



# VERDIGRIS PROJECT

KBMF & BUTTE-SILVER BOW ARCHIVES

**AL BEAVIS (UPBRINGING)**

**The Verdigris Project**

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## **Oral History Transcript of Al Beavis**

*Interviewer: Clark Grant*

*Interview Date: June 8th, 2018*

*Interview Location: Al's home in Walkerville (1627 N Main)*

*Transcribed: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by Shawn McDermott*

**CLARK GRANT:** Well, should we do a mic check? Want to say and spell your name?

**AL BEAVIS:** Now what do you want me to do?

**GRANT:** Just say and spell your name.

**BEAVIS:** Al B-E-A-V-I-S.

**GRANT:** Are you comfortable sitting like that?

**BEAVIS:** Yes, I am.

**GRANT:** Okay, you're not going to want to sit back?

**BEAVIS:** No, I might want to pull forward. Then I can hear you.

**GRANT:** The closer you are, the better for that. Yeah. Well, thank you for having me up to the house.

**BEAVIS:** Thanks for coming.

**GRANT:** I'm sorry it took me so long to get here.

**BEAVIS:** Well, thank God you got here. I'm getting old. I might not be around next year.

**GRANT:** So how old are you then?

**BEAVIS:** 87.

**GRANT:** Okay, so when were you born?

**BEAVIS:** Born 1931.

**GRANT:** Okay. And, so like I said, I want to come up to the house a couple of times. I want to come visit with you on subsequent occasions, but today, I wanted to talk about, you know, your ancestors, your grandparents, your parents, where you were born, what you did in your first 8 to 10 years of life, what school you went to, so, what did your grandparents do? What do you know about them?

**BEAVIS:** They were farmers. My grandmother, she was from Virginia. And my grandfather, he was from Virginia, too. And their parents were from back in the Old Country. I never got to know them real good. They passed away when, in like in 1948, '49. And when the Civil War came about, that's when they relocated from Virginia to Rapid City and Piedmont and Mitchell, South Dakota, where they started their homesteads. And that's where my mother was at and she met my dad, he came from Cornwall, in 1890. No, 18... Around the turn of the century. Between the 1800s and the 1900s. He was born in 1891. My mother was born the same year. They met and dad went to South Dakota to work in the mines and he started out in the Homestake down there. And he came over, thank God he missed it, he was supposed to come over on the Titanic. He missed that one and he caught the next ship. And that's the truth.

**GRANT:** Is it really?

**BEAVIS:** Yes, it is. That's the truth. That's it. When he got here, then he went to South Dakota and he started in the Homestake Mining over there. And Butte was, in 1964, Butte was really getting with it. Turn of the 1900s and he came here and we were all born in Butte and Walkerville. I think all of us, primarily, were born in Walkerville. We never got to go to the hospital. And I don't know if he even had a midwife.

They came to Butte. My mother says when she came across Harding Way (she told me this when I was very young), she said "When I look down at Butte, Montana from the height of Harding Way, all I wanted to do was turn around and come back to Virginia." She said it was nothing but smokestacks and Butte and everything was dirt and horses and buggies and stuff like that. But they settled in, and my sister Ruby, she was the oldest. She was born in Walkerville. My brother Reg, he was next to Ruby. Then there was Eileen, and then there was I. My brother Toby ended his life at, let's see, he was about 11 years old. Down at the Dream Theater in Walkerville, that's where we used to go to the show. And he was out in the road throwing snowballs at an intoxicated doctor run over him. At that time, my dad, I think that's about when he took up drinking. He just took Toby and put him on a train. The body. And he went back to Nemo, South Dakota. That's where they had the farm, then. And then he buried back there. And then we went back.

We went back in a 1929 Overland. My dad bought that brand new. And the first thing he did with that was take the [inaudible] top off of it. It was canvas and cellophane windows and that and he made a truck out of it. The reason for the truck was to haul wood, so you had something to burn, because that's what you burned at that time. And we went back to South Dakota and I was four. Then I turned five, back there, and school came in the fall. I wasn't old enough to go, but I went and tried to go. My cousin said, "He's only five." So, I didn't get to start school in South Dakota. And we came back in the winter. I was five then, and in Overland. There was three of us. There was Matt Shelby. That was my sister's husband. And there was Ruby, and there was mom. They got to ride in the front seat. It was a truck. We got to ride in the pickup. In the back. I never did forget that. I never did forget when we opened the door at 18 Toboggan, where I was born, and went in the house. It was a disaster. It was cold.

My dad didn't believe in inside plumbing. So, if you went to the bathroom, you went out to the outhouse. If you wanted to cook a chicken or something, then you cooked it on top of wood. For your hot water, you had a side arm on the old wood stove. You'd heat that up. That would be your bath on Friday, because you only got one a week.

It was quite a life. It was good. I enjoyed it. It was more like a neighborhood and a community at that time. Like, some woman, she left her number and I called her and she said, "Was that your mother that used to make that divinity?" And I said, "Yeah, that was mom." And then there was Miss [inaudible], she used to make taffy. And then Miss Bolton, she had 13 children. She used to bake bread every day. Mom would make donuts. When you're in grade school, you would come home for lunch. Or, if school was out, then you would enjoy some donuts. Or I'd go up Bolton's because she had homemade bread and she'd give me a thick slice of bread with real butter and then I'd put a lot of ketchup on it. That was it. It was really quite a neighborhood. It's a lot different then it is around the country today. Everybody knew everybody. If you needed a bowl of sugar, you went to your next door neighbor and got a bowl of sugar. And she'd come over to your house and get a bowl of something else.

It was during the Depression. I started school in the Blaine. This is the old, old Blaine. It was three stories at that time. I started the first grade there after I fought my way down to school. Like a pecking order. And I remember one time, my best friend, he became my best friend, but we got into a skirmish down there on the corner of Main and Toboggan. He was on top of me, but I was doing pretty good. I got on top of him. Then my dad told Walt Rogers, he was the sheriff of Walkerville. Walt went over to pull me off, and dad said "Leave them go, Walt." Now that was how it was in Walkerville when you were growing up.

Then, I went to the Blaine and in the first grade I can remember my teachers and everything. I never really enjoyed school. I didn't want to go to school. There are people like that, believe me, I know a lot of them. But anyway, I told mom, I said "Mom, I don't want to go to school." She said, "Well, you gotta go to school. You might as well just make up your mind you're going." I said, "Well, I'm not going." Anyway, I did.

I graduated from the eighth grade. Something happened that was pretty interesting there. I was going in on the second floor of the school, that's where the principal's office was at. Her name was Mrs. McDonald. I went and I had to run upstairs. I was in the sixth grade. The sixth, seventh, and eighth was on the third floor. So when I passed her office and I started running up them wooden steps -- you make a lot of noise when you have a set of loggers on -- and she come out of her office and she said "You know, Al, what you should do when you grow up?" I said, "No, Mrs. McDonald, I really don't have an idea yet." She said, "You ought to go into broadcasting." I said, "Why is that?" She said, "Because you never shut your mouth."

When I was in the second grade, that was prior to the Second World War, and they had a fund going on for paper. So I got the idea that I'd like to go get papers and stuff like that

and bring them to school. They didn't excuse me because I collected so much paper. I collected enough from Josie and Danny at the candy store down by the old Civic Center, which you can see from your place. She give me all kinds of papers. She had tons of them. Her sister Josie run the boarding house. That's the old building where the so-called Civic Center that they're working on now. I'd go get all them papers. I had a slug of papers. Anyway, I got pretty good at collecting papers. Fun fact: I won the Blaine -- the flag -- that was the present you got if you won the papers. I turned around, I got a flag. Presented it to the school. That's when I was just in grade school.

