



Oral History interview with Donald Young conducted by Sharon Tosi Lacey, Chief Historian, and Christopher Martin, Historian on October 4, 2017

Sharon Tosi Lacey: Good afternoon. I'm Sharon Tosi Lacey, Chief Historian at the Census Bureau and with me is Mr. Donald Young, a longtime employee of the Census Bureau, his daughter, Donna Young, and Historian Chris Martin. And we're sitting down with Mr. Young to talk to him about his time here at the Census Bureau. Thank you, Mr. Young, for agreeing to sit down with us. And if we could just start, if you could tell us a little of your life, your education and how you ended up at the Census Bureau.

Donald Young: Ok. This is the opening statement?

STL: Yes.

DY: Well, if we go back to something like 1940, maybe even a few years earlier than that, we initially, I'm going way back now. Born in Newton, Massachusetts, I lived in the various locations, rental properties in and around the Boston area, travelled through various school systems and finally graduated in 1940 from high school. Unfortunately, there was a war going on around that time and I had to register for the draft. Of course, I didn't want to go, and I wasn't going to volunteer, so they did draft me. I went through various preliminary, and of course I was chosen. You don't want to be considered 4F and not get drafted, so I go off and go through basic training. I'm about 5'2" maybe and weighed about 103 pounds and I into basic training and they're training me to be an MP (military police) [laughter]. I have an Enfield rifle that is longer than me and I end up going through MP basic and sent to Huntsville, Texas. We're going to guard German prisoners of war that are interned in the United States. Many people don't realize that the large numbers of German prisoners, particularly captured in North Africa, and that they were distributed throughout the United States. You don't keep prisoners in the war zone, you've got to get them out of that. Tishomingo [Oklahoma] was selected because they were going to be able to work on a construction project. Prisoners of war cannot work on anything that has to do with new munitions. So, they basically worked on agricultural things. The ones in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where the population was something like 1,900 people, was an ideal place because they had no place to escape to. I wasn't happy about it. It was 5 days a week, I don't remember for sure, maybe 6, you take the prisoners of war trucks, take them out into the wilderness, take them out into the forest and they're going to cut down trees and clear the whole base because they're going to create a big lake. Hot dirty work, and the guys have these different kinds of saws and things and you're standing there with an Enfield rifle. The funny part is they liked to do that and they were helpful. They'd use some of the branches and things and they'd built a little shelter for me. They didn't really want to escape; they had much better conditions as a prisoner than they did as a German soldier. That went on for a while. I found a few ways to avoid having to do that, such as volunteering to work in the canteen, or something

like that. And I'll lead into what happens, I found out about an opportunity to go to what was called ASTP, Army Special Program Training, that, and they sent me up to I guess Oklahoma A&M [College]. It was military-like, but it was sort of humorous. You'd march through the streets, singing something like, "My son's in the ASTP and a gold star [mother] I never will be." [laughter] If I'm going into too much detail just tell me.

STL: Nope, this is perfect.

DY: Anyhow, I go up there but they never started the course. So, I volunteered to work in the office, however my company commander in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, wanted me back. So, I went back. They never started the course I went for. So went back and got into prisoners again. Fortunately, or unfortunately, they closed the camp. We were called Limited Service, because of our medical files. They took away Limited Service and we became full-fledged,

STL: So, you became 1A? You were reclassified as 1A full service?

DY: I don't know. They just took away the Limited Service.

Donna Young: You were reclassified as an MP, a medic, right?

DY: Yeah, reclassified, go to some other Army camp and be trained as a medic. They take away our rifles and give us Red Cross cards that says we're medics. And then we get shipped overseas on a luxury liner that was rebuilt inside to be a troop ship. And we cross in 7 days, no convoy, always worried about the submarines. We go in record timing to Liverpool, England and go up to Scotland where we stay in a British camp. Eventually it's time to go overseas. We're shipped, I don't know if by train or by truck, from Scotland to some southern port of England, across on some kind of a—I don't know—British ship, small, and we're the first ship to dock in La Havre [France], if I said that right. So, I didn't have to go down a cargo line, a cargo net, we were the first to dock in LaHavre and they ship us to a little French town called Etretat. We were put up in private homes that had no owners because they're fighting

STL: So, was that June 1944, July 1944?

