regardless of race, that they have a tendency to keep evolving themselves into more low-income people.

It was just a never-ending cycle. In order to break the cycle, if they would integrate those low-income people with some market-rate housing and place them in neighborhoods and communities where there was five public housing units to maybe fifty for-sale housing, that the children in the families that grew up there wanted to have the things that the folks that were trying to achieve themselves had due to the market-rate and our capitalistic society. In other words, instead of wanting to be a member of the drug gang, they wanted to be a member of the little league team or the scout troop. I feel like that's good wisdom if it in fact actually happens. I don't know that I have proof that that happens, but I do think that it's a good attempt with good will. I think the motives are pure and I think that's the way to solve some of the problems. If you do things to create a positive environment and a place for folks to go to, maybe they'll give up their drugs and gambling and prostitution and other things that people seem to demote themselves to. I don't know if that that's the answer, but that's what I said.

AS: Great, well I want to come back to a lot of these points that you've talked about, but I wanted to go back first and see if you had any memories about growing up and what the area was like here in the 60s and early 70s. I know you mentioned there was once a textile community, I don't know if that was still active, and what the neighborhood was like at that time.

AA: Okay, in the 50s, I would come over here with my father, although the Allison Fence Company wasn't located here. We had these rental buildings that I had referred to earlier, the quanza huts, and we had a building built down there that one was a laundromat, one, I believe it was a barber shop or a beauty salon there. We had a company called Cook &

Boardman Charlotte company that was formed in our buildings and they were one of our rental tenants, and there's a company called Greger's Electric that used one of the rental buildings that are still—and Carolina Time and Equipment, these three companies were all begun in the rental buildings that were owned either by my father, Charles Allison, or my uncle, Graham Allison.

I would come over and go to the Chicken Box and we would get chicken to take home, just like we would go to Price's Chicken Coop or go to Kentucky Fried Chicken today; I remember doing that. I remember the Barnharts and they still remain good friends. James Barnhart Sr. was my father's neighborhood over on Hastings Drive and Sadler Barnhart became my father's next-door neighbor in his later years and Tom Barnhart was my Sunday school teacher. The Barnhart Manufacturing Mill is still over on Hawthorne Lane. It's still a viable textile facility. I can remember going over there and things were brought in by train and seeing the train cars being loaded with the forklifts in later days.

An interesting story too, when I came over here in the '60s and I worked part-time, is that there were no forklifts and our materials were come in a railcar train and we would go over Pecan Avenue, which is just north of here, and there was a railroad siding, owned by Morton Salt Company and they let us use that siding and we would unload tractor trailer loads of fence wire and it would tangle itself up and it was hot and it was dirty and you didn't come out of there clean and you didn't come out of there rested; you were tired when you did your job. I can remember unloading loads of pipe into our warehouse when I was sixteen, seventeen years old. I would unload them one stick at a time and they had a light oil coating on them and when I would come home, my clothes would be black just from all the oil and the soot that was on them. Once again, that was a hot, dirty job.

Some of the things that we do in the fence construction business are still sort of the same way that we did them fifty years ago. We did a hole and we put a post in it and we fill it with concrete. We still use an auger to dig the hole. You would have thought that maybe today we would have some sort of laser beam and it would bust the hole in the ground, but it's still sort of a slow process. We started originally using a tractor and before that, we just did it by hand. We still dig some holes by hand because we can't get equipment in there, but that process was— [conversation breaks off due to announcement on intercom]

I also can remember going and being involved somewhat with the Johnston YMCA— this is once again in the later, this is in the '80s and '90s—of trying to help that facility become a more viable program. Prior to one of the original Belmont revitalization programs, I had met with Jim Barnhardt and Jim Weber, who at that time was with NCNB. I met with Harry Brace with the YMCA, Otis Krauter, and I don't recall the rest of the folks, but we met at the downtown Y one day and came up with sort of a plan. That was sort of what started the whole thought of how do we change Belmont. It was going to change whether we did anything to it or not, but how do we change it and make it better. And I think that's been the emphasis that's been going on through this whole period of time.