[00:12:02]

Then I played football. We were playing Hawthorne. They were big kids. And I'm a runt anyway, but I'm playing left end, and we were playing for the championship. Mrs. McDonald was up in the viewing stand. She's watching all this going on. I run around that east/west end. Some kind of a play. One of them guys from the Hawthorne hit me in the belly. I went down. The next thing I know, I looked up, and here's Mrs. McDonald looking down at me. She says, "Al, are you alright?" That was my football career.

But you know, we didn't have stuff available like kids have today. You'd go out after school and you'd play marbles. I had a Steely. And so did other guys. You'd play marbles and then you'd go home and you'd eat dinner, if you had anything to eat. And then you would go outside and you'd play kick the can or hide and seek with the girls and the boys. You'd put your head up to a telephone pole and you'd count. "I see you," and then you run around trying to find them all. That's the games we used to play.

I got sick and tired of eating chicken. In fact, I don't like chicken anymore. I haven't for a long time. Because when it came Sunday, that was the meal of the day. That's when Mom would walk from Toboggan Street, over to Manza's Market, get a chicken with the head still on it and the feet still on it and the innards still in it. She'd bring that thing home and she'd open the wood stove, and she'd burn them pin feathers off of it. She cleaned it and cut the head off and save the gizzards and the heart for the gravy. You'd have chicken and dumplings. My dad was strict. You stay at the table until he told you to get up. Then, you'd listen to Jack Benny on the radio, and the Inner Sanctum Mystery, the squeaky [inaudible]. Stuff like that.

Go out and play a few games and enjoy yourself and then you'd come in and maybe have, if you're lucky, have an orange, if there was an orange around. I can remember my mother and I. She was a chamber maid. That's when my dad died. He died when I was 11. He died at the Bella Diamond, up where the monuments at. Anyway, we'd walk from Toboggan Street, down Main Street, and you know where Bob and Bruce's pawn shop is at, that's the old VFW, and prior to that, it was something else, but back in the '30s, it was known as the relief area. I'd go in there and sit on a pack of potatoes until Mom got the allotment. Then, we'd walk back up Main Street, but you're loaded this time. You're going uphill. There was never enough, anyway, but you made do with what you had.

She had eight kids. Reggie, he went in the Marines in 1942, right after Pearl Harbor. I don't know, it was a tough deal. I always wanted to be a miner. I don't know why. My dad was a miner, but I don't use that excuse. I think the excuse I used was that I didn't want to go to school. It wasn't that I was dumb.

I started early in life working. Like, when I was 12 years old, I worked at a pharmacy after school. One thing I did: I was a bellhop. That was down at the Acoma Hotel. That's where the Acoma Lounge or whatever it is now, on East Broadway. That was pretty neat. She gave me a uniform. It fit me, somewhat. It was an army uniform with the US buttons and that on it. It was a uniform. I'm only that tall. I was getting 28 bucks a month. When I had time to eat, I went down to where my sister worked at a donut shop. It was called the Rialto Donuts. She was down there, so I would get down there and have a couple of donuts and a glass of milk or something. I went in there one day and I said, "Ruby, did you know that Cy Holman got run over?" He was a great big heavy-set policeman. City police of Butte. She said "No." He used to come in there and eat, and he wouldn't pay for it. I said, "Ruby, he got run over." She said, "Well, did they back up to make sure they got him?"

I can remember all that stuff. I remember we'd go to the show. There was four show houses in Butte and one in Walkerville. We'd go to the show and one guy would pay to get in and he would go into the show house and he'd go up to the exit and open the door and the rest of them would pile in there and hope they didn't get caught. When that Dream Theater was open, that was pretty neat.

**GRANT:** Where was that?

**BEAVIS:** That was right down at, let's see, Toboggan, on the corner, not on the corner of Toboggan, it was a little bit to the right of that and then on the west side. Would you know where Powers lives?

**GRANT:** No.

**BEAVIS:** There's only a couple of houses down there. You can't miss it.

**GRANT:** Okay.

**BEAVIS:** You can't miss it. But it's gone now. It was a big building. They had a projector in there, one of those old time ones. It used to come on with Bugs Bunny eating a rabbit and saying "That's all, folks!" Porky Pig. Stuff like that.

Anyway, one time I went to that show on Wednesday, and I never forgot it. "Mom, give me a dime." Nickel a show and a nickel for a bag of popcorn. We went in there, and what was playing? The Hunchback of Notre Dame. The bell-ringer. I don't know, I'm just small. Scared the heck out of me. So then I used to hang out with the kids in Centerville because I used to go to the Blaine. Well, I used to walk down there after dinner. I'd go down and play with the game. I'd go home and it would be dark. Well, you know where

the bell tower is for the St. Lawrence church? I had to get on the other side of the street. I wasn't walking by that bell tower because I thought the old hunchback was in there, going to ring that bell. That's the truth. I never forgot that.

Then, an interesting thing did happen. It was on a Sunday. I was getting ready to go to the matinee, with Lone Ranger and Tonto. High ho, silver, and away. I'm getting ready to go to the show, and here comes Finkle Dunn down the street, down Toboggan. He said, "Hey, you want to buy a pup?" I said, "Finkle, I ain't got no money. I only got a dime." He said, "That's all I wanted was a dime." I said "Well, I'd have to go ask my mother if we can have a pup or not." So, I went in and asked Mom and Mom said "Yeah, you can buy it. But just remember, you're not going to the show today." I liked the dog. I had him for a long time. I think was about 8 when I bought that dog off of Finkle.

Off the record, I went into my mother, and I showed her that dog. He's about that long. I said, "Mom, I got the dog. Here he is." I showed it to her. She was from Virginia. A rebel. I said, "Mom, what should I call him?" She says, "Call him a nigger. He's black." So, what the hell? I called him Nigger. When I went out to call my dog, I said "Here, Nigger, here, Nigger, here, Nigger, here Nigger." That's what you're supposed to do. You wouldn't do that today.

When I got twelve years old, like I said, I was working. I wasn't making a lot of money. That had to be when I was about fourteen or something like that. I went to work for Hansen's Packing Company. You remember Hansen's Packing? We were canning horse meat and gravy. I think part of it went to the horse meat factory up on Park Street. These people ate horses. I never ate any horses, I don't think. I probably had, but I don't remember it. That's what I did. I was up there packaging that stuff. We'd send it to Korea, across the pond. Hard work, you know?

[00:22:55]

Especially when they shook hides. I'm about that tall, and you're working with guys that are as tall as you, you know, and you get into them railroad cars and they got a railroad car full of hides that are wrapped up. All the horses and cows they killed. Well, this is it, we're going to shake hides today. And that's what you did. There was six guys on a hide, two on the back, two on the front, and two on the middle. You take that hide and you salt it down and they'd rewrap it. That wore me out. Anyway, I got overtime that time. I had \$35, anyway, for that pay period. So what did I do? I went out and bought myself a horse.

Now I'm living down on 18 Toboggan Street and I got a horse. Mean. Just a mean Roman nose horse. I got it off of a guy, name was Goodman. He lived out by Buxton. That horse had run away. And he run off from where I lived on Toboggan and he run all the way to... and I'd have to go out and get him and walk back with him. I'd get off him, he'd throw me off. No [inaudible] that the rodeo crowd that they thought they were, they're going to ride that horse. They threw all them off too. But it run away, back to Goodman's, and I went out to Goodman's and she said "Well, we got rid of that horse." I said, "I paid \$35 for that



horse from that guy." "Oh, did you buy it?" So I'd been taken. It wasn't my horse. I got another one, after that. I was a little older then.

