



Orleans County Historical Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS : Luther P. Burroughs Interview (#1)

SUBJECTS

preacher's kid (p.k.)
 church/parsonage (Gaines Congregational)
 typical Sunday activities
 piano lessons
 COMBO-orchestra
 square piano
 organ
 teaching positions
 Union: American Federation of Musicians
 golf course
 The Depression
 Orleans County Taxpayers Association

cobblestone schoolhouse, Gaines
 horses
 drive-barn
 Albion High School
 cows
 milk
 butter
 farm work
 baseball games

music interests
 fraternal organizations
 Elks Club
 Eagles Club
 Loyal Temperance League
 Grange
 Senior Citizens organizations

Albion Episcopal church
 Panama City Beach, Florida

Hamilton College
 Syracuse University
 Cornell University
 University of Cincinnati
 Ohio State College

dog food, pkg., manufactured
 pastor's salary

NAMES

Charles Henry B., father
 Delia Matson, mother
 Ambrose Matson B., brother
 Kenneth B., brother
 Ruth Colville, wife
 Jean children
 Dick "
 Kenny "
 Luther LeRoy "
 Joan "
 John "

Frank Thurber, teacher
 Mr. Johnson, teacher
 Ella Bacon, teacher
 Claire Caukins, piano tea.

Joe McGuire
 Kenneth Turner
 Fred Bates
 Franklin Reed
 Herb "Hippy" Reed
 Howard Anderson, treas.
 Fred Knapp, orchestra
 John Daniels' farm
 Robert Woolston
 Frank "Car-load" Carselli
 Roody Morton
 Mike Petrelline
 Bob Cavers
 Mack Bird
 Father Temple, Episc. church
 Tom Pullins saw-mill

Village Inn, Childs
 Murray Hotel
 Lyndonville Hotel

1901-1987



Orleans County Historical Association

INTERVIEW

Mr. Luther P. Burroughs
123 South Main Street
Albion, New York



Interviewed by
Helen M. McAllister
February 3, 1978

B Luther Burroughs (born 1901)
Mc Helen M. McAllister



Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

James P. Burroughs

Signed

Feb. 3, 1978

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

Feb. 3, 1978

Date

E I was born May 22, 1901 in Columbus, New York, a small crossroads in Chenango County. My father at that time was a minister of the Columbus church. My father's name was Charles Henry Burroughs. Mother's name was Delia Matson. We have the genealogy of her side of the family and it goes back to shortly after the Mayflower came to this country. We have it back into England before that time. My son Kenneth, who is working on this, said that he had found a connection between mother's family and Miles Standish and John Alden. I haven't seen that as yet.

Mc Would you tell us a bit about your schooling & what it was like?

B I lived in the parsonage at Gaines. We moved here in 1904. The cobblestone schoolhouse was directly across the road. I started in school at a very early age. In fact I believe I was only eleven years old when I entered high school.

Mc Was the Gaines school a one room schoolhouse with one teacher for all of the students?

B It was a two-room schoolhouse but they only used the one room and the one teacher because they didn't have enough pupils to do any more.

Mc How many pupils were there, approximately?

B I'd say about an average of about 20-25. In the winter-time the farm boys would go to school and in the spring and in the fall they stayed home and worked on the farms. The girls put in a full school year.

Mc Was your teacher usually a man or a woman?

B I remember two men teachers. One was Frank Thurber who was very well known here. He taught in a number of schools. The other was someone by the name of Johnson. He was only there for one year. The other times there were lady teachers. In fact Ella Bacon started her school teaching in Gaines and I think she almost finished it there. She was there for a good many years. I didn't have her very much because I had already gone into Albion to school by that time.

Mc When you went from your home to the Albion school, how did you get there?

B We walked. In the winter-time we drove a horse with a cutter. We'd drive a horse and buggy most of the time. In the summer time we might ride our bicycles. It was only in the last year that I went to school that we had a 1917 Ford. I used to drive that. My

brother and I went to school at practically the same time. When I was a little older we had to take people with us. We had a one seated buggy with a top and with curtains on when the weather got bad. As I remember we took two girls with us. I think they both lived up on the Ridge Road. So it was almost essential that if you drove to school, you had a full buggy. There were no buses in those days. It was up to each individual to get to school. We used to leave our horse and buggy in the drive-barn, which is where the Ford (auto) agency used to be. That was directly north of the canal.

Mc What was the drive-barn like?

B A drive-barn was a large building and it was covered over. It had stalls along either side for the horses. You'd drive right into the livery barn. Generally you'd put your horse in a stall and they'd take care of him. The horse we had, knew where to go. We'd just get out and he'd go inside and they'd take care of him later.

Mc Did they leave the buggy outside?

B That was a large enough place so that they could take care of all the business they had. The smaller places would undoubtedly leave the buggys outside but the one I'm talking about, you would drive in just like a garage and you'd "park your car".

Mc How many drive-barns were there in Albion at that time?

B There were about three. The one we went to was the main one; another one over near Liberty Street run by a Mr. Hayden; Harry Lattin had a horse barn.

Mc How much did they charge you to "park your horse"?

B Well, I don't know. My father took care of that because we had no money in those days.

Mc When you came into Albion and went to school, where did you go?

B I went to the grammar school. When I came in they had preparation for high school. We called it "purgatory"! One of the students at that time that still lives here was Joe McGuire.

Mc Was that held at the American Legion Hall?

B No; it was a separate room right in the grammar school. They probably had 16-18 people in the one class. It was only a small section for people preparing for their high school entrance.

Mc At what grade would you leave the cobblestone schoolhouse?

B It was a little indefinite. When I was in the 4th or 5th grade, I ^{passed} my regents in spelling and reading. When I was in the 6th grade, I had passed almost every other subject. I forget what it was that I had to get. It might have been English or history or something I had to finish to pass the exam in order to enter the high school. The "preparatory school" was just one room in the school building. At that time the high school occupied the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. I know we had the chemistry lab and the biology lab up on the 4th floor. It is hard to remember all of them, but the majority of the classes were on the 2nd floor. The old school building was on Academy Street. They still have it. I graduated from high school in 1917. I was in for five years. One year I had swellings on my ankle. Never did find out what they were and I had to stay out of school for a year. It was just something that came on and then disappeared. I was 17 when I was graduated from high school. That fall I went to Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, with a number of other people from Orleans County. At that time Kenneth Turner from Medina was in the class. Fred Bates from Gaines was in the class and Franklin Reed who was "Hippy" Reed's half brother I believe.

Mc Did you call him "Hippy" because he was fat?

B No, this was Herb Reed. We always called him "Hippy" Reed. I don't know why. He was very much into politics in those days; but I believe it was his half brother that went to Hamilton College. There were four of us from Orleans County.

Mc Your father was a minister of what church? Would you describe the parsonage, where you lived?

