

Title: Interview with Larry Harvey
Interviewer: Scott Ranney, David Albright
Date: 2006 April 18
Collection: Waterfront Oral History Project
Repository: Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Western Washington University
Transcription: Scott Ranney
Revisions: Transcript revised by Rozlind Koester, 2008 March 18

RANNEY: Alright, we're just going to fill out this sheet. It's got biographical information.

HARVEY: Sure.

RANNEY: So your name is?

HARVEY: Larry Harvey.

RANNEY: Larry Harvey. And your date of birth?

HARVEY: Two-eleven-thirty-six.

RANNEY: Place of birth?

HARVEY: Portland, Oregon.

RANNEY: Portland. And education or work background?

HARVEY: Well, like I was saying, high school, and then cores at Western, I guess.

RANNEY: OK. Core, you said?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: OK...

HARVEY: I got married in December.

RANNEY: OK, of?

HARVEY: '55.

RANNEY: OK, and any other work previous to Georgia Pacific?

HARVEY: Just, high school stuff, you know?

RANNEY: OK, the positions you held in the mill? Or, I guess the...

HARVEY: Well, I started out my work at Puget Sound Pulp and Timber. I worked on the dock as a slip man that summer of '56. I started June 8th of 1956. And then I went into the machine room that fall and I stayed in there for almost three years, and then I took an apprenticeship to be a pipe-fitter in '59, October '59.

RANNEY: Is there anything else relevant to your position concerning, like, past information that we should know, like jobs or any education, I guess, in that area?

HARVEY: Well, I got... in the late '60s and early '70s I actively was involved with the union. I was on the union negotiating committee, chairman of the standing committee. And then in 1980 I became the lead man in the pipe shop.

RANNEY: In 1980?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: Alright. Well, let's move on. Alright, then coming back to family, you met your wife, you said, in...?

HARVEY: Right here in town.

RANNEY: OK, in Bellingham?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: On December...?

HARVEY: I got married December 10th, 1955.

RANNEY: OK, and you met her just through school?

HARVEY: Yeah, we were neighbors.

RANNEY: OK, neighbors, OK. What did she do, when you were working at GP?

HARVEY: She stayed at home. She was a stay home...

RANNEY: OK, yeah, that seems to be the general consensus of... I guess they met... she met other wives as you were waiting to get out, or...?

HARVEY: Well, I was going to Western when I met her and she was going to Bellingham High School.

RANNEY: Oh really? OK.

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: Did you have any children?

HARVEY: Four.

RANNEY: Four children.

HARVEY: Three daughters and one son. The son is the youngest.

RANNEY: And how old are they?

HARVEY: My oldest daughter, Becky, is fifty-one. I have a daughter, Laurie, she's forty-nine, a daughter, Carrie, that's forty-four, and my son is forty-two.

RANNEY: And his name is?

HARVEY: Bill.

RANNEY: Bill, OK. Maybe... going further back, you said you grew up in Spokane?

HARVEY: Portland.

RANNEY: Portland, and that's where you were born?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: And you moved from there to...?

HARVEY: I moved to Pasco, Washington –

RANNEY: - moved to Pasco, OK –

HARVEY: - when I was fourteen years old.

RANNEY: OK, moved to Pasco. How would you characterize your childhood? How would your standing be in the community or socially, economically?

HARVEY: Oh, I'm just retired. Well, I don't know, I try to be a good neighbor and... what else can I say? I go to church, I believe in God. I believe what he did for me. And what else can I say about that?

RANNEY: So, you're a Christian?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: When you were growing up what did your parents do?

HARVEY: My dad was a pipe-fitter.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: And my mother stayed at home, and when I was in Portland I was actively involved in scouting and became an eagle scout.

RANNEY: OK, and so you could say that your dad had an influence on your career in the end?

HARVEY: Yeah!

RANNEY: Was he a pipe-fitter in Portland, or did he come up to...?

HARVEY: My dad worked for Safeway Incorporated up until the time of the Second World War, and at that time I was five years old.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: And my dad was one-A. He went to Kaiser Shipyard on Swan Island and got hired on there as a pipe-fitter helper.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: He was three days as a pipe-fitter helper and then the fourth day he was a journeyman. That's how things were going at that time.

RANNEY: Oh, what?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: That's supposed to be years, isn't it?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: OK, you mentioned that one. So you went to Western as an undergrad?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: And did you finish four years there?

HARVEY: No.

RANNEY: You just did the core in two years?

HARVEY: I went to Puget Sound Pulp and Timber and weighed the economic benefits at that time of being a coach or working at the mill, and the mill was better money.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: Better benefits.

RANNEY: Yeah, we've heard a lot about benefits in other interviews, of how they were pretty good. Did you every join the service, part of it?

HARVEY: I was in the Army Reserve. I started when I was seventeen.

RANNEY: OK, yeah, and were you ever sent anywhere?

HARVEY: No.

RANNEY: Just training?

HARVEY: Just my training.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: I had an eight year obligation which ended when I was twenty-five.

RANNEY: OK, and you just ended it there?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: OK, talking more about Bellingham, you said you got here through school, and you transferred from Wazzu, or West... Washington State, right?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: And so was that transfer influenced by your football playing?