**GRANT:** In South Dakota, what did your grandparents farm? What was that like?

**BEAVIS:** Most of it was corn. You know, I can't really remember a lot about South Dakota. I can remember specific things about Dolly Byington. She was an Indian. There was Indians in Piedmont. That was right out of Rapid City. North of Rapid City. We stayed there for, I really can't say how long, but I remember some things from back there. What my grandfather did when he was back there. He had some hogs and this is in the old days. So they brought that hog into the barn, they hung him up with his back feet. I'm watching him, and I don't know how they killed him, if they stuck him or if they cut his throat or what, but they dumped in 55 gallons of hot water and drug him out there. When he come out, he didn't have a hair on him. He was pure white. Then they butchered it. You'd never tasted bacon like that. We had bacon the next morning and it was [inaudible]. Bacon the next morning, and it was thick sliced, and it was bacon, no fat hardly on it, it was lean. Then my mother and my grandmother, they were churning butter. I watched them do that. Then I watched them make lye soap. That's what you washed with. If you didn't have lye soap, you didn't wash. That wouldn't have bothered me, no. Like that time I tried to get into school and was turned down. Then I had relations in Hill City, South Dakota. I had relations in Mitchell, South Dakota. They just migrated all over the place. I had a great uncle that was a colonel in the Civil War. I should have got closer to Mom and got into all this stuff at the time. She had a spinning wheel. She'd talk about that stuff, spinning yarn. Pretty interesting.

**GRANT:** When you say your mom was a "rebel," can you elaborate on that?

**BEAVIS:** Well, she was born in Virginia. That's rebel country. Confederate. You know, I never did really get close to Mom on that, but they must have had something like a plantation. They had slaves, I know that, because they took one of them and hung him up from a well and was gonna drop him down it. So, they were in that era when slavery was going good. I really can't remember a heck of a lot about that. I went back there in 1946. In fact, I hitchhiked back there. I stayed with them in Rapid City. They'd moved in. They were old, then. I moved in with them. Stayed there for a few months, then I got tired. I said, "I'm going to go back to Butte, back to Walkerville." He said, "Well, what are you going to do?" I said, "I'm gonna go mine, underground." He said, "My God, Albert. Don't you know that you'll be underground long enough after you're dead?" He tried to make that a point. We still got people buried back there in Nemo, but as far as it goes with the Confederacy, you know, I never really got into that. It was tough times and we weren't interested in that stuff. We were trying to look and see where the next meal was coming from. And it did come, because Matt Shelby, my brother-in-law, gave me a .22. I was still in grade school.

The Badger Mine over the hill, it was going full blast. I used to go over there, and when the men went down the mine, and the timekeeper went inside, then the rabbits were running around. Brown ones, pretty ones with pink eyes. I'd bring a rabbit or two home.

That would be the meals. If you didn't have that rabbit, sometimes, there wouldn't be a meal. I helped out a little bit.

**GRANT:** You said your dad was mining in South Dakota? Is that what you said?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, he was at Homestake.

**GRANT:** And so what is that mine?

**BEAVIS:** Homestake. Homestake Mining. Gold. What is it? Homestake Gold Mining Company.

**GRANT:** It's gold?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah.

**GRANT:** Is it underground, or?

**BEAVIS:** Yes, it is. Lot deeper than Butte.

**GRANT:** Oh.

**BEAVIS:** Before they shut down, he was a guy that got run out of there by Poker Jane.

**GRANT:** Really?

**BEAVIS:** I think that was her name. Yeah. No. She didn't. She run him out of the saloon. That was it. What the hell was her name? Anyway. He got run out of South Dakota and he come to Butte. The way I heard it, anyways, they took some carbide and mixed some water with it at a lake, and it became an explosive, and that's how they caught fish. Unbeknown to them, there was a game warden around there, so. That's what [inaudible] does. There used to be an old joke about carbide. He'll give you a can of carbide and all the water you can drink. I wouldn't went back to South Dakota if it wouldn't been for Toby getting killed down at the Dream. We wouldn't have gone back there.

**GRANT:** And how old were you when that happened?

**BEAVIS:** I was four. I can remember that because we were down on Toboggan Street, and it must have been just before he got killed. Because I can remember riding on his back. You know how you ride on your brothers? He was down on all fours and I was on his back, and he was riding me around the kitchen. I fell off. Mom scolded Toby. It wasn't very long after that that Toby got killed because Mom went crazy. She just couldn't take it. And that's why we ended up in South Dakota for a while. But Dad was going to go back there to do some ranching. A foreman. No way. He headed back for Butte. We come back in the Overland. That would have been in 1936, because in '37, I started school.

**GRANT:** What makes you say that your dad strict?

**BEAVIS:** My dad was strict. He was from the old country. He wore a white shirt every day of his life. And suit pants. He was well-dressed, for a miner. But he was from the old country and he had one of them Cousin Jack hats, you know, that you wore down on the street. I was down there with Mom. We went down to Butte one time. The men always walked in front of the women. The women walked in back. They're getting over that today. The man is starting to walk in the back. But anyway, he tipped his hat. "Good evening." He was strict. But he was a good guy. He was fair. In fact, he bought me a BB gun one time. I thought that was pretty damn good. I got a BB gun. I went out and they used to have these old arc lights that had the big round lights in them, and hung from a pole, and I'd take that BB gun out there and shoot that light out. He told me, "Al, if you go out there and shoot another one of them lights out, I'm going to break that BB gun over the rock. It's going to be gone."

So, the power company came out and put another light in, and I went out that night, and shot it out. That was the end of the BB gun.

**GRANT:** He did break it?

**BEAVIS:** He did break it. [Inaudible] was a friend of mine, he had one of them flyers, a sled that you get behind and push it and steer it like this. He was coming down Toboggan, and I was out on the porch, and ride past me on that sled and I had my BB gun. He's bent over, you know? Hey, temptation. So I let go with the pellets. And he let go. We used to have a wooden toboggan, and that's what we used to come down Toboggan Street on it, because there wasn't even car. You'd go climb to the top and [inaudible] and some big guy'd be steering it, you know, and ten or twelve of us would be behind him, and we'd ride all the way down the Main Street, and then we'd push it back up to the top of Toboggan. None of this plastic stuff.

**GRANT:** Where did your dad work here in Butte?

**BEAVIS:** Underground.

**GRANT:** At various mines?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. So many mines, like the Mountain Con, the Lexington, The Belmont, the Badger, the Stewart, Anselmo, most of them were more or less compacted together. Then you had outlaying mines like the Orphan Girl and Orphan Boy and that. He usually spent most of his time in this vicinity. You're close to home, you know, you'd walk. When I started in the mines, that's what I did. I walked. Everybody walked. Better than fighting at a parking place. If the car made it in the first place. He give me that car. What was I, eight, nine? He said, "When I'm gone, Al, you can have that Overland." We had a gas station in Walkerville, then.

**GRANT:** And where was that?

**BEAVIS:** You know Manza's Groceries? It was directly south of that in the middle of that roadway. You see, that isn't Main Street. It was right there and had one of those round things, and you could look up at it and it filled, gravity-fed, and you'd fill your gas tank that way. We had a hamburger [inaudible] and we had seven saloons. I made it to all of them, too. I got thrown out of them. Not old enough, you know. I don't know, that gets me to about twelve.

