Can you tell me something about Meadville that reflects what you like about the community? Something that you like about the community? Something that happens in our community that you like? Something that is kind of like a landmark or an event that you have come to?

I think the biggest landmark is Allegheny college. I worked there for 51 years. I am retired now. I enjoyed working there.

Ya, it really is a good asset because I utilize it a lot you know. And, anything else about Allegheny College or in the town that reflects what you feel is good about the community?

Well, I love The Market House that they have downtown. With the local produce, and the local vendors and everything. What else?

We can come back to that if you want to. And, what brought you here or what has you staying here?

Well, what brought me here was my job at Allegheny, and I am staying here because I just retired this year and I own a house I like it here I like the neighborhood.

And, then, what would you say is the spirit of our town? That's a little hard I think. But, umm...

Spirit, there is a lot of different community things going on like community theater, I was a member of that for a long time. Which I'm not now but I was.

There's the balloon thing which is always a big event.

That's a big deal. Ya, that's nice they fly right over my house. Um, I like Tamrack lake which is close, it is wonderful just to ride around very nice drive around there.

Ya, we have a lot of nice outdoor things.

I like being near Conneaut Lake which is only 9 or 10 miles from here. I use that lake a lot I had a boat out there, or I will get a boat, I don't have one but I'm getting one again.

Ya, I heard you are getting a pontoon.

Ya, I'm getting a pontoon this time which I have never had. How do you know that? Rumors get around.

I guess, I don't know how I know that, probably Dawn. She knows everything about the neighborhood.

Probably, yes haha.

Um, I think they are also looking at the spirit. I mean it is a working class kind of a spirit. Like what is, these are items that are in the town but what is the spirit of it? Is it like Erie where I grew up is a blue collard democratic working class. Pittsburgh has been known to be more of a working class, how would you identify...

I don't know how I would categorize it...

it.

Meadville. I mean there is a mixture of everybody here.

Ya, there is.

There is unfortunately what seems to be a higher than normal rate of unemployment around here.

Yes, there is.

I see a lot of people who seem to be unemployed walking around. Which is kind of disappointing, but I think the spirit in general is good here.

I think so too. It's one of continuously working towards...

proving itself.

Ya, I agree with you.

I like The Diamond Park it is nice.

What would you miss in Meadville if it wasn't here anymore? You know if it just you know was gone and it would make Meadville not be Meadville anymore.

Well, that's a hard one. I think all the things I mentioned above.

Ya. Like, Allegheny college.

I think that one for sure because I think Allegheny is a big employee, employer.

Yes it is. Also, its visible presence is beautiful I walk up there a whole lot.

Ya, and it brings a lot of people on campus. A lot of students here with their families, a lot of income comes from that.

Matter of fact, I am going up today to listen to a panel discussion about where the economy is going with Trump.

It's going uphill isn't it.

Uh...hahaha

hahahah. We won't get into that.

I do like some of the04:18

But you are welcome to join me. Um, and what do you think is important for Meadville to continue in the future? I mean you already noted that there was a lot of unemployment it seems sensible to say we need to do something about that you know. But, what would you think we need to do for the future?

I don't know. Well, Chanellock is always a big employer I think and doing well. I'm not sure about the steel industry over there, what was that, Malleable used to be there, I'm not even sure if that's even going now.

So, as we change venue, which is not going to be as much industrial business, what can we do to you know kind of have a vision for the future?

I don't know. Well, that's a hard question.

Well , ya, you can think about it.

Well, what would you change in Meadville to make it better? Or if you had one wish in Meadville what would you like to see happen in Meadville, if you had one wish for it?

Well, I think some of the stores downtown that are half open and half closed out, they don't seem to have very reliable hours sometimes.

Ya.

But, I don't know why that is. I don't know I think the hospital does a lot for the community so I don't see any improvement there that is needed. It has lots of doctors. I don't know I think it has a lot of pluses.

Ya a lot to offer. Ya that's nice! You see more pluses than negatives.

Absolutely, I don't know of many negatives really.

How nice? That's a nice way to look at your town. Because unemployment may be, we have a lot of people that don't have much to do, you know really marginally.

It's kind of the middle between big towns too. You can go to Erie if you want a bigger city you can go to Pittsburgh very easily in two hours, which I do a lot, I have a lot of friends down in Pittsburgh.

Right.

It's an easy, easy commute down there.

It's a good access to the outside world.

It is. I was just in Erie last night to come back up to see a play. See if we are going to go over so...what do you love about Meadville? So, we can put the hospital in there and the location,

market house...

between Erie and Pittsburgh...

Cleveland. I mean we kind of are right in the middle there.

Ya, we are.

And, you came here because Allegheny gave you a job.

They were my first and only job.

Ya, really, that's true.

I came to Allegheny before they had a computer and I brought, I cam with Bucknell's computer with me, and that was Allegheny's first computer and then it went from there.

So, you started the whole thing, and now look at it we are carrying them in our pockets.

Yup, its amazing.

Pretty soon it will be in our brain because of a transplant or something.

In the spirit of the town, you think we have nice theaters a lot of theater,events like the balloon, what other events do we have around here? 07:42

Tamrack, doesn't Tamrack have some fishing?

Well, you know Tamrack is empty now.

Oh, it is empty now. Not for07:52

No, I heard they are going to revitalize it, in a year I think.

Yes, yes! And, you like to be close to Conneaut lake that's nice to boat.

And it's not a big like, but it's big enough.

Ya, its kind of interesting historically, how it is a glacier lake, you know it is a natural lake.

I know it is one of the deepest lakes right here in Pennsylvania.

Yes, yes it is good. Good a bunch of sunken boats in it.

And, what are those called those big elephants?

The elephants?

You know the gigantic ones with the big tusks.

Oh, in the park their...

Well they are buried a lot of them are in there...

Oh... what are those called mamoths.

Ya, mamoths. And then the Market House is something you enjoy, I think it's a real plus.

I do so too.

And, the future? You weren't able to say, you said um more reliable store hours, maybe a...

I don't know whenever I want anything I can find it.

I think the future of Meadville is pretty much similar to the future of our country, which is we have to figure out how, automation and jobs, you know? Because there was a forecast I just read about how many jobs are going to be taken up by...robots now.

Oh really.

So, in the future there is a lot of driver-less trucks and cars. Thousands of people that are cashiers.

Well, I think the hospital is keeping up to speed, they seem to have a lot of new equipment there. I have never had a problem with the hospital.

Ya, it must be.

I have never had a problem there. I'm happy about that.

Ya you must be.

So Richard is there anything you think we want to add to this, anything that hasn't been asked to you, anything you want to add or mention about Meadville.

I think it is a fun place to live. I think it is a safe place to live. Crime I think is pretty low, not much crime, a few pieces in the paper but those are all pretty10:00

Right, Right.

I mean every town is going to have some crime I think.

Yes, and you feel comfortable here.

Oh, absolutely.

That's nice. We have to feel comfortable in our community.

I mean I have a lot of things here. I am not planning on leaving.

Oh good! That's a wonderful note to end it on. Thank you!