HARVEY: Well, my dad, at the time, had... What had happened was I'd hurt my knee over at Washington State and I had a grant aid scholarship and when I hurt my knee I could no longer play that season so they told me that they were going to give my scholarship to a kid that didn't have money [who] could play. So after I got out of the hospital – I spent three days in the hospital with my leg in traction – and then after I got out of the hospital my dad told me to come home. So I came back to Pasco and healed up and then he came up here to work when they were starting the refineries up here at that time. [That was in] the fifties. And he told me to... I had a pretty good job working for East Pasco Terminal, [a] pretty good job I'd acquired. And my dad told me to come up here, that he'd talk to coach Chuck Lappenbush, and I played my last year for Lappy. That was quite an education.

RANNEY: So he pushed you, you could say?

HARVEY: Yeah, yeah.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: He was the innovator of straight line... defense.

RANNEY: Oh really?

HARVEY: Oh yeah!

RANNEY: Hmm.

HARVEY: Yeah, he had a heck of a defense. His offense was terrible. It was straight line, but his defense was good. Well, Frank Legay, from Notre Dame, took several of his ideas on defense.

RANNEY: Hmm. OK. So when you moved to Bellingham you lived at... did you live in the dorms at Western?

HARVEY: No, I lived at home.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: With my folks on Rural Avenue.

RANNEY: Here? They moved here as well?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: OK, that was in?

HARVEY: See, my dad came up here to work in the refineries.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: Building them.

RANNEY: Which one, or which ones, I guess?

HARVEY: Well, it was Mobile then, it's Conoco-Phillips now.

RANNEY: Oh, OK, up in Ferndale?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: And he was building it, correct?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: Construction?

HARVEY: Yeah, construction, right.

RANNEY: Right. I have a friend in the pipefitting... or in the engineering aspect, on computers and stuff. He's doing stuff for Conoco-Phillips. So you've lived in Portland, Pasco, now Bellingham? So you've been here since? And when did you move to Bellingham originally, in this time?

HARVEY: Well, originally, we moved to Bellingham on account of my dad, he got a job up here.

RANNEY: Right.

HARVEY: And I stayed at home so I could... I didn't have any board or room to pay for my school.

RANNEY: That's smart. And that was in what year?

HARVEY: '55.

RANNEY: '55, OK, alright. Maybe, [in] more of a general view, what was the waterfront like when you started at Georgia Pacific, or even when you moved here?

HARVEY: Well, waterfront, when I started at Georgia Pacific, [it] was basically what it is right now, what you see right now. Other than [that the] bag house and the steam plant, you know, got bigger. But other than that, the warehouses for pulp and... we had ships come in to load pulp there.

RANNEY: Mm hmm.

HARVEY: At least, well I'd say once a month or better.

RANNEY: OK. So you'd say it's a lot more booming though, too, right?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: There's a lot more activity.

HARVEY: We had a ship that came in and unloaded lignisite and... loaded it, I should say. Yeah.

RANNEY: And where did that go?

HARVEY: That went back to New Jersey... They used it back there in their products.

RANNEY: What companies used it?

HARVEY: Well, you know, there you got me. I really can't tell you where, what companies were using that product at that time. I don't know, but I do know that it was the lignin and it was used in a lot of processes.

RANNEY: Mm hmm.

HARVEY: Fertilizers and things like that, glue.

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: Oil drilling material.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: A lubricant for drills.

RANNEY: Mm hmm.

ALBRIGHT: Can I move this mic up? It's rubbing up against your shoe.

HARVEY: Oh.

RANNEY: Do you know of any other major industries or company names that were down on the waterfront when Georgia Pacific was...?

HARVEY: Oh, there was Chrysler-Peets across the waterway. And then there was a sand and gravel company that was there. But you know... I can't really remember what the name of that was. But there was a big sand and gravel outfit in there.

RANNEY: OK. So what can you tell me about your typical day on the job at GP?

HARVEY: Well, when I first started at my apprenticeship in the mill you mean?

RANNEY: Mm hmm.

HARVEY: Well, at that time when I started they were just putting in the heat exchangers in the digester belly. And most of the time what I was doing was helping fit pipe for welders – you know, welders that were down there – installing these heat exchangers.

RANNEY: So that was your apprenticeship during that time?

HARVEY: Well, that was the start of my apprenticeship, yes.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: It wasn't... See, when I was an apprentice they had what they called a helper type of apprenticeship. You came into the apprenticeship as a beginning helper, you spent six months as a beginning helper, six months as an intermediate helper, and then you became a senior helper. Well, at that time they could hold you at that senior helper level as long as they wanted.

RANNEY: Until they needed a journeyman?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: Until one of them died or retired.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: That's how it went. Well, I was about seven and a half years...

RANNEY: - oh, wow! –

HARVEY: ...before I became a journeyman, yeah.

RANNEY: Wow, quite different than your father.

HARVEY: Yeah, yeah.

RANNEY: In a couple days.

HARVEY: Yeah. ... See, my son's a pipe-fitter too!

RANNEY: Oh, really?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: OK, and where does he work?