DY: I can't give you a date right now off my head.

STL: But it was after D-Day?

DY2: You were going to go right to the harbor on D-Day but you...

DY2: No, no, D-Day had already taken place. So, it's after June. So where am I in my story here?

STL: Sorry, you had landed in LaHavre.

DY: Right. We didn't have to use the cargo net as they called it. We ran up to a pier and we all have this heavy big duffel bag type thing. I couldn't carry it, so another guy in my outfit took his and mine and I just followed him [laughter]. We were in Etretat. Eventually we were told that we were going to set up the general hospital in Verdun, France. This is a lot better than being in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. [laughter] But of course, there's a problem. We're told we can't go there, I'm sorry, we actually go by motor convoy, at least the administrative staff does, and I was by that time part of the administrators, and they stop, we're travelling at night, probably like at midnight, and the MPs won't let us go any further. We were out of, where ever it was that we were heading, they give us orders to turn around

and go to Paris. Well, that's much better than Tishomingo, Oklahoma. [laughter] We take over a French asylum in suburbs of Paris and we evict the patients. I don't know, there was some complaint one time about what happened, but I wasn't involved in it. And we set up a really first-class hospital, I think it eventually became a 2,000 bed or something. So here we are, and by this time I have become the chief of the post office for the hospital. This doesn't mean any great big increase [laughter] but it's something better than having to take care of wounded and disabled soldiers. So, in effect I run the mail system. I have a couple of other lower-level mail assistants. We, of course, as a general hospital, we don't keep someone a long time, so you have to maintain an index file for every patient that's in there, whether he gets discharged or not. Their mail still comes in. One day I almost had a heart attack. When we would normally go to the post office in downtown Paris and when we first started, it was still tanks guarding the streets, and this is a big lead into the Census Bureau [laughter] But you asked for it! [laughter]

STL: That's fine. [laughter]

DY: So, one day without any notice, a tractor trailer, a big tractor trailer loaded completely with incoming mail, I was having a heart attack, the guy was lost, he didn't belong there. [laughter] So that was a relief.

STL: You picked up some administrative skills there, huh?

DY2: After the war, what did you do?

DY: I came back from France. I have left out of one other thing. So, my dad at that time was either a counselor for the Veterans Administration, or I think it was a state organization, and he told me when you get discharged tell them *anything* that happened to you physically, mentally while you were in there. I guess the only thing I could have told them was I fell out of a bunk bed and broke a toe. [laughter] That was probably when I was in Oklahoma A&M. Anyway, I may have mentioned some other things, and I ended up with a 10% disability. So, I've been getting monthly checks, 10 percent, so like \$100. Also, I think its tax free, I don't remember. [laughter] I may have reported it as untaxable income.

STL: We won't share this with the IRS [laughter].

DY: So, my dad wanted me to go to Boston College. He had a very good friend that also was one of the top people at Boston College, a Catholic priest. So, I applied. Of course, they didn't accept me because I hadn't studied Latin. They offered me the opportunity to go to prep school but I didn't want to study Latin. I didn't think it was worth my time, so I went to Boston University. Went in in probably 1946 and graduated magna cum laude or something in 1950. Is that right?

DY2: Uh huh.

DY: It was alright. I was a commuting student. I had bought a—remember during the war they didn't manufacture vehicles—people had them, had gas rationing and all that. The car I bought for \$500, was a 1936 Plymouth convertible, which I thought that was pretty good. Where am I going now?

DY2: Did you take a vocational test?

DY: I took some exam, probably exam for federal government employment.