B It was the Gaines Congregational church and the parsonage was a big building and is still there. I don't know exactly how many rooms there were, probably at least 4 bedrooms upstairs and possibly one or two downstairs. It was a very big house. The kitchen, where we came in and out mostly, and a dining room and a living room, and then a parlor which was kept shut up except when you had company. There were two stairways. The big stairway that we didn't use was sort of a spiral staircase. That was in the front of the house which we seldom ever used. We had no electricity. Our lights were just ordinary kerosene lights. During the later years we were able to buy a Coleman light which gave us a little better light. We had a hot-air furnace for heating.

The register came up into the living room and that's about all. We used to stand over that and the heat spread out.

Mc What did you do for fun when you were small; play baseball?

B The baseball field, being right across the road, I would play with the young ones and the middle ones, and the older ones in some way or other. I was "shag-balls" probably for the bigger people. When somebody knocked the ball way over, as a foul ball or way across the road, then we'd go chase it. That's what we called a "shag-ball". We had a team of our own age and we played considerably. My father, of course, was always the Umpire! They figured that he (the minister) was always fair at either the games, with the young people or the older men that played. (laughs).

Mc The field was north of the cobblestone schoolhouse and the only obstruction was a barn; but that was so far away that it didn't bother so much when we were playing ball.

Mc Was this a cow-pasture that you played in?

B It was originally a cow-pasture. Of course you didn't have mowing machines in those days, so you'd use sheep or cows or whatever you had. Since we lived right there, that was what my father did. He would pasture his cows. He usually had two and would pasture them along thru there.

Mc And you had to clean it up so that you could play there?

B We had to clean it up occasionally. If we missed something, somebody would slide into what they thought was "third base" ! It didn't happen to me. (laughter).

Mc With your father being a minister, what were your Sundays like?

B On Sunday of course you had to go to Sunday School. That was a must! The Sunday School was at ten o'clock in the morning until eleven. The church service was from eleven to twelve-thirty. In the early days there was no entertainment of any kind, even if you had been able to go. We weren't allowed to read the Sunday papers or look at the funnies (funny-papers). We occasionally could stake a look on Sunday, but ordinarily we had to go to somebody else's house during the week and get our reading caught up that way. In the summertime when the weather was good, there was a step-stone in the front yard. I used to sit on that with my writing tablet. A step-stone is where you drive your horse and buggy up and as you step out of the buggy, the step-stone is the first step you make and from that you stepped onto the ground.

It's a high block. I'd watch the cars go by and in those days, you'd try to get the make of the car. This was just for fun and something to do. Of course we couldn't play cards! Except Flinch or Old Maid. It amused me very much when my mother was in her 80s and 90s; she started to play Canasta, and that was the only time I believe that she ever had a deck of playing cards in her hand. That was strictly a "no-no" back in the old days.

Mc You said that your father usually had several cows. What did you do with all of the milk? Did you drink it all?

B In those days you made your own butter. You put the milk into a sort of pan, not quite as large as a dish-pan, and put it on the pantry shelf. You'd let it stay until the cream had collected, then you'd skim the cream. You'd drink the skim milk and make your own butter. However, a number of people in the neighborhood would buy milk from Father and sometimes we had to deliver it. I remember that it was 5¢ a quart, and Father figured that he was losing money. So, he had to go up a penny, and it took him about six months to decide to tell the people that they had to pay that much more. In those days you didn't have the sanitation that is required now, and the people would bring their pails and you'd fill them up; or when he delivered, we'd take their bucket and then they'd return one to us.

Mc Did your mother make butter to sell or was there just enough for the family?

B Generally just enough for the family. They did sell some at one time. In those days you could go to the store and trade a couple of pounds of butter for groceries. They'd sell your butter at the store.

Mc Do you have any idea about your father's salary; how he was paid?

B I have a very good idea because on Monday mornings Howard Anderson, who was the treasurer, would come down and they would sit at the dining room table and count it out. When Father first went there he was getting \$10.00 a week plus his living. I mean the house went with that. But I think the last time I remember, about 1917, he was getting almost \$20.00 a week. They seemed to have enough to get along on.

Mc Was his church well attended? Was he a good speaker and minister?

B I didn't pay too much attention. My mind would be wandering, but he was well liked by the majority of the people because he was

very diligent in making calls. One thing: he was there fifteen years! In the later years of his life as pastor there, he would go up and down the Ridge Road and he would stop at every home. It didn't make any difference if they were Catholic or atheist, or if they were of different ethnical backgrounds; he called on everyone!. Some of the people resented that. They figured that he should only call on his own parishioners. From there he went to Savannah, New York, a little larger Congregational church. He retired at Savannah. At his funeral in 1948, the church was filled. Over half of the people were Catholics because they thought more of him because he was right there, and they knew him as well as they did their own priest who would come in occasionally.

Mc What about your interest in music? How did that start?

B Well, it started by the fact that we had an old organ in the parsonage. We had an old square piano and I used to like to play on that. Then it was pretty hard to get somebody to play for the Wednesday night prayer meetings. At first my father would have me go over to the church and I would pick out the hymns with just one finger. Then I got so I could use my right hand and play the hymns. Actually when I started playing for the church service I was able to use both hands. The left hand was very light and it wasn't until I got into college and some of the musicians there taught me quite a lot about playing the left hand and about chords and about reading music. I can read music quite a lot better than people that have had a number of lessons.

Mc You did take several lessons from someone?

B I took two lessons from Miss Claire Caukins, in Gaines. She was a spinster lady and she gave piano lessons, and she sang in the choir.

Mc After that, you were on your own with the music?

B After I left Hamilton College I did take some extension work from Syracuse and a little from Cornell, but I was out for quite awhile. When I was in Ohio, I had a four-piece COMBO (combination).

Mc Was that the first time you'd tried that?

B No, in 1920 I was working in Elmira. I played the popular music pretty well and it seemed that Fred Knapp's orchestra lacked a piano player. I was playing privately for church gatherings, or like that, so I was asked if I wanted to play with the orchestra.

I wasn't too keen on it as I'd never played with an orchestra, but I went. In order to play, I had to join the Union. By joining the Union, then when I would play my single jobs, I had to get a leader for that; then I had to charge more money. So it didn't work out too well, altho I did most of my work then with the big orchestra.

Mc You played the piano all this time?

B I played the piano and of course in those days you knew six weeks in advance the numbers you were going to have to play. They were all printed: "Yes we Have no Bananas!", or "Just a Kiss in the Dark", or "Running Wild". So those were the only numbers you would practice. If they wanted an encore, you'd play the same thing. It made it easier to know what you were doing. Of course, that was the "Big-Band-Era". The banjo was a big instrument. That was in 1920 and after I went to Ohio I dropped out of the Union but I had a four-piece COMBO. Probably one of the first mixed groups. My trombone man played a valve trombone, not a slide trombone. He was black. That was the only black family in Berlin Heights (near Sandusky, Ohio). He was one of the best athletes they had in school. In other words, people didn't seem to know they were black. They belonged to the church; were in there and everything. We played for two years locally, for small things there. I had a summer job lined up at Erie Beach, which is a Methodist Church place and when I told them that I had a black man on trombone they said, "Oh oh!" They couldn't go for that. It was shortly after that, that my brother was killed in the automobile accident, and since a little more money was available, I went to college at Wooster, Ohio. One reason I went there was because I was a "P.K." (preacher's kid), and it didn't cost quite as much.