HARVEY: He's living right now and working in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

RANNEY: Oh, OK. So he got hit by the hurricane?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: And what company does he work for?

HARVEY: He works for an engineering outfit now. I believe it's Shaw, but I'm not sure about that.

RANNEY: OK. So you went from a beginning, intermediate, senior helper. What was it like more when you were a journeyman?

HARVEY: Well, it's a lot different from when you're a journeyman. See, in call-ins they look for... they really, legally, couldn't call you in until they had a journeyman coming in with you, see? And it [had] to be at the end of my apprenticeship that they'd call me in, but they wouldn't call in a journeyman, see? Well the journeyman that I was working for at that time – there were seven of them – got kind of upset about, you know, yeah. So finally they made me a journeyman.

RANNEY: Oh, OK. [inaudible]

HARVEY: Paying grievances.

RANNEY: So at that time you probably weren't too up in the union?

HARVEY: No.

RANNEY: Right. So the journeymen, being part of the union at that point, that's what they were more worried about?

HARVEY: Well, they were worried about the call time. See, you got three hours call time for coming in, plus time and a half for, well, how many hours you were there. And at that time, you know, that could amount to almost a day's pay if you spent three hours in the mill.

RANNEY: Yeah, that makes sense. Yeah, I'd be mad too.

HARVEY: You always made sure that, after I had the first confrontation of it, I always asked the shift foreman if there was a journeyman coming in with me, and if there wasn't I wouldn't come in.

RANNEY: OK. And that's when you were getting more involved?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: In the union?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: So how and who were the people that you worked around? I guess, we'll start with...

HARVEY: When I first came in to the pipe shop my lead man was a man by the name of Oscar Brandt, Elton Carr, Pitts, Ray Rudd, Don Cunningham, Buzz Nystrom, Earl Thomson, and Moy Paine. That was the crew.

RANNEY: OK. So how would you characterize... your relationship with them?

HARVEY: Oh, we got along good, yeah.

RANNEY: Was there any confrontation?

HARVEY: Yeah. One thing about it back then, you pick on one pipe fitter, you picked on them all. You know how that went. And we all stood up for one another, and we [were] one for all and all for one. That's the way it was and it was good because when I came out and I retired, there [were] twenty-one pipe fitters on the crew.

RANNEY: Oh.

HARVEY: When I went in there [were] six, seven of us all together, I guess, or eight. Yeah.

RANNEY: Were they any other apprentices that were there when you started?

HARVEY: No.

RANNEY: Just one, OK. ... So what changes in the plant... did you observe?

HARVEY: Well, back [when] we were Puget Sound Pulp and Timber... we were kind of like a big family, you know. We had Turcotte [as] the manager and we had Eric Eckholm [as] the Vice President and Norville Magnusson was in there and Ducey Chads and Jack Duncack and they were the mainstream. Norville was kind of the – what can I say? – the head of the tech group type people, you know? ... They made good products. And our pulp, our alpha line, went to Kodak as a photographic paper. And we made a good product and it was a good life. My kids were able to go to college, things like that, you know?

RANNEY: Any other changes on the waterfront, maybe that...?

HARVEY: Well, yeah, the port got bigger too, and when Intalco started up it started shipping out by ship. And then [the] chlorine plant naturally was in there, between us and the port. That was a major... [In] 1965 it started up.

RANNEY: When some of the places like the sand and gravel lot, or the company, did they all kind of disappear about the same time?

HARVEY: Well, Chrysler Peets is still there, I believe, but the sand and gravel company isn't.

RANNEY: But there was other activity?

HARVEY: Yeah. But they still use that dock for unloading barges... of rock and stuff...

RANNEY: - right, right -

HARVEY: ...coming into the town, yeah.

RANNEY: OK. What were any... did you notice any outside influences on Georgia Pacific, like an environmentalist group, or...?

HARVEY: Yeah. Why would you ask that question?

RANNEY: I don't know.

HARVEY: Yeah. I find it rather interesting, resource or e-stores or whatever it is, you know. They [were] the biggest pain that we had, you know. They were continuing on us about pollution and at the end we were a clean mill. But they still were on us. But yet, that company came in there after the plant was done and the mill was gone and they picked their bones clean. They made sure that they got their share. I find that interesting.

RANNEY: Yeah!

HARVEY: We were no good to begin with, but we're alright to salvage. That's a great thing. I love it. I'm a little bit bitter about that.

RANNEY: I can tell. What about any other companies, like maybe major corporations, or other local companies that had an influence?

HARVEY: Well, sure, you know. We had Hassle Corporation, they had people in their mills. It wasn't just Georgia Pacific that got hurt. We were always under major construction and stuff like that. We always had outside contractors in the mill. But, what really sealed our fate, I believe, was when we didn't get the fine paper machine that we were in line for.

RANNEY: Right.

HARVEY: [Had] we got that, we'd [have] still been here.

RANNEY: Hmm.

HARVEY: Then we went and we changed our bleaching system. We [ran] that for thirty-five days and then shut it down. But you know what? That thirty-five days that they [ran] with that new bleaching system was the best pulp they ever made. Yeah.