STL: What did you study at college? What was your major?

DY: I majored in statistics.

STL: Ok.

DY: You can see where I'm getting at.

STL: Right. [laughter]

DY: There was a noted guy in Massachusetts [Roger W. Babson] that had predicted the depression of 1920 or some such thing. He was great with using stock market prices. He heard about me through the head of the statistics department at BU, and they asked me to go out there for an interview. I assume also at the same time I had applied for federal employment. I was surprised when I rang the doorbell of his house, in a fairly ritzy neighborhood outside of Boston. I was surprised when the person answered the door told me, "He'll interview you upstairs." He interviews me while he's still in his bed! [laughter] That was unusual, but that's what happened and he offered me the job. I've forgotten what it was—probably \$25 a week or something.

STL: He didn't work for the government though, right?

DY: No, he had his own business. He'd established Babson Institute which is now Babson College. I assume he was a multi-millionaire. He looked like the man with the little goatee [Colonel Sanders], what kind of chicken business?

STL: Kentucky Fried Chicken? [laughter]

DY: Kentucky Fried Chicken. And so I must be crazy here. So, it turns out that I'm not working for Roger Babson. I'm working for his son-in-law [Lewis W. Mustard]. I didn't know at the time it was his son-in-law, but it was a little side thing called Publishers Financial Bureau. I was told to develop brochures to promote the products of Publishers Financial Bureau.¹ About this time I get the letter from Washington that they're hiring me. Well, make a long story short, that ended the Roger Babson thing almost. This is going to be a novel. [laughter]

STL: That's fine. What was your first job at here the Census Bureau in 1950?

DY: Well, I was offered two jobs. I came down for an interview in both places, Department of Commerce and Census Bureau and I don't remember whether I drove down. I wouldn't have thought so, but I got down here somehow, and I'm heading out to the Census Bureau in Suitland, MD, and I guess they both offered me a job—downtown at Commerce and at Census. Although it looked like a penitentiary out there in Suitland, I did take that job instead of downtown. I don't know why [laughter]. It turned out that there were several other people largely from New England that also came down the same day or the same week to Census and reported for duty about the same day, maybe it was two or three weeks later. And I drove down for that. So, the first day I go through orientation and Harry Truman was still President. I guess around October 1950 and Harry Truman was still president. Luckily, I got assigned to the Industry Division and the division chief talks to me on the first day and he says, "I really don't know much about what's going on here but why don't you do down and see a guy named Sam Schweid [Samuel Schweid, Economic Census Program Manager], he's down the hall there." So, I go

¹ Babson created the Publishers Financial Bureau, a syndicate to disseminate his writings to papers across the United States.

to see him. Oh, there's another interesting thing, they don't have a place for me to sit but there's a job that's vacant and I can sit in that man's office, so that's how it starts.

STL: Do you remember the name of your division chief?

DY: Max Conklin [Maxwell R. Conklin, Associate Director for Economic Fields]. And so, in effect, you know, you're new there, and I walked through the tunnel, you know there was a tunnel between the buildings and the cafeteria and things were in building 1 and building 2 and outsiders probably didn't know there was a connecting tunnel. Is that too much detail for you?

STL: No not at all. That's the first time we'd ever heard this.

DY: So, it turns out, as I say, 3 or 4 of us decided to rent an apartment in Parkway Terrace, so here you have four guys living in a two-bedroom apartment and paying \$120 a month rent divided by 4. So, for \$30 a month that got us covered and we each have a car, we each drive from Parkway Terrace to the Census Bureau [laughter] And so that goes on for a while. Where am I going with this?

DY2: What about the computer?

STL: When you came in, they just brought in the UNIVAC computer?

