

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
Harry Blumenfeld, D. D. S.
U. S. Navy, World War II

2004

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Blumenfeld, Harry, Dr., (1914-), Oral History Interview, 2004
User copy, 1 sound cassette (ca. 50 min.),
Master copy, 1 sound cassette (ca. 50 min.),

ABSTRACT

Blumenfeld, a Milwaukee, Wis, native, relates his World War II service with the Navy as a dentist. He reports that he was the youngest dentist in Wisconsin and conducted dental examinations on draftees prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Blumenfeld talks about his enlistment in the Navy and his commission as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade, in the Dental Corps. He describes his first assignment, in the Oakland Naval Hospital (California), as routine dental work where he was also assigned to instruct seamen who were training to become pharmacist's mates. Blumenfeld provides several stories including the number of veterans the institution took care of, the dentist who could make false porcelain eyes, the time Admiral Nimitz's wife was a guest, and the deals he made with other officers. Blumenfeld comments that after spending eighteen months at the Oakland Hospital he had to send his family back to Racine because he was transferred to Pearl Harbor and then on to Tinian Island in the Western Pacific. Blumenfeld illustrates life in the Western Pacific, which included pancakes that turned green, the humidity and the bugs. He relates there were still Japanese snipers on the island and he and others took weapons training and fired rifles at the range for self-protection. Blumenfeld describes Tinian as having a hundred-thousand American troops, and of those, only ten were women. He mentions their dental unit was in a quonset hut. He comments on the war being over, and taking a destroyer escort to Saipan, which was engaged in maneuvers for five days before getting to Saipan. He reveals that from Saipan he boarded a large transport to San Francisco and he had to climb a cargo net to board the transport. Blumenfeld returned to Milwaukee and established a dental practice after his discharge and touches upon the Veteran's Day program he coordinated for residents living at Laurel Oaks. He mentions that he was active in the Marquette University Dental School and received many honors for his work at Marquette.

Biographical Sketch

Blumenfeld (b. 1914) was a Milwaukee native who received his dental degree from Marquette University prior to his entry into military service in the Navy where he practiced his trade during World War II both stateside and in the Pacific theater. Characterizing himself as "a little Jewish dentist" in an issue of the *Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle*, Blumenfeld was well-known in dental professional circles both in Wisconsin and nationwide.

Interviewed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2004.
Transcribed by John K. Driscoll, Wisconsin Veterans Museum Volunteer, 2004.
Transcript edited by Gayle Martinson, 2004.

Interview Transcript

John: All right, this is John Driscoll and I am with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and this is an oral history interview with Dr. Harry Blumenfeld in his apartment in Milwaukee. Doctor, thank you so much for agreeing to the interview and why don't we start at the beginning? Where and when were you born?

Dr. Harry: I was born in Milwaukee in 1914. My parents were born in Wisconsin. My dad in Milwaukee and my mother in Sheboygan.

John: Okay.

Dr. Harry: My grandparents came from Europe. Evidently having a name Blumenfeld is German, meaning field of flowers.

John: Flowers, yes. A beautiful name.

Dr. Harry: So it must have come, my grandparents must have come from some place near Germany. Being born in Milwaukee in 1914 is a long time ago. For a man who is structured, organized, and who writes an agenda every day, to go back some almost ninety years is almost quite an overwhelming challenge, but I will try.

John: I can imagine.

Dr. Harry: I was schooled in Milwaukee, public school. High school, Washington High School. And at the age of seventeen, I entered Marquette University. At the age of twenty-two, with an accelerated combined program, I had already earned a bachelor of science and a doctor of dental surgery. At the age of twenty-two. I was the youngest dentist in the state of Wisconsin. I also was the poorest, and I had the worst credit rating of any dentist, I think, in the world. I tried, and it took me five years to get organized, and to get out of debt. And at least to get on a going, profitable basis.

John: Okay.

Dr. Harry: Where to we go from there?

John: When did you graduate from school? From dental school?

Dr. Harry: 1936. The depression years. Very, very difficult. My father was in the wholesale mens' furnishing business on North Water Street. That is the wholesale district. As a matter of fact, at the age of ten, I was the assistant shipping clerk. At the age of ten. I came up in a middle class environment. We had food. We didn't have

great hardship during the depression, but my dad's business was very, very bad. And getting through dental school financially was a very difficult chore. Somehow, I managed. There were no student loans, however, this is unbelievable, the tuition per semester at the dental school was \$135.00 per semester. And now, of course, it's \$30,000. I am still affiliated, as a consultant, at the dental school. And these poor kids graduate owing some \$100,000. They'll never get out of debt, it seems.