Mc Is that college connected with the church?

B The Presbyterian Church. That didn't make any difference. Any "P.K." is eligible for low tuition, and like that. I went there for a year, and I had met my wife who was teaching school in Berlin Heights. Her maiden name was Ruth Colville. Their family is all from Ohio.

(end of side one of tape)

We were married in Newark, Ohio. The following year my wife taught school near Cincinnati, Ohio, so I took some work at the University of Cincinnati. The following year our first daughter, Jean, was born. At that time we came back to Savannah, New York. Jean was born in Lyons, New York. In the fall, we went back to Ohio and I got a teaching job at Sayre, Ohio which is in Perry County. The first year, I taught some in the grades. My wife was hired as a high school teacher. It was a very small school with only 9 boys and probably about 15 girls, as I remember it.

Mc Was that a private school?

B No, it was a township high school. During that summer, I took work at Ohio State University. The following year I was hired as the principal of the school. The second year, my wife didn't teach. I took work again at Ohio State College that fall. The next year I took a job as principal at Harveysburg, in Warren County. That's down near Dayton, Ohio. Altho my wife had a high school certificate, she took one of the grade schools. I had seven grade schools as well as the high school and the grammar school in this little town. It was a township school but a very small operation. That was the last year that I taught, for a number of reasons.

Now to come back and remember some of the things in Gaines: we used to try to make a little money, and my brother and I would go to work for the farmers. This was my brother Kenneth and he was 13 months younger than I. At that time, we were probably about 10 or 12, or something like that. John Daniels, who had the farm where Robert Woolston lives now, hired us to work. The going rate for men was one dollar a day, so when it came time to get in the hay, he wanted us to go up in the mow and work there. We said, "No! We would pitch hay off, because we were being paid as only one man anyway!". We thought we'd fill his window up and then we'd sit and rest when he was putting away. He finally decided that we weren't getting anywhere, so he said he would give us 75¢ apiece a day if we would go up and do the mow work.

Mc You told me that your brother Kenneth developed packaging dog food?

B He was one of the first manufacturers of packaged dog food. He took a short course at the University of Michigan concerning

that. He bought the leavings from the Shredded-Wheat factory in Niagara Falls, which was one of the base materials of his dog food. The other ingredients, he put together. For a time, he manufactured at the mill at Holley. Frank Carselli, "Car-load Carselli" he's known as now days, used to work for him back in those days. He has the furniture business on the corner in Holley, as you go thru.

Mc How many were there in your family?

B There was Matson; he was probably the brightest one. He was four years older than I was. He went to Cornell University as a student with a number of people from Albion: Earl Harding, Ward Rodwell and Fred Cast. (Ambrose-Matson, Kenneth and Luther).

Mc Did you have any other brothers or sisters?

B We had a sister who lived to be only 4 or 5 years old. She had some sort of childhood disease. My brother Ambrose was killed in 1924 when he was about 27 or 28. He went to Cornell for one year and then he enlisted in the Air Force. This was during World War I. He was a trainer at Allenton Field, Texas at the time. Charles Lindberg was at that same field. Whether they knew each other or not, I don't know. After Ambrose went back to college, he majored in agriculture. At the time he was killed, he was Assistant Professor of Pomology at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri. (pomology: the science and practice of fruit growing).

Mc What do you remember about the various fraternal organizations you have belonged to over the years?

B The first one I belonged to was the Elks Club in Millford, Conn. That was in the 30s, and at that time we used to have a pretty active drill-team. We'd go to a number of places: we'd go to New Haven and Bridgeport. One time we went to a District Convention at Lodge #1 in New York City and we had the banquet and reception at the Commodore Hotel! In looking over my program of that event, I notice that one of the officers of the Lodge at that time in New York, was Robert Wagner, Junior. Another was Judge Ferdinand Pecora. One time when we put on a Drill-team in Hartford, Conn., one of the ones initiated at that time was Raymond Baldwin who was the Governor of Conn., and later became the Senator from Conn. I remember him very well because I was

playing poker with him, after the meeting.

Mc Who won?

B Well, I wouldn't know. He probably did! (laughs).

Mc You also belonged to a temperance league?

B Yes. That was way back in my church days. The "LTL": Loyal Temperance League. That was an off-shoot of the WCTU which was, of course, very strong in those days. This was in Gaines. I didn't belong to the Elks after I left Conn. However I did belong to the Eagles when they were in Albion until they "folded up" here. Then I belonged to the Eagles in Medina until they folded up. In fact my orchestra played for several years at the Eagles in Albion and for several years at the Eagles in Medina. This was before I played at the Village Inn (at Childs, New York).

Mc Did you have a dance-band COMBO; how many were in it?

B Generally I had a three piece COMBO. I had drums, piano and, ordinarily, a saxophone. When I first started at the Village Inn, Roody Morton, who is dead now, played the saxophone and Mike Petrelline from Holley played the drums. However, thru some arrangement or other the boys didn't want to play there regularly. So, Bob Cavers from Medina (he was only a high school kid at the time) played and Mack Bird (who recently died) played the drums. Bobby was in high school and when he went to Fredonia State Teachers College, he used to drive back up here on Saturday nights in order to play. The pay scale was only \$10.00 but I would give Bobby \$15.00 for that one night down there. I believe we played almost two years.

Mc Did the patrons dance, or just listen?

B Dance! It was for dance or listening pleasure, but it was mostly for dancing. We played after that at the Murray Hotel, then the Lyndonville Hotel, and then with odd jobs. Then it got to the point where on Saturday nights I'd hate to get dressed to go out. That was the time I decided not to play regularly anymore. I was still playing the organ at the Gaines church every Sunday. I was gone 25 years from this part of the country. After I came back (I had started playing in 1948), I played thru 1965 I believe. That was some 25 or so years that I played down there and then I retired for 3-4 years. Then Father Temple heard that I wasn't busy, and he wanted me to play at the Albion Episcopal church. I played there for almost two years. Something unusual about that:

the pipe organ that they have there is probably one of the oldest that they have in the United States! The organ was made sometime in the 18th century. It was repaired once and the sign is on there. The organ is still in use today. They are trying to get it fully repaired as a historical artifact, or whatever you want to call it. It is a real, real old organ.

Mc Well Luther, you have come a long way from playing with one finger!!