**GRANT:** And what was your dad's name?

[00:36:51]

**BEAVIS:** Stewart Seaford Beavis. The opposite of Butthead. You'd never forget it. That's what I'd tell, if I order something, go on the internet, they say "What's your name?" and I say, "It's the opposite of Butthead, you won't forget it." That's a laugh, you know. In fact, my daughter-in-law, she was from Maryland, and she went back east when Butthead became popular, and approached the producer of that, and read him off. She asked him, "Why did you ever call him Beavis anyway?" We had relations back there but there wasn't very many Beavis. Dad's brother was located back there somewhere. He said, "Because I knew this Beavis and he was really a card." That's how we come about Beavis.

**GRANT:** And you said you were four or five when Toby died.

**BEAVIS:** Toby died when I was four.

**GRANT:** That changed both your parents. Your dad started drinking then.

**BEAVIS:** Heavy.

**GRANT:** How did your mom change?

**BEAVIS:** She just changed. She wasn't happy and jovial anymore. In fact, she took the clothes that he got killed in and put them in a steamer trunk. And it was still there when she turned 94. And Dad died in 1942. That's when I was 11.

**GRANT:** How did he die?

**BEAVIS:** He died over at the Bella Diamond. I don't know if he had a heart attack or something. He had my dog, Nigger, with him. The dog came home. He didn't. He told me one thing. He must have known something was going to happen that night because mom had a good friend, Sarah Woodthorpe, and Dad was working graveyard. So Mom had cooked a big dinner. She put a big ham and homemade biscuits and cocoa and real butter and potatoes and whatever went with it. Dad come home from all over the street, and he sat down to eat, and I had a cup of cocoa and a biscuit with some ham on it. I never forget

that stuff. So then I went in and he said, "You better get to bed." He tells you to go to bed, you went to bed. He never beat us or nothing. Just stern. You knew he wanted you to do this, and now. So you went in and put your pajamas on and you went to bed. Then, he came in the bedroom and I was laying there and he said, "Well, I'm heading out to work." I said, "Well, bye, Dad." He said, "Al, it ain't goodbye. It's just so long." I never did forget that. The next morning, when I looked out the kitchen window, east, toward the Bella Diamond, the dog came down but he never. You don't forget stuff like that. It stays with you. You learning anything?

**GRANT:** Absolutely.

**BEAVIS:** You'll write a book. You should. No. Nah.

[00:40:24]

**GRANT:** So, 1942. Was that the same year, you said, that one of your brothers joined the Marines?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, Reg.

**GRANT:** Same year your dad died?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah.

**GRANT:** And so, where did he end up going?

**BEAVIS:** Well, he was in four major battles. They give you a little star, up here. He was in four major battles. He was in Guadalcanal. He was in Iwo Jima. That's where the end came to the third Marine Corps, was in Iwo Jima. He was in that battle. Guadalcanal, and a couple of others, I don't know what they were. Heat of the war, because he went in right after Pearl Harbor. He went into boot camp and they sent a picture of him home in his platoon, and he earned his boot camp eye was [inaudible.] I always wanted that picture. I don't know what the heck happened to that. He did the four years. When he came back, he ended up in China, when the Communism was [inaudible] in China. That must have been '45 or right after the war, I guess. But he ended up over there, and they wanted him to re-up, and he said, "If you leave me in China, I'll re-up." They said, "No." They didn't, so he came back and he went down to Parris Island where there was training camp, and he was buck sergeant and he was training the Marines. He did that, he got out, and he came home. Probably wishes he didn't because there was a woman from Flushing, Long Island chasing him around. He didn't want to get married, but he did. That shows you them women. They don't walk behind you.

**GRANT:** Did you ever talk about the war with him?

**BEAVIS:** Wouldn't talk.

**GRANT:** Wouldn't talk about it.

**BEAVIS:** No. He seen some awful stuff, though. He was in the mortars. He was in that. He was -- that beach, I don't know, three or four times, he was in an invasion. But I can't remember the other two. Guatemala. Or, not -- that's where I was at. Guadalcanal. I can't remember the other two. Four stars, he had. We had one hanging in the doorway. Blue, red, white, and blue with a gold star on it, showing that you had somebody from your family in the Second World War.

**GRANT:** Did you ever watch news reels at the Dream Theater?

**BEAVIS:** All the time.

**GRANT:** Okay. Were you worried about him?

**BEAVIS:** Warner Brothers. That lion that barked. [Roars.] Then he come running and they tell you the news. Intermission. That's when you went and got your popcorn or you came home, if you's at a matinee. You could run home and get a roast beef sandwich. I did lots of that. Then run back.

**GRANT:** Yeah. Were you ever worried about him?

**BEAVIS:** All the time. Mom was really worried about him. He did help Mom out when he went in. He send an allotment home. I think it was whatever he could send. Mom, when Dad died, she was on social security. That helped out. They give you all of ten dollars a month.

**GRANT:** When he returned home, did he mine, or?

**BEAVIS:** Reg? He didn't mine. He didn't want to be a miner like his stupid brother. He worked on top. He was a topman. All the time. He was active in the union. He went through all the chairs in the union. He was the last person laid off at ARCO, for the Butte Miners Union. He was the oldest one on there, when he got laid off. He was a janitor, then. There wasn't anybody else around to represent. He told me, he came off of that cage and he said "Al, you better not be doing that contract mining. You got to get out of there and get a day's pay job." I didn't pay no attention to him. I was doing my own thing.

**GRANT:** And your other siblings, you said there's eight of you?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. There was Ruby, Reggie, Eileen, Toby, me, Frank, my brother, and Bonnie. That's seven. And she lost one in childbirth. They have big families around here. McEwans had 17. Lito up here, he was trying to beat McEwan. He never caught up. Fred wouldn't put away with that. He'd nave another one. There's some big families.

**GRANT:** Should we take a break?

**BEAVIS:** Don't bother me.

**GRANT:** Okay, yeah.

**BEAVIS:** We'll get you a cup of coffee.

**GRANT:** Okay, sounds good.

**BEAVIS:** Come on. Sugar and cream?

**GRANT:** Sure, if you don't mind. Yeah, why not.

**BEAVIS:** Why not.

[Here, some small talk while Al makes coffee.]

[00:48:04]

**GRANT:** We were talking, before our break, about your siblings. I kind of wanted to go down each one. Could we talk about each sibling? Maybe starting with Frank, who is still alive? Your brother who lives here, too?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah.

**GRANT:** Okay, so he is younger than you?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, he's 84.

**GRANT:** And, when you guys were growing up, did he go to the same schools, grew up in Walkerville?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. He graduated from the Blaine, too. He went to Butte High. Then he went to work in the mines. He went to work at the Diamond Driller. In fact, last year I just bought four bricks at the monument. I bought one for my dad, one for my older brother, one for myself, and one for Frank. And then I put on two of them, on mine and my dad's, I put "Contract Miner." I could put a hell of a lot of stuff on there. You know, management and everything, but that's what I liked. So I put down "Contract Miner" on us and on Reg, I put "President of the Miner's Union, Number One, Solidarity Forever." On Frank, I put "Diamond Drill." So we're all up there, on a brick.

**GRANT:** When we first started talking, you mentioned how the neighborhood used to be more cohesive.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Community, you know?

