

The interview is periodically abbreviated. Refer to tape for direct quote

Interview with Jim Carden conducted by Joe McCarthy at his home 1000 block of Woolman on April 7, 2001.

Jim, where were you born? I was born in Butte January 4, 1919.

What did your parents do for a living? My dad was boss pumpman of the Pitsmont pumpman for the company for years he retired in 1945. Didn't get too much for retirement in those days. There was a job for me when I moved uptown so I put my dad to work for me as a resident watchman. That's where he stayed until he died 1957. My mother also worked for me she was a resident watch woman for the Anaconda Company.

Describe what life was like growing up in Butte? The 1920's wages were \$3.25 a day. There was no wage hour law. They had union representation. The wages were based on the price of copper. You got your raise or you went down what ever the price of copper did. I think it was two bits you would get a two bit raise.

How many years did you work for the Anaconda Company? I had thirty five years in with them. My dad had about fifty years in with them.

Jim would you describe what your duties were with the company? When I first started with them I was superintendent's clerk at the Leonard Mine. I worked for Ray McGloin, we had all the mines on the east side of the hill. My job was accounting for all that stuff. We had the SA office and diamond drills, fire fill department. Had quite a bit to do around the different departments. Had a lot of different duties. We had the employment office under our wings at that time it was the Butte Mutual Labor Bureau. I handled the unemployment. Anything to do with personnel I had to handle it.

How many years were you involved with personnel? Moved up on January 1, 1950. Was there until I retired in June of 1972. I had twenty-two years there.

They talked about rustling cards. Could you explain rustling cards and how the system worked? You had to come through our office to get a permit to run all the hiring was done at the mines. In order to get out to the mines and rustle they had to have a card. They would have to come in to us and we would issue a card to them. When the

man was hired they pick up that card and it would come back into our office. It was changed every month. We had to get new cards for the miners and everybody that worked.

How long was a card good for? One month. In 1961 of 1962 they gave the miners union seniority and the union gave the company central hiring. I had to take over all the hiring, there were no more rustling cards. I did all the hiring out of my office. I was employment manager.

John T. Shea your friend said that everyone who worked for the Anaconda Company had to have an I. D. card. Could you explain what the process was of these I. D. cards? It had their picture on it, their name, social security number, and their birth date and they had their signature on it. Whoever was the employment manager at that time he signed them. There were a lot of them made up. They were also laminated. Issued to the men and they kept them all the time.

Did they have to have the I. D. cards with them while they were at work? Not necessarily. When they would come in to rustle they would have to have their card. It was a good identification card it was also a security deal. Watchman were at all the gates during the war. You couldn't get in the mine yard unless you had that card. Thought the Japanese or the Germans could do a lot of terror around the mines. Had to have the card to get in the mine yard.

A lot of people went off to the Second World War. With copper and silver being important metals. While those men were gone what kind of replacements did they find for people who were working for the company? At one time they were taking the Butte kids out of the mines the government forced them to take a bunch of Negro people. The minute the Negroes showed up the men got pretty ticked off about it, why send the Butte kids to war, when they don't have to go they wouldn't go underground. Down by the employment office years ago was out on Broadway Street. That's where they kept them and they had to pay them until they shipped out somewhere else.

How long did this last? This lasted four months. It was hard to replace the Butte kids because they were all going into the service. It was pretty tough, but we got through it. I went into the service I was in for 2 ½ years. Missed a lot of that, but I was in on the beginning of it.

During your career you were involved with a lot of the strikes. How did you feel about the strikes? And different years of the strikes? I remember the one in 1934. There was nobody working to start with. Tons and tons of copper on hand and no price for it. Why they went on strike I don't know, but it lasted for months. That was back in the days the boss and the foreman stayed on it caused a lot of bitterness and they were around throwing chains over the transmission lines. It was a mean nasty strike.

How long did that strike last? It lasted about seven or eight months. My dad and I used to go up around the mines and play horseshoes watch picket duty. There was no work anyhow. I don't understand that strike. When I was in the service we had another strike that was just as bad the bosses and the men stayed there it was the same deal there was a real nasty deal and they were wrecking peoples houses and everything. It was just as World War II was ending. That strike went on for five, six, seven months. There was a lot of bitterness out of this strike too. The next strike I got involved in it, I had to do the union agreed to furnish maintenance men. If they had a strike they had to furnish maintenance men. That had to come through my office. The union guys worked with me and we picked up the men who wanted to get a few shifts in. There was no more bitterness or scabs. That ended that.