B One thing I might mention in regard to playing. I never knew actually whether I was a good player or not, but I always did please the people that were listening. That's a "church-organist-thing-to-do". I would play hymns or music that people could recognize. After my wife died, I went down to Florida and I decided that I was going to go to some church and see whether I was actually what the people said I was! I played for one month at the Beach Presbyterian Church at Panama City Beach. They had a brand new Hammond organ. It took me two weeks to find out how to play it, and then I told them I'd like to play for 4 weeks the way I wanted to play. Panama City Beach is a place where the "snowbirds" (they call us that) attend. They come from Canada, and Maine. One winter when we were down there before my wife died, we paid \$100.00 a month for an efficiency apartment that, in the regular season, would go for \$20.00 a day!! So everything was cheap. Well, a lot of those older people liked to go to church and the first Sunday I played, I did my old system of playing ten minutes ahead of time; playing a number of old hymns. Then at eleven o'clock going into the Prelude and so on. The first Sunday, there were only about 200 people there. The next Sunday I was early to practice, and about twenty minutes to eleven, the minister came over and said, "The church is full. Why don't you start playing a little bit!" So I started playing and I played twenty minutes that Sunday. The next Sunday at 10:30 the church was filled, and the Sunday School rooms (which they could open up to one side) was filled. So I played for half an hour. Then the last Sunday I was going to play, it was 20 minutes after ten, the place was filled and they had over 400 people!! Now whether it was me playing, or the new minister... anyway, the following Sunday they went back to 2 services. They went back to the original organist who was unpaid and she played because they couldn't get anyone else. From that time on I don't know how it worked out;

whether she went to playing ahead of time or not. That's what I always did. I did that when I was at the Episcopal church and I didn't think anybody noticed until the organ was damaged, vandalized. Then when I went back to playing the organ, I didn't play the Preludes before the eleven o'clock service, or at 10:30. The minister asked me one day, "The people are wondering why you don't play early any more?" So, I think they liked it.

Mc I'm sure that they did. Aside from playing music on weekends and on Sundays, what did you do after you stopped teaching?

B We started to find a place where we might teach. My health didn't seem to be too good, so we went west in a 1924 Buick touring car, with side-curtains. Isinglass curtains!! We went out thru the Dakotas, inquired about teaching positions, and went down into Denver. I had a part-time job selling (in Denver) and they wanted to transfer me down to Houston, Texas. I was selling furniture, appliances, typewriters, and things of that sort. We moved the family down to Houston and we didn't like it too well, and I didn't make too much of a success. That's where my second son was born; Kenny. He was born at Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1930. That was when the "crash" came (The Depression). Of course, there was no more business. I got ahold of enough money to send my family up to Ohio by train. My family consisted of Jean, Dick, Ken and my wife. Then I "thumbed" my way up thru. With the Depression and everything else, my wife stayed in Ohio and taught school. She was getting less per year in the school she was teaching, than she had been getting per month the last two or three years she taught up here! She was living with her parents and the children were with her. I came to Savannah, New York and got a job with the Electrolux Company. Then I was transferred as collector and serviceman down in Jamestown, New York. That's when I went to Ohio and picked her up and we were together from then on. I worked with Electrolux and was transferred from there to New Haven, Conn. Then that "petered out" (ended). This was when it was really tough! I went to work in a factory that was making fireplace fixtures. I would use a lathe and arc welder and I think I was getting something like 35¢ an hour!! At the end of the week I'd have about \$19.00. I'd get about one dollar's worth of gasoline and then we'd go get our groceries,

and that was it. From there I went with the United Aircraft and I was with them until WW II ended. At that time my wife was working for United Aircraft. Out of 13,000 people, they laid off 8,000. But they didn't lay either of us off! I would have had to go back to work for 40 hours, with working every day, Saturdays and Sundays with the over-time and the extra bonuses. That's when I decided to come up here. I came up here and went in with my brother in cutting orchards and selling the wood.

Mc What are the names of your children?

B They are Jean, Dick, Kenny, and then Luther LeRoy who was born in Jamestown and now works for Kodak. Joan lives in Niagara Falls and married John Lindkowski. My son John went thru school in Albion and now is Doctor John; he has a PhD. He is the supervising principal at Waylan, New York.

Mc You have moved around a lot. Do you like living in Albion now?

B I think so because I have lived here for so long. Originally I lived here and then I came back in 1945. So practically most of my life has been spent here. Of course, we were pretty much "loners". We had the golf course, which I built after I retired. (On route 98, south of Carlton Station).

My last working days were with General Foods, and with Hunts. I was in the laboratory. With Hunts I was the second in command of Quality Control. During the off-season I was rented out to General Foods, working in the same laboratory for research for Sure-Jell and Certo.

Mc Do you still enjoy your music?

B I do! Of course I'm playing now and with my orchestra.

Mc You still have an orchestra?

B I am still the President of the Orleans County American Federation of Musicians, and I get about \$1,500.00 a year to give away free music. I play for the Senior Citizens; we play out at the Infirmary; we've played at the Medina Orchard Manor Nursing Home. I take any of the musicians that can play. I didn't use to play, but now I'm playing with them because most of the pianos are in tune. I did take my organ down to the Senior Citizens.

Mc This is your own organ; what kind is it?

B Yes, it is mine. It is an electric Hammond. I took it out when

they had the picnic at Bullard Park (Albion) but unfortunately it rained before we could get all my musicians to play! As far as playing, I find that I play just about the same as I always did. I generally have to have the music but I can play with other people or alone, and really enjoy it. The fact is that I'm going to play for the spring dance in April for the Senior Citizens, and they'll have everybody from the county.

Mc Have you ever done any composing?

B No. I never knew enough for anything like that.

Mc How about playing for weddings?

B I used to do that. It was part of your work; you'd get a job playing for a wedding at the Village Inn or the VFW, or someplace like that. You liked to get them but they didn't come too often.

Mc You said that you and your brother cut apple trees down?

B We'd cut the apple trees and we'd cut the butts and take them up to Middleport. They'd saw them and then they'd have to season them in some way or other. They were made into handles for saws and there were very few of those places in operation. There was only one other operator and that was somewhere down in Wayne County. The local place up here was the biggest one: Tom Pullins Saw Mill in Middleport. We used to get very good money for the butts. Of course the larger they were the better off we were.

Mc How much did you get for cutting down a tree?

B We used to charge \$1.00 a tree to cut them down; then we'd pay something like \$25.00 a thousand board feet back to the farmer. So generally he would come out so he didn't owe anything for the cutting. Sometimes if they had a big orchard and had big butts, why he came out with pretty good money. This was to help clean out the orchard, when they started to cut the big old orchards that weren't any good anymore. Then they'd start planting the smaller trees.

Mc You said that you belonged to the Grange in your younger days?

B I belonged to the Grange in Gaines where the carriage store is now, and then when they bought the old hotel and moved in there.

Also my wife and I belonged to the Grange in Sayre, Ohio when we taught school at that time.

(end of tape)

Luther Burroughs has been and continues to be a most active, interesting person. Many of his accomplishments and interests remain unstated, due to the length of the tape (60 minutes).

