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Rosie the Riveter and the World War II American Home Front Oral History Project

Interviews conducted by

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Stanley Clausen Interview

0:10

Appiah: What is your full name?

0:14

Clausen: Stanley E. Clausen Sr.

0:16

Appiah: What is your date of birth?

0:18

Clausen: My date of birth was July the 20th, 1922

0:24

Appiah: Where were you born?

0:25

Clausen: I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

0:29

Appiah: What is the background of your parents?

0:33

Clausen: My what?

0:35

Appiah: The background of your parents?

0:36

Clausen: My father came from Sioux Fall, South Dakota and I guess he came down here, he came down to Camp Humphrey's but back then, it was called Fort Humphreys, in World War I, that's where he served when he came down here, which later became Fort Belvoir, which remains today. That's down where he met my mother, and then they were married.

1:21

Appiah: And then, what was your mother's background

1:22

Clausen: My mother's background was, she came from a family, from I guess about, what was it, 8 or 9 people in the family, and far as I know, my grandmother, my mother was a twin sister. I gotta a picture of her up there, and she was a twin sister, she was kinda of robust, my mother was, and her twin sister was kinda of a weakling, but anyway, my mother was orphaned out and she worked on a farm and she would go out there and work on the farm every day. And, then she would ride out with a man, and the man's wife she kind of treated my mother not too well you know. The man treated my mother very well, you know.

(pause)

2:43

Clausen: I think that it was in a place called, Elkton, Maryland, and then one time, she wrote a letter to her mother and said that "I'm going to take my own life so come out and get me". So I don't know if you want to know anything about that or not.

3:01

Appiah: No, go ahead.

3:02

Clausen: But anyway, she came back and then like I said, it was later on, that she got married. Then, she lived in Alexandria, Virginia, and I lived with my grandparents. I didn't have much of a home life anyway. I just about roamed around and did whatever I wanted to, you know. But anyway, now what else do you want to know?

3:41

Appiah: Why did you live with your grandparents?

3:44

Clausen: Well, because, then my mother and my father had divorced and I had lived with my father for some time up in Philadelphia. I went to schools up there in Philadelphia, and back in those days, every time you left the state and went to another state, I'd leave Pennsylvania and go to Virginia, they would set you back a whole year. I guess, that's the reason why I never got anywhere, and then when I'd go back to Pennsylvania, they would set me back another year. They don't do that anymore, at least, I don't think. (pause)

I know they don't, but I'd never had much of an education. A 7th grade education, that's about it, you know. But other than that, I've learned a lot of things by travel and all that, I went into the military. I lived in Washington D.C., and then I was in the District of Columbia National Guard

in 1939, and then in 1940, I was called up into service. And then, we went to, by a military convey all the way from Washington D.C. to El Paso, Texas. And from then on, we would stop, and the first place that we stopped was the army in Richmond here. And then, from there on, we would stay in fairgrounds, any place you could find, you know, to stay, and then we just kept traveling and traveling. And then, going state to state, and then we got to Louisiana and we came to the LSU University, then we parked our guns and stuff on their football field.

(pause)

It was in January, all the students were home then, and that was the best place we ever had, we was able to go in there and get a nice shower and a nice warm place to stay. It was overnight, you know, so we got up the next morning and we went on our way and just kept traveling. We got to El Paso, Texas. But anyway, we got there and I was in a place called Fort Bliss, Texas, and then, that was what, 1940? Then I was called into the National Guard and then Pearl Harbor came along so then from then on, it came so I was stuck for another year. In fact, I spent twelve years in the service, whatever. And then, right after they bombed Pearl Harbor, I don't know do you want to hear this or not?

7:16

Appiah: Oh, no, go ahead.

7:18

Clausen: So right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, they packed us up for three days and we were out in Seattle, Washington. And we went out there and we were guarding the Boeing Aircraft Plant, which it was afraid that time, no one knew what was going to happen after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, they thought that they was going to keep coming to our country, but they didn't. They didn't, you know, which was lucky for us, but anyway, then after I spent, we stayed there about a week or two.

8:12

Clausen: And then we went across the Puget Sound, to a place called Bremerton, Washington. And they had a big navy yard over there and all the big ships came in and they repaired them and everything. But we had gun placements in the neighbors' yards, you know. And at that time, I was working at a kitchen, I was a mess sergeant. I started out, I went to Cooks and Bakers school, and then I was a cook's helper, then I went from first cook to second cook, and then I became a mess sergeant. And I was feeding 500 men a day.

9:03

Clausen: But anyway, now I had about 500 to 600 lbs of sugar at that time. And that was hard to get. So, you were supposed to turn it in, and the captain told me, "Don't turn it in", and you

know what we've done, we gave it to the neighbors and put it in their attics. (laughs) But anyways, then after I moved to Bremerington, we were over there for a while, we got by again, and then we went to cross the Puget Sound again. Then we went to a place called Port Orchard, and then I had never heard of the place, then about it since I've been here, you know. But anyways, it is just a little small place, called Port Orchard. We had put all gunning placements there, and then we dug caves and other thing, and that's where we put all this ammunition and everything and but anyway, we had what you call, radar.

(pause)

And back then, the RADAR was something fairly new, you know. We would have dawn and dusk alerts, you know, every morning, we would get up at dawn, and then we had two or three trucks and all kind of cable and everything. We had a big truck with a big generator on it, and we had to get up on it and start the motor up on it, you know. And it would light up all these lights on for the RADAR, and then they had free seats in these RADAR, like a booth, like that, you know. You had these scopes and all. We would sit there and look at these scopes, you know, and see if any planes were coming in and everything. But other than that, you know so after that, I guess, all of a sudden, the let me see, we left there and then I went overseas. And then because they had gone and invaded on D-Day, you know.

(pause)

Clausen: So then, I went in there and it was just a few days, I guess it was about 10 days. I guess it was D-Days, you know. A lot of the wreck and stuff was still there you know, and then we got up to a place called St. Louisville where they had all these head rows and everything. I was, I finally got assigned to an army division, I was an armed infantryman. Then, finally when we broke through there, we kept rolling, and then finally, we run out of gas. The supplies could not keep up with us. So then, we just kept on going and then we had to wait and then I was with 2 or 3/ 3 or 4 different armies over there. I was with the first army, the third army, the eighth army and I don't know what the rest of them was. They used to call it the Ghost Division because we'd end in one place to another, you know, so one day, or one night, you know, they put us in these half tracks and then we left.

