

Introduction

The audio recording featured on this page is an interview of Charles Hamilton Britt by his daughter Elizabeth Ann Britt Marlor (Beth Ann). The interview consisted of two sessions: November 19th, 2002 and November 26, 2002, just before Thanksgiving that year. The first day of recording was at Beth Ann's house, just north of Columbus, Ohio; The second day was at Margie and Chuck's house at 8588 Liberty Road, Powell, Ohio. Joe Six, Beth Ann's husband (now deceased), and Terri Marlor, Beth Ann's daughter, were also present for both interviews. Beth Ann planned and organized the interviews and did a great job of prompting stories and at the same time letting the conversations flow.

Charles Hamilton Britt (Chuck) and Marjorie Morrison Britt (Margie) were both born in 1921. Chuck on May 7th in Elyria, Ohio and Margie on September 29th in Columbus, Ohio. They both died in Columbus in 2006, Margie in August at the age of 84 and Chuck in December at the age of 85. This is mostly an interview of Chuck, but Margie plays an important part, prompting Chuck to tell stories.

The Stories

Chuck tells a surprising number of stories in two hours. A few of the stories are repeated, but told in a slightly different way each time. There is a lot of jumping back and forth in time. Click the "Timings" button to view a list of the stories with the time in minutes and seconds when particular stories start and end. Click the "People" button to view an alphabetical order list of names of those mentioned and present for the interview. Click the "Files" button to find download links for related files, including PDF versions of the Timings and People lists.

Chuck's stories cover the main parts of his life and the lives of his family members: His parents' childhoods, the births of his siblings, life in and around Elyria and Lorain Ohio (about 1916-1921, before his birth); life on "the farm" near Medina, Ohio (about 1922-1934); Life in Columbus and Worthington, Ohio (1934-2002); Life for about a year in Tampa, Florida (1941-1942) and also two car trips to California to visit the Carroll family (his maternal uncle's family). The first car trip was when Chuck was 16, in 1937. The second was when he was about 20, in 1941. A contemporary story regards the funeral of Chuck's friend William A. MacDermott (known as WAM).

The Recording

The total time of the recording is just under 2 hours. It was done on a cassette recorder, and converted to a digital audio file at an unknown time. As of November 2018, the original cassette tapes are nowhere to be found. There were two problems with this available recording: first, there was tape hiss, which is not uncommon with tape recordings. The other problem was much more difficult to address: loud computer sound effect noises that including bird calls, traffic noises, and various typewriter clicking sounds. These odd sounds were somehow inadvertently mixed with the original recording during the digitization process.

Using the shareware audio editor Audacity, I have been able to eliminate most of the tape hiss. As noted, the introduced digital noises were more problematic. By going through the recording second by second in Audacity, I was able to delete these noises where possible, while at the same time trying not to delete any of the precious sounds of the interview.

--Rob Britt, Seattle, November 21, 2018