DY: During the brief stay, less than a year probably in Industry Division, I keep my eyes open, oh there were some unusual things that happened. Out of nowhere they ask me to go up and start working on how we're going to use computer UNIVAC I. I never took any lessons in computer. But it gave me an exposure to a lot of the top brass of the Census Bureau and we would get on the train at night at Union Station [Washington, DC] and it would be a sleeper and we would go to sleep and at midnight the train would pull out and go up to Philadelphia [Pennsylvania] and then we'd move to the factory where the UNIVAC was being made. I don't think I contributed anything other than talking to the guys and by the time I probably knew everybody from the Director [Roy Vincent Peel] on down to many of the divisions. It was interesting. I don't remember how it ended, what had happened but, in the meantime, I'm attending other things in Washington.

The Census Bureau at that time and UN were providing advisors around the world. I thought that's a pretty interesting thing. So, I get transferred from Industry Division to the International Statistical Programs headed up by Dr. Dedrick [Calvert L. Dedrick, Chief of International Statistics Programs]. They would have a weekly or maybe monthly meeting more likely monthly meeting and if a technical advisor had just finished an assignment overseas, they would come back and give a talk about it. Ed Swan [Edward Swan, Chief, Outlying Areas, Population Division] was one of them that had been in some country in the Caribbean and I thought that's pretty interesting what he said. So, I would go to all the meetings that they held in the Bureau on the last guy's assignment and what's coming up. I guess by that time we had something like 19 trainees. I'm trying to remember the sequence of things here. What the International Statistical Programs Office did was making training manuals for training on various subjects and provide advisors either to the UN [United Nations] assignments and things like that. I can particularly remember working with some other people on designing training manuals, probably for economic statistics. I really hadn't worked on it. Among these 15 or 16 trainees, were 3 from the Philippines and part of the job of working for ISPO [International Statistical Programs Office] is you've got to entertain them. You have to educate them in various things. We would take them to see the, in

Baltimore [Maryland], maybe it was the meat packing or something, you took them to various things like that to let them be foreign trainees, let them absorb some of the culture.

DY2: Interesting. I didn't know that.

DY: You also had to provide social activities for them and it was a little difficult because Washington at that time was segregated and most restaurants wouldn't allow you, if a black person walked into a Suitland restaurant they would say, "We assume you're taking it out?" So, to make a reservation for eighteen foreign people, many of them black or Filipino or whatever, we had to find things like Spanish restaurants. We had to find the offbeat restaurants where there would be no problem, and then we'd have graduation programs and things like that. We would have to arrange square dances and things like that for them. We really had like a 24-hour day job just trying to train or amuse or fill in for getting it done. Can I take a little break?

Christopher Martin: Sure, would you like a little water?

DY: Another thing that we did was took them to IBM [International Business Machines] because they probably would be using IBM in their countries. Oh, we took them to Rembrandt [Hotel] in New York. I had something like 19 trainees and me and I had to take care of them. [laughter] We put them up in hotels and so forth. So, on our trip to IBM, they had a country club, if you will. I don't know that it was a country club. In Endicott, New York they had it was called the Homestead or something like that and they were very nice. I think the President, [Thomas J., Jr.] Watson, came and greeted us, at least when we had some kind of an outing and IBM had a lot of limousines and we filled up those limousines and went somewhere and I remember him coming making sure they had a blanket or something, this would have been more like in the fall or winter and they would have nice meals, but no liquor, there would be no liquor on IBM property. We also took them to – I'm skipping around – Rembrandt, New York, an entirely different atmosphere. Rembrandt was supplying us with liquor day morning noon and night. So that was as a culture change. I'm going to be taken to court [laughter] over these statements. It was at IBM I received a telegram. No cellphones. Probably from Dedrick. "We have a new trainee that is going to join you. Her name is Carmina Fernandez, take good care of her." [laughter] Ok, that's all I needed is one more to join this group and I've got to take care of them. Anyhow I thought it was pertinent to bring that up because I was still taking care of her after 56 years.² [laughter]

STL: Still taking care of her [laughter]

DY: I don't know that I have anything else to say right now about IBM.