13:55

Clausen: I asked, "Where are we going", they won't tell you. then we went up to a place called Arenhem, Holland so we got up there and I didn't even know where we was. And we relieved a British division up there, that they used to call the Desert Rats. So we relieved them and then took over their place. And we took over and as soon as we took over fox holes, you know and then the first thing they said was fix bayonets. So we they was going to have an attack, you know. But they never did, but it didn't come off. We passed the Meuse-Escaut Canal and it never came off. But anyway, I was in the British 2nd army in Holland, and it was a kinda of, one of these days, if you ever looked at the book, you get your history, you'll find out that it was a General

Montgomery, or Field Marshall I mean, Marshall Montgomery that talked Eisenhower into going to a place called Arenhem, up in Holland. General Patton was away up North and came down to help convince Eisenhower into going to Arenhem, Holland. And he said, "We'll have the war over by Christmas". Well, anyway, they sent in two airborne divisions, one of them was American and one of them was British. It all backfired and they got trapped and then I never really, I was up in Holland, they gave us these boats and well, they were just, they had wooden bottoms and canvas sides. And then we would practice running, we would get up and run with them, we were still on the ground, you know. We were supposed to go over this canal, and we never got to. I don't know how many people were lost and everything. But, the whole Arenhem deal backfired, you know, so then it just went on and on, then the war just kept on going on, you know.

16:35

Clausen: 'Til finally it got to the Ardennes, they called it and it was the biggest battle in history. Cause they had every unit practically in American history, that was Hitler's last deal, he was going to try and do that, he was trying to get to Lige, Belgium. We had a big supply down there, that was where they kept the gasoline, all the supplies and everything, they were trying to get there because they were short on supplies, you know. They were short on gasoline and stuff like that, you know. But anyway, that went on and that was terrible. It was snowing and a lot of people, the fellas, they got their feet frozen and everything and there were a lot of casualties and everything. But anyway, General Patton, he was way up in the North somewhere, and if he hadn't come down, if it hadn't been for him coming down and breaking through the German lines, and then everything just disintegrated. We got everything straightened out again, but that was Hitler, you know it was the last thing, you know. I got a picture here, [laughs] I don't know, I guess it's over there somewhere, I don't know, I showed it to somebody and asked, "Do you know who this is?" It's a picture of Hitler and Eva Braun. I still got over there, somewhere. But anyway, what else do you want to ask me? Anything else?

18:31

Appiah: Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

18:35

Clausen: Where was I?

18:37

Clausen: Fort Bliss, Texas and in El Paso

18:43

Appiah: How did you hear about Pearl Harbor?

18:44

Clausen: How did I hear about it?

18:46

Clausen: I hear about it on the radio, I said, uh, no, I'm stuck now. [chuckles]. Cause we was out in the National Guard outfit, we had four National Guard outfits out there, we had the National Guard outfit from Washington D.C., which I had belonged to, then we had one from Arkansas, and then we had one from New Mexico, and then we had another one from Alabama. But anyway, but I guess, I must have been blessed, I don't know, it just happens though my regiment were on maneuvers in Louisiana, I was down there for 90 days chasing all up and down that the road, you know. And there and Texas and all. But anyway, this one regiment from New Mexico, the 200th National Guard, from New Mexico, we were supposed to go, but hadn't it been for knowing maneuvers and our regiment wasn't up to full speed and full strength. So they took this other regiment from New Mexico and where do you think they went? They went to the Philippines so they was in the that, that walk where they all had to have that walk and everything. They must have known that a thousand or so died, and if they couldn't make it, the Japanese would shoot them and get rid of them, you know. But even today, you remember, maybe you might be too young, remember that President Reagan, when that Japanese prince from over in Japan, got married. And President Reagan, he went over there, all these fellas from the 200th New Mexico Guard, they sent them telegrams and everything because they didn't want him to go because they was in that death march, you know. But anyway, he went and done it anyway. So I said whatever. But you ask me anything you want.

21:43

Appiah: Could you tell about your aunts and uncles?

21:46

Clausen: My aunts and uncles?

21:47

Clausen: Well, I had one uncle now he was, he worked for the Fruit Growers, you probably don't know anything about that, well, it was something called Fruit Growers and it was in Alexandria, Virginia. And, they had boxcars and all that. They used to paint them or something, you know. So he was painting one of them, the boxcars, and then one of boxcars ran over him and cut his hands off to about there. He had two nubs and that man he could write better than I could with just nubs, but he lived at my grandmother's house. That was her son. The only thing he could not do was button his shirt up. He couldn't tie his shoes, my grandmother did that for him, you know, but then finally he left and then he lived in a place up there called Hunting Creek in Alexandria, VA. Now where Hunting Creek is, it is a roadway through there now. But he lived on a

houseboat, down here once he left the place you know. He had those artificial arms, and I was young then, you know, so my God, when I saw those things would scare me to death [laughs]. He never used them, never used them, you know, just used his nubs.

23:47

Appiah: Could he drive a car?

23:49

Clausen: Well, you know, he wasn't supposed to drive a car but I think one time he did drive a car, you know, I don't know how he would do it you know. I even went down- he bought a house down in Mount Vernon High School. I went down there one time and here he was down in the basement, working on pipes and everything with just his nubs. I mean, it was amazing what he could do. Another thing that I would tell you, but this may not be too good, when he was living down on this houseboat. Well, he was a bootlegger. Well anyway, he would have poles out there in Hunting Creek, and had these bard jars and would tie them to the poles. Then somebody would come and want some booze, so they would go out onto the houseboat and he would try and give to them. Back in the '30s, Alexandria had more bootleggers and prostitutes than you could ever think of. But anyway, so I [laughs] don't know, but he was amazing, and then after that, before they got the lottery, they used to have what the call numbers. And then people would play the numbers like that, people didn't have any money back then, so they played nickels and dimes and things like that. But anyway, he got into that, I remember he used to sit there by the radio, you'd have to listen to them, they took the numbers off the horse races.

[pauses]

26:20

Clausen: They had certain horse races, you know, the 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th race, you had to take all the numbers down and that is how you would get your numbers for the day. But anyway, so anyway, we had a police sergeant in the Alexandria, his name was Battleax Halves, and I had an aunt that lived down there in Alexandria. Back then, this my uncle, he had a car, he had a guy who would drive him around, and they would around and pick up all the numbers and everything. And one of them, it was my aunt's, so anyway, one day, this Battle Ax Halves, that's what we called him, from Alexandria, he come up there and knocked on the door. And my aunt opened the door, and he rushed busting in, and then my uncle, the one who didn't have any hands, he took the number slips and put them in his mouth and he was chewing them up. [laughter] And then, he was trying to get to the bathroom to put them in the toilet, and they got him down on the floor and they was choking him and making him spit it up. They didn't even, he went to court, they didn't put him in jail, but they did give him a fine. But I don't know, I'll tell you, there were a lot of things [laughter], I'll tell you.

28:24

Clausen: My wife got sick, and I started taking her to the hospital every day and then finally she was getting one blood transfusion a day and then it went to two. Every time we would take her to the doctor, the nurse would say, her name was Billie, and she would say, "Billie, you got to go get a blood transfusion." And Billie would say, "Please don't send me to the hospital." And I'd take her over there and then find a place to park after I got her in there. And then they was good to give me a lounge to sit in, something like this, you know, I could stay in there at night with her. And then she was hooked up to an IV and all, when she had to get up to go to the bathroom, I wouldn't even call the people, I would just unhook take her and then whatever. Then finally, it just came to, I would come home and it would take 8 hours, to get a pint of blood.

