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Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

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1348 Hillman Street, Montgomery Al., 36109

on the date(s) of 4 March 1995

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

James B. Brunson
Interviewee's signature

Address 1348 HILLMAN ST

Date 4 March 1995

Phone 1-(334) 272-8619

James S. West
Interviewer's signature

Date 4 March 1995

Address 102 Peak Drive
Weaver, Al. 36277

Phone 1-(205) 820-9231

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: James Beverly Brunson M F Male
Address: 1348 Hillman Street Montgomery Al. 36109
Phone number(s): (334) 272-8619
Approximate age or date of birth: 11, Dec 1927 (67yrs old)
Mother's Name: Nellie Mae Graham
Father's Name: Joseph Crawford Brunson
Places lived and when: Born Montgomery (Chisholm)

Education: 13 1/2 years
Religion: Protestant
Business, political and social memberships (past and present) AARP

Present occupation: Aircraft Mechanic
Former occupations: Maintenance Supervisor Board of Education
Special Skills: Aircraft Maintenance
Major Accomplishments: Ret Air Force (Korea + Vietnam)
Ret Board of Education
National Events in which interviewee has participated: Korea War
Vietnam War
Local Events in which interviewee has participated: Championship
Allstar game 1947 South Ala. League
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:
V-Mail, Ration Stamps, old Family pictures.
Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral
history interview: _____
Additional information: _____

Proposal
Oral History

OK

X

Student: James West

Class: History 202, Section 099

Tuesday 18:00

Interviewee: James Beverly Brunson

Address: 1348 Hillman Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36109

Born: Montgomery, Alabama

Subject: I will interview Mr. Brunson on his opinion and memory of the scrap effort of World War II, do wars help the economy? The necessity of the Korean conflict, did it change the way he felt about government? Did Vietnam change America for the better or worse? Does he think Vietnam was handled wrong? If so why or why not?

How does he feel the patriotism of the country changed during each conflict, how did he feel personally?

Does he think the three conflicts we discuss changed the world for better or worse?

Economy, Politics, Industry, World opinion?

*You might want
to focus on only one
or two main topics*

Oral History Interview
James Beverly Brunson
1348 Hillman Street Montgomery, Al.

By James West

4 March 1995

History 201

Dr.S. Marshall

Mr. James B. Brunson's memory of life during and after World War II. This will include the Korean War and Vietnam, as he was personally involved. The main topics will include victory gardens, ration stamps, economics, industry, patriotism, and even baseball.

*incomplete
sentences*

The explanation of victory gardens by Mr. Brunson was that they were simply gardens people grew for themselves because of rationing and to help the war effort of World War II. People, by growing some of their own food, left more supplies to be sent overseas to the soldiers.

Salvage drives were also important during World War II to help the economy support the war. Such things as iron and other metal were needed for the war so the salvage effort was actually a recycling effort by the American people. Mr. Brunson even speaks of cigarettes as part of the war effort. The Lucky Strikes of the war period were wrapped in tin foil in green packs, because of enemy radar the tin foil was needed to help jam or affect the ground radar of the enemy. The color of the packs were changed for the specific reason to send the green packs overseas to the war. The U.S. would throw the foil out of planes to jam the radar.

interesting

Mr. J. Brunson had three brothers serving in World War II. This was not uncommon during the war, but today this not allowed due to the Sullivan brothers who were killed in Pearl Harbor. Mr. Brunson even tried to join the Navy before he was of age, this was a common practice during

World War II and many people were able to join before they were of legal age. This was due to fact that most people were born in their own house and records concerning birth were never recorded properly, and just a legal guardian or someone saying they were a legal guardian was all the service would require for enlistment in the military service, Mr. Brunson was caught and not allowed to enlist. His father didn't want another son overseas in combat.

The fact that wars change peoples' lives as the economy improves with more jobs is verified by the example of Mr. Brunson's brother-in-law who was driving a taxi in Montgomery for ten cents an hour until the war started and then moved to Birmingham, Al to work for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Railroad Company for five dollars an hour. His father is also an example of the kind of increase that the economy was experiencing during the war. His father who was driving a T-Model Ford truck and delivering Cokes for a one cent commission on every bottle he sold was hired by the Corps of Engineers as a chief inspector for between \$700 to \$750 dollars a month. Mr. Brunson himself even was able to find employment during the war. He worked as a sealman for the L&N railroad in Montgomery, Al while he was between 14 and 15 years old. Mr. Brunson's mother Nettie Mac Graham Brunson passed away when he was age six, so as his father traveled with the Corps of Engineers. When Mr. J. Brunson was around 15 years old his father made him stopped working for the railroad and travel with his father.

what
is it?

Traveling with his father Mr. Brunson was not able to continue his education because of the frequent moving. This, however, did not stop Mr. Brunson from learning. He was able to get another job while in Huntsville, AL with his father while a Prisoner of War camp was being built. Mr. Brunson was able to find employment at a local pool room at thirty cents an hour until he ^{was} caught by his father and made to stop working there. There was no mother around to take care of Mr. Brunson during these years, but his father still had the moral ^{ethics} to not let a boy of his age work in a pool room, in other words child labor laws were better enforced by the parent during the war than by society, because there was a great demand for employees due to the fact that most eligible ^{of} men were sent to war.

The P.O.W. ^{camps} that were visited by Mr. Brunson were at Clinon, MS., Opeilka, AL., and Huntsville, AL. Mr. Brunson has tried to re-visit the P.O.W. camp at Opeilka to find out that it ^{interests} is a grown over field without any markers.

Mr. Brunson remembers that patriotism for the country and pride for the returning soldier was very high during and after World War II. As he says on the tape "my chest would swell with pride when I saw my brother in uniform." This was not always the case with the return of soldiers as Mr. Brunson talks of them as someone else, when in fact he was a returning soldier from Korea and felt the difference in the way people asked him questions about Korea. He was also faced with what he termed a disgraceful attitude upon the return to the U.S. after Vietnam.

The people during World War II would display small flags in their windows with white stars, the number of stars indicating the number of family member serving in the military. Gold star in a persons window indicated that a family member had been killed in the war effort (combat or training) The western union delivered the telegraph that a family member had been killed, so most people got a little nervous if they saw the Western Union boy riding down their street.

Mr. Brunson felt the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, Japan were necessary to help save lives, but felt it was awful that innocent people had to die with the guilty. He didn't feel Korea was necessary except to uphold U.S. agreement with South Korea. He felt Vietnam was a no win political war that the U.S. should have not stayed in as long as it did.

Mr. Brunson feels that certain industry exploited the U.S. Gov. with articles such as the trigger mitten that he found un-useable during the Korean War, and also the shoe pack that let his feet get cold.

Mr. Brunson has no regrets to his service for the U.S. and would do it all over again. He is very proud to be a patriot and shares the opinion and attitudes of many Americans his age. He is a survivor who has help make history and build this country. He was even offered a chance to play Major League baseball, but decided to make a military career instead.

I close with this conclusion, listen to the tape both sides, and you will learn a little history from a person

side 1&2
page 4

who was actually there, during the depression, World War II,
The Korean War, and Vietnam. Please form your own opinion,
but listen carefully as you will learn a lesson from the
past.

Thank, You

James West

On Behalf of

James B. Brunson

Page #5

*Good interview
& info.
Work on
sentence structure
& revise words
A*