STL: You have IBM to thank or your wife! [laughter]

DY: Well...during some of this time, the girl from Mexico, Marta Hatiaga, how I did I remember that [laughter] and I tried to date her. Because I mean after all that was my job [laughter]. But she couldn't go out with me because I didn't have a chaperone. So, Carmina Fernandez became the chaperone.

DY2: And became your wife!

DY: I guess by this time the three Filipino trainees that we had in the group had gone back to the Philippines and soon a request comes in that they wanted an advisor in the Philippines. So, in 1956, I go

² Carmina and Don were married from 1960 until her death in 2016.

to the Philippines for a two-year assignment. It was interesting. I worked closely with the UN head of statistical training session. Walt Ryan [Walter Ryan, Associate Director for Economic Fields] was there as a statistical advisor to the University of the Philippines and I became the, I think it was probably called the National Cooperation Administration. I'm not sure what that official name was, it was the American team, and we cooperated on things and I guess I began dating a Filipino girl by the name Mercedes Concepcion. She was a statistical figure. I don't know what her title was at that time at the statistical center of the University of the Philippines and we would go to certain functions. It might even be a party at the swimming pool for the embassy. We were able to shop in the embassy swimming pool canteen area, but she was still also studying and eventually she went to the University of Chicago. On one of my return trips from the Philippines I may have stopped there in Chicago to see her but, where am I going with this?

DY2: Come back from the Philippines? How long were you there?

DY: I come back and they told me at that time that I couldn't keep my grade if I didn't go to Jeffersonville, Indiana, that's where the Census Bureau had opened a processing center [National Processing Center]. It was quite a mess. The old quartermaster depot had shut down and they wanted to make use of it. I believe the Bureau first used it for Dick Borden [Richard Borden, Population Division] from Washington for the decennial census and we were going to take it over, three or four of us, there were Weiss [Irving Weiss, Chief of Economic Census Branch], Merzell, [Charles Merzell, Chief, Methods, Procedures, and Quality Control Branches, Systems Division] myself, I've forgotten the third or fourth one, it was the Washington staff that opened up a processing center. Dick Borden was down there for the population census so that we sort of all overlapped and I lived across the river, Jeffersonville is on the opposite of Louisville and I lived in a furnished house, a furnished apartment during my stay there. Not only did I try to supervise the large number, but we also converted a parachute folding room into some, like, IBM computer room of that nature. I lived across the river in this thing and the people from Washington rotated because if you remember we were processing economic data. So probably the expense of paying punch card operators and things in Washington or in Maryland was too expensive and maybe too many union rules or something whereas down there [Jeffersonville] they welcomed us with open arms. They would rotate the subject matter. The Business Division would send some analyst down to look at the problems, then the Industry Division would send someone down. You had a lot of the brass coming down there to see it, because it was a big thing for Jeffersonville and IBM. So, I got to meet a lot of people, I probably knew a hundred from Washington by being there. So that was an interesting thing.

STL: And this was the late 1950s?

DY: I can't remember the year exactly. I had gone to the Philippines in 56-58, so it'd have to be after that in 59 or 60.

STL: Did you come back then to Washington then?

DY: I came back to Suitland after the Jeffersonville thing and I guess they'd said you can't keep your grade – when you went overseas you got a grade increase – you can't keep your grade if you don't agree to go to the Construction Division. Well why not. So, I go there and basically working for Sam[uel] Dennis, Chief of the Construction Division, it's a new division. It's a new division. For all practical purposes there'd never been a construction census, there might have been something mixed in with some other census but it wasn't well known anyway, I don't know. Now I'm going to be in the

construction business. I decided to apply the principles of the Industry Division in the Census of Manufactures and Mineral Industries which I had learned and so I get a crew of about five other census employees and I become Chief of the Census of Construction Industries and in the long run we have to go out and interview. A lot of the things that you can apply in the Industry Division surveys you could apply in construction. I go around and visit construction companies, ask some questions. The National Association of Homebuilders was very happy to meet with us many, many times and I guess at that time you could perhaps even go to lunch with them at their expense I'm not exactly sure on that, it ends up that we published the first Census of Construction Industries in years. Sam Dennis, the chief, I don't know what it was, I guess about that time maybe because of someone moving up or something, I become assistant chief. There was already another assistant chief but, so we get awarded a Silver Medal by the Department of Commerce.