**GRANT:** Can you describe more of that?

**BEAVIS:** The neighborhood. Everybody knew everybody. A lot of people would help you out. Especially, when I was younger, and that was during the Second World War, and Jimmy Shea was mayor and Ralph Hawking was the sheriff of Walkerville. I'm walking down on Dunn Street, going the other direction than the house, and Jimmy Shea pulled over and says "Where are you going? You know the curfew just rang." I said, "I'm going home." He said, "You'd better, or you're going to jail." The jail is still down the city [inaudible.] Did you ever see it? It looks like it's out of the 1800s and Bill Hickok and Wyatt Earp. It's got a little hole you look out. It scared the death out of me, being that young. I headed home.

**GRANT:** What other families are up here that were close with your family?

**BEAVIS:** At that time, years back, we're talking about, there were some Marquieros. Robert, we got in a tough down there at the corner of Toboggan and Main, going to school. His brother Tommy was kind of ornery, but he was also more or less like on the [inaudible]. He liked classical music, played the piano, classical stuff. But he also went on to become the first doctor that did a kidney transplant. He was ornery enough to do it. He was. He did it, and people are still alive that he transplanted, you know, Marino. Marinos, they lived in Walkerville. The house is gone now. Tommy invited him up to Spokane, I think, and he fixed his kidney up for him. Took it out.

**GRANT:** Speaking of doctors, the doctor who was driving the car that killed your brother. What became of him?

**BEAVIS:** You know, I don't know. I'm only four years old. I didn't really get my memory until I turned five.

**GRANT:** You don't remember him going to jail?

**BEAVIS:** No, no. He may have.

**GRANT:** You said earlier there were seven bars in Walkerville?

**BEAVIS:** Yes, there were seven bars, and about the same number of grocery stores.

**GRANT:** Right. What were some of the other bars?

**BEAVIS:** There was the Hilltop. Right down where Manza's, that's the Friendly Tavern. It was called something different at that time. And then down from that was The American House. Across the street from that was Patrone's, and down farther, there was the Hitchin' Post, and then there was The Bulls, that was Shawnberg's, that's about seven, I think. And then there was Maudini's. That was during the bootleg, and that was down west of where I lived on Toboggan Street. And she used to make bootleg. A lot of the guys used to come off of work and they'd go down Maudini's and have a beer. She'd drink it out the barrel. Well, she got the barrel empty one time, and the guys looked in the



barrel. What's in there? A dead cat. And that's the truth. That shut Maudini down for a little while. They went over the Hilltop, I guess.

My dad, he was from England, and they invented the pasty. The lunch bucket underground, at that time, was round like this here. There's two compartments in it where you could put your lunch and where you could put your drink. I don't know, let's see, I must have been about ten years old. I could go in the bar but I couldn't get served. I could get a bottle of beer to take home to my dad to take to work that night. So I'd go over and get his beer.

[00:54:46]

**GRANT:** And the grocery stores? I've only ever heard of Manza's.

**BEAVIS:** Oh no, there was this rock building that's on the corner? That was the mercantile, and that's where you could go in and try just about anything you wanted. Across the street from there was a 7-Eleven. Down a little bit farther there was Manza's. Oh, wait a minute, you gotta go back. There was Danny's, too. Danny's was across from the Hilltop Bar. So there was one, two, three there. And then you go down a little farther and there was two on Daly. One of them was -- I don't know if they were Serbian or what, something like that -- they had special stuff in there. Two women owned it. On the other side of town, down at the bottom, by where you go up to Dewey's point, there was, on the south side there, the house is still there, there was a little candy store. They served groceries and non-perishable stuff. But why would you want to walk way down there when you live up here. You go to Manza's. Frankie Manza was a great guy. He packed a lot of people during the Depression. Lost a lot of money.

**GRANT:** Oh.

**BEAVIS:** Never got paid back.

**GRANT:** Would he sell on credit?

**BEAVIS:** That's one mistake he made.

**GRANT:** Really.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, but he was just that way. But they came from the old country, the dad and Angie Manza. She was the mother. There used to be a potbellied stove in the store and us kids, during the winter, we'd go down there and hang around the stove and talk to Angie, until the bus came. Then we'd go out and hook the bus. Take a free ride on the back. Then, I can remember the caretaker of the Mouton Reservoir out there, he used to come into town with a sleigh, pulled by horses. And he'd pick up his groceries and head back out. Wouldn't hook him. He's too slow with horses.

**GRANT:** How distinct were Butte and Walkerville? Were they really separate cities entirely?

**BEAVIS:** You take Butte, now. They were incorporated in 1890. 1889, pardon me. You know, I can't find out what happened. Walkerville was incorporated in 1890. A year apart. You know, I can't get the information. Gibson come out, one time, and he had a little bit of information that a bunch of women, the people that walk in the back, they were going to call it "The Rainbeau." The reason for that was because of the rainbow vein in the Alice Pit, here. But I can't find out why they incorporated. It was probably named because of the Walker brothers out of Salt Lake and that. Why it because incorporated, there must have been a feud going on between the Copper Kings or something. Either Butte wanted to pull away from the Hill or the Hill wanted to pull away from Butte. I'd say the Hill wanted to pull away from Butte.

**GRANT:** And so, as a kid from Walkerville, would you catch hell if you went to Butte? How different were the two towns?

**BEAVIS:** You know, there really wasn't that much difference. A thing I used to say: the kids in Centerville, they had stronger arms, because we threw rocks downhill and they had to throw them back up. There's a lot of that stuff. Everybody was a community. It was a neighborhood. It was strong. There was only certain people that they'd even allow to come in. Like the blacks? I can remember a little bit about guys talking about the Granite Mountain Mine Fire. I can visually see that stuff happening anyway. When we go through mining, I'll explain that stuff to you. In fact, there was some people that lost a man. The Mitchell's. They lost their father to the fire. Russel Rintilla, up here, he lives in that little house with the big equipment packed around it. I don't know if it was his uncle. He's on the stone up there. He was lost in the fire. That's pretty interesting. Underground mine fire.

**GRANT:** It is. Did you, as a kid, take trips to Butte? Did you shop at the department stores, or anything like that?

**BEAVIS:** Well, I used to go down with my mother, because she was a chambermaid. Richard Gibson, he had a piece in the paper not so long ago about the Butte Hotel. That was a big hotel. I can remember that thing. It was big. Mom was a chambermaid there. I go down, they had a big barroom in it. It was like the old time, turn-of-the-1900's. I walked in there one day and I was going to see mom. I went over by the bar. Here's this guy sitting at the bar. I'm just a kid, six, eight years old? I'm looking at that guy. He's sitting at that bar and he's got a shot glass in front of him here, full of whiskey. You'd think it was glued to the bar. He couldn't get it to his mouth. He couldn't get that glass up there. I don't know if he ever did.

**GRANT:** And you remember that? That image?

**BEAVIS:** I remember all that stuff. I can visually see that Butte Hotel. I was in it.

**GRANT:** Where was it?

**BEAVIS:** You know where Montana Power Building is at? Across the street from that parking lot? You know, there's bars all over. There's two hundred and something bars in Butte. Those bars. There's Cliffords, and all kinds of different bars. They were pretty well packed. There was a lot of people working. I can remember a lot of them.