The Taxpayers Association was formed by Luther Burroughs, Paul Acri and Allen Harradine in 1972. In 1975 this organization became the Orleans County Taxpayers Association. As of this writing there are 1,500 members.

* * * * *

The above interview was conducted by, transcribed, edited and typed by Helen M. McAllister of Medina, New York.



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Orleans County Historical Association

Table of Contents LUTHER P. BURROUGHS(#2)

SUBJECTS

Development of the Ricci Meadows Golf Course
Gasport-Middleport Country Club
purchase of Carlton farm by Luther Burroughs
development of the golf course
first nine-hole golf course in Orleans County
other golf courses in the county
renting golf clubs at 50¢ per day
golf carts, etc.
refreshments for the golfers
the Petronio Corporation
Oak Bridge Golf Club
Brockport University purchases the Club, 1975
purchase of the Club by Pete Ricci, etc. (page 9)
the John Daly Tournament

History of Orleans County Taxpayers Association
started in 1971 by four members
Luther Burroughs, Paul Acri, Al Harradine, and
Vincent Cardone
Citizens Public Expenditure Survey (CPES)
Local Taxpayers Association development (1975)
problems, etc.
County Supervisors: thoughts, actions, etc...
weighted voting
The demise of the Taxpayers Association
Continuing interest, etc.

1901-1984



Orleans County Historical Association

INTERVIEW

Mr. Luther P. Burroughs
123 South Main Street
Albion, New York

Luther Burroughs was born in 1901.

This interview was conducted by Helen McAllister.

B Burroughs

Hm Helen McAllister





Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Justin P. Burroughs

Signed

2-5-1981

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Adrian M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

2-5-1981

Date

February 5th, 1981. For the Orleans County Historical Association, Helen McAllister of Medina, N. Y. is interviewing Luther P. Burroughs of 123 South main Street, Albion, N. Y.

Hm well, Luther, since we did our first interview, I realize that there are a lot of things that you have to say that I neglected to have you tell. I know that you have been very interested and active in golf. Would you want to tell us how you got started?

B Well I was going to Summer school in the late twenties at Ohio State, and some friend of mine asked me if I would substitute in a golf league. I told him I didn't know. I didn't know anything about golf at all and I thought it was foolish for some one to go out and hit a ball and then chase it around. But he begged me to go out because they needed the units. All I did- they needed that one person or they would forfeit their game. Well as it happened, that one evening was enough to get me interested. So as much as I could through that year, I would go out on Sundays or Saturdays or Sundays and play golf in the surrounding territory there. And I liked it very much. When I moved to Connecticut in the early thirties, there was a small nine hole course within a mile of where I lived: Oyster River course. It was right off from Long Island Sound. And I generally played there several nights a week and on week-ends; on Sundays, my crew, usually a foursome, we would go into New Haven and generally play the big eighteen hole Municipal Course in New Haven. At that time Roosevelt had come in to office. And he had repealed the Prohibition. And there were a number of places that had opened up for beer and for harded stuff around through that territory. However in Connecticut the law read that on Sunday, in order to have a drink of any kind, it was necessary to sit at a table and order something to eat, along with the drink. But since we were out golfing and it wasn't a good time for us to eat, we would take - generally I took a couple of my boys along - who were maybe eight or ten years old. They would caddy and then when it came time for our drinking, we would

let them eat the hot dogs or hamburgers, whatever it was that they had to put out. However, this got to be such a joke, that it was repealed later. Because the place would put out rubber hot dogs. Put it out on the table and then and of course after the people left, they would take it back for the next person. But still, as far as I know, they still have the law that you have to, on Sunday, you have to sit. You can't sit at the bar, you have to sit at a table.

Ha You mean that still holds today?

B As far as I know. I haven't been back there in maybe fifteen years but at that time that Sunday law was still in effect. Now, when I came to Orleans County in 1945, about the nearest golf course was the Gasport-Middleport Country Club. And I used to go up there quite often with Clure Appleton. And it was about the nearest place for the ordinary golfer to play. Of course the big places like Stafford, the private courses there was no way that I could afford to belong to one of those. However I - in the county at that time, there had been, in the middle thirties, a six hole golf course at Eagle Harbor. This was run by the Cole family and it was a very elaborate set up for the six holes. When the depression came, the small clientele they had, the local clientele were unable to keep it up, so it folded. In fact I understand that the greens are used as a lawn for the old trolley depot. When somebody bought that and turned it into a home, the grass, the greens for the golf course were used there. I don't know. That is just hearsay. ~~So I had, I had been thinking~~ I had bought this farm because it was the only place to live around here. I was going to be working here and with my family I had to have a pretty good house. Two of my children were away but I still had four children home, who had to go to school,

Hm Luther, where was this farm that you bought?

B The farm that I bought was in Carlton. At the present time it is the Ricci Meadows Golf Course. And I had talked some and other people had talked to me. "Why don't I start a Driving Range or a Golf course", and some way or another I was mulling it over in my mind. And one Saturday morning my wife hollered at me, "Brick, Brick get up" she said. And I said " why, what's the trouble?" She said, "There's a man in the yard with a bulldozer and he said and said you hired him to start a golf course!" well evidently the night before I had been out to a few places and I had talked to this fellow.

Some way or another he thought that I had wanted him to come down right away. So since he was there, we started in. And another thing, the expense of hiring a bulldozer or caterpillar is nothing like it would be now. So he charged something like ten dollars an hour. So I told him to go ahead and do about ten hours work because that was all the available money I had at that time. And we would do more later.

Hm How did you - didn't you have to plan, to lay out the golf course, with the little slopes and hills and holes and that sort of thing?

B That had to be done but as long as the thing wasn't done in a hurry, what was going to happen was in my mind and in the mind of my boys who had golfed some and were helping me out on the thing. So the first green I put in - and that was the only one he put in that day - was what had been a wood between my driveway and the creek which was part of my property. So he bulldozed all the trees and all the stumps. And then he took the loose dirt and made a big green which is still the ninth green. It was up in the air and sloped. And occasionally it would sink in a little bit as the stumps rotted but we were always able to keep it in pretty good shape. Then as the money was available, I would have some one come in with a 'dozer and and build up a few more greens. And

finally I had a six hole golf course and I had a small driving range. However, with the driving range, I found out that wasn't too much, too many customers to use it. And the fact that people would want to put one or two balls in their pocket. So by the time you get through to the end of the season, you are out of balls and you haven't made much money. So I started with the six holes and so they could repeat three holes and make nine; a very short nine. The following year, or maybe two years later, for the start. I had three more holes across the the creek and and that gave me a small, a very small nine hole course. In the meantime we wouldn't any money except what would come in and what we might have to get back from income tax to build the thing up.

Hm May I interrupt you and ask you here; *how* were you employed during that period of time?

B During that time I was working for - from 1949 on I was working for General Foods and for Hunts. So I was working full time and my wife was teaching. And the children grew up and went away and it meant that since we were taking a loss on the golf course, building it up, we were able to get quite a little of our income tax money back. So it worked both ways on that.