DY: I don't remember the year of the construction census.

STL: Was this before or after you married your wife because I know you married her in 1960.

DY2: Before or after mom? Before you got married to mom?

DY: This would probably be after the marriage.

DY2: You missed the whole second tour of the Philippines, because after you married mom then you went to the Philippines again.

DY: I had two two-year assignments.

STL: So, after you left Jeffersonville, is that when you went to the Philippines?

DY: This is a side note, I went to the Philippines first 1956-58, got married in 1960, and then went to the Philippines 1961-63. So somewhere in there I went down to Puerto Rico and before I could marry Carmina, I had to memorize the speech to her father in Spanish. So I'm probably thinking going up in the plane, "Yo quiero su hija mucha y quiero casarme." She must have been prepping up her father because when I told him, "Yo quiero su hija mucha y quiero casarme" and he says, "Bueno!" When they opened the champagne I said, "I guess its ok?" [laughter] By that time she's probably working for Housing Division, I'm not sure, she never worked in the Economic Division, but she was like the reigning queen of the Housing Division, not chief or anything, but anything that had to do with Spanish and the Spanish language she had to translate or verify the translation and that made some friends and some enemies. She was working in the Housing Division on and off until she retired which was several years after I retired.³ Did I cover went to the Philippines as a family the second time?

DY2: Yes, so 1963?

DY: It was prophetic when we landed, this may be out of sequence. When Carmina, I and Donna, in an infant seat, landed, the Philippine trainee that was in the group with Carmina was on the tarmac not in the lobby. They were high enough in government to go right out on the tarmac and they met us there. Some of the interesting things nobody would care about, but I had a maid when I was there as a bachelor, she became the *amah* of Donna, six months old, and she was the nursemaid. Of course, these people were all screened by the embassy. They were all cleared so the one that I had as a bachelor

³ Read Carmina's Census history at https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/carmina_fernandez_young.pdf

became the nursemaid for Donna. We lived in a gated community just a little way from what used to be Dewey Boulevard and was converted to Rojas Boulevard. We lived in a rental property, shopped in the embassy commissary, held parties in the embassy swimming pool area. The job involved inviting the Filipino staff that Carmina could meet with the other, you know they were large international community, so Carmina was able to have friends. Everything went pretty well, but the problem was that in those days there were no jets and pregnant women couldn't travel in the last trimester, so Carmina and Donna had to return to the states before I did. I had to stay like three more months. By that time Carmina was pregnant with our son Paul and she was going to go to Puerto Rico to have the baby. I kept praying that the baby would be born when I'm not there but it turned out that Carmina wasn't cooperative and they [laughter] waited until I got there. I'm not exactly sure where we're going with this now.

STL: So you came back to the Census Bureau here in Washington after your tour in the Philippines.

DY: I assume. At one point in time she and I both received Bronze Medals. I guess it's a Department of Commerce thing. Whereas the Silver Medal that I got was a big ceremony downtown with the military band playing. This Bronze Medal was awarded to Carmina and the separate one to me was done right in the office of the assistant director, Danny Levine [Daniel B. Levine, Deputy Director of the Census Bureau] in whatever year that was [1985]. I retired in 1985.

DY2: You skipped over all your South American assignments.

STL: What did you do in between, when you came back?

DY2: You came back in 1963, after Paul was born.