**GRANT:** Would you ever walk down there by yourself, as a kid? Go past Centerville?

**BEAVIS:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, it wasn't like that. You might get in a fight, but, when you did get in a fight, you'd fight and it was over. You'd forget about it. Go about your business and fight somebody else, maybe next week, or something. I remember one time, I was going to school and this Leslie Jones, he was a big kid. I was in fifth or sixth grade. He used to put a hand on me once in a while. He's big. When I was going home. So I told Mom, I said, "That Leslie is picking on me, all the time." She said, "I'll tell you what to do. You look around. If you find a big stick, you take that stick and go after him. If you find a rock, get that rock." So I was thinking about it one day. I went down to school and was coming out, and I had a rock right in my fist. I saved it. Les is coming out. He says, "Hey Beavis," like that. I said, "Yeah, Les, what?" He said "Come here." Bully. I went over to him, looking at him like that. He said "What have you got in your hand?" I said, "I ain't got nothing in my hand." He reached over to take my hand, and I let that go and that rock in my fist, and boom, right in his eye and blacked his eye. He's holding his eye like that, and I'm beating it for home. My oldest sister and Ethel Cuisick, they were in the Blaine at the time, they were in the seventh or eighth grade, and I was in about the fourth or something, I don't know, when I got Les. I said, "I can't go back to school, he'll really beat me this time." Eileen and Ethel said, "We'll walk you to school." And they did. And Les never bothered me again. Then it was over, you know. At night, that was over. It was a new dawn. I was either going to have a black eye or someone was going to have one.

[01:04:28]

They called them the "good old days."

**GRANT:** Is that how you think of it?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Yeah, it's better than it was today.

**GRANT:** Really.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Kids had to get out and let's say, grow up and become adults. Be responsible for your actions. If you look at the kids today, all kids are good. Not some are better than others. Just the way that they're made. Some got the good clay, some didn't, did they? I don't know. But it was different. You were in need. There were a lot of people on relief. I can remember one time, Red Cuisick, he became a counselor at Butte High. Beans [Inaudible] became the principal. Beans told his wife, "Them guys used to go to the Hilltop and drink." That's when we went to the service. He said, "I never drank." He was the biggest. I told him that at the Walkerville Centerville Days over at the Mountain Con last year. I said, "You told her that, Beans, eh?"

He used to raid gardens. I was a little guy and Reggie was about that tall and Ray Sullivan and the rest of them, well they pushed me over the top of the fence. I'd have to go in and get the carrots and hand it to them. They'd bring me back over the fence. Then we'd go. Halloween, we weren't really destructive. Everybody had an outdoor toilet. We'd dump a few of them over. We never would have tore anything apart. Well, nobody had anything anywhere to tear apart.

**GRANT:** Was that hard on your parents, being on relief?

**BEAVIS:** Was it hard?

**GRANT:** Did they feel bad about accepting it? Do you know what I mean? Was there any pride involved?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. There was. You know. Some guys were still working in the mines, like Bernie [inaudible]. Most of the guys were out. If they got a job, it might be for a day or two. But a pair of Levi's only cost a couple of bucks. Three dollars. I don't know. It was just good. People got to know one another. You trusted them. You could trust them.

**GRANT:** You don't feel that you can, today? Trust your neighbors?

**BEAVIS:** What neighbors? I don't even know half of them anymore. I thought when I grew up in Walkerville, by the time I grew up, I'd know everyone in town. Now, I don't know anybody. They're all dead or... But you know, when you're going through adolescence, you want to be an adult. "When I get 18 years old, or 17... Wait until I get to be 21..." Then you wonder why the hell you ever wished to be 21, when you're 87.

You look at a guy when you were 40 years old. I was telling my brother the other day, I said "What do you think when you're looking at a guy that was your age, Frank? 84? And you were only 40."

And that's how they look at us today, probably. But Frank's still working. He works for the Forest Service.

**GRANT:** Really?

**BEAVIS:** Well, he can. He's my young brother.

**GRANT:** I'm just curious for my own reasons. The church building, when you were a kid, do you have memories of going there?

**BEAVIS:** Oh, yeah.

**GRANT:** Can you share some of those?

**BEAVIS:** Well, it was Sunday. It was 11:00 in the morning or something. We were young. They had a like a chaperone to take the young kids down into the basement. They had games down there that you would play. The adults would be up in the upper part. Then when you got older, you would naturally go to church. My mother was a Southern Methodist. That was the Methodist church. But I wasn't. When my grandson, Charlie, down at the Trinity -- no, the one in Centerville, the Mount Bethel. I'm 50. They were getting baptized, so I got baptized. Then, I was a Methodist. Then I turned around and I got married when I was in the service in 1951. I got married in the Lutheran church. Then, Bob O'Bill, he was a Catholic involved with The Lady of the Rockies. See, I called it "The Lady of the Rockies," I didn't call it "Our Lady." He said, "You want to go to a Cursillo?" He said, "Well, that's a retreat. It's when a bunch of guys get together and go to in there and sleep for two or three days. You have different sections where you go and talk about different things." Anyway, I'm a Methodist. So, I take that retreat. So, lo and behold, I'm given the talk on Our Lady. I'm a Methodist, and that's Catholic. I did the talk. It turned out alright.

**GRANT:** Back in the day, when you'd go into the church, how was it laid out?

**BEAVIS:** Well, right up stairs when you walk in the double doors, there, that's where they handed out the literature for the mass or the church. You walk into that, and on both side, there was pews. And then in the far west end, that's where the pulpit was at. Don't ask me the preacher's name, I don't know who he was.

**GRANT:** Well, I guess my final question for today, in terms of your upbringing, is about -- You know, the more I learn about Butte and Walkerville and the things I learn about that are gone, like that church, like all the markets, all the bars up here. Every time I learn about a place that I'll never be able to visit, it brings me sadness.

**BEAVIS:** Yes, it does.

**GRANT:** So, over the course of your life, the changes you've observed in Walkerville, does it make it sad? Is there any redeeming factor?

**BEAVIS:** Oh, yeah. I'm part of Walkerville. I'm born here. I'm the oldest living person that's been born here. There's nobody else around. They're all gone. Wilene Mullaney, she's older than me but she was born down at St. James.

**GRANT:** All the way in Butte.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, and she brags about it. Anyway. Yeah, it's tragic, some of the things that you go through. Like I was telling you, Dad comes into the bed, and say's "It ain't goodbye, it's so long." You know, drinking. Oh, he drank. He was a good man. He could have gone to work for [inaudible] but the bottle got him. He was 51 years old when he died. The doctor told me, he said -- they called him "Shorty," -- he said, "Shorty, you'll live to be 100 if you quit drinking." Well. Who wants to live to be 100? You think about that. Different things. Things that's happened in the family. Split up. Dad ornery, but he

never hit nobody, just ornery. In fact, see how old was I, then? Well, I was in grade school anyway. But Walkerville used to have a firemen's picnic. They used to have it out at the Lowlands. My dad was quite a rock worker, building rock walls and fancy stuff like that around the house down there. He built this cold storage unit, sunk into the ground, and a little door on it. You didn't have no refrigerator. You had the iceman bring you a big pack of ice. We went to that picnic and he got drunk. Damn good and drunk. When got home, the next day, he was laying on the couch, sobering up. I'm not very old, because he died when I was 11, so I had to be young. I said, "How do you feel?" I went out in that outside storage. And when I was out in the lowlands at the picnic, I got a quart of beer. And I brought that home and put it in that cold storage. When I see he was so sick, I went out and got that beer and brought it to him. And here's a kid, eight, nine years old, bartending, whatever you want to call it. But you felt sorry for him. I guess.

**GRANT:** And he drank it?

**BEAVIS:** You bet. Wouldn't you, if you had a hangover?

[01:16:06]

**GRANT:** Do you remember, did he have a favorite drink?

**BEAVIS:** Whiskey.

**GRANT:** Just neat? No ice or anything? Neat whiskey, straight?

**BEAVIS:** Straight. Straight as you can get it out of the bottle. Unless you went to Maudini's. Yeah, and he'd work, but he'd take his whole check. He'd pass it over the bar and then Mom wouldn't have any money. I can remember when she saved up the nickels and dimes that she could get and hid it. He found it. He knew the secret of the hiding places. He'd take it and spend it. A lot of guys did that then. I don't know. I don't know if I would have or not. I got too damn sick when I was drinking. I drank wine one time when I was sixteen, running with Jimmy Arnoldi, he was an Italian.

