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We Charles E. Sexton and Cindy Hardy
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant to Dr. Suzanne Marshall, Assistant Professor of History, Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

his home in Eastlake, AL

on the date(s) of March 30, 1995

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Charles E. Sexton
Interviewee's signature

Address Lake Villa Room 385 Date 3/20/95
7916 Second Avenue South B'ham, AL 35206
Phone 836-4466

Cindy A. Hardy Date 3/20/95
Interviewer's signature

Address JSU Box 4664
Jacksonville, AL

Phone 782-6271

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Charles E. Sexton M/F M

Address: Lake Villa, Room 355, 7916 2nd Ave. S., B'ham, AL, 35206

Phone number(s): 205-836-4466

Approximate age or date of birth: 80 Aug. 18, 1915

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Places lived and when: Merville, TN - Knoxville, TN, Oak Ridge, TN - Huntsville, AL - B'ham, AL

Education: high school, Special training in radio, electronics, nucleonics

Religion: _____

Business, political and social memberships (past and present) _____

Present occupation: retired

Former occupations: design engineer

Special Skills: _____

Major Accomplishments: A-bomb program - worked with NASA - his name is on 16 patents

National Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: _____

National born U.S. citizen? (Yes)/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which he/she emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: pictures of him with Pres. Eisenhower & Dr. Von Braun - old WW II books - awards & certificates received for his many accomplishments

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: ~~his name is on 16 patents~~

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Charles E. Sexton

Summary of experience

Mr. Charles E. Sexton had thirty years' experience in electrical, electronic, and instrumentation engineering for heavy industrial facilities for private industries and the U.S. Government. He worked in research and development in industrial electronics and instrumentation and specialized nuclear instrumentation and systems. He worked in all phases of project design. His industrial experience includes steel mills, chemical plants, pulp and paper mills, aluminum reduction plants, and rolling mills. Government experience includes laboratory facilities for space flight centers, weapons systems production facilities for the AEC, and nuclear instrumentation development for the USAF.

Mr. Sexton's education includes various technical courses in radio, electronics, and nucleonics. Hismajor fields of interest were facilities studies and supervision of electrical design services for engineering-construction projects and development and application of nuclear systems, projects, or devices.

As Senior Design Engineer for The Rust Engineering Company, he was responsible for the electrical design of industrial, commercial, and scientific projects. He performed feasibility and engineering studies; investigated and evaluated equipment and cost relative to economics and process and installation pratice; supervised preparation of design and detail drawings for installation of electrical equipment.

He helped in the design and construction of a tire plant to

produce 22,500 tires-per-day for Uniroyal,Inc., of Ardmore, Oklahoma.

He worked with Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. to improve production and operating efficiency on the finishing operation of a 14-inch merchant bar mill. He was responsible for studies, electrical equipmnet specifications, coordination with equipment vendors, and supervision of design personnel.

In Decatur, Alabama, he engineered the design and construction of a plant facility for production of feed material used in the manufacture of synthetic fibers for Amoco Chemicals Corp. He was responsible for electrical design and construction, motor control centers, and low voltage power distribution systems.

Mr. Sexton worked for NASA on the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He did the study and plan for upgrading the astrionics laboratory for space development work and was responsible for all electrical aspects.

During World War 11, Charles Sexton worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge, TN. He served as a project engineer. He worked on the engineering and construction of manufacturing facilities for weapons systems production. He was responsible for purchasing equipment, planning and scheduling, estimating, and field engineering during installation and start-up.

At Ingall Shipbuilding Division in Mississippi, he engineered the study for feasibility of modular construction of large ocean vessels. He supervised the developing of electrical design ctirteria, electrical specifications, and power systems analysis.

Mr. Sexton engineered the modernization of a chemical plant

for production of butadiene and styrene for Dow Chemical Co., in Freeport, Texas. He was responsible for the calculations, detailed specifications, studies, construction estimates, and he supervised the electrical design.

At the Phoenix Manufacturing Co. in Illinois, he engineered the conversion of existing multipass, cross country, bar, rod, and merchant mill to increase production and reduce operating cost. the completed plant acheived full production on the third-shift after start-up.

Charles Sexton worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Florida engineereing the development ofr a 425-foot high, 12,000,000 pound mobile service structure used at NASA's Launch Complex 39 for Saturn V space vehicle launches. He was responsible for the design of electrical equipment and systems, including an on-board substation.

Prior to these projects, Charles Sexton had served as electrical design engineer for mills and plants. He served as design engineer for instrumentation and control systems for lab buildings and for research and development projects on nuclear aircraft propulsion systems.

Charles E. Sexton was born on August 18, of 1915 in Merville, Tennessee. He grew up in Merville and Knoxville, Tennessee. He became interested in electronics at the age of twenty when he went to have his radio fixed. He said, "This looked so easy, I thought I could do it." He offered his services free of charge to the man who fixed his radio. The man taught him electronics and one year later, Mr. Sexton had his own electronics shop.

He went through various technical courses and became a design engineer. He then went to work for the Tennessee Valley Authority and worked on the engineering design of the very first dams.

When World War 11 came, Mr. Sexton applied for the A-bomb program and was selected for special training in New York City. He was sent to the Oak Ridge training program in 1942. He taught one of the classes and this was his pre-entrance into the A-bomb program. He stayed at Oak Ridge until 1947.

After the war, he went to Huntsville with some friends and they organized their own company. They got a contract with Dr. Van Braun, a German scientist, to design the inside of a building used to build space vehicles. This later became known as the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Mr. Charles Sexton was then hired by NASA and he worked for them for five years. While with NASA, he helped design the Army Tower, a 12,000,000 pound vehicle used to carry the unit to the launch pad.

In 1961, Mr. Sexton moved his family to Birmingham. He had six children by this time, four boys and two girls. Today, all four of

his boys are engineers. His wife died a few years ago, but Mr. Sexton remarried when he was 78 and he now lives in Birmingham with his new wife.

His name is on sixteen patents. While working with NASA, he invented a machine that goes in an aircraft that tells you how long you have been in radiation and when you need to get out. He turned this invention over to two physicists from the University of Vanderbilt. It was tested, built, and put into aircrafts. It is still there today if it needs to be used. Working on this project led him into a series of studies on personalities and how the brain works.

PROPOSAL

Cindy Hardy
Am. History 202
11:15-12:15 MWF

Charles Sexton address, date of birth?
His home in Irondale, AL Date?

I will be interviewing Mr.Sexton about his accomplishments in science.He will be talking about his work on the atomic bomb in Oak Ridge, TN. He will also be discussing the work he ~~done~~ did for NASA. Mr. Sexton will be good for this interview because he has done many things in his life and he has a lot of important things to talk about. The atomic bomb is important to history because it changed the course of World War 11. I have researched the atomic bomb and NASA in the library.

~~What~~ is your full name?
~~How~~ old are you?
~~When~~ and where were you born?
~~Where~~ did you grow up?
~~What~~ education do you have?
~~When~~ did you become interested in science?
What was your occupation?
How did you get your start?
Where did you work?
~~How~~ old were you when you began work on your first project?
~~What~~ projects did you work on?
~~Where~~ were they located and what were they?
~~How~~ long did each project take?
~~What~~ was the result of each project?
What was your reaction to the projects you worked on?
~~When~~ did you begin working with NASA?
~~When~~ did you begin working on the atomic bomb?
How do you feel about what the bomb did?
Did you work on anything here in Alabama?
Were you ever honored for your accomplishments?

Good questions

✓ please supply info underlined in blue

10 pts off - late