29:32

Clausen: Then it stretched into two pints, you know, I'd be there all night long. I would wake up and it was dawn. We would come home and it would be 1:00 in the morning. She would never sleep in the hospital. We would sit up there and watch television, maybe doze off or something. I would get up and walk around or something in the hospital sometimes. I told the doctor, you know it was my wife's doctor, so I asked her so how long do you think my wife might live? And he said, I think he said, this was about October, he said I think she might live until Christmas. That's what she did, you know. But anyway, it was, I don't know, I guess it went on for about a year, a year and a half, she just gave it up, you know. She knew she couldn't get any better and I guess she knew that she was like an anchor on me or something, so anyway she just decided that she was going to give it up you know. So anyway you know, the home people come in and they brought in an oxygen machine and everything, and she got so bad that she couldn't even get upstairs, so I stayed downstairs in the family room with her. My son had a bed and brought her over there and then she had the bed that the home people had brought for her, and my son had brought a bed so I stayed right there with her. And I was there the night she died, you know. But anyway, it, I don't know. The last thing she said was have I been a good wife? It really hurt my feelings, I was married for 65 years and I knew her even when I was going to grade school. I guess then when I went away during the war, I wasn't married then and but I lived down in Washington D.C. Then I was dating girls down there and she was dating boys over there, whatever, you know. And over there on, we used to go skating and the sidewalks over there were almost big enough to drive a car from so anyway I got ready to go to the army and she said you just want somebody to write to, she told me.

33:33

Clausen: But anyway, that went on for three years and I came home a couple of times. I made a few trips to, they call it Fort Lee now, but at that time, it was called Camp Lee. It wasn't a fort and I had made a trip up here on a train to pick up soldiers that they had just drafted, they had

come from down here in Virginia somewhere, and some of them from Maryland, and at that time, I was cooking, you know. I was a 1st cook so I was picked to go on that trip. So I went. Going up they fed us and everything, you know, I had a Pullman train and everything like that. Coming back, we had a trooktrain, they used a mail car, like a baggage car, you know and we used it for a kitchen. We had these things we used for a stove, it was like a cabinet, and then about that high, then they had two or three shelves in them, and then you had what they used for a stove, it had tanks on it, one on this side and one on the other side. And then one of them, you had to put white gas in on one side and the other one had a gauge on it and you had to pump it up by air. And that's the way it would light and we used that to cook on the way back. I cooked on everything, I cooked on an airplane, a boat, on the back of a truck during maneuvers, cooking on this train. But anyway, I made two trips up there and both times I was glad to be able to do it and that gave me a chance to go home, you know. I run out there was a bus, Greyhound bus down here and it took me up to Alexandria, VA. Then I would go visit her, you know. But anyway, going back to when we was younger, she lived in the 1217 block of King Street, someone made a trip up there last week and said it was where the Masonic temple was and it goes down to King Street. But anyway, I was married in that house on 1217 King Street. And the pastor came to the house, you know and I didn't even have any honeymoon. In fact, I had to go over to my mother's place and she was living in an apartment and she had to move out of her room with her sister so that I could have a place to stay. (laughter) I tell you, it was a mess. But anyway, I think it was July the 4th, and my wife and I were sitting there while all this fireworks is going on and everything. She asks, "What is going on out here?" I knocked on the door and couldn't get nobody so finally I went back up again and then my mother comes up and so that was my honeymoon. I said, "Boy, what a great one!" (laughter) But anyway, when we was younger, we both went to elementary school and all. And then she had two sisters and all the boys used to gather all around down on 1217 King Street, in front of the 3 sisters' house, that house is still there, you know.

37:58

Clausen: But anyway, like I said, she was dating different ones and I was living over in Washington, I was just doing my thing, dating different girls too, you know, whatever. But anyway, when I got in the service, like my wife said you just want someone to write to. [laughter] And that was it, you know, because I hadn't had anything to do with her and it had been about a year or two. I was living over there in Washington and I was dating someone over there and she was dating other people. But anyway, after that you know, when she was younger, she lived next door to a place, to a man who would sell oysters and crabs. She was a great cook, you know. So whenever he got an order for someone to cook or fry some oysters, he would come knock on the window for her to come over there, you know. She would go over there and sit over on the couch. I would come over there and we would love a little bit, kiss a little bit, you know. But anyway, when she was younger, I used to go up to the alley there where she lived and I'd be out there

talking to her and her mother said, you over there, kissing that ol' black head boy out there. [laughter]. But later on, after I married her, she became a great mother in law, it was really great so I see her, she was like a tomboy, I tell you. She would run through all the alleys in Alexandria. I don't know, but she was something of a headache. She had two sisters, and her name was Billie, so I guess they wanted a boy or something, but she was always the one to keep everybody straight. She was the youngest one and the first one that passed away. But I don't know, whatever. I don't know if you want to know anything all about that or not.

40:43

Appiah: What was it like for both of you growing up in Alexandria?

40:45

Clausen: Well, I had a pretty rough life with, there were so many people in my grandmother's house that if you were the last one in, then you would not find anywhere to sleep, I'll tell you. Well, I don't know, we had the uncle, the one who didn't have any hands, and then I had two or three others, or four or five others, and I don't know, that was the way it was. Sometimes I would sleep outside, you know, or whatever. But then, finally, my mother left there and went over to Washington and her and twin sister rented an apartment out there. It was a big apartment, and so I went over there too at that time. I went to school over there in the District, then in Virginia and then in Pennsylvania, I guess that's the reason why I got never anywhere. Back then, they would send you back a year after you moved in from another place. They don't do that anymore, I guess. But whatever, but that's the way it was. When I lived in Alexandria, I had a paper route, you know, I would go out and sold magazines and stuff, whatever I could do to make a little bit of money because my momma wasn't working there. When she finally did move over to Washington, I think she was working for a laundry and a towel place, you know. I think she was making about 10 dollars a week, I don't know. And then I had paper route, when I lived in the District of Columbia, different newspapers, the Washington Star, on Saturday I would work all night and send out papers. And it was right next to the Raleigh Hotel, in Washington D.C., the table I had was next to the window and I could see the ballroom at the Raleigh Hotel. And they was over there dancing and I was over there working. [laughter] So what else do you want to know, honey?

43:38

Appiah: Could you describe the Great Depression?

43:40

Clausen: Huh?

43:41

Appiah: Could you describe the Great Depression?

