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Andrew Nazzaro, Oral History Interview, 2019

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Eastern Michigan University Archives, Oral Histories

Oral History Interview with Andrew Nazzaro (AN)

Conducted by Historic Preservation Graduate Assistant Matt Jones (MJ) and Historic Preservation Graduate Student Rachel Burns (RB).

Transcribed by Matt Jones

Recorded 2019, April 16, at Halle Library, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

MJ: It's Tuesday, April 16th, 2019 and this is Historic Preservation graduate student Matt Jones along with fellow Historic Preservation graduate student Rachel Burns and today we are in Halle Library speaking with Dr. Andrew Nazzaro. Hired in 1970 - I was going to ask you that before we started - 1969. Nazzaro was one of two people credited with the creation of EMU Historic Preservation Program within the Department of Geography and Geology the program that has since developed into one of the largest of its kind in the nation. In addition to his work for the Historic Preservation Program Nazzaro represented EMU internationally as Chief of Party to the Basic Education Development Program in Yemen from 1979 until 1981. Nazzaro received Emeritus status when he retired in 2015. I know that there are many more things I could put in the introduction; I just want to get into the questions here.

MJ: Can you tell us about your upbringing? When and where you were born, and who your parents were? What they did for a living?

AN: Sure. I was born in Paterson, New Jersey remarkably spelled with only one T. Paterson was famous; it's not far from New York and it was famous just before I was born for producing silk. My father and his uncles worked in the silk factories in fact I think one of my Dad's uncles owned a silk factory but I'm not certain of that, but they dyed silk in all kinds of fantastic colors. Being just across the river from New York it was a large recipient of immigrants from Italy and elsewhere but especially Italian immigrants settled there. Among those were my grandparents. My grandparents lived in Paterson and lived in a couple of towns near Paterson but Paterson will do. I was born in the Patterson General Hospital in 1941 and at the time my mother was a nurse. I forget which hospital. She was a nurse and the rules said that if you were pregnant or married you could no longer stay and she was in nurse's training- you could no longer stay in nurse's training because one had to be totally on board with nurse's training with no tomfoolery like getting married and having a child. It was obviously a very, very conservative time in those kinds of jobs in 1941. My dad was in the Navy. He joined before he was old enough at the age of 17; I think they had to be 18 at the time. He was an enlisted man in the Navy which meant like all those others sailors you see when the ship comes into port. He and my mom met when he was visiting my aunt- she became my aunt - who just had a baby in a hospital in the same hospital my mother was then working in okay and training in. Paterson General Hospital. So the two of them flirted with each other and one thing led to another and they started dating. He

was back on the East Coast because he had just left the Navy; he had quit the Navy. That must have been about 1939 or so and they decided after a while to get married and that's how she was forced to leave work and training at the hospital. Her family is mostly English, we have a name – Fraley - which I found out that there are Fraleys around here in Michigan but many of them are Fraleys who were previously “Frelich,” so they were Germans who had changed their name to Anglicized their name so they wouldn't be constantly under attack during World War II by our friendly American Michiganders. So I met a couple of Fraleys here who were Frelichs and they're nice people; they're not agents of...they're not spies or anything. They're just nice people. So, anyway, my mother was a Fraley from the English side of the name and my father is a Nazzaro- he has a name similar to mine; his name is Andrea. He's no longer alive but his name is Andrea Nazzaro and he was also born in Paterson, New Jersey. His parents were Mikail and Mikailina Nazzaro. I think they met here in