John: Well, then, how did you end up in the armed services? Well, let me ask another question, first. I try to ask this of everybody. Do you remember Pearl Harbor Day?

Dr. Harry: Oh, I sure do. Pearl Harbor was December 6, '41, wasn't it? Do I remember it. I am going to be ninety years old. I was there. We'll get to that point because one of my stations was Pearl Harbor, so I know Pearl Harbor.

John: When did you go into the service?

Dr. Harry: Let me start this way. Soon after the war, I don't know, when did they start drafting people? Do you recall?

John: They were drafting before the war, weren't they?

Dr. Harry: Before the war?

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: Then, my associate who was a medical internist and I volunteered our services in our office every Friday for weeks on end to screen possible draftees. That was my overtime. I paid my dental assistant and we examined various people. Some were deferred and I don't recall if they were deferred on a dental basis, but on a medical basis they were deferred. 4-F they called that classification. There was sort of a stigma at that time, you know. "You're a 4-Fer."

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: Well, after months or a couple of years of that, I understood the Navy needed dentists and I was very patriotic, and I mentioned to my wife, "I am going to enlist in the Navy." She had her misgivings, but I went down. I believe the examining part was Milwaukee, downtown. My office was downtown. It was in the First Wisconsin National Bank. 735 North Water. The elite building of the city. You see, that was when I was starving. And earning a little money. Not much, but a little. And of course I passed. They were elated to recruit a going dentist. And I don't recall the exact dates. Was that 1943?

John: That's all right.

Dr. Harry: And within a couple months, I got my "Dear Sir" letter, and I bought uniforms. I was very proud of. I didn't know how to wear them, but I did. And I had hospital experience. I was head of the dental department at a major hospital in Milwaukee, and my first assignment was the Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. And I figured, boy, they realized I am pretty good, and I am going to go right to a hospital. Like everything else, I got there and I reported to the medical captain, who was head of the medical department. The medical department was the head of dentistry at that time. And he welcomed me aboard routinely and had somebody take me down to the dental C. O., who was a commander. And they gave me the day off to find something. My family I had left, my sister lived in Los Angeles, so I left her there with my daughter. And I found, well, they put me up in the hotel and told me to report back at whatever, the next day. The next day, with all my hospital experience, I was put to work in a unit doing 101 Dentistry. No silver amalgams, nothing. Just routine junk. And that was my lot at the Oakland Naval Hospital, with the exception they did give me the teaching role. I taught seamen first class who were trying to become pharmacists mates third class. And I taught applicant dentistry, and they were good, intelligent, conscientious group. Now, remember, I am going back a long time. Isn't it amazing how I can remember all these details. And they were good kids. One young WAVE, boy, I can remember. She'd come late. You know, it was an eight o'clock class, and she would come 8:20, 8:30. And I got a little teed off, and I don't discipline non-commissioned people, so I told the chief petty officer about it. And he really was aggravated at her, made her wash windows. Well, the next morning, there she was sitting outside washing windows. She didn't need a pail because there were enough tears coming out for the water. Subsequently, I found out the reason that she was late, she had morning sickness, she was about four months pregnant. Some submarine guy took care of her, and she soon was gone. From there on in, I never reprimanded anyone until I found out the reason. I learned a lesson.

John: Yea, yea.

Dr. Harry: A real good lesson. The Oakland Naval Hospital was a great institution because it took care of many veterans coming back from the Pacific. Amputees, paraplegics, and very sick, sick people. In dentistry, we had a wonderful dental set-up. That is what you are interested in. Maybe twenty dentists, three or four specialized in prosthetics. Dentists. Not me, my rank was junior grade. That is the lowest you could get with Dental Corps. I was doing menial work but they were restoring teeth and they did, dentistry is different today. I've been out twelve, fourteen years, and although I keep reading, I couldn't practice today. Things have changed. Totally, totally different. If I practiced today, it would be archaic, it would be worth nothing. But these veterans, rather the men coming in, received

good work. And we had an officers dental laboratory. And it was self-contained. They could make false teeth, dentures, or partials, or anything. I was not involved. A wonderful, I wonder if you have ever heard of dentistry making, or fabricating, false eyes. Have you ever heard of that?

John: No.

Dr. Harry: Well, this is something additional, now, in our dental history. In dentistry, we were very adept in handling porcelain. Like porcelain jackets.

John: Okay.