Hm Were you able to enjoy playing golf during that period of time, or were you so engrossed in work that you couldn't go out and play golf?

B I played a little big. They had a league and I would play in the league and occasionally ; maybe once a month I would take some of my good customers and go to other courses where I could play for courtesy playing.

But I found out that I had more pleasure in working on the course and cutting the fairways. And I couldn't do any walking. I didn't do anything of that. But I would like to get on a roller, I would like to get on a mower and I would much prefer that rather than to go out and play golf.

Hm When you say mower, you mean a riding mower? They didn't have golf carts at that time did they?

B They had, they had some. But I had, of course I had riding always. They weren't too good in the early days but they developed later. And I finally, I had a fairly long, narrow nine hole course on about forty-two acres of land. Well, it happened my neighbor across the street, I had asked him any time he wanted to sell his property below me to let me know. So I think it was 1969, he came over and said he would like to sell that and he gave me a figure. And I went to the bank and made arrangements and we bought the course.

Hm May I ask what the neighbor's name was?

B Thiel. THIEL.

Hm Okay

B And so we bought this land and since the bank was willing to finance it, we decided to go ahead and build a wider and bigger nine hole course. So we had at that time seventy-eight acres. And the boys helped me very much. They went over and they worked hard to put the holes to take advantage of the natural contour of the land. And I think we did a real good job. So we had bought the land July. We seeded the two greens. We only had to, we only had to put in two new greens. We took advantage of the old ones in going back and forth. We seeded those greens in August and we were mowing and useing the number five green - which is the farthest from the road - we were useing that in late September. The following year we were able to switch over and to use the long nine. And have been useing that, they have been useing that ever since.

At that time - when I had the nine - that was the first nine hole course in Orleans County. In the meantime, people seeing that I was getting a little business. Down below they decided to start the Oak Orchard Country Club. And they started that and I think it was about three years - I don't remember the time they opened up - but it was about three years after I had opened up my full nine. And then they opened up their eighteen hole course. And in the mean time several others, Eddie Biernacki opened up a nine hole par 3 course just outside of

Albion on the Gaines Basin Road. The Brockport Country Club was in the making. I forget the name of the people. That was originally a nine hole course and later developed into an eighteen hole course. I think part of it is in Monroe county as well as in Orleans County. Then Shellridge about that time in Medina, started to build their course. And finally then, I guess, the other one was built. A par 3 course in Lyndonville or in Yates.

I retired from work in about 1964. And I ran the golf course myself until until 1972. At that time my wife was sick and we had to move into Albion. And it was an impossibility to be an absentee owner. So at that time I was looking around for buyer. When we were living here, my wife was a very, very big help. She was, of course, in the house most of the time. She could take care of the customers. And she got to know all the -a whole lot about the golf part of it. Although she never did golf. Now in a place like that you have to have rental clubs. If the people come in and they don't have clubs, they want rental clubs. In those days we would rent a set of clubs for them at fifty cents.

Hm For the whole set?

B For the set. Fifty cents for the day they were down there. And our golf fees at first were very, very small. For a long while it was a dollar and a quarter, which included both Saturdays and Sundays. And they could play all day long, if they wanted to go home and come back. Because I had in mind, we had in mind a place where the ordinary working people could go without spending a lot of money.

Hm Did you provide a caddy for the people who wanted a caddy to carry their clubs?

B Well in a course like that a caddy wouldn't make any money because the people are there because it is cheaper to play. And so sometimes they would bring their own children. And sometimes they might take one of my boys.

Hm I see.

B Actually we had carts that they pulled along, if they wanted pull carts rather than to carry their bags.

Hm I see

B But shortly after that, we got some gasoline carts here for them if they wanted to rent them. And of course later the gasoline turned into electric carts. And in fact practically every course has a fleet of carts to people that wanted them.

Hm Luther, did you have any refreshments there for the people?

B Well, we had a pop machine. We had candy, candy and cigarettes. And that was in the dining room. And then in the back we had a big refrigerator with a sign on it. Where the beer was kept, "For members only." In the leagues, we had one that started in the early days and that is still going. The same league and the same people except a few have died out and some more have come in. But in order to satisfy them, we had this big refrigerator and it would be kept full of beer. Or if someone came down and had something with them it was all right to put it in to keep cool until when they came up. But the sign said "For members only." One time somebody made a complaint and somebody from - a police investigator I am not going to mention what part of state or county - came down to see me. And said he had had a complaint and what about it. So as we sat out in the back yard and I had a couple of customers, a man and a woman. They walked in the back room and they came out with their cans in their hands and sat down before they went out to play. So I explained what it was. If he wanted to go in and see it. It was for the convenience of the public. If they come in they can put their six-packs in there and keep them cool while they go around. If they, for league members, that's what it was for. And the treasurer of the league would keep it filled up. And when they came down to get it they would put in their quarters or thirty cents or whatever it was. He said, "who is the treasurer of the league?" I said, "I am. I happen to be

the treasurer." And he said, "Oh, then you keep it filled up?" And I said, "yes." And he stayed for a while. Well, he says, "you know," he says, "I can't - if the law would say that this is illegal - it would mean that you couldn't let any one in with anything in their car. You would have to shut everything off. So, he said, "there is so little of it." He said, "How much is there?" And I said, "maybe a couple of cases a week a week." He said, "there is so little of it I don't think it would make any difference." So that operated all the time I was down there and it didn't bother anybody and it - well, it made it convenient for the league members. At that time I had this men's league and there was a ladies' league that played for a while. But as I say, I had to sell the course because I couldn't handle it. And it seemed that early in that spring I had been approached by the Petronio Corporation in regard to if I wanted to sell. And I didn't. However when I had to sell I contacted them. I told them I had to take any kind of a deal I could get because I was unable to handle it any longer. So we got together and they gave me a very good deal. I was in part of the - there were six partners in the new Oak Bridge Golf Club and I was one of the six partners. However my - I didn't have to put money in so as a result I didn't - if there was any over I wouldn't get into that part of it. Except for the fact that of course I had the mortgage on the place at that time. They ran it for a couple of years and they found out like I did that absentee ownership doesn't go too well. So they decided they would give it to Brockport University. And take a tax rebate off which would be better all the way through. This was done and Brockport took the place over in August of 1975, I believe, and I had been working for the club to supervise. And I had Parker Terry, who used to run Terry Hills Golf Course. He was the greens-master and he worked with me at that time.

Hum What was his name?

B Parker Terry, Jr. So Brockport decided the following year that they would put in their own people there. And as a result - I didn't go down there much - but as a result it turned into a - an eight to four golf course. In other words, in the evening when there was a lot of play there was no one there to collect the money. And in the early morning there was no one collecting money. And so as a result they decided they would have to get rid of it.

Hm They, being Brockport?