His dad used to make that [inaudible] red. Then he'd put it in his dirt basement down the house. He lived on First Street, down there. Jimmy'd go in the house and he'd get a gallon of that. Then he'd reach under the mattress and that's where the dad's bank was at, and he'd take twenty dollars or whatever, one bill. Then we'd go to town. I had a girl down there on Dewey Boulevard. I drank that wine. I went over her house. I was singing under her window. I'm sick. But I wasn't too bad then, so I went and caught the bus. The bus come across Dewey and I got on the bus and it's heading for Walkerville and Mrs. Cuisick is sitting in front of me, two seats in front. I'm sitting back there and I'm getting sick. [Inaudible.] I missed Mrs. Cuisick but if I was two seats ahead, I would have got her. I got home and my mother, I'll tell you, I was so damn sick for a week, I think, from that stuff. It tore me apart. I wasn't as tough as I thought I was. [Inaudible] red. But I can remember singing under the girl's window and she didn't come out.

**GRANT:** Oh, really?

**BEAVIS:** In fact, she wrote me, years later. Years later. We were adults and I was married and had five kids. She said, "How are you doing, Al?" She was probably a decrepit old lady, like I was an old man. All kinds of stories.

**GRANT:** That's a good one. Do you remember what you were singing?

**BEAVIS:** No. Something that she liked, I guess. Maybe it was "Home on the Range." I don't know.

**GRANT:** When you were a teenager, where would you go to meet girls? Like, how would you meet her, living all the way down there?

**BEAVIS:** How did I meet her? That was Shirley. Probably at Columbia Gardens.

**GRANT:** Okay.

**BEAVIS:** Or at Kick the Can, maybe. You know, you met a lot of girls playing Kick the Can and Hide and Seek.

**GRANT:** Really?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, that was quite an adventure.

**GRANT:** Because you'd have to go down to their neighborhood?

**BEAVIS:** For Hide and Seek?

**GRANT:** Yeah, or to meet them, you know.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. But you and your girlfriend, you might hide out in Hide and Seek. "Olly oxen free." That was it. You'd run for the telephone pole. I can't remember some of the games. Post Office. You'd go to a birthday party or something and play Post Office and drop the pin in the bottle. Somebody'd give you a balloon but you had to blow it up.

**GRANT:** What was Post Office?

**BEAVIS:** Well. Who was the post mistress, in the closet? I can't really remember, but it was just a game. A fun game.

**GRANT:** And the Gardens, did you go there a lot?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Every Thursday was free Gardens. A bus would take you up there and dump you off and then it would bring you back.

**GRANT:** Was it closed in the winter?

**BEAVIS:** Yeah.

**GRANT:** Just closed.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Because that's how it was. Games. They had them big hot houses up there for [inaudible] used to take care of fires and stuff like that. In fact, I was one responsible for taking the Gardens out.

**GRANT:** What do you mean?

**BEAVIS:** I was in management at the time, when went over there to mine.

**GRANT:** Yeah.

**BEAVIS:** Wasn't my idea. It was Hannifin's idea, you know.

**GRANT:** Who is Hannifin?

**BEAVIS:** He was the General Manager of the Anaconda Company at that time. There was a lot of them.

**GRANT:** Who started the fire?

**BEAVIS:** I don't know. Beech lived out there. I know it wasn't him. That fire. The pavilion, when I was in the eighth grade. You had a prom. I was in the Blaine. Lois Pathousen. She was shorter than me. We were going to make a couple. Well, I didn't know how to dance, so I had to go on Park Street and go to Bishop's School of Dancing to learn the Two-Step. So I learned to Two-Step. I took Lois the prom. It was pretty good.

**GRANT:** Can you describe the pavilion?

**BEAVIS:** Well, yeah. It was huge. Big dance hall that had some major bands come in there. Tom Dorsey. Lawrence Welk, he never showed up. He's still in North Dakota. It was a big outfit. It was a big place. It had a big rotunda on it and all kinds of different stuff and it wasn't too far from the main part of the Gardens with the rollercoaster and the hobby horses and the airplanes and all them. Right in that specific area. It was pretty neat. Got a lot of grass and a lot of flowers. Tons of flowers. Tons and tons of flowers. Because they had people from the mines out there working, taking care of all that stuff. But I went in there when they were mining it, getting it ready to mine, and the pavilion was a mess then. The roof is all leaking and the floors were partially gone and this and that. I was up there and I had to go up there, I wanted to look for something, one evening, before the shift change. So, I went up there, parked the pickup, and went into the lower area of it. The door was half open. Kind of dark in there. You hear the water drip. Drip.



Drip. I had a funny feeling. I got into that door and I turned around and here's a guy behind me.

Well, you know how that went. Anyway, he had a metal detector with him. He was looking for money. I told him, "You get out! Get out! Get out! Get out of here!" I went that way, and he got the heck out.

Yeah, it was quite a place. You had a lot going on. Baseball was a big thing up there. A lot of people used to congregate up there. Families. They had a big place for picnics up in the back and [inaudible] I don't know how many people would get up there, just from different neighborhoods, and just have a heck of a time.

**GRANT:** Was it the open air trolley? Was it the trolley car you took out there?

**BEAVIS:** No, no. You mean that brought you back to town?

**GRANT:** Yeah. On Thursdays, I thought it was a trolley line that went.

**BEAVIS:** That's before I was up there.

**GRANT:** Okay, yeah.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, we had a bus with four rubber tires on it.

**GRANT:** Okay. Alright. That makes sense.

**BEAVIS:** It took you up there, didn't charge you nothing, then brought you back. It was a big day for the kids. They didn't have any of these smart phones. There was a lot of differences. Technology today. Industrial Revolution.

**GRANT:** Well, all that mining made it possible.

[01:26:54]

**BEAVIS:** Yeah.

**GRANT:** You said you like to read. Have you ever read that Richard K. O'Malley book *Mile High, Mile Deep*?

**BEAVIS:** I've read that. Because I was a mile high and a mile deep. I went down to the bottom of the Con, which is 5,300 feet. Not -- what's a mile? 5,276 or something?

**GRANT:** That book, he describes growing up in Butte in the '20s. But it doesn't sound that different from you growing up in the '30s and '40s.

**BEAVIS:** So, it's similar to what I'm talking about?

**GRANT:** It is. Getting in fights. The Gardens.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. There's a lot of other things. You can't remember all of it. It starts coming back to you when you start talking about it and discussing things and as you start discussing it, it will highlight, and you'd pick up on it.

**GRANT:** After WWII, when you were becoming a teenager, was food less scarce around the house?

**BEAVIS:** Well, it wasn't a bumper crop, that's for sure. You mean after the war, '46, '47. Let's see, I was getting a little bit old then, I started in the mines in '47.

**GRANT:** Oh, really?

**BEAVIS:** So. That's going to be interesting, talking about that. When we go underground. You're going to really get a kick out of that, because there's some real stories there.

**GRANT:** Well, I'd like to come back and do that.

**BEAVIS:** I want you to come back. I want to finish it. I wanna bring you back to 1980. And I want to bring you forward to today. Now that's one man's opinion.