43:41

Clausen: The Great Depression, it was really rough, I'll tell you. I think we only had, one person in the whole house who was working at the time. I think it was my grandfather who was working for the RFP, the Richmond Fredericksburg Potomac Railroad, and he had a pretty good job there. You know, things were pretty rough, you know, but we made out. Nobody starved to death or anything like that you know. But it was kind of rough, you know. I remember that I put some cardboard in my shoes or something, because I couldn't even afford a pair of shoes. When I went to school, you know, I would usually come home from school and eat my lunch, you know and then go back, you know. But, you know, it was tough times, that's the way it was. Like I said, nobody starved to death. We didn't have the best of everything, you know. In fact, I went out to eat just the other night, and somebody said pass me the butter, you know. I said, Well, do you remember, Ollie O Margarine?" [laughter]. Y'll probably don't know anything about that. Ollie O Margarine was white and they had to give you a little package of orange powder and you put there in there so you mix it up so that it would look like butter, you know. [laughter] I don't know, but anyway, well we all survived, you find a way to make it some way, a way to to things work. Is there any way that I can help you out?

45:59

Appiah: Did the community get closer together?

46:01

Clausen: Huh?

46:03

Appiah: Did the community get closer together during that time?

46:05

Clausen: Yeah, I remember during- back in the 30s, I guess it was during the Great Depression, back then they didn't have any television, you know. You would have a radio and everyone would sit in the dining room because the houses didn't have whole heat like we do now. They would have what we call a space heater, you know. It would- you would put kerosene in it, and that's where you got your heat from. So you couldn't go into the living room when going to bed at night, so when I went to bed at night, I would put on more clothes. You would put a glass of water up there and it would turn to ice in the middle of the night. But anyway, I'll tell you, we'd all sit in there and some would be reading, some would be playing Chinese checkers, or playing cards or doing something and some would be listening to the radio, some would be listening to Fred Allen, or someone like that, or Betty Goode, or whatever the radio program was all like that. That was the way that it was. So anyway.

47 :40

Appiah: What radio programs were on?

47:41

Clausen: Huh?

47:43

Appiah: What types of programs were on the radio?

47:45

Clausen: Well, I remember one time they used to have, which I didn't listen to, Mert and Marge,- it was one of those serial things about a man and a woman with Mert and Marge, this one was leaving and this one was coming, then this was leaving and then this one was coming like that, you know. Then I remember they had one I used to like, it was called Shadow, it was a man on

there, he was called the Shadow, his name was Lamont Cransten. He was the Shadow. I used to listen to Skippy and things like that.

48:44

Appiah: What was Skippy about?

48:46

Clausen: It was just like a program, like Annie Rooney, you don't know about Annie Rooney, well, see y'll are too young, see she knows Annie Rooney, they used to have comic section about Skippy in the newspaper. The people that had done that have passed away. Skippy and Annie Rooney, now I know you know Orphan Annie, you've heard of Orphan Annie and Daddy Warbucks [laughter] But anyway, it I don't know, it was entertaining years and in later years, I was thinking about Tom Brokaw, you've heard about him, haven't you? Nice man, but anyways, he wrote the book, the Greatest Generation, and I went to World War II memorial, when it was dedicated, I'm a charter member of it, have you been there? You ought to go there sometime, it's beautiful. They have all these showers and things coming out of it. For every place that was in World War 2 they got it on a wall all the way around. I was the in 7th army division infantry and then I was in Korea, later on. But anyway, it's beautiful, it really is, I'll tell you. I went to the dedication of it and that is when George Bush was there and he came in, and Tom Brokaw was there, I think they had Tom Hanks there, I don't know, it was really, I still might have some of the papers from that, I don't know, but it was really good.

51:29

Appiah: Could you describe rationing for me?

51:29

Clausen: The what?

51:30

Appiah: Rationing?

51:30

Clausen: Well, I'll tell you, I never went through much rationing, because I was in the military, see, we just about got everything. We never had a shortage or anything like that. And the only thing that I can remember that I was out in Seattle, Washington and they gave us ration cards out there to the military but you know what it was for (pauses) it was for booze. [laughter] I will admit though, that I did drink some booze back then, you know. I had a ration card for it, they gave me a ration card and I had a fifth a week, I didn't want it, you know, but whatever. But, during World War II, I smoked too, I smoked for 40 years. And I figured what's the difference, I'm going to get shot at or something, so I might as well smoke and die for something else, you know. Do what I want to do, you know. I smoked for 40 years, you know. I smoked cigarettes, I smoked a pipe, and I smoked a cigar, I smoked anything I could get my hands on. I even remember as a kid, I used to smoke cornsilk. [laughter]. I used to put it in a paper, you know, the paper had acid in it, you know. I wonder how I'm not dead, you know. My whole life, I don't know how you know, but uh I was never really bad or anything, like that, you know. While I lived in Alexandria, when I was just a young kid, I used to go down to the golf course and I would caddy, you know. And go down there, on the way back down, we would go on a place, it was called Mount Vernon Highway, you know, from Alexandria all the way to Mount Vernon, that was built by the 3 Cs. It was the Civilian Conservation Corps. And President Roosevelt started that, they had barracks down there, almost like the army, they had green uniforms, I wasn't in the 3 Cs but as soon as the war broke out, they automatically went into the army. Anyway, we used to go down there and I used to go to Mount Vernon Highway, and then me and two or three other boys went down to caddy, you know. There was only one place in Alexandria that was called Bellhaven Country Club, it was very exclusive place, and the only ones who could belong into that place was doctors, lawyers and all like that, you know. So you go down there and you caddy, maybe you get 50 cents or something like that you know. On the way down, there was an old ship down there, this is before the war broke out, back in the 30s, it was over there in the Potomac River so we got down there and we'd all take off our clothes and jump in and go swimming. [laughter] We'd swim out to the ship, you know, and they dive back off it, you know and then we'd come back and put our clothes on and get to the golf course.

56:04

Clausen: We'd finish caddying and you know, you might make a dollar, a dollar and a half, maybe a couple of dollars, I don't know. You know, it all depends on who you caddy for and whether they wanted to give you anything or you know. Whatever, you know, I don't know- like I said, I was smoking back then, I used to buy a pack of Bull Durham[laughter] and then they'd give you a little pack, little papers with them, then you got to learn how to do it, you know. You

had to put the tobacco on there, lick it you know, and then you take it and roll it back up.
[laughter] But anyway, I don't know, anything else you want to ask me?

57:02

Appiah: Describe the people that you caddied for?

57:04

Clausen: Huh?

57:06

Appiah: The patrons, what type of people went to the golf course?

57:08

Clausen: They were all big businessmen, one of them was a big fella by the name of Herb Bryant, who owned a fertilizer place in Alexandria, smoot which is still in today, Fred the bus driver, he worked for Smoot, one time, you know. I don't know, they had a drugstore called Leadbeaters, goes down in history of Alexandria. I got two or three things here, people went to an academy, it gives all their names and everything and it goes back to 1800 or something. And I went to the same school that George Washington went. It was an old, rickety school, and he would go up there, when the wind would blow, it would rock it back and forth. [laughter] I'll tell you, but anyway, that's the way it was, you know.