RANNEY: And when was that? Early '80s?

HARVEY: That was back, no, that was shortly before they shut the mill down.

RANNEY: Wow. Yeah. So who got the fine paper?

HARVEY: Platca, Florida.

RANNEY: OK, and that's P-L-A-T-C-A?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: OK. So what were the – I don't know if you know, or not – but what were the byproducts, or co-products, I guess, of the pulping process?

HARVEY: Oh.

RANNEY: And what kind of impacts did they have on the company?

HARVEY: Well, there were several things like our fertilizers, our lignin products, our glues, things like that. That all happened, and our paper products. See, we made MD toilet tissue there...

RANNEY: - OK -

HARVEY: ...last, and that was a fine toilet tissue. We had the market on the west coast and Georgia Pacific finally decided that they were going to change brands and go to Sparkle. Well, they lost the west coast's share of the market, because MD was a good toilet paper.

RANNEY: Mm hmm, oh yeah, still is. So who would you say the major competitor [was] at that time?

HARVEY: Oh, you know, we had several: Proctor and Gamble and Weyerhauser, Boise-Cascade.

RANNEY: And Kimberly-Clark was that another big one?

HARVEY: Pardon?

RANNEY: Kimberly-Clark?

HARVEY: Yeah, International Paper [was] another one, right.

RANNEY: So how were your hours at the plant?

HARVEY: My hours when I first started [were] like eight to four thirty. But you always had overtime, you know. You couldn't count on going home at four thirty, or whatever it was. But that was the name of the game, when they gave you the apprenticeship. They asked me if I'd be willing to work overtime and do it anytime they wanted to. That was part of the perks, I figure, was a straight day job because I hated shift work.

RANNEY: Mm hmm. I'll go to the next question. So then you wanted the overtime, I guess?

HARVEY: Sure!

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: Sure.

RANNEY: Did you feel it was ever needed?

HARVEY: Pardon?

RANNEY: Did you feel it was ever needed?

HARVEY: The overtime?

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: Well, there again, you know. It all depended on the supervisor, what he decided that he needed and what he didn't need. Some of it was needed, yeah! Most of it was. A lot of the... there [were] a few times I questioned whether we needed to work or not, but they're the boss.

RANNEY: Hmm. So, there's only eight of you, correct, at this time, or so? How did that work? I guess it wasn't shift work, so did you all come in at the same time?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: And was kind of...

HARVEY: And then if there's a breakdown during the evening or that night, well they'd call somebody in.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: That's how it went.

RANNEY: So was the mill running twenty-four hours?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: OK, and so there [were] for other branches, I guess, within the corporation. They were running around the clock?

HARVEY: Mm hmm.

RANNEY: As opposed to...

HARVEY: See, when I first came on the crew there was only six digesters. That's all there were.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: When I retired there [were] nine.

RANNEY: Yeah. So you've mentioned you've got involved on the union side a bit? So did that kind of disqualify you from management?

HARVEY: No. Funny thing of it is, most of the people, the shift foreman or... that were actively involved in the union, they were the president of the union. Milt Reid... was the president of the union. He became a shift foreman. Dave Jenkins, he was the treasurer of our union, and he became a safety man for the company. And there was a lot of union members at that went company. [In] fact, one of our officers, John Swanson, he was our head negotiator for the union here. When we broke away from the old international [and] became Western Pulp and Paper Workers, well John was our negotiator for a long time and then he went and started working for Georgia Pacific. There [were] a lot of them that did that.

RANNEY: So is that... did you just stay as a journeyman pipe fitter? I noticed, you mentioned you got up to...

HARVEY: I got up to be the lead man.

RANNEY: Alright. Just the top journeyman?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: In that... union.

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: So when did you get involved in that? When you became a journeyman? Is that...

HARVEY: Well, yeah, it was shortly after I became a journeyman. I started out as a shop steward.

RANNEY: OK, yep.

HARVEY: Yeah, and worked my way on up to where I decided that I needed to know more about the contract – and to know more about the contract you sit down and read it – and then I decided that I wanted to be on the standing committee, and then I was nominated and elected to the standing committee. But I was fortunate. I had good people to learn by, like McCandless and Jarve Loney. They taught me the ropes.

RANNEY: McCandless, he was the president [of the union], correct?

HARVEY: Yeah. He was also chairman of the standing committee, and a whole bunch of things.

RANNEY: And what position did he hold in the company?

HARVEY: Jim was a lignin operator, that's what his job was. And Jarve Loney worked in the chlorine plant as an operator.

RANNEY: OK. So there [were] a couple of strikes during the...

HARVEY: That's right.

RANNEY: [What was the] outcome of that? How did that affect you?

HARVEY: Well, monetarily it didn't affect me. I went to... Are you talking about the strike in the '70s?

RANNEY: Sure, yeah.

HARVEY: They lined us up there, all in a row. Oh yeah.

RANNEY: Oh gosh.

HARVEY: Oh yeah. Seven and a half months we were out. Yeah, and then we went back for the same contract we were offered when we started. That's what hurt them. That's the reason why they can never get another strike vote out of that place.

RANNEY: Right, because the union settled for that?