**GRANT:** Sure.

**BEAVIS:** I've studied it so much. I'm a mining engineer, I'm a geologist, I'm a metallurgist, I'm a jack of all trades. I'm a carpenter. I'm a plumber. You name it. Because you did it all, underground. I was thinking about it the other day. People get claustrophobic underground, and I did once, in a cave-in. But when you think about it, and you get on that cage, your first day in the mine, and he rings you two, one. And that means come down one deck. There's four decks there that load men. So he loads you one. You can look out on the sheets. That'd be the elevation of the surface, there. You can just about peek out. You can see the daylight. Then, he rings you one, two, one, and he loads you down another deck. Then, you can still see a little bit. But when you get [inaudible] at the top deck, that's four times, then you're in the dark. Well, then he rings two, one, and two. Clear. And away you go. 4,500 feet, straight down, vertically, in a cage that will hold seven people, and the guides are made of wood, and so's the shaft. It's going to boom, boom, boom, and you're bouncing all over because of goddamn wood ain't -- you know, wood wears out. Lots of times, I'd get on the bottom deck before they had the solid deck on the bottom, and you could look down, and you could see the station lights. Boom. Boom. Boom. Every hundred feet. Going down. But then you'd get off at 4,500 feet, so what? You're 4,500 feet underground. Does that tell you anything? That's what we got to get into, that stuff. Then we'll get into some of the working places. We'll get into fire. I was in fires. We'll get into caves. I was caved in three times. Went to the hospital once. I know there ain't nobody living, wasn't anybody living when I was in the

mines that knew the mining that I knew. How to mine in a [inaudible] that was completely caved and sand-filled. And how you do that, how do you mine that [inaudible]. I loved it. I just loved it. It was part of me. I was meant to be there. I wasn't like the regular miner. I went down to make a living, but I had to know what's happening. What goes on here. Why do we do this and why do we do that? That's probably why I ended up in top management. Never finished high school. I ain't going back to that goddamn school.

[01:32:43]

I told her I wasn't going.

**GRANT:** Your mom.

**BEAVIS:** We'll get into when I got my first rustling card. To go underground. How many times I had to go back to the rustling card office to get it because I looked like I was about twelve years old. I did. I only weighed about 115 pounds. I had to weigh 120 to get in the Service. Damned near didn't make it. I wish I wouldn't have. That's what I told Mom. "You still got them mine boots?"

**GRANT:** Well, good, and then we also have to cover your political career, so to say.

**BEAVIS:** Oh yeah, I did quite a bit there. I went to different schools. I went to like Queens University and presented a paper at the Tenth Canadian [Inaudible] Symposium on drilling and blasting techniques in the Berkeley Pit. So I learned.

**GRANT:** I'd love to talk, too, about your involvement with the Lady of the Rockies.

**BEAVIS:** That's a book.

**GRANT:** That's a whole other deal.

**BEAVIS:** If I was you, I'd make it another deal, because you could write a book. People wanted me to write a book about it. Some of the stuff you'll wonder about that happened. Like, people will try to turn it into a miracle. When I was executive director of the Lady of the Rockies and we had the church, St. Mary's Church on Main Street. Well, these women that were in the gift shop, they were religious. Some, fanatics. So they'd come out and they'd say "I think I seen something up on that mountain. I think it's a miracle."

I was putting a newsletter out, quarterly, and I even wrote it. Got it published and that. I got tired of hearing that. So, I put in the paper there, "A Miracle." I said, "For those who don't know what a miracle is, that's like when you take a seed and put it in the ground and it comes out a radish." That changed a little bit.

**GRANT:** Well, good, then we'll have some other meetings here.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, if I was you, I'd look at that as a separate deal. Because there's so many things to bring forward on that that's never been written. Nobody knows about. How things transpired, you know. Okay the statue goes up. 4:07 P.M. on December the 20th, 1985. Hey, that's just fine and all, good. It's standing up there, there's seven pieces of it, it's welded here and spot welded around it. But, what happens when you got to make sure it's secure up there? Velocity of winds. Wear and tear from sand and abrasive materials. You had to put a fence up there. John Shea, he was an ironworker. The bus would bring up the visitors. This little old lady is standing out there in front of the statue, looking up at it, and John's standing watching her, because there's no fence there. And she says, "Well, I can't get the whole picture in." He said, "Lady, if you step back another foot, you'll be shaking hands with her."

**GRANT:** Wow. Thank you for your time today.

**BEAVIS:** Are you through?

**GRANT:** Yeah. This has been great.

**BEAVIS:** God Almighty! It's twenty after eight!

**GRANT:** I know! That's good, isn't it? It flies. But I figure it will be good to do, like I say, a couple of sessions. Otherwise, it can be fatiguing for you.

**BEAVIS:** It don't bother me.

**GRANT:** Okay.

**BEAVIS:** It'll be fatiguing when I get a little older. I sleep. I've got oxygen at night. I've got that CPAP. My sleep last month, on an average, was 4.3 hours per night.

**GRANT:** Wow.

**BEAVIS:** My sleep from Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, was 3.1. That's not much sleep. You see my eyes. I don't know if it's the cat or if it's just me. The cat, she hits you on the chest, she wants out that door. I sleep in the bed in that front room there. I don't sleep up the stairs in the main bedroom. So, I go to bed, he'll come at the bed at about ten o'clock. He's done his patrol of his area. He'll come in and go in the bathroom, jump up on the vanity, and I have to turn the water on so he can get a drink. Jesus. That's the truth. Then he gets down the sink. Once he gets through, then I can wash up, put my pajamas on, then I'll go to bed. He don't know if he was ready to go to bed. He might stay on the vanity for a little bit. But he jumps off and he comes in and then he jumps up in the chair there on the blanket and he stays there until I wake up in the morning. He's a good cat.

**GRANT:** Seems like it. Good companion.

**BEAVIS:** Yes, he is.

**GRANT:** Will tomorrow at the same time work for you?

**BEAVIS:** What's tomorrow?

**GRANT:** Saturday.

**BEAVIS:** I'd like to do it. I don't know why not. I go to the market in the morning.

**GRANT:** Yeah. I'll be there.

**BEAVIS:** I'll see you down there then. Your partner, what's his name, that was there with you?

**GRANT:** At the market? A guy named John Conlan.

**BEAVIS:** Conlan. They're from Butte?

**GRANT:** No. They're from Conlan.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah, I'll see you down there, anyway. I'd like to see that CTECH and get them going again. Environmental.

**GRANT:** I know a guy that's on their board, the vice president. A good guy named Dave Hutchins.

**BEAVIS:** Hutchins? The radio station, do you sell ads?

**GRANT:** We don't sell ads. No commercials.

**BEAVIS:** Well, how do you survive?

**GRANT:** Donations.

**BEAVIS:** Donations?

**GRANT:** Yeah. We're nonprofit.

**BEAVIS:** 501c3.

**GRANT:** Yeah. We do grants. The on-air fundraiser once a year.

**BEAVIS:** The incorporation papers for the Lady of the Rockies to make it a 501c3, I wrote them.

**GRANT:** Okay, yeah.

**BEAVIS:** I try to get an attorney do it. I even wrote for Judge Purcell, I even give him a recommendation to become a district judge. Jesus.

**GRANT:** Yeah. The paperwork. Yeah, if you're around tomorrow evening, I would come the same time.

**BEAVIS:** Yeah. Let's see. Well, I'll talk to you tomorrow at the market. I'll be down there for sure. But figure we'll do it anyway.

[01:40:54]

[More discussion of setting up a time.]

[END OF RECORDING]