DY: Yes, I guess so. I'm a little hazy on this, I guess in effect I didn't have any commitments to any division and so they had to find a place to put me, and they put me like at the staff of the assistant director for economic fields, so Shirley Kalleck [Shirley Kalleck, Associate Director for Economic Fields].

STL: I think everybody worked for Shirley Kalleck at some point. [laughter]

DY: She and I got along pretty well. We had some efficiency expert coming in that was going to revolutionize the Bureau by firing everybody or something. I forgotten his name, it'll come back some day. My badge says I'm a special assistant to the assistant director. When I retired, they had a farewell party one of these things over in New Carrollton [Maryland] area some restaurant for my retirement. I told them, and I don't even have a copy of the speech, but it got a lot of laughs.

DY2: So, what about your time in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay?

DY: Somewhere in the years I had other assignments, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, I always thought it makes it nice to deviate in your travel and so when I was in Paraguay, I probably took the route that takes you over to Rio [Brazil] and I was able to see the Statue of Christ up on the mountain and when I went to some other country there and I would do a little sightseeing so I've had a lot of different experiences. Shirley Kalleck wanted me to go to China on an assignment. I guess you would call it a training center for Chinese statisticians and I thought it was pretty interesting. I guess three or four of us went there. We were supposed to be lecturers and it brought a lot of tears when you walk into a big hall in China and 300 statisticians applaud you. [laughter]

STL: That's a good feeling.

DY: Unfortunately, it wasn't air conditioned and the temperature was probably in the 90s or higher, so I had to stop my presentation and they gave me water or ice or something. Then I was able to resume it and that was my first Chinese experience. The other fellows that were from the Bureau at that time, Jim Aanestad [James M. Aanestad, Sr, Services Division], Roger Bugenhagen [Chief, Economic Surveys Division], I don't remember them all, there were about four or five of us, we spent the weekend visiting Beijing, Great Wall.

I rode on a camel, at least we had our picture taken on a camel and things like that, maybe a few years later they asked me to go to China to talk at another meeting of statisticians, I'm not sure without a map or something to describe it was again where stayed at a hotel where they had a lot of lakes whatever it was we did, we did and I may have certainly seen more the second trip to China. I took a river cruise where you go by all those like sandstone mountains. I got a terrible sun burn and I was treated in a what would be today instant care thing anyway it never caused me any problem afterwards and that might have been nearly the end of my career there.

STL: What was your favorite job that you had here at the Census Bureau?

DY: I don't know it's hard to say. I would say they were all favorites. There is a Census Alumni Association. It used to meet in the Bureau and the Director would come. I'm not much of a party guy but I enjoyed listening to the Director telling what's the latest thing going on. Other people thought that was sort of lousy. We joined the alumni they would say, we don't want to hear the Director talking about anything, so the meetings held in the auditorium probably in the old building. Some turned it into just a luncheon and we probably would have, I don't know, 50 attend a luncheon. There's one coming up on what, the 14th [October]? We're having a local Veterans of Foreign Wars clubhouse in Clinton [Maryland] and I'll be going, and Donna will be taking me. I stopped driving but I still have a valid driver's license until I'm 102. [laughter] Isn't that crazy? I guess that's it. Maybe you have some specific questions.

STL: Is there any particular person or project that you look back on with pride?

DY: Oh, I suppose I should say the Census of Construction Industries because it gave me like you're starting the first census there actually had been something in 20 or 30 years before that, might have included construction but not in a modern day thing and that's more like my baby. [laughter] But I guess I'd have to say I enjoyed them all. I'd always got along with people. Now this is now just random talk. In the old dining room under the old system there was separate dining room for all the higher up executives, so if you were even only a grade 5 [GS-5], I started as grade 5 and then ended up as a 15 [GS-15], in contrast Donna got her what do you call it Senior Service at the Department of Treasury, IRS, so anyway I was satisfied [laughter] and I probably left out some of the more important points.

STL: Thank you so much for your time. We really appreciate your willingness to sit down with us.