HARVEY: Well, people were hurt, I mean, monetarily. I mean a lot of people got hurt bad, and the people that had something to draw on, you know, like, had a skill, well it didn't hurt them as bad.

RANNEY: Because they were wanted, of course.

HARVEY: Yeah, they went to work some place else. A lot of them went to work down at Todd's Shipyard – all the millwrights and pipe fitters that I know. I was working down at Dakota Creek in Anacortes, building boats, crab boats. There [were] seventeen of us down there.

RANNEY: Seventeen from GP?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: OK, and who were the people, [what were] their professions, that went down there?

HARVEY: Millwrights and pipe fitters.

RANNEY: OK, yeah, that makes sense. So, support during the strikes. Were they kind of sectionalized, or was it kind of company-wide that there was a lot of solidarity in the company?

HARVEY: Well, yeah, they filled each other's orders, if that's what you mean. That was the deal. They wanted to break us, you know. ... You should have seen the mountain of pulp that was back there where the... rotten cooks that they couldn't handle alone. And we all knew that, you know. [It] was just a thing that they wanted to just line us up and shut us down, you know, and do whatever they had to break us. But I don't think that they ever did, but they... it's like I said, we could never get another strike vote.

RANNEY: So were there a lot of people who crossed the line? ... They were all people from the outside?

HARVEY: That's right! They brought them in from Farden...

RANNEY: East?

HARVEY: Oh yeah, east coast, you know. And then we had, after ours was over, we had company personnel that went to other mills to fill in jobs, you know. That's the way it was. I never had too much respect for that.

RANNEY: Well, yeah.

HARVEY: Needless to say, that's what happened. Course, another thing that hurt us was... all the Haskell, with their pipe fitters and mills with their electricians – and then of course General Construction was in there then and Shocart, with their millwrights – they were able to run that mill and maintenance-wise on account they had all these other union brothers in there maintaining their mill for them. That's the thing that hurt us, because if they'd have had to maintain that mill with the people that they had in there, they couldn't have done it.

RANNEY: And that only lasted seven and half months, for that one? There was another strike, correct?

HARVEY: Yeah.

RANNEY: A bigger one. What can you tell me about that?

HARVEY: That was earlier, I believe.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: And that didn't last, I don't know, a couple weeks. And it was sort of like, by the time we got straightened out – got our strike crews all lined up and everything like that – well, [we] were ready to go back to work. This one here was different. When I was working, there [were] a lot of girls and ladies that were in that mill that had families. And so I had to spend like four hours a week on picket duty. So other than spending time I elected to give money to a woman that had four kids that wasn't working. Well, that's how she had an income was taking guys' strike duty times and standing their picket duty for them. That's how she made it.

RANNEY: So how was that income supplemented?

HARVEY: What, hers or mine or who you talking about?

RANNEY: Well, I guess, she took over for you...

HARVEY: Yeah, she took my strike duty for me...

RANNEY: From the union?

HARVEY: Yeah, but the union allowed that.

RANNEY: But, they paid people to be on the line?

HARVEY: Yeah, I paid them!

RANNEY: Oh, right, yeah.

HARVEY: Yeah!

RANNEY: OK, alright, yeah, that makes. So, when you first came in – this is going back to your apprenticeship – how did you relate to your lead pipe fitter guys and even the company...?

HARVEY: Well, my lead man was Oscar Brandt. He was Swedish and he talked like a Swedish man. It was hard for me to understand. I had a hard time, I could never understand whether he wanted a *thin* gasket or a *tin* one, you know. It was things like that that were kind of comical at the time, you know, figure out. But he was a harsh old Swede but he was a good man.

RANNEY: [Do] you know how he came to be in Bellingham?

HARVEY: I think Oscar came to Bellingham and he worked in the lumber industry. He [was] logging on Lummi Island and he got his finger caught in a [shive?] cable and they cut it off. Well, at that time the ferry only [came] every three days. Well he was laid up over there with his finger amputated for three days before the ferry got back. Then he went to work... when they started at the mill. Don't ask me when they started it, I haven't the foggiest. Sometime in the '20s, I believe.

RANNEY: Yeah, I think it was the mid-'20s. What were some of the important events [at] the plant, the strikes being, of course, an obvious one I guess for the history of it. But [were] there any other big ones that you can remember, maybe with the introduction of new production lines?

HARVEY: Well, when Georgia Pacific took over a line of limousines showed up out at the head office, and that [was] the first inclination that something was going on and then a rumor spread throughout the mill like, you know, quick fire that we had been acquired by Georgia Pacific and [that] their accountants were in there taking care of the situation.

RANNEY: Yeah, yeah.

HARVEY: That's how we first knew we were working for Georgia Pacific.

RANNEY: Wow. There [was] no announcement?

HARVEY: No, and then [name removed] was the head of engineering and he was really against Georgia Pacific taking over. It wasn't long [until] he wasn't employed. That's

how that there went down. [He] was an excellent engineer and he had good people under him.

RANNEY: So did your opinion shift over time, or change as to what the plant was about?