Dr. Harry: And we knew how to stain porcelain. We didn't have plastic yet, now, remember, but we had porcelain. So there was one dentist who was very artistic, dextrous type of man. He would take people who lost an eye overseas and fit them with an artificial eye. Now, again, this is new to you, right?

John: Yea. I can see that, yea.

Dr. Harry: And this dentist, who would look at the good eye, and, as I recall, the iris is a diaphragm designating the color of the eye, and there is the whole pupil, and the surrounding sclera. Well, he would look at the eye and stain that artificial eye exactly the way the good eye was, the pupil, and if the kid had brown eyes, blue eyes, or what have you, and the sclera, which is that white part, he'd even design these little tiny blood vessels, the arterials and capillaries. And I watched him. And he'd bake it right in. And the kid had a beautiful false eye. And that is part of dentistry.

John: I can see that, but I am thinking...

Dr. Harry: Yea. No, the technique is...now you have a whole new aspect of oral dentistry. So, I can't recall much else. We had social events. Social events are very important in the Navy. You know that. Admiral Nimitz's wife was a guest one time. They put on a sterling silver dinner and on and on. I minded my own business, stayed out of trouble. Did what I was supposed to, which was difficult for me because I was an independent operator here. You know. I would get to the office exactly, or earlier, than 8:00, and have lunch, and so forth. Incidentally, in the Navy, I never missed a lunch hour, or never was late to leave for lunch. Isn't that confusion. In my own office, I missed scores of lunches. And I worked a lot of overtime.

John: You spent time in the Pacific, didn't you?

Dr. Harry: Oh, yea. This is an aside. They had a very prominent artist-sculptor aboard in the

facial restorative department. He was, I've forgotten his rank, but I don't even remember what part of the service. He certainly was not a dentist. I don't know. But he carved bones for the patient people and diagramed what he wanted, and so forth. And he found out I was from Marquette University. Marquette had a terrific clinical record of excellence everywhere. Not research, but clinical work. But he came to me and said, "Take a look at my mouth." He was from Detroit or Cleveland. All gold inlays. You know, gorgeous work. I took him, or had x-rays taken, and he had three or four things that needed restoring. And he said, "I want gold inlays," pointing to this area, which is titled the genesis of a portrait.

John: A what?

Dr. Harry: Genesis of a portrait. I said, according to this, I said, "Gee." What the hell was his name? I said, "I can get you the battleship *Missouri* to come here before I can get you gold inlays. It's war." He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll do a portrait of your wife or daughter if you give me gold inlays." I said, "I can't do that, because, you know, I'm not my own boss. But I'll ask the commander, the three-striper." He came in and we talked about it. He said, "Why certainly you can do it, except I want a portrait, too." Two for one. So, I did the gold inlays and I did well, and everyone was satisfied. The commander got a picture. There is the picture there.

John: Oh.

Dr. Harry: Deals are made in the Navy. Deals.

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: And I didn't go overseas, actually, until the fall of, like after the war. I think I stayed in Oakland because of one incident. Don't take it word for word. We were at a dinner party one night with the commander. Finished dinner. "God damn it, I forgot my cigars." I am a cigar smoker, and I had saved his life, you know. Well, I hung around Oakland for eighteen months, which was unheard of. I don't know. It was just that he evidently liked me, or something.

John: That is great.

Dr. Harry: So, I got orders to go to Pearl Harbor, and it was a very sad departure. My wife and five year old daughter had to get on the train and go back to Racine. That is where her folks lived. She stayed there. And there were a lot of tears, you know. And I got to Pearl Harbor on a CVE, that is one of those Kaiser converted aircraft carriers.

John: Yea. And escort carrier.

Dr. Harry: It was a terrible ride. But, I didn't know any better. So, I got to Pearl Harbor. I don't recall the details, but they put me in a very nice BOQ. And you know, Honolulu is eighty-ish. I mean, we had windows, we had screens all year long. And I was assigned dentistry, and this is terrible, but "officers only." They had their own little dental compartment. "Enlisted men" here. Isn't that too bad, but that is the Navy. And they put me with the officers, which was fine. And I stayed there, it was sort of a staging area, and I stayed there, I don't know, several weeks. I got along. Lonesome. The other guys on Saturday night would put on their white uniforms, go into Honolulu, and truly, I think I was alone in that whole place. But I was happy not going to town. I had a wife, a child, and I figured, enough.