58:29

Appiah: Could you describe the race relations within the National Guard?

58:31

Clausen: The race relations?

58:33

Appiah: Uh, huh.

58:35

Clausen: See when I was in there, we didn't have any blacks. See the whole army now, is military police. And they are all black. And uh, far as I know, everybody, a lot of the fellas I knew were younger than me, and when I had it, it was all white, you know. When I was in there, it was all white, when I was in there, it was 1939 when I joined, the captain said to me, he said, boy, you eighteen years old, I said yes, sir, but I was only 17. On my military records, I'm in a younger-I'm a year younger than I actually am. So according to my military records, I'd be 91, but I'm only 90, but that's the way it goes. But anyway, it- as far I know, we don't have any problems, you know.

1:00:00

Appiah: Were there a lot of racial tensions where you were at home in Washington?

1:00:03

Clausen: Well, I guess it was probably was, you know that as well I do. Probably, I don't know, like I never had any problems, you know. So that's the way it was. So whatever.

1:00:27

Appiah: So how did you hear about Japanese internment?

1:00:29

Clausen: How did I hear about it? Well, I guess we got- we used to get a paper called Gold Stars and Stripes, you know, and we could be informed by that. And then, a lot of that, they seemed to think that they was misguided too and later on, they gave them some retribution for, maybe they shouldn't have been all- back then, when they bombed Pearl Harbor, they just made everybody upset, you know, whatever. Like I said, after the Philippines, when they had that Death March-

the Batan, that didn't seem to go over too well either, you know. So the Japanese, you know, but whatever.

1:01:34

Appiah: What did you think of the policies of Franklin- President Roosevelt? Like the New Deal?

1:01:40

Clausen: Personally, I thought he was a good president. I really do, yeah. I think he took this country out of the doldrums when we was having all those problems and everything. Then he made the NRA(the National Relation Association), then started the Civilian Conservation Corp and put people to work and everything. I thought he was a great president. You know, I really did. I'm just hoping that we have more presidents like that today, you know. Somebody that will step up and do something, you know. Get this country going, you know, we're in a mess right now, you know. I don't know what's going to happen, really.

1:02:32

Appiah: Did you grow up under Hoover?

1:02:33

Clausen: Huh?

1:02:35

Appiah: Did you grow up under President Hoover?

1:02:37

Clausen: Under President Who?

1:02:38

Appiah: Hoover

1:02:39

Clausen: Oh, yeah, President Hoover. He's the one who started the Great Depression, and yeah he sure did.

1:02:56

Appiah: Did you ever see shantytowns during the Great Depression? The towns made out of the cardboard or anything?

1:03:00

Clausen: Yeah, I've seen it, you know. I remember over in Washington D.C., from Veterans in the World War I, they had put up places over there, you know, and they was trying to get a bonus. A lot of people don't know it, but General MacArthur, everyone always worshipped him, but he was in charge at that time, and he came over and knocked all the places down and run them all out. Yeah, sometimes look back in your history-

1:03:47

Appiah: Where did those people go?

1:03:49

Clausen: You will find out that- that was General MacArthur.

1:03:53

Appiah: Did they send those people somewhere? Or did they just-

1:03:56

Clausen: No, they just run them all out. The veterans were trying to get their bonuses- that was World War I. And they had shanties and tents and places in Washington, General MacArthur, they gave him orders so he came over there with troops and they just run them all out. They never got anything really.

1:04:26

Appiah: Did they built more shelters or did the Veterans' Association help?

1:04:28

Clausen: Well, I don't think, they had much of that, you know. Even when I came out, my wife wouldn't let me go to the VA, I went to the VA, it was back- I don't remember when, but it was during a part of the war, I had a lot of trouble with my back and she took me over there and said that the doctor told her to go home and put hot water- a hot water bottle over it. But nowadays, it's different, they have VA hospitals, but I never go to VA hospitals. But my wife wouldn't even let me go to a VA hospital. She just got upset about it, you know. But I never- I could, but I just don't go, I have Medicare and I'm with AARP and you know, I'm getting all my medicine and not paying much for it. So, I'm not having any problem with it, you know. But I don't know, one of the best places for the VA is down in Richmond, they have a good one. I guess down in Washington D.C., it must be pretty good too. I don't know, but like I said, I went one time, it was right after World War II, you know, and my wife got really upset and said I'll never take you back to another one. So I never went back to another VA.

1:06:08

Appiah: How old were you when you got married?

1:06:09

Clausen: Let me see, 22, I think. Yeah, I was 22, I got married on July 3rd, 1944 while on furlough, I guess we were so in love that we were sitting on the curb and she said what's all the noise. There was some big park over there in Washington, D.C. you know. I was 22, you know. I was married for 65 years.

1:06:50

Appiah: So what did your wife do while you were in the war?

1:06:51

Clausen: She worked at a bank, first she worked at something like a dime store, it wasn't like a Woolworth's or anything like that. It wasn't a Krenzy's, it was like a private 10 cents store, and it was run right down on the same block that she lived. And she worked there while she was going to school and while she was going to high school, I don't think she finished high school, I think that she dropped out like in her 3rd year. She used to teach dancing, she could dance like mad. You know, I can't dance a step. [laughter] She tried to teach me dancing and she told me, "You'll never do it, Stanley,". I never could, I could not get the left and right going, something, I don't know. But after that, I think let me see, like I said, she lived right next door to the guy who sold oysters and crabs and all. And then, when he had some oysters to fry, he would knock on the window. My wife, she wasn't my wife then, she would go over there and she would fry them, you know. I tell you, that woman could fix the best fried oysters around. People used to come to my house and eat oysters and they would say, By God, I've never tasted any oysters like this. She used to make 'em up, she would take the oysters, she would roll them up you know. She would buy double oysters, we used to get them from a white place in Virginia, and get 'em. Then she would roll them in cracker dust, and I'd take the cracker dust, you know, and a rolling pin, and make all the cracker dust. She would make them all and roll them in the cracker dust. And she'd put them in the refrigerator overnight. And then she'd cook them the next day. My mother came there one time and she ate so many that she got up on the couch and she said that she couldn't get up anymore. [laughter] But everyone who came down there, she could really cook some fried oysters, I tell you, they were really great, you know. Well, after that, she worked at a little dime store, then she went to work for a bank in Alexandria. I guess that's where I got out of the service, I guess I would have stayed in the service but my wife, my wife kept on asking me, I'm getting tired of you just running around, you know.