HARVEY: Well, you know, I was never as naïve as you think, you know, that being on the union side that you get everything you ask for. I knew it wasn't. You know, you had to be reasonable on account [that] if you [weren't] reasonable and the company wasn't making a profit, you [weren't] going to have a job. It was that simple. Well, we realized that, you know. But I think, when you talk about Norval, I can still remember sitting on the other side of the table at a standing committee meeting arguing what a hot meal was, and Norval was the guy that was arguing what the company thought a hot meal was.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: So we had to, you know, explain that to Norval.

ALBRIGHT: Do you remember the saw filer / knife grinder...

HARVEY: - oh yeah! -

ALBRIGHT: ...debate? What was that all about?

HARVEY: Well, a saw filer / knife grinder debate was, we'd had a saw filer and we had the knife grinder. Well, they were two different jobs, I believe. And the knife grinder, his job was to grind the knives in the chipper, and then reclaim in the screen room. That was his job. The saw filer was to file and sharpen the saw blades that were used in the barking plant. Well I believe that they wanted to combine the two together, make it one job, and we didn't go for that.

RANNEY: We, being the union?

HARVEY: That's right.

RANNEY: OK.

HARVEY: Darryl James was the saw filer and the knife grinder was Bob Craig, at that time, I believe.

RANNEY: So, one of their jobs would've become...

HARVEY: Well, Darryl James finally died and Rich Aamot took over for Darryl and did the shar-- until the barking plant was shut down.

RANNEY: So how would you want future generations... like your son, daughter, or grandkids even, how would you want them to remember your work at Georgia Pacific?

HARVEY: Well, as long as there's a building standing and the two towers are there, that's all they need to know is their grandpa was on top of them and he built. That's all.

RANNEY: How do you think Georgia Pacific influenced Bellingham when they took over? Could they maybe help Bellingham or was that kind of an end of an era?

HARVEY: [Coughs] Excuse me. Well, I don't think it was an end of an era, I think it was the beginning of one. And we – the city and Georgia Pacific – it was really a shame that the city was built around the mill, you know what I mean? I'm sure that if it was someplace else, say out where the refineries are at, or something where it would still be running, but the mill got to be too big and too many people didn't like it down there.

RANNEY: Too big in what sense?

HARVEY: Well, they... didn't like it expanding. Like, if we'd have got the fine paper machine – you know where the big new warehouse [is], it's just across the street from the Econogen plant?

RANNEY: Yeah, I get which one...

HARVEY: - that was going to be where the fine paper machine was going to be put, and then Cornwall Avenue would come down and turn and go around down where the railroad tracks are now going that way. ... Cornwall Avenue would have been in there but they didn't like that idea and they didn't like the chlorine plant, and things happen.

RANNEY: What was wrong with the chlorine plant...?

HARVEY: Well they didn't like it. It was a mercury-based outfit, you know. They floated mercury over the screens to make electrolysis and makes the gases. Well, they didn't like that on account of they kept monitoring the bay, things like that, and they didn't like the mercury. Well, finally it got to be that the plant was shut down. Most of it went to Mexico and it's still making a product. Only environmentally it's not as good as it was up here. But, no, I don't see anybody picking at it down there.

RANNEY: So I've read that there aren't many... they tried to get chlorine plants working all around the U.S. in the early 19-teens and the early '20s, and they were never very successful, and then this plant came in along with everything else in the process. And so, that success, I guess... I wonder why they didn't like it at that point if it was pretty much the only place...

HARVEY: Well, the process was what was bad. Then we had, when the chlorine vaporizers in the bleach plant... caught on fire and we had to have it [inaudible], and things like that, that didn't help the cause any.

RANNEY: Can you tell me about that, the fire?

HARVEY: Well, the chlorine vaporizers got too hot and they caught on fire. Well, once that catches on fire, it [doesn't] need oxygen to burn because it's a chemical reaction, and we had a tough time putting it out. The fire department came down and they got it under control. But at that time we had a lot of orange smoke that went uptown and that kind of cooked their goose.

RANNEY: OK, and that mainly led to the chlorine shutdown?

HARVEY: That was in the bleach plant.

RANNEY: Oh, the bleach plant.

HARVEY: Yeah, but it was chlorine based, is what it was.

RANNEY: OK, did you have anything else, David?

ALBRIGHT: Yeah. What were the major changes that you saw in the company when it went from Puget Pulp to GP?

HARVEY: OK, finally. ... Instead of [just] being Puget Sound Pulp and Timber one mill we had several on the west coast that were Georgia Pacific mills and we thought we had a regular union camaraderie between the mills. You know, where we'd get together and kind of discuss... about contract negotiations and things like that to make sure that we didn't step on any other Georgia Pacific union's feet by asking something that was different from what they were going to ask, see. And Georgia Pacific got to be a pretty big outfit and we rode along and enjoyed the benefits. It was during that time, just before the strike, the big one, we had just negotiated [a] health and welfare plan that was completely paid for, [one] hundred percent, and we took two and a half cents out of the whole package to do that, for all of our people. When we got back off strike, [name omitted] - I'll never forget, he was the company personnel man - he kept harping on that health and welfare: "It's costing too much, costing too much." Well, we'd negotiated that out of the contract, you know, but he thought it was his money that was paying for our... and eventually it [got] to the point now where it's nothing [compared] to what it was when we bargained that first contract for [a] completely paid for plan, which is bad.