Right now, they're planning on building some condos over there. They're going to build a trolley and bring the trolley over here across the bridge at Hawthorne Lane right up Central Avenue and that whole area will become revitalized. The Plaza Midwood area had a trolley that ran down the Plaza back in the 20s and 30s when it was quite an upscale neighborhood and it borders the Belmont community. In fact, the Belmont community leads from downtown Charlotte to Plaza Midwood. Those housing also became in disrepair and became an undesirable place to live during the 50s and the 60s. That was also the location of the Charlotte

Country Club, which is a very upscale country club in the Charlotte community, an eighteen-hole golf course and a fine facility. The houses over there today, though, are going for five hundred thousand to a million dollars and they adjoin this. This just incredible change is occurring. It's sort of like this development skipped over Belmont, but it's expanding back and they've built this freeway near us over here too. It's called the Brookshire Freeway and Interstate 277 and it sort of cut Belmont off from the city, but we do have one of the few entrances in major quarters, which is Tenth Street, it runs right in front of our office here, that gives us fabulous access to the city.

I think that the Belmont neighborhood has just a super potential to become a real fine community and I think it will end up—right now, it's basically a black community and not a white community that it once was. It was once a textile community and there's still houses back over there that were there in the 20s and 30s. They really shouldn't inhabited; they're in such poor condition. On the other hand, there's some excellent housing over there with front porches and structures. The architecture of the time, with the proper renovation, would be a solid, fine place to live. But I think it's going to take a mixture and the changing of what it looks like is going to be very important as to who moves in there. If you don't change the structure, you don't change the physical structure, you're not going to get the proper people to go there; it will remain a slum. That's the change that won't happen if you don't try to attempt to make the change. I also believe that growing up during this period of time, I personally experienced the desegregation of the school system and I went to Myers Park High School in 1963, '64, and '65, and that's when all this occurred.

I do believe it's a positive change, but I do believe today that there's still confusion between what is racial and what is racist. I think that people from all walks of life get confused,

that there are certain things that some of the races seem to be more talented in. We would use basketball for an example. For some reason they are dominating the basketball hub, whether it's college or whether it's professional, but no one seems to think that it's necessarily bad. It's certainly a racial fact that most basketball players aren't white, but it's also not racist and I think racism and racist means that it has to do with anger and hate, whereas racial simply has to do with our genetic makeup. And whatever genetic makeup is what it is and if we refer to someone as being a black doctor, it doesn't mean that we feel that that's negative because of inferiority or hate, but I think it means he is what I said, a black doctor. But we get confused with that and then we start trying to make quotas and things and I think those quotas become racist, although they're trying to make racial balance, and I think that's something that parties on all sides, whether it becomes Hispanic, whether it becomes Asian, whatever the ethnic background might be, there's nothing wrong with having an ethnic background and that's not racist, but it is racial. I think we get very confused. I think society and I think press particularly gets confused and they don't know how to report the difference between something that's racial and something that's racist. The Belmont community is mostly black today; it was mostly white.

AS: When do you remember that change taking place?

AA: In the 50s. In the 50s, Piedmont Courts was still white. When we came over here to the Chicken Box, it was still white public housing. Today I don't believe there is any white public housing period in Charlotte. I think that's a rather stern fact that's quite interesting. That's something again I think is racial, but not racist. But I think for senior housing, there is public housing for whites and all ethnic groups, but I'm not sure that there is any public housing for whites, for low-income, which is strange. I think down East, public housing is a



trailer, but we won't accept trailers here in Mecklenburg County, not in our urban community. I don't know what significance that has. Maybe people like to live in the trailers and they don't want to be in a city and that's okay as far as I'm concerned. Cities aren't absolutely everything.

One of the things I also learned as I grew up is I learned that I appreciate people's differences. I'm glad somebody wants to be a historian and write things down, because I don't. My grandfather wrote books about our family and our family history and I'm real appreciative of that and I refer to it from time to time. But I'm glad somebody wants to be an ambulance driver; I don't. I'm in the fence business and sometimes I don't know why, but I am, but I'm okay with it and I'm happy with it. Our family's been successful with it and I want that to continue to happen. But I think that the change that I've seen in the Belmont community, some of the changes that occurred is that we saw this change from white to black and now it's heading back towards a mixed-type use. I think it's all positive. I think the experience that we went through, I think we've all learned something from it. This is just a short period of time, forty years or so, and we've been through a lot, but I think the community will end up in a mixed community and I think that's fine.