1:10:05

Clausen: When I got out of the service, I stayed in and went to Korea. So, finally I got out after 12 years and then came home. Then I got out and I got a job and she was working in a bank. And then, for a while, I think, when I got out of army, I needed some clothes, you know, and she was working so she gave me the checkbook. I went out there and I was just spending money, buying clothes and all. She said, give me that checkbook back. But anyway, after that she was working in the bank and she worked there for quite a few years. I guess, 7, 8 or 9 years. And then so then finally her mother and her daughter, they were working for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland. And then so my wife went over there and got a job. That was probably the best job she had so anyway. So then, we was, right after I got into the service, I lived in an

apartment and that's when I had my first child, it was little girl. And the people down below me used to say my daughter, Clystie, she would- I would give her the bottle and she would throw it and it would hit the floor and they would say I can her your daughter again throwing her milk bottle on the floor. [laughter] But anyway, so we stayed there for a couple of years, then I went and got my first house. I went to the VA, this time I did use the VA, and I got a loan to buy a house. I got a three bedroom house, and I paid \$10,650 for it. Can you believe that? [laughter] For a three bedroom house? It was a real house, it was a nice start for me and my wife. Right after that, we had another child, we had a boy, then so I guess we stayed there for 8 years, we did. By that time, she was working for the National Security Agency over in Fort Meade, Maryland. From her affluences at the bank in Alexandria, she knew this one fella who was on the board, and she went to him and said, she asked him, would you give me a loan, to build a home? Previous to that, I hadn't told you this, we had downtown to a place, it was a place called Wilton Woods. And this place was part of the ground that George Washington had owned, he must have owned all land down there from Mount Vernon to Washington D.C., I guess, I don't know. But anyway, he said, Well, -that bank, we have never given out a loan before. I will take it up with the board. And see if we can do it, you know. I had \$2500 dollars in the Credit Union, so I needed \$5000 dollars, so they offered to give me rest of it, where I can buy this lot to buy a house. They was going to give me a certain installment plans to keep building the house. I build a nice house. When I sold the house before I moved up here, I sold it for \$550,000 dollars, it was a beautiful house. I stayed there two years after my wife died.

1:15:04

Clausen: I had underground sprinklers, I had air conditioning, I had humidifer and everything in there. I had four bedrooms, a family room, two fireplaces and gas fireplaces- it was just a beautiful house, I tell you. I sold it in 3 days, no wonder, you know. It was a nice place. Let me tell you, the funny thing of it was, after I got the loan, I gave this man, him and his wife, they owned all this property in this place called Wilton Woods, and it's kind of an exclusive place, you have to have some pretty good bucks to get into this place. But when I got in there, I just- it just took me \$5000 dollars, and I said can I pay you so much each month and he said yeah because they would just starting to get homes in there. There were homes on either sides of it, there was Telegraph Road and the other side was the old part. They were nice homes. So anyways, after that we got a loan and built a house. We would go down there, even twice a week, and we would go up there and it wasn't finished yet. We couldn't wait to move in there you know. My wife was very economical so when she was living at home, they never owned a home, you know. Her mother and her father died when she was three years old, so her mother remarried, so it was her stepfather. He was a nice fellow. But anyways, she paid that house off in 10 years. She called her mother and said Momma, my house is paid for. Her mother said, You're a damn liar. [laughter] She didn't believe her, you know. But she did, she paid off the house in 10 years. And the money was borrowed but like I said, what she was doing was paying the regular payments

and then she was paying interest on it. She was pretty smart, you know. But anyway, she tried to talk her mother into buying a house, you know, on King Street, I guess that was the house I was married in, which is still there today. My son takes me up there and I go up there and it brings me memories or something, you know. But anyway, she paid it off, you know, in 10 years, and the bank that she worked at, the one who had said that he will bring up with the board, he said that it was the first time he made a loan out for somebody to built a home, you know. He said because the lot was worth just as the loan they were going to give. Just before I moved out of there, they had ten lots left and the man out there, that owned it there and his wife, she passed away, no he passed away, then she passed away. They didn't have any children. They left it to some girl over in Maryland. She came over and sold the remaining lots, that man was never done. When we built our house, he had a code, you had to bring your plans to him to look at, you had to stay on the colonial style. Before he would let you build a house, you had to take the plans to him to let him see them and then he would give you the okay to build them. So but anyway, after that you know, that's the way it was, you know. The remaining lots, I paid \$5000 dollars for mine, a half acre a lot. And the remaining lots were there 10 years before I moved out, they were selling the same lots for \$45,000 dollars. So anyway, you know, I guess, you know like I said, after I sold the house and all, I sold it for \$550,000 dollars, you know. I sold it in 3 days. Boop, and it was gone. But now what else?

1:20:30

Appiah: What, um, I was going to ask about the- housing market, how much has it changed? Have you seen a lot of changes since you first were looking at the prices?

1:20:45

Clausen: Now the housing market is terrible, I don't know, you know the way it is too, with all the these people, what they done is they went out, they bought these houses and then they bought under some kind of mortgage, and they then hardly had to put anything down. Now, all of a sudden, the interest rate just kept creeping up and creeping up and then it overtook whatever the mortgage was or anything, you know. And uh, that's probably what's messing the housing market up today. I don't really know, but I feel sorry for a lot of young people today, they aren't going to get straighten out whether they can buy a home of their own or whatever. The way it is now, it seems like it is picking up a bit, you know. Really, I don't know.

1:21:55

Appiah: What- did you, you said that you were in Korea, did you notice a difference watching it on tv versus watching World War 2?

1:22:04

Clausen: What was that?

1:22:06

Appiah: Did you see a difference with the Korea War because it was on tv and like, Korea and Vietnam versus World War 2, in terms of knowledge?

1:22:14

Clausen: The only thing that I can tell you about Korea was that it was cold. [laughter]. I'll tell you that, it was very cold, you know. And I never even knew that I was going there, to tell you the truth. Well, my wife, after we married, I thought that I would stay here for a while. Then she quit her job and I went to Indiana, I went to Fort Benjamin Harris, Indiana, in Indianapolis, Indiana. And, we went to a home there, it was a like a tea house. We used to go out every evening and eat. We would go to a place that is called, excuse me, it was called Subway or something. And they had really good food, you know. They had good baked stuff, you know. Every time I would go in there, the waitress would say we had the pumpkin pie, that's your favorite. I would say okay, thank you. But and then I was thought that I was going to stay there for awhile. They start giving me clothes and they gave me an arctic jacket with a hood and everything. I didn't know where we was going. I thought it was Iceland or something. I ended up over in Korea. So my wife, the woman who had the tea house wanted, to hire my wife to stay there, and help her, you know. My wife said, nah, she was- you wouldn't get her out of Virginia. She was going to stay in Virginia for the rest of her life. And she did, she was born in Virginia and she died in Virginia. She was going to stay in Virginia, she was going to go nowhere else. So, she-I took her back on the train and she went down to Alexandria. I went on and shipped on to Korea. It took about, let me see, fifteen days to get over there. I got over there right before Christmas. And I sit out there on the harbor, in the ship, so no, I said I don't know when we are going to go and what we are going to do. Then there was a place called, the place was, called, I can't think of the name right now. Maybe I will in a minute. But anyway, they had a banner up there that said, "Welcome to the Port of Inchon, the best damn port in the World." They didn't have even have a port, you had to over the side of the ship, and get on it and it would take you onto shore. So that was it, anyway. But anyway, that was a rough life over there. It was a cold

place, I'll tell you. I don't know, but whatever. I don't know nothing about the Vietnam War, but by that time, they wouldn't want me anyway, I was too old.