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: But nowadays, I mean, you're reading [in] the paper that like forty-six percent of the people in the United States doesn't have an insurance plan. Well, what's that all about? I mean, we got to start thinking about what's happening to our people. Like when I retired and I lost my dental benefits. Well my wife she went in and she had to have a tooth pulled, so they wanted... they did one of these peg things, you know? Well, by the time it all ended up, I had \$4,000 in one tooth. Well, it's things like that, you

know, that you're either going to have to have a dental plan that, after you retire that will pick up, or put away a big gob of money. Either that or have your teeth pulled before you leave the mill. One or the other. It's things like that that bother me.

RANNEY: So that's...

HARVEY: I don't know where it's going. You know, these kids nowadays..., they don't quite understand what unions are all about. They think it's bad but if it wasn't for the unions, you guys would still be working twelve hours a day. You know, there was the eight hour day job, that's what the unions. ... Right down there at the mill right now, the paper mill went right back to twelve hours a day! We had in the contract that if you worked ten or more hours you got a meal ticket that was worth eight dollars or a meal! They let that go! All these benefits that we fought and bled for are gone! And I don't know where it's going to end up. I guess... it's going to end up where it's back to where the unions first started. Like a big pendulum, rocking back and forth. Well, when it gets back to where you guys can't stand it anymore and you put down your foot and say, "Hey! We need these benefits!" That's when it will start swinging the other way! But until that time it's not going to happen. It's going to get worse and the government isn't going to help you.

RANNEY: Yeah. So were you part of those committees that talked between companies?

HARVEY: Yes.

RANNEY: Now that's the standing committee?

HARVEY: Yeah, well, no. That was our negotiating committee. We met with the Georgia Pacific counsel. We met in Portland, Oregon, that's where our headquarters [were] at.

RANNEY: I don't think I ever got what year you retired.

HARVEY: I retired in 1999, August.

RANNEY: And you were still a journeyman at that point?

HARVEY: [Nods]

ALBRIGHT: How do you think the general community's attitude changed towards GP, when... you retired?

HARVEY: Well, I think that they can't wait... for Georgia Pacific to get out of there. That's what I think. And I think that their wish is probably a couple years away, but it's going to happen... [that's] progress.

ALBRIGHT: What do you think [were a] couple major reasons for the closure?

HARVEY: Well, Pete Coreal, the chairman, CEO of Georgia Pacific. ... This mill down here was on tender ground to begin with and then when [the] mayor of Bellingham filed that suit to stop them from generating electricity, Coreal decided that it was no longer necessary for Georgia Pacific to be in this area. But I can't for the life of me think that there [were] 420 jobs down there that paid, you know, over twenty bucks an hour, ... and [those] jobs have gone away and there's nothing to replace them. And now what have you got? You've got the refineries and Intalco, and that's the only thing you got. And I don't think it's going to be too much longer and Intalco's going to be gone. Well, there's no industry going to come in here because it's not industry friendly. It's just not that way. It's going to be... I figure a retirement community [is] what it's going to be, that and a college town. Yeah.

RANNEY: What was the CEO's name? Pete Coreal? How do you spell that?

HARVEY: You know, you got me. But he's a hard man, yeah, he plays hardball. And the mayor seemed easy. He [doesn't] seem to think that it's going to matter at all, so evidently he's got some plan. Or jobs in the Bellis Fair, I guess. It's too bad.

ALBRIGHT: What do you think about what they're doing with the site now?

HARVEY: Oh, I think that it's good. ... I think that something needs to happen with that land that's positive. They've had too many negative feelings. It's got to... things have got to get better. We got to get all lined up and get our eggs all lined up in one basket.

ALBRIGHT: Do you have any personal experience of [inaudible]? Did you go to any of those meetings?

HARVEY: Yeah, when I was involved in the union I went to... Bill Moeller and me went as far south as Mount Vernon to a lot of them environmental meetings – Northwest Pollution Agency meetings and things like that – to see and listen to what the people's gripes were so we could come back and at least know what needed to happen. Because the company sent people there, too, but we went as a union just to make sure [that] we weren't being fed a line. [To] listen to what people were saying, yeah.

ALBRIGHT: So what were those like? Were they pretty heated?

HARVEY: Well, there's a lot of, you know, the big heapers and all that. You know, they always found something to gripe about.

ALBRIGHT: And then the union negotiations. What were those like? Did those get heated at times, or was it pretty much just...?

HARVEY: Oh, yeah! Oh, yeah! Yeah, they were... the year that they lined us up on strike, I couldn't believe it. Anything we asked for we got and that made me nervous, you know, because I couldn't figure... You fought for so long, you know, to get things that

you basically needed and then all of sudden they were giving board mill operators a dollar and a half an hour and the journeymen a dollar an hour raise. Everybody was getting these raises, five weeks vacations and then six weeks – what was it? – five after twenty-five years and six weeks after thirty, or something like that. And I thought, “Gosh, you that’s great!” And then they lined us all up, we signed the contract, we’re there for one year and [were] out for seven and a half!