What year was that Jim? 1959. That was a long strike. It lasted about eight months. We had another one in 1962 it was the same where I had to furnish maintenance.

In 1967 there were quite a few had a lot of classmates where their parents worked for the mines that one lasted July until April Jim commented that it was also a bad one. What do you remember about that strike? I had to furnish the maintenance for that one also. Every strike the price of copper was down there was no demand for it. You wonder about those things. It changed everything when the union furnished the maintenance men. All the hatred was gone. Made the situation better. Ed Renouard said there would be no more scabs while he was up there. He said if the unions don't finish it they would be sued we'd be broke they had to furnish maintenance. A lot of the guys wanted to work.

You mention Ed Renouard our next-door neighbor was Bill Renouard was Ed's brother if I recall Ed was Vice-President for the company. Can you tell me anything about Ed and the things he was involved with? Ed ran the company. New York didn't give him any static. He ran Butte as he thought he should run it. If New York got on his back about anything he'd straighten them out. Ran a good operation and he took care of all the Butte people. He was a Butte guy and thought the world of Butte. He was the best guy we ever had up there. He was a Tech graduate and his brothers and kids and nephews worked for the company. You had personal dealing with him. I had lots of dealings with him. He was one of the greatest. Gene Hogan I worked for him for years. He was in charge of all labor relations and hospital contracts. Worked for his from 1950 until 1958. I went over to the unemployment office. I went over as Davis' assistant. Silicosis was real bad took over a lot of his duties. When he retired I took the job over. I was employment manager for about 14 years up to when I retired. I had to do all the hiring in my office along with keeping records on everything it was quite a job. I had to hoist the engineers, compressor men and fire men they worked for me. I scheduled them, hired and fired them. Anytime they didn't show up for work I had to replace them had all the resident watchman watchman picked out the old timers to put on service around the mines. I had a lot of people working for me at one time.

John Shea had mentioned that in the 1960's the Anaconda Company recruited miners from West Virginia an Oklahoma it was Kirby Crowley that did that. Could you explain what their plan was to recruit miners and how Kirby ended up going to West Virginia and Oklahoma? We had no miners here in Butte. That 1959 strike there were a lot of miners left here and they never came back. We were short miners couldn't get them here in Butte. Heard that there were some miners available in West Virginia and Oklahoma and those places. Kirby Crowley went down and so did Jim Davis for a while too. I used to do all the bookkeeping for them. I had to do all the advertising in those newspapers all over the country. They recruited a lot of guys from West Virginia.

As a kid I can remember the West Virginian's coming in and some of their names come to mind that went to the McKinley school Cecil Heinz, Mo Smith, they were different people.

How did they work out as miners? No good. A lot of them left town too.

Kept bringing them in every six months. They were bringing in more and more. They were out on the road all the time. Every month they would have some come in. If they didn't last they were gone. The Company set up housing for them, they bought their furniture, they staked them to their first months pay, they treated them real nice. Some of them didn't even know what a bathroom was for. Straightened that matter out in a hurry.

Changing the subject a little bit. You worked in the card office. If you could explain where the card office was located to begin with and what was its purpose? And then you moved uptown. Up where the general office is on Main Street. There's a big building behind that the card office was in there. It was on Quartz Street. In 1939 they moved way out on East Broadway. That's where the card office was. In 1951 they moved it up to the building I was in the Thornton Annex. It stayed in that building on East Granite across from the old Safeway. Claim Department was in there. There were quite a few in that department.

Many high school students in Butte held summer jobs and Jim Carden hired them. They had to be eighteen or older to get a job. State law won't permit you to hire anybody under eighteen. I picked up quite a few when they got out of high school. We tried to pick up around 200 to 250 a year if there wasn't a strike.

Did you try to hire employees sons or daughters to start with? Yes we did that we figured we owed it to the people.

There were also a lot of women who worked in the office. I hired all them too.