1:25:42

Appiah: But did you see, was there a lot of coverage on the news for it, was there a lot of coverage on it, I mean Vietnam?

1:25:48

Clausen: Oh lord, yeah. You know, I still feel today, we should have never been there. I think it was such a lost cause, we should have never been there. Never, never, never. And I don't- the other thing that we are just getting out of, I don't think we should have been in that, you know. Ridiculous! I don't know how many guys' lives have been lost, you know, for what? What does this solve? Nothing! Nothing, you know. It's terrible. It really pains me, I would look at that and you know, this one is gone and they put it everyday on the news, this one got killed and this one here. I see these guys with no arms and no legs. And you know, it's terrible, you know for what? It doesn't make it any sense, you know. The news. But whatever. Well, that's the way it's going to be, I guess it's just like the Bible says, forever and forever, on and on, I guess. That's the way it's going to be, I guess. So whatever.

1:27:15

Appiah: Was it hard to get a job after coming back from Korea?

1:27:17

Clausen: Not really. No, I- they had something, something that they called 57 weeks, it was something like 50- 57 weeks, it was like \$50 dollars for 57 weeks for not going to work. I never took any of it, I went to work right away. I went over to the District of Columbia and I got a job over there. I got a job at District of Columbia, I worked there and it was we were going around and taking care of all the fire departments, schools and all like that. And I would go out on a job and the only way that they would keep track of us, we would take a postcard and put it in the mailbox, that's what we done to get on the payroll. But anyway, I know we'll forget this time, I went to school, up at Armstrong High School, in the District, I was going to take this china, this fountain, it was a drinking fountain. I went downstairs and the foreman brought it from the machine shop, and gave it to, I started up the steps, they had these metal strips on the steps, you

know, I slipped and I fell, and I said, well I'll let this sucker go. Then it broke all the pieces, and then when I got back, the guy, who was the foreman on the job, he called 'em and said bring another one. They said, what's the matter with that boy, is he drunk?" [laughter] But anyway, it fell and broke into pieces. It was not really what I wanted to do. I wanted to get into printing so I got into the printing industry and I worked for the National Geographic for 34 years, so that was the last job that I had, you know. No, it wasn't the last job that I had either because after that I wanted a little extra money for Christmas so I went up to the Washington Post up in Springfield, Virginia and I'd go up there on Saturday night and all night long and that I would insert papers all night long, you know. I done that for about four or five months. I don't know, and then finally, she came up there and started working. [laughter]. So finally, after she made enough for Christmas, my wife quit. I told my manager, I'm sick so I'm going home. [laughter] Then so I just walked out and I never went back anymore. It was just a, you know, you could come and they could hire you or they couldn't. They could hire you, if you just showed up, they would take a look at you, and say I'll hire you and that was it. So I just done it to make a little extra money, that was all. So whatever.

1:31:01

Appiah: Did the government give money to the veterans after serving?

1:31:06

Clausen: The only I get is Social Security, and then I get a pension from the job that I worked at for 34 years. And then other than I don't get any- anything from the Veterans or anything like that, you know. Well, I have insurance with the Veterans, I have \$10,000 dollars worth of insurance with the Veterans. And then , in fact, I get something back from them because I always- I never, I always paid more into it but they always give me money back. [laughter]. In other words, I don't pay as much as they give me, you know. My \$10,000 worth of insurance is practically free, you know. I'm using that for probably for the burying of me, you know, whatever or I don't know.

1:32:14

Appiah: Did you see a lot of new technology after World War II?

1:32:16

Clausen: Huh?

1:32:17

Appiah: Did you see a lot of new technology after World War II?

1:32:18

Clausen: Oh, Lord, yeah. You know, it's amazing, though. You know, like the all the man walked on the moon, and everything like that, you know. It's amazing, I'll tell you. But, I met one of the fellas, who walked on the moon, I went over to Arlington, over there at Fort Meyer, for a woman who lived in my neighborhood, she belonged to the Wounded Warriors, she knew that I was a World War II veteran so she asked me to come. So I went. It was a miserable day. It rained all day and carried all the piece. I got on this bus and everything, man I was treated like a VIP and over at Fort Meyer. I went to this place, I was out of the rain, you know, under a canopy, up on a balcony. I saw this many come in, but I didn't pay him any attention. I didn't know who he was, you know. He sat there, in front of me, and I didn't pay him any attention, just him and I. And then another woman came in and sat down and then sat with him. Somebody else came in and so I still never realized anything, you know. And then, at the intermission, I went downstairs and then went to the men's room. Then I run into him, the same guy that I was sitting by in there, and come to find out that he was one of the guys who walked on the moon. [laughter] But anyway, you know what, you know when they walked on the moon- Appiah: 1965?, 1963? - I think it's 1969, honey. What day? -Appiah: I think it's June 6th? - Try July the 20th, my birthday. My wife and I were sitting up in Leesburg, Virginia on my birthday when the man walked on the moon. It was July the 20th, 1969. You ask a lot of young people and they don't know. I don't know, it doesn't make a lot of sense, but it was-that's the reason that I can remember it. July the 20th, 1969, it was on my birthday, I was sitting up in Leesburg, Virginia and with my wife was watching it with me on television, sitting up at a restaurant.

1:35:42

Appiah: Were a lot of people talking about it?

Was it- were people very excited at the time?

1:35:49

Clausen: Oh, Lord, yeah. But you know, another thing too was they didn't really- a lot of people didn't really believe it. They thought it was make believe, you know. Just like, you could put something on television, you know, and but I can't see why they wouldn't believe it, I can't understand it. You know, as many times, then they- it's a shame that schoolteacher and the other one up there that exploded. But they gave their life for something in history, you know and everything.

1:36:32

Appiah: Was that the time when t.v.s were still in black and white?

1:36:35

Clausen: Huh?

1:36:37

Appiah: Was that the time when t.v.s were still in black and white?

1:36:42

Clausen: 1948 or early 50, you got me now. I can't remember

1:36:51

Appiah: Do you remember when t.v.s first came out?

1:36:52

Clausen: Late 40s or early 50s, I still think we had some color, I can remember when it was black and white, I can't really put a handle on it, to tell the truth.

1:37:18

Appiah: Do you remember when t.v.s first came out?