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: So, yeah, things got heated at times. And at times we got everything we asked for. But, you know, sometimes when you get everything you ask for you want to look around the corner. You don’t want to take it for just... everything you get, you want... see what’s beyond that.

RANNEY: What happened when you told people that you worked for GP, and what was their reaction, as in, did their reactions change?

HARVEY: No, not really too much. I never found it a problem getting a loan or anything like that. When I told them I worked at the pulp mill I didn’t have any problem at all getting a loan. We first started a credit union down there, and Georgia... [At] Puget Sound Pulp and Timber you had to be a member a year before you could that loan and my number was 215 at the old Georgia Pacific Credit Union, or Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Credit Union, I should say. Tom Hutchison was our Treasurer and we started it in his apartment.

RANNEY: What were, [do] you think, the best things about working in Bellingham, and at the plant, I guess, more specifically?

HARVEY: You know, Bellingham, it’s just like heaven on earth, really, you know. I don’t think I’ve been a lot of places and I have never been to a place I like better than Bellingham.

RANNEY: I agree.

HARVEY: Yeah, never have. I don’t think I ever will! Bellingham’s just a great place to be.

RANNEY: So, about the plant. What do you think the best things inside of...

ALBRIGHT: Well, can we stop for a second? We can switch tapes.

RANNEY: Alright.

HARVEY: OK.

ALBRIGHT: This will be quick.

HARVEY: And I'm talking too much, I got to get going.

RANNEY: Sure.

HARVEY: You guys will be here all day. You're starting me on this union stuff. I bet you heard a lot from old McCandless, didn't you?

RANNEY: I think the person who interviewed him did get a lot...

HARVEY: - yeah -

RANNEY: ...on the union.

HARVEY: Yeah.

ALBRIGHT: OK.

RANNEY: So, the question was, what [were] the best things about working inside the plant?

HARVEY: Oh, ...even when there [were] 450 people in there - in fact, when I was chairman of the standing committee there [were] over five hundred people that worked in that mill - and you got to know most everybody. It wasn't just strangers. ... At that time, the mechanics were in all the departments and they basically, after a while, got to know all the people that [ran] them, and that was the good thing about that. Yeah, it was like a big family.

RANNEY: Yeah

HARVEY: Really.

RANNEY: Sounds like it. Do you keep in touch with anyone still?

HARVEY: Oh yeah. I, well, in fact I golf every Saturday with a man that still works in there, Neil Goit. And there's a lot of people that I see like every Wednesday. They have a meeting over here at Chubby's, all the guys that I worked with. McCandless is there, and the rest of them.

RANNEY: OK, [we] might want to stop in there.

HARVEY: Well, that would be a good place to really get the low down because there's a lot of guys that... You go over there every Wednesday about 9:30 in the morning and you'll run into Bill Moeller and a lot of the guys that I was in the union with at that time. Yeah, they're there.

RANNEY: So, the best things about... maybe, what were the most memorable?

HARVEY: Well, I hate to say this, but [the] most memorable time for me [was]... in July of '99 when the steam plant blew up. That was bad. I'd never been into an area that was devastated as much as... When I look and you can see... concrete floors with rebar in them that were two feet thick, that were raised right up, I mean, just sheered off. Boom! You know, what a tremendous force that was that could do something like that. Well, there I worked sixteen hours a day, seven days a week, pretty much that whole month until we got the mill back in operation again. And, I says to myself, "I'm tired and I don't need anymore of this," so I retired. Yeah. That was the most memorable time in my life, for the mill.

ALBRIGHT: Can you kind of go over how you got the job? Like did you go in and apply?

HARVEY: Yeah, what I did was... I was talking to a man named Herman Munsenrator [who] was a friend of my father-in-law's and he was saying, "Larry, you ought to get down there and make out an application because they're going to be hiring kids for summer work." And so I – at that time I was working for Art Picallo, the head of Richfield Station out on the corner of Marine Drive and Bennett – and so I went down there and made out an application, and three days later, well, they called me up for an interview, and I went down there and interviewed and that afternoon I went to work.

ALBRIGHT: What did you know about the plant before you worked there?

HARVEY: Jack diddly.

RANNEY: Yeah.

HARVEY: Nothing. Not a thing.

RANNEY: That's what your apprenticeship was about though.

HARVEY: Yeah. I spent three and a half years for... At that time you had to take an apprenticeship test... to see if you [were] smart enough to be an apprentice I guess. Yeah, they gave me the test and I just waited my time until somebody retired. Yeah. But things [were] good. A lot better than it is right now. Your money [went] further.

ALBRIGHT: That's all I got.

RANNEY: Alright, I guess last question is, is there anything that you'd like to say for the record, or that I haven't asked you about that you wanted to...

HARVEY: - no –

RANNEY: ...expand on.

HARVEY: Just thank you for the opportunity to let me talk to you guys. That's neat.

RANNEY: Well, we thank you.

HARVEY: I think that's OK.

RANNEY: Great.

HARVEY: But remember, the pendulum's swinging. Don't forget that.

ALBRIGHT: Thank you very much!

RANNEY: Yeah, thank you!