How many people were employed in your office? When I went over there were about fourteen, and when I left there were four.

One of the things that John Shea said to ask because so many people went through your office. How many people might go through the card office in a day? We've had up to 200 or 250. That's about all we could handle. Did you also handle the physicals? Yes. When they had to have a physical did they have to go see a doctor? We sent them

down to Dr. Shields. He did all the physicals then there were a few more doctors got in it when the Community Hospital that belonged to the Anaconda Company, they built that. We used to split the business between St. James and the Community Hospital. Dr. Talbot was in charge down there. They did some of the physicals and Dr. Shields did the rest.

Where was Community Hospital located? Right where it is now. The current St. James Hospital the company built that. The Murray Hospital ceased operation at that time. Everything moved down to the Community Hospital.

Jim, you had a close relationship with the top Corporate Executives at the Anaconda Company. What was the role of the sixth floor of the Hennessy Building? They had the lawyers up there. All the top managers. Renouard's office was up there. The Vice President was there. Down on fifth floor engineering the whole Hennessy Building was occupied. When they negotiated they had a big table on the sixth floor, that's where the negotiations took place. That was the main part of the company.

One person that you worked with that you had a direct line was Martin Hannifan. What did Martin do for the company? What was his position for the Anaconda Company? He came in as Foreman of the Kelly Mine at that time they called him Mine Foreman. He ran the Kelly Mine for quite a while. When Renouard retired he moved up as Vice President. Martin was a good guy, he treated me fine. Things started to go to hell then Block A ring they started that at the Kelly just didn't work out the grade was too low. They couldn't pull enough ore to make it pay. You're limited on pulling rock with your hoist and your hoisting capacity. They had big skips and they had three head frames up at the Kelly. They could pull 6,000 - 7,000 tons a day it was low-grade ore. That's when they went into the pit finally. The grade was the same the way it is now they are digging into the side of the mountain all the loads are coming down to the Concentrator. When we had the other pit they were coming out the bottom 900 feet and pulling the ore up. Those trucks would grind and grind and grind take them forever to get up to where they had to dump the ore. That's what happened to that pit the haulage problem too. At one time they were thinking of putting a conveyor belt in that would haul the ore back down to the Concentrator and the waste ore out to Brown's Gulch and would all be

done by belt, but they never had the money to do that. That's when they started to go out of business. They lost their shirt down in South America. In Chile that just about destroyed the Anaconda Company.

If I remember right that was in the 1960's the President of Chile was Allende. He took over the company. What did you see about that as far as the effect it had in Butte and back in the thing was worth five hundred million dollars. He took it over. I never did hear if the company got any money back on that. So they lost the whole operation. Took over all the equipment lock, stock and barrel. All the Americans that were working there, they put the run on them too. That was starting the downfall of the Anaconda Company. This happened in the early 1960's. That was a big surprise to a lot of people that that happened. Some of the people that worked for the Anaconda Company they weren't really surprised when they were dealing with a government like that. Anytime you put money in a foreign country you're in trouble. They're still doing that. Working the people for \$1.00/hour or \$1.00/day. Buying all our good from China, everything is made in China look at all the trouble they're giving us. They have their prisons, they have to work in those prisons they don't get treated like they do here.

Reportedly for many years the Anaconda Company controlled the Montana Legislature. How did you feel about the company's role in the state legislature? And laws and things that took place? Used to go over periodically with the mining operations they needed that and it worked out pretty good for the company. I don't know if they hurt many people by doing that nobody seemed to mind. Butte ran the legislature then. We didn't have to take anything from the rest of the state. I think it was all right.

In the late 1950's the Anaconda Company sold their interest in the states major newspaper to Lee Enterprises. What was the Anaconda Company's role in owning and controlling the newspapers as you recall? Jim Dickie he was in the Hennessy Building. He was over all the newspapers. They ran the newspapers and they were pretty fair about it. When I was Exalted Ruler of the Elks we'd have stuff going on. I'd go up on a Thursday night after the meeting and give Tom Wagle and Frank Quinn all the dope and we'd have the front page all the time. So the company worked out

pretty good on that deal. There could've been a lot of stories that didn't get in there that should've.