[break in tape recording]

AA: 1965 because it hadn't become a problem. But during the late 60s, '65-'70, when I went off to college, the drug culture began to take over and the hippie movement came in. I always blame the hippies for the drugs, but they seemed to be, most of the hippies happened to be a white group, but there were some real strange things that happened back in those days. I don't know. The drug culture meant money and it meant power and it also meant violence and I think it's the violence that all of us abhor and the folks that are on the drugs, they're not capable of performing human functions. They just become wasted. It's a real tragedy and it

didn't exist back before the mid-60s. It was there, but it was rare that somebody had a problem with it. It certainly never became what it was. I think that that's improving some today, but there are just more people. From a percentage of people who are getting involved with drugs, I think that may have dropped as a percentage, but not as a gross number. I think it's still a real social and society problem that needs to be addressed.

AS: What have been the challenges of—whenever you need to stop, just let me know.

AA: I think you might want to talk to Bernie.

AS: Yeah, absolutely. Can I ask you just a couple more questions?

AA: Sure.

AS: What have been the challenges of running your business here in the Belmont community over the years?

AA: Allison Fence Company was formed in 1919 by my grandfather and we've been in different locations over those periods of years and one of those locations was at the location of Ott Street or Orr Street and Seigle Avenue. The original office my grandfather had was in the Independence Building, which is about a twenty-one story. It's the tallest building in downtown Charlotte and there's a picture of that building on our wall in our front office. He said he had to be in that building because he had to take the train to get to Salisbury because the roads were too rough to drive a car on and Salisbury's only about forty-five miles from Charlotte, so it just sort of shows how--. And things came in from the railcars. It was just different when my grandfather got started. By the time the war came around and by the time my father and my uncle became involved in the business, we actually located the business over on Baxter Street, which is right outside the Belmont community, and we stayed over there until 1959 when

Allison Fence Company moved to this location. At that time, we were thirty years old, forty years old.

From 1959 to 2006, we've been at this location and it's probably the best industrial location in the city of Charlotte, maybe in the state of North Carolina. It might be the best industrial location because of the proximity to Interstate 77 and Interstate 85. There's a real strong movement today to move us out of here because we don't fit the housing because we are industrial use. We have pipe and wire and bobcats and tractors and trucks. I believe we came to a total of forty-two vehicles that we have, including our sales office and administrative staff. So when you try to park all those cars and trucks and equipment, we're not necessarily the prettiest group. But because of our location, people come to work here from all over Charlotte.

Charlotte's not just the borders of Mecklenburg County. Charlotte is Gastonia. Charlotte is Huntersville. Charlotte is Davidson, Morrisville, Concord, Harrisburg, Mint Hill, Matthews, Pineville, Rock Hill, Clover. Charlotte is South Carolina; people don't realize that. John Belk, the head of Belk stores and recently retired chairman of Belk stores, once told me that South Carolina was more friendly to Charlotte than North Carolina simply because they'll build the infrastructure. If you look at Interstate 77, it's one of the finest roads in the Carolinas and do you know where it's located? It's in South Carolina. I think that the leadership in North Carolina doesn't realize Charlotte's importance as well as South Carolina's leadership does. It's not something that we should try to be challenging ourselves in North Carolina, and the politics and the jealousy, because Charlotte creates opportunities for Raleigh. Charlotte creates opportunities for New Bern. Charlotte creates opportunities for Wrightsville Beach, for the people that go there and travel there to go on vacation. I think Charlotte's the center of the two Carolinas and the reason Richardson I think was successful with his Panthers, the main reason

was he called it the Carolina Panthers and he involved both states. If we could get Raleigh, the legislature of our state, to understand that, they'd understand that—but that has nothing to do, what does that have to do with Belmont?

Allison Fence Company's success was because of this location; it's a great location. And I do think we'll have to move because I don't think we fit the change that's going to be needed. I don't want to move, but I'm willing to. I think it's the right thing to do. But it's been good to us and we've hired people from the community, we provided employment for people in the community. We've got jobs that probably will never be shipped overseas because we do service work. We work in people's yards and we work in people's businesses to help security—  
[break in tape recording]

**END OF INTERVIEW**

Transcribed by Emily Baran. April 2007