1:40:39

Clausen: They had something that they called a buzz bomb. But anyway, they were over in France, and that was what they was bombing London with. They were bombing London with those buzz bombs, we called them robots. They would come over and then they would be making a noise, and then all of a sudden, they had them timed- they had so much gas in 'em or whatever they put in 'em. They would come so far to over in London, they would stop. Once that stopped, you heard that rolling- once that stopped you better be looking for a hole because it was going to come down, you know. You never knew where it was going to come. Boop! Boop! and that was it. So, but then later on, they got one that was called a V2, that was a V1, this one here wouldn't make any sound at all. It would just come. Boop! It hit the hospital that I was in one night in Belgium. So, but as far those buzz bombs, what we call 'em, you know, they was bombing London with, you know. The Germans didn't have any air force and by that time, we had knocked down all of their air force, you know. But- and then, we kept advancing towards France into Belgium and all, then we had to keep moving and launching back further and further. That was the way that it was. So whatever. But I tell you, it was a funny thing, I could hear them all the time, zoom, zoom and then all of sudden they would stop. Then I would say, where are they going come? You never knew, you know. They would drop on homes and everything, you know. But, they had done a number on London, they killed a lot of people over there, you know. A lot of homes had caught on fire, and everything, so whatever. So is there anything else, you want to know?

1:43:18

Appiah: I was thinking about, were there a lot of movies coming out after the war? That was the last thing that I was thinking about.

1:43:33

Clausen: Movies? Well, you know, what about 'em?

1:43:39

Appiah: Could you describe what they were like, I know before the war was the time of silent movies.

1:43:42

Clausen: Oh, no, these ones wasn't silent movies.

1:43:48

Appiah: There weren't silent movies before the war?

1:43:50

Clausen: Not after the war, Lord, no. Silent movies go over way back, I remember I was onver in Belgium during the war and it was Charlie Chaplin. But that was silent, you know. Silent movies, Lord, they go way back. Gone with Wind and all like that they were all sound movies, Gone With the Wind, The Ten Commandments, and all those. But the silent movies, I'll tell you, that must have been Fatty Arbuckle, Busty Keaton, [laughter] you probably don't even know them. Our Gang Comedy and the little old dog, remember them? You know. Fatty Arbuckle, Fareina, [laughter] Remember them? She remembers them. How old are you?

1:45:11

Appiah: 21

1:45:12

Clausen: Well, you should still know those. [laughter] Our Gang Comedy. You know, the movies they used to have aren't like what they have today. First of all, they would show you the news, put all the news up there and everything, after that, then they would show you the comedies and everything before they even showed the movies, you know. They don't do much of that anymore. Not like they used to. I don't know.

1:45:53

Appiah: Now they just have all the commercials about all the other movies coming out.

1:45:55

Clausen: They have all the commercials and everything like that. Before, you know, they would show you the world, the things happening in the world- the news, the war and everything. Lowell Thomas, you don't remember Lowell Thomas, he was a great newsman, but anyway. After that they would show you a comedy and then they would have a serious, Ken Maner, then oh Lord, cowboys, you know and all like that, Gene, oh Lord, Audrey- yeah, Gene Audrey, thank you. Gene Audrey, Ken Maner and Hoot Gibson, now they were practically almost all silent. They were as funny as the devil, they would jump around and things like that. It was old time movies, you know, I don't know. Hoot Gibson, never heard of Hoot Gibson, Ken Maner, and like she said, Gene Audrey and -Audrey Hepburn? and yeah, Audrey Hepburn and Lana Turner, I don't know.

1:47:57

Appiah: I remember I watched, Have you seen Breakfast at Tiffany's?

1:48:02

Clausen: Lana Turner was supposed to be the pin-up during World War II, one of them they painted on the side of an airplane, Lana Turner? I met Hepburn while I was in the hospital one time. She came in there and I looked at her and she said- then she said, my husband's a Marine, I said that's nice, you know. But that was the first time, I ever saw her, you know. They used to have show, different shows, like USO shows over there, Glen Miller, I know you've heard of him, you've never heard of Glen Miller, oh Lord.

1:48:57

Appiah: Can you describe Glen Miller, was he an actor or..?

1:49:01

Clausen: Glen Miller was in the army, I got tapes there, Moonlight Serenade, you've never heard of that? You've got to be kidding. That's some beautiful music, I'll tell you, Glen Miller. He was flying from France going over there to do some performance, him and his band and then the

plane crashed and they never found out what caused it. I got a lot of tapes with Glen Miller, I can't believe y'll have never heard of that beautiful music. Heard of Benny Goodman? -heard of Elvis [laughter]

1:50:01

Appiah: Elvis came out during that time period, right?

1:50:02

Clausen: Who?

1:50:04

Appiah: Elvis?

1:50:06

Clausen: Elvis came a lot time after that, you know. These were some of the biggest bands that were ever in the country. Benny Goodman, -Beach Boys? No, this was before that, you know. Louis Armstrong, I know you've heard of him. I don't know- Ella Fitzgerald? - yeah, Ella Fitzgerald, you know, - Josephine Baker? - yeah,at this time they had a lot of big bands back in the '30s. I have tapes in there from practically all of them.

1:50:53

Appiah: Which one was your favorite?

1:50:54

Clausen: Well, I don't know, I liked Glen Miller's music, you know. And well, I liked all of them, really, Benny Goodman, and Louis Armstrong. I can't believe y'll had never heard of him.

1:51:19

Appiah: Where did you all you used to listen to music on before there were CD players and iPods and all those things?

1:51:24

Clausen: I had a radio when I was in Fort Bliss, Texas and it was a Zenith, it was a little cabinet one. When I shipped out, I couldn't take it with me, so I left there so somebody else could use, so whatever. You couldn't have cameras either, you couldn't take cameras with you or anything like that. But I don't know..

1:52:04

Appiah: Was there a list of what you were allowed to bring?

1:52:05

Clausen: Oh yeah, you know, there was, it was all checked, make sure you couldn't bring anything that actually was issued to you. You weren't allowed no pictures or nothing like that. I don't know.

1:52:23

Appiah: How come you weren't allowed to bring cameras?

1:52:27

Clausen: Well, on kind of a things, they didn't want you taking pictures of, like maybe you had pictures of something and the Germans or the enemy would get ahold of it, you know. It was a security thing, you know. I had, you know, I had two pictures of over in Korea, in fact, Kim, who works down there, I showed her one, it showed two women and they was down there at the river's edge, washing clothes. (Aside to Kim) You see, if you had stayed over there, this is what you would be doing. Then I showed her one that had two little children. I said, maybe one of these is your grandchildren, I don't know. But anyways, I don't know, then we had some pictures from up in North Korea, I was up on the 38th parallel, which is still there today, and that separates North Korea from South Korea. They called it the 38th parallel, and once you crossed

that and went over there, you might not even get back-they'll take you as prisoner. So whatever, but, I don't know. So is there anything else you want to know?

1:54:12

Appiah: No, we're good.

1:54:15

Clausen: I don't know if I was helpful or not.

1:54:19

Appiah: You were very helpful.

1:54:20

Clausen: Thank you for the opportunity of this. I hope I have been helpful.