When you mention Frank Quinn who is a long time newspaper reporter for the Montana Standard do you have any interesting stories about Frank or dealings that you had between the companies. Used to deal with him quite a bit. Frank was good guy and he did all right on the newspaper, he would take care of you. Tom Wagel was a hell of a guy they treated me good. I liked Quinn. I liked Wagel too they were real good. I got to deal with everything around there eventually.

When you mention the Elks. How would you like to describe your years as a member of the Elks in Butte? I know you were Exalted Ruler. Would you like to talk about your role in the Elks? I have 58 years. Joined when I was going in the service. In 1956 and 1957 I was Exalted Ruler. When I took over as the Exalted Ruler we had Main floor of the building. We had been trying to take the whole building over for years. I called a meeting and we had about 400 up at the meeting. We had our vote and everyone raised their hands for and the others raised their hands against. We counted the votes had four or five different totals. I made everyone stand up until I tell you to sit down. We went over by about 30 or 40 votes. The others were under so we got our new building. It turned out to 1,750 members when I was exalted ruler within a year and a half we were up to 3,000 members. It was center of Butte back in those days. My brother Frank took over the serving committee, which John served on. Got to be quite and organization. When we would initiate classes I put two or three of them on the serving committee. One of the best deals in the lodge was the serving committee. They helped out when I was exalted ruler. I'd ask people to do things appoint chairman of committees all I had to do was tell them and it was done.

I'd seen pictures of when the Elks Convention was held in Butte and they had that large Elk. Was that up by First National Bank? Could you describe how that thing was put together, it was huge? They finally had to dismantle it. It was as tall as some of the buildings. A bunch of them got together and built that. They were all willing to work on it. The streetcars ran under it. It was enormous. I'm not sure whatever happened to it.

I remember seeing the pictures in various building in Butte, possibly even at the Archives of that it looked as though it was as tall as the First National Bank? Yes and it took a lot of guys to build it. It was quite a deal in its day.

With the many years that you had with the Anaconda Company I'm sure that you had dealings with the Butte Water Company? I did a little of their hiring for them. I did their hiring for them eventually. I didn't deal a whole lot with them they were a separate entity all together. I'd send the guys for a physical and sign them up and everything. We got tied in with Montana Hardware and the lumber company.

When you mention Montana Hardware that was down on South Montana that was owned by the Anaconda Company? What was its purpose what did Montana Hardware do? They bought all our supplies for us. They furnished stuff all over town. It was a moneymaker.

One summer I worked for the Anaconda Company as a mechanic tools that we purchased we bought at Montana Hardware. That was their business they kept a supply on hand of everything that we needed. The company would buy them and pay them. It was really a separate entity all together.

Did you have any dealing with the Anaconda Company the lumber mill at Bonner? No that was out of the company's range all together. The forest stuff was all a complete different outfit. The company still owned it. They owned lots of land here in Montana. I think they finally sold it. ARCO took a lot of it and sold it.

You had mentioned before with the Anaconda Company, there generosity their help to churches and various groups, do you have any specifics as to they would help in re roofing the IC Church? There was a playground that wasn't in very good shape. They completely rebuilt it for the company. Did a beautiful job on it. Father McCormick used to go see Renouard they would do anything for the church. Not only the IC but also all the other churches in Butte. Very outgoing company on donations.

People that worked for the company or lived in Butte had very favorable impression of the company as being a good

community. We used to have carpenter shops around the different mines.

Fifteen or twenty widows their husbands worked in the mines they died of silicosis. It was my job to make sure they got all that money. We made a lot of deliveries. We had a lot of guys that had silicosis. They were on oxygen and the company supplied all the oxygen for them. Miners union supplied the valves. The company supplied the oxygen for them. All they had to do was call up the rescue station they had oxygen. The company did a lot for the people.

Talking about the Con Mine. The Con was miner's consumption. That's caused by silicon in the rock. It gets into your lungs and it won't dissolve. It eventually destroys the lining of the lungs. There is no getting over that. That happens to people that work with fur coats. Furriers and barbers and those working on the highways in the dust. There are a lot of people that had it in those days. They used to drill dry in the mines. Then they brought water in. First the miners hated the water, but then none of the miners were getting silicosis. The water went over, but when they would drill a hole they would come out black with dirt. Mining was a tough job. Most of the guys that went underground stayed with mining they didn't want to do anything else. Money was good in the contract mining. If you were a good miner you made good money. A lot of them they were men that worked two, three and four shifts a week. They do more work in that time then some would do in ten weeks. You had to know who you were hiring. When I went up there we had 8,000 people on the hill. 6,500 were miners union people. The day that I left in 1972 we were down to 4,200.