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: I was happy. Then I got orders from Pearl Harbor to Tinian. I had never heard of Tinian. So I looked in the map, and its in the Mariannas, in the western Pacific. Guam, Tinian, Rota, there is a tiny little island that is not inhabited, then Tinian and Siapan. So, from Pearl Harbor, we took off in a four-engine place. I'm glad I didn't know these people who drove that plane had about as much experience as I, and I had two years. And here they're piloting a four-engine plane. United or Midwest takes fifteen years to get to that. So our first stop from Pearl Harbor was Johnson Island.

John: Yes.

Dr. Harry: Are you familiar with Johnson?

John: Yes.

Dr. Harry: One by one. A tiny little dot. And in retrospect, that navigator, if he missed that thing, we'd be in the drink. So, we got to Johnson. I don't remember much about Johnson. I suppose, to re-fuel. And our next stop was Kwajalein. And we got there early in the morning and we were supposed to have breakfast. Isn't it peculiar how I recall these details?

John: That is what these stories are all about.

Dr. Harry: Well, the chef said, "What do you want to eat?" I said, "What have you got?" He said, "Pancakes, but if you let them stand, they turn green after a few minutes." I says, "Well, hell, I'm not going to eat those." I didn't want green pancakes in my stomach. We took off, we got to Guam during the night. And the put us in some barracks that were terrible. Just plain nothing. And it was either prickly heat, or bugs. I was just covered with welts the next morning. Guam is a very humid place

and [unintelligible] sticks there, and we stayed in Guam about three days. And finally they said we were going to Tinian. Tinian, where? The mail was piled from the floor to the top and we squeezed in on some bucket seats, going to Tinian. Well, I got to Tinian all right. And Tinian is a little island, nine by four. That is thirty-six square miles. At one time they had a hundred thousand American troops there. And there were ten white girls.

John: Oh, God, they must have been the most popular women in the world.

Dr. Harry: Yea. So I wrote to my wife. She said, "Honey, try to be good." I said, "Are you kidding? When you get on Tinian, you get a number, and my number is 99,992, so don't worry."

John: That's great.

Dr. Harry: "Don't worry." So, incidentally, I was these ten women's dentist.

John: Oh.

Dr. Harry: They said hello to me, which was it.

John: That moved your number down.

Dr. Harry: At least "Good morning, Doctor." You know. And I got to Tinian, and I replaced, I was, I don't know if I was junior or senior grade. I think I had two stripes at the time. And I replaced a lieutenant commander, two and a half stripes. He was so pleased and happy, elated, to see me, he hugged me. "I've been waiting for you for days, or weeks." All right, the tragic part of that is, he was dead the next day.

John: Oh, that is tragic.

Dr. Harry: He wanted to fly, like everyone who goes home who goes to Saipan. He had the captain, or whoever had the place, he took the plane up, a two-seater, went up, banked too much and down he went. Going home. That had a great impact on me. I was very disturbed about that. Which we will get to a little later.

John: Let me just stop for a minute and turn this, so we don't run out.

[End of Side A of Tape 1.]

John: Okay, you said you were very disturbed by the death of the lieutenant commander.

Dr. Harry: Yes. You get over things. I saw both the pilot and the newly found dentist in the

medical building, dead. You know, they were broken apart.

John: That is terrible.

Dr. Harry: Yea. That was a tragedy. But, the next day is a new day, right? And I am trying to find, yes. Here is, well, that doesn't help your stuff. This is the edifice of the dental clinic of Tinian.

John: A Quonset hut.

Dr. Harry: A Quonset hut.

John: God love them.

Dr. Harry: With two dental units. We had two or three assistants, pharmacists. They were good. They scrubbed the floor, they did the work, and we did dentistry best we could. Incidentally, my friend and I did some endodontics, which is unheard of out there. Root canals. On anterior teeth. We just would not extract certain teeth, and we did root canals which you don't do nine thousand miles away from home. And again, it was 101 Dentistry here, more or less. We, this is after the war, we had snipers.

John: Oh, yea? Still?

Dr. Harry: Oh, yea. We'd go out and monkey around, practice, shoot ourselves. We'd try. We'd go out to the shooting range. And two of us would go through what we'd call a jungle, I don't know. Take some little tiny path with out Jeep and look two miles inland and find a tiny Shinto shrine and stuff. We were exposing ourselves to trouble but we thought, I don't know. But they were probably more scared than we were at the time. And I, when I reported on Tinian, I reported to the one physician there, Bob Wright, and he said, "Where are you from?" And I told him, Milwaukee. "What school?" Marquette. "Did you know I graduated medical school at Marquette." We are talking nine thousand miles away. "Where do you practice?" He said, "Racine." I said, "I am twenty-five miles away. Isn't that a coincidence?" So we went, he took me, well, I was, the establishment was so small, it was the Naval air base there, with one company of Marines and their function was to maintain the drones, those little drones that went by remote control and the fleet would try to shoot them down. Sometime they took a drone out and the thing came back, the whole damned fleet missed it. But they tried. And their purpose was to maintain those drones. And I was the supporting officer. I think we had five or six, chaplain, medical persons, supply. And whatever. And we lived in Quonset huts, too. Ours. But, here is mine.