B They, being Brockport University. The Ricci's then heard about it and put in a bid for it and were able to buy it. I had heard that they had bought it, but before I had a chance to call and find out, Pete Ricci called me and wanted to know if I would be willing to sit down with him and share my knowledge of the course. And he didn't expect me to do it for nothing but he would be glad if I would help him. So we got together and I told him about this Parker Terry. That he would be a good man to get a hold of because he knew all about the greens and the golf course. So he got him and the first year I did all the fairway mowing. Ricci's got a seven gang mower and a tractor. And, where it used to take me eight days to go over the course to cut the grass, now I was able to go over the whole course in eight hours. So it was only necessary to work maybe three days a week and I could do all the fairways and keep them cut. However, since I did not want to work in the afternoon, I would take the four days or five days and do it in the morning. And that kept it in a little better shape. The Riccis started in to do the things I wanted to do, for the convenience of those people who couldn't afford to go to the golf courses. They have done an awful lot of work. They are getting it in good condition and they are one of the few golf courses that are -well - solvent. That aren't having financial troubles. (Presently called "Ricci Meadows Golf Course")

Hm They still are the owners?

B Oh, yes. They are still the owners and will continue to be.

Mc And how many holes?

B It is still nine holes, a long nine holes. And unless they can buy more land near there, I don't think they will try to make this into a small eighteen. When you've got eighteen you've got, you've got more labor and unless it is a large eighteen, it doesn't pay to do that. The Ricci's now, as I understand it, have leagues on practically every day in the week. And they bought the house right next door, where Ernie Gay lived, They are using that as a small clubhouse and they are using the other building as a pro shop. There are a number of things that have gone on down there this past year. They have had several tournaments. John Daly* was down there and is very interested in having the thing go over.

Hm The Senator John Daly?

B *Senator John Daly. They have a "John Daly Open" now, that they will have once a year. And of course my family used to play down there. My son, Dick, has gone to New Jersey. I think he is going to come up during the summer and run the big tournament that they have. Because he has done it, well, ever since we opened the golf course. He has run every tournament we have ever had and he would like to continue as long as he can do it.

Hm That's good.

Hm Luther, would you like to tell me about the Orleans County Taxpayers Association, please.

B Well, it's quite a long story but it started in 1971. Al Harradine asked me to go to a budget hearing and **although** I was not very interested, I had no excuse **Because** I was retired and was able to go to the meeting. However I was very glad. At that time in seeing the budget, it showed that the county was going on a haphazard manner. The taxes were going up without too much control. And there was very little restraint on the amount of expenditures in the county. So, during that year - at that ~~time~~ Paul Acri, who was an optician (he died I believe in 1975) made a speech at the meeting saying that if the taxes kept going up, we were going to have some sort of a tax revolt in Orleans County! At that time **I** believe the total for the whole county was around six million dollars. Today it is in the twenty millions. In that short time it has gone up quite a lot. During the following year I went to Florida in the winter time. And I, from a former supervisor, I got the proceedings for the county for the previous eight or nine years, so that I could study them over. And I found out that the county was - by use of underestimating revenues and overestimating their expenditures - were building up a considerable surplus in the county. So each year they would have quite a little more money left over part of which would be put in the budget to reduce taxes. In the budget hearing for 1973, we had already formed our small association. Paul Acri, Al Harradine and myself were the main ones but we had considerable help from Vincent Cardone. He would meet with us sometimes at ten o'clock at night to twelve to go over some of these things and give us advice on how to operate. There was no organization as a dues paying organization. We paid our own expenses what we did. I think Al Harradine had stationary made for the three of our names on it as officials. And we went along and it was my duty to get information from other counties.

And since I had relatives in Albany and in other parts of the state, I would stop at county seats, Genessee, Wyoming, Livingston and probably about twenty five of the smaller counties of the state to get information from them. Their proceedings, what they were doing and see if we could make some sort of comparison with Orleans County. Now all of this was very much opposed by the Supervisors. They thought that we were doing something that we shouldn't be doing. And as a result at the budget hearing, we would be asked, Paul Acri particularly, how many people we had in our organization. And he said, "it makes no difference. We represent the taxpayers of Orleans County. And it makes no difference if we have got two or three or a hundred or two hundred. It still is the thing that we think should be done and shouldn't be done."

Hm How many of them were there approximately at that time were they?

B Approximately at that time I would say that six would be the total. And there was only three of us, or possibly four, who were doing anything at all. Then in 1973 at the budget hearing that year, the Supervisors had put on an extra one percent sales tax in order to pay for the jail. And at that time, in June of that year, as near as we could find out, the jail had been paid off and that one percent was accumulating somewhere. We tried to find out in the meeting but the only thing they would say is that shouldn't be on the budget because it was nothing that - well it was only for that special purpose. So we claimed, Paul Acri did most of the talking, that we could take off \$300,000 from the budget and save the taxpayers about three dollars per thousand on their tax bills. The people - ordinarily the Supervisors after the budget hearing would have a meeting and pass it. No matter what objection there might be before that, But this year the people insisted - and they had a pretty full house - that the Supervisors sit down with our committee and go over some of these things that we had suggested, And see if something couldn't be done. We had an all day session and it appears ~~in~~ ~~the~~ one of the proceedings of the following year. The result of that meeting that actually there was only about \$150,000 that could be taken off and that would be a matter of changing certain type of income and outgo, so they didn't believe it was worth the effort. However, and this is something that has been very quiet ever since, there was quite a little money in that fund and it was "not" money. It had to be gotten rid of in a hurry. So about ten days after this, it was announced that almost \$600,000 was going to be given to the schools, the villages and the towns. Well unfortunately, they went way overboard. And as a result if they had only taken about \$300,000 of that

and the way we suggested doing it that way, they wouldn't have hurt themselves and the county. But they made the \$600,000 coming off from the tax made a very small payment for that year. The following year without all that extra money, the taxes went up. Then in 1975, I believe it was, Paul Acri was taken sick and was in the hospital. And I decided I didn't want to go to the budget hearing and take all the front. So Vincent Cardone agreed to take care of that part of it. It was at that time that the taxes went up, almost tripled. And people were so highly indignant that there was a meeting at the court house to form a new taxpayer's association. At that meeting they put a waste basket in front of the platform. And the people went by and threw in their money to get money for expenses and I believe they took in something like \$385 in bills, with no names attached. Shortly after that a meeting was held at the Middle School auditorium with people from Albany. Bradley Hurd from Buffalo who was the instigator of the, of the suit against the school systems of overtaxation. Representatives from Livingston County, Genessee County, Wyoming County and there was to be a general organization of state taxpayers organizations sponsored by the Citizens Public Expenditure Survey, CPES as it is called. At that time I was co-chairman with Bradley Hurd of the seven county western New York district.