There were a lot of bars in Butte and they had a lot of cash. That was so the miners could cash their checks. Packey Buckley's bar on Main Street, he would cash the checks for the miners and Cliffords bar on Broadway Street, the Butte Brewry they would cash the checks. A lot of the stores, they would have sign overs and they would sign the checks over to the stores. The stores would go up like Cavanaugh's and Amos Brothers. The Company would give them the checks, the stores would give them back what they didn't need. Board of Trade also cashed a lot of checks. Walkers and M & M Cashed checks. They had to keep a few hundred thousand bucks on hand to cash those checks. Packey had baseball pools along with cashing the checks, he

had it all figured out. He knew what to do. Packey was a good friend. The Butte Brewery fellow by the name of Brennan ran the bar my dad and I used to go over there. I would take him over to cash his check. Buy a beer and a shot they would give you a beer and a shot too. Down at the Leonard we had Bronco Pete's Bar. They used to cash their checks there too. When you got off shift you could have a glass of beer and a shot for fifteen cents, had to have your bucket in order to get it. Meaderville was quite a deal. Quite a community got to know all the people down there. I have a lot of good close friends. Mederville and McQueen are gone, McQueen joined on to Meaderville.

Probably involved to some extent when they started to develop the Pit. When the Anaconda Company purchased homes from people helped them to relocate. At first it was kind of a tight deal. They would swap homes you would get practically a new home. They would take up your old home. Went down to tear down an old house after they got a bunch of them. They started to tear down the house and found out they were tearing down the wrong house. They then would watch pretty close. Company did a lot of destruction destroying the houses that they bought. It was quite an operation.

With all the years you had with the company it sounds like they were a good company to work for? I enjoyed working for them. While they were in existence they never issued a bad check. That was something for some of these mining companies. They paid pretty good wages. They had good retirement benefits. They had hospitalization. When I first started we paid \$1.00/month for hospitalization. It covered everything. Eventually brought in Mutual of Omaha for our families and we paid \$10.00/month. We stayed under the company plan, unless you hurt yourself, you still would have been covered under the company policy. I used to have to go around to the hospitals to make sure the patients were being treated right. I would go down once or twice a week and go through the miners wards. Talk to the guys and see how they were doing. If they wanted their vacation pay I would make a note of that. I had a lot of dealings with the nuns. I handled the hospital contract between the company and the hospital. Nuns ran a good hospital.. Knew all the head nuns. That's when the hospitals were charity hospitals. I was in the hospital for thirty days with a ruptured gall bladder. When I got out I had my job I had

my pay all the time I was in there. When I got out I didn't owe a cent. The company took care of everything.

As part of your volunteer efforts you have a plaque that you were with Human Resources for twenty-four years. The Anaconda Company was generous to some of the low-income organizations? They assigned me to go over there and take care of things. During my twenty-four years I was Vice-Chairman worked with Corrine Shea and Gert Downey. Started a lot of projects. Got Headstart going. We had the weatherization program, Diners Club, summer employment for different deals, school programs in the summer. Spent between two and three million dollars on the different programs.

One of the things you are involved with is the ARCO Club. Would you like to talk about that? John Shea was the one who started it. I've been in it since the day it started. I helped out. John was my right hand man down at the Elks when I was the Exalted Ruler. He learned a lot of things that he could apply up at the ARCO Club. There were 400 members. Down to about 260. I helped the Treasurer out.

A lot of reminiscing goes on. It's nice to get together and go up there, otherwise we'd never know what is going on. Most of the guys who go there I was responsible for hiring them. Good to see everyone. Guys that worked on the hill were excellent men. Women to. Very proud to help them out. Retired from the human Resource Council in March of 1995. I was on the parish council up at the Immaculate Conception Church, sang in the choir, chairman of finances. In March of 1995 I gave up everything.