John: Oh, yea. Oh, yea.

Dr. Harry: I'll tell you why. Prior to my getting there, some engineers lived in that hut and they had electricity in there, and they had a flushing toilet.

John: Oh, my God.

Dr. Harry: On that whole island, there were only two flushing toilets which, for a city boy, was quite a luxury.

John: Yea. Oh, wow.

Dr. Harry: Yes. That was great. We had a refrigerator. But you can see the humidity was outlandish. Here is, on the *Anzio*, going over to Pearl Harbor.

John: Okay.

Dr. Harry: You can see the ocean way down there. All they had were nets. You know, if you fall overboard, you were gone. Well, now I am on Tinian and trying to go home, I guess. Have you any questions so far?

John: No, not so far, but just go ahead, especially coming back, getting out, returning to civilian life.

Dr. Harry: All right.

John: That is really interesting.

Dr. Harry: I finally had enough points. I don't know, you know, eighty or whatever it was. Hurray! I am going home. But, I wasn't going to fly home. You know, my predecessor. But, we had a new plane, new pilot. Oh, no. But, naturally, I had done a lot of favors for a few people through the months and I had one of these guys who ran a pretty good sized boat at the installation. And I said, "Hey, how about taking me over to Saipan tomorrow?" No problem. Can you believe, we got out a mile or two and the sea was so rough, he had to turn back? I said, "Boy, this is terrible!"

John: That's the start of your journey home!

Dr. Harry: Yea. I said, "This is what happened." He said, "I can't take a chance, you know, with this boat. It might capsize. You are better off." I said, "Well, how in the hell am I going to get to Saipan?" He said, "Well, wait till the weather clears." By rare coincidence, that day or the next day, a destroyer escort – are you familiar with

that term?

John: Yea, a small destroyer.

Dr. Harry: Came, anchored, and the commander, a three-striper, came aboard and had dinner with us. And I said, "Commander, I need a ride to Saipan." From the airplane to a tug to a destroyer. You know, that is pretty fancy. He said, "Yea, I can arrange that. But I got some exercises to do in the morning. But you can come aboard. I'll send a boat for you. We'll pick you up," he said, "but I need a favor." You know.

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: And I am two stripes, and he is three stripes. That is a big difference in the Navy. And he had the star and I had the dental insignia, you know. "What's the favor?" "My exec and I like to shoot skeet and we need clay pigeons." You know, these. I said, "Jesus. Wait." You know, the supply officer was a good friend of mine. I said, "Hey, do we have any clay pigeons around here?" He said, "Yea, we got two or three cases." I said, "There you are." He said, "Boy, you are a passenger. Just bring the pigeons." So, I had, you know, we could get a lot of help. So I had the pigeons ready and myself and my gear, and I got aboard his ship. I think it must have been 0900, or what. And he said, "I told you I had a little exercise to do before I take you to Saipan." I said, "How little?" He said, "Well, you'll see." The next thing I knew, we were going thirty-five knots. You know. It was a big, big maneuver. He must have had orders. And he unmasked the guns, and on and on. Then it was time for lunch. He had me for lunch with him. And half his officer crew didn't show up. They were sick, seasick. Yea, it was such a rough trip. So I had lunch and I finally got to Saipan. Hurray! Five miles, it took me four days. Now, then they threw us in another Quonset hut with twenty other officers waiting for home. It was very tough and rough. The head was a block down, cold showers, and the urinal was a brick on the outside of the Quonset hut. If you hit it, fine; if you missed it, fine. That was it. And finally, a big transport ship, gee, a biggie, came and, boy, we were happy we were going back to the United States, to San Francisco. And we finally got aboard and I was, what, late twenties, and I had to climb one of those ropes.

John: Oh, yea. Oh.

Dr. Harry: I forget what they called them.

John: A cargo net.

Dr. Harry: Yea. You know. And it was not easy.

John: No.