The local Taxpayers Association was formed with a full set of officers, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Directors. And the three originators of the Taxpayers Association that being Al Harradine, Paul Acri and myself were left entirely on the outside. However, since I had been the contact man with Albany and the other counties and I had been in Livingston County at the time that they formed their association to give them advice on that and since most things had gone through me, I called myself the coordinator and used that term from then on. In Orleans County itself there were certain things that we thought should be done, At that time. At that time there was a lot of money being spent on Community College and it was getting to the point that we thought that there were a number of abuses.

Hm Where was the Community College?

B I am talking particularly about Genessee Community College. And I am also talking about all community colleges. At that time it was the beginning actually of the community college system. And in the setup originally the state paid one third, the county paid one third and the student was supposed to pay one third. However, it got to the point that the state was backing down. The county was having to assume more and there were a number of what we thought were abuses of the courses that were being given in the community college and charged back to the county which should not have been chargebacks. Now this is one of the things that I think our old taxpayers association saved the county

1976

quite a lot of money. The, I believe in the 1976 budget they had \$400,00 budgeted for community colleges, the county share of it. However, in going through that, I had had a committee who would take a list of people from the different colleges. And they would call back and see if they knew that the county was being charged back for their education. Some of them, very few of them knew that and at that time it wasn't necessary to get a registration from the treasurer of the county. They simply put on it that they were from Orleans County and there would be no further checks. So we were charged back for a number of things. Well after that particular thing was investigated by my committee thoroughly, I set up a conference with the Vice Chancellor of the community colleges in Albany. I had a conference phone at the Extension office. And I had the five superintendents of schools, of the county. I had the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the finance chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the treasurer, Mary Basinet and some of the members of my committee. I contacted the vice chancellor and we sat around this table and each one had a chance to ask him questions and talk to him about these so called abuses. At that time we owed something like \$85,000 that was due at once. And the vice chancellor that we hold it up, part of it until we had straightened out what was what. However, although everyone was listening to him, and when it was published in the papers that that had happened, he denied it. But at the same time our bill after that for community colleges expenses, came back down to well under \$300,000. So we feel that just that one thing, the taxpayers association has saved the county more that \$150,000 a year. Because if it hadn't have been stopped I am sure that it would have kept right on going.

When the new association was formed, there was the full set of officers and chairmen of committee. There was a committee to investigate the Highway Dept. a committee to investigate the Sheriff's Dept the social services and so on. I still had the committee for community colleges because I had been working on that entirely with several of the local ladies of the community who helped me with telephone calls and went with me to Wyoming County and Livingston County, for information. However, as it turned out, when the Association was formed, we had about a thousand members at two dollars apiece and it was easy to get that in there. The committees were formed, but usual when they made anything like that they just picked out names. They didn't pick out people who were going to do anything. For instance we had a committee chairman for the information on the Highway Dept. Social Services and Community Colleges. And what happened, all the information they wanted was what I was able to give them from my work. And what I would dig up and tell them. Then when we would have the meeting at the school or somewhere, they would take my report and read it off

and that was it. So it developed to the point where they didn't have meetings and any action that was taken would be strictly by one of the officers and as a result it had - it never lived up to its potentials that it should have had.

One of the bad things at that time was that the Supervisors were were working on a weighted voting basis. In other words, ~~xxx~~³ supervisors of the county were able to control ~~the~~ board of ten supervisors. This was something that had been ordered changed in 1970 by Judge Kelley. But it had been tossed aside each year and one of the first things the Association had to do was to get a lawyer who would reopen this lawsuit, in order to get proper representation of voting in Orleans County. I contacted a number of local lawyers and no one was interested. I thought I had a firm from just outside the county and they had some of the Orleans County politicians as clients. So they don't want to take it. Finally, someone suggested Vincent White, who was in Medina every Wednesday afternoon and had his office in Buffalo. I went to see Vincent and gave him the deal on it and then the officers of the Taxpayers Association went to see him and he agreed to take the case. Since the plaintiff was originally Stanley Kubatek, who was then a Supervisor, it was necessary to change to someone else. Therefore a deposition was made changing the plaintiff to Allen Harradine and the attorney from Norris Webster to Vincent White. The lawsuit was started

although no one seemed to know how to begin. I went to Albany and contacted the Department of State and they referred me to the Attorney General's Office. And I received a letter stating that Judge Cook, I believe it was, had charge of that case in Buffalo. When Vincent White contacted him, he found out that Judge Kasler was the one who would be handling the case. After a series of court actions, Judge Kasler finally drew up a temporary type of legislature for Orleans County. This is in effect now and the Legislature at the present time is working on a form of legislature to be voted on in the election this fall. If it is turned down of course the temporary plan will be in effect. Now this practically ended the Taxpayers Association as far as any action is concerned. They still have their membership. They - no body pays any dues. They have a small bank account, but I am afraid that nothing will be done until such as there is another what you might call a tax revolt. It seems that people do not get disturbed about anything until it begins to effect their pocketbook. Now it has been a long deal on this thing with the three of us. Of course Paul Acri, several years ago was taken with a heart attack, had open heart surgery and passed away. However, he did an awful lot to bring about the abolishment of weighted voting in Orleans County. And he was a very conscientious worker for things which he thought were correct. Al Harradine and I are still doing a number of things. We are making suggestions to the legislators at times. We are still in contact with

other counties and keeping a close watch on the county expenditures. With the county situation the way it is now, the chances are that it won't be long before it will be necessary for the Taxpayer's Association to revive. We have, of course, now the new county building although they still have to pay two more years rent on the Platt Street complex. They have opened up in the county and they have a bad situation, a road situation that is going to cost a good bit of money. They are putting the \$600,000 roof on the Infirmary And all these things have to be paid for. And although some of that is going to be federal some of it State. We also know that the Federal and the State are drawing in their horns and more and more this is going to come out of the taxpayers pocket. We feel that when this new Taxpayers Association comes into effect that we will learn from past experience and be able to do things in a much more constructive and efficient method than has been done with the old Association. In the beginning of the Orleans County Taxpayers Association of course as I said previously, Al Harradine would pay whatever he had to pay. Paul Acri and I would do the same thing. In the fall of 1974, I made some remarks at the budget hearing. And I was in Florida for the winter, at Panama City Beach. When the new legislature of that year was formed and Stanley Kubatek was appointed as Budget Officer. In the statements in the paper, it said I was on tape as approving of this measure. Paul Acri didn't believe I had said that but after he listened to the tape he could see that in being taken out of context, it could be used as meaning that.

However, since there were a lot of things going on, since February of 1975, I asked Paul to set up a meeting at Mart's. So I flew up, addressed the meeting, stayed in Albion a couple of days and flew back down again. All at my own expense.

Hm Luther, thank you very much about telling us about the Taxpayers Association.

B You are welcome, Helen

Hm I appreciate it very much.

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(End of taped interview)

Luther Burroughs was interviewed by Helen McAllister of Medina.

The tape was transcribed and edited by Luther Burroughs.
Final compilation was done by Helen McAllister.

(Note: See ~~the~~ previous interview with Luther Burroughs).