Dr. Harry: Gee, if the guy above you falls, you are going to go. And that damned little tug that was next to us, you know, banging. So I finally made the top, and hurray! I got aboard that big, big transport. And they took us in pretty good accommodations with ten other officers. And we, about five miles out of Saipan, we turned back. "What is the idea" "We forgot the blankets. You guys are going to be cold." They needed a few hundred blankets. They didn't have them aboard. So, now, alright, we started out again. It was ill-fated, that damned trip home. But I finally made it eleven days later. It was a great time. Everybody had upper respiratory infections by the time we got home. And we had one bad, bad storm on the way back. We all survived it, I guess. And when we got to San Francisco, there were little ladies on the boat, "Welcome home." That didn't mean much to us. We had played poker all the way back and I was the big winner, so I treated everybody to a nice dinner in San Francisco about three days after we got there. And I had to take a train. My wife and little daughter met in Chicago on March 29, 1946, my birthday.

John: Oh, what a way to celebrate!

Dr. Harry: Wonderful birthday.

John: Oh, yea.

Dr. Harry: And I went to Great Lakes and got discharged. And went back to Milwaukee. Now, where are we? What do you want me to tell?

John: Any problems getting back into civilian life?

Dr. Harry: No. I'm pretty flexible. I, we rented, fortunately, a friend of mine owned a hotel so I had the possibility of renting a little suite in the hotel for what I could afford. And my associate, the internist, kept the office intact, so I went right back into the thing. And it took me one day, three months, six months, and I was rolling already. I had no problems establishing my practice. And from there, we rented a place. Remember, I wasn't floating in money at the time. I was doing well, but after three, four, five years of practicing, I had saved enough money to buy a very nice house in Whitefish Bay for about \$30,000. In those years, that was sizeable.

John: Yea.

Dr. Harry: And I, not like today, I put fifty percent down, \$15,000. And I had a fifteen year mortgage, at 4 ½ percent. A payment was \$101.75 per month. Can you believe that? From there on in, it was just an upward road. And I always liked organized

dentistry. I became active. I was a leader. I was active at Marquette School of Dentistry. I was active at Mount Sinai Dental Department, Chief of it. You can see from that article, you know. I picked up a few honors and stuff.

John: That's great. That's really great.

Dr. Harry: I'm fairly well known. As a matter of fact, I just got, are you familiar with Milwaukee?

John: Not too much.

Dr. Harry: Washington High School started a Hall of Fame about four years ago. And the initial people were Governor Lee Dreyfus, Senator Herb Kohl, and Commissioner Bud Selig. Well, the second group is going in in May, this year, and I'm in on that.

John: Oh, that's tremendous.

Dr. Harry: And, of course, I had major honors from Marquette, and I was president of the Milwaukee Dental Society. I made my mark in organizational work and I still do work for organizations. I was, I'm not any more, a certified parliamentarian. And I still am a consultant. I'm not very sharp any more, but I help the organizations with their bylaws, and different things.

John: That is great.

Dr. Harry: And I organized different events here at Laurel Oaks. And I stay out of trouble.

John: That's important.

Dr. Harry: Yea.

John: Well, that is a tremendous story. That is a remarkable, remarkable story.

Dr. Harry: Well, we've been talking almost an hour. Isn't that amazing?

John: You know, when they write, and they are already writing the books about World War II, the stuff about trying to get off of Tinian to get back home. That's never going to be written up. But that is part of this story.

Dr. Harry: The plane, the little ship.

John: Swapping the portrait for the fillings. That is the stuff life is made up of, not the

history books, and that is wonderful. Well, that is great. Well, I'll tell you what I will do here. I'll take this back to Madison, and I'll transcribe it.

Dr. Harry: Have I given you anything of substance?

John: Oh, absolutely. It is your experience, your personal experience.

Dr. Harry: You have to remember this is sixty years ago.

John: Oh, sure.

Dr. Harry: How can I remember everything? I can't.

John: What you don't remember, we don't get in the story, but what you do, gets in there. You have a remarkable memory, you do. But I'll send you a copy of this. And if you see anything in it that you want changed, just scribble on it.

Dr. Harry: I didn't say anything that I would want deleted except maybe these favors?

John: Oh, no, that's color. That is really great. Besides, if there is anything wrong, the statute of limitations has run out. But, no, I was in the Marine Corps and I spent a lot of time at sea, and believe me, that is how everything functions.

Dr. Harry: You mean the clay pigeons?

John: Oh, yea. I remember a guy, I was a radioman. I'm going to shut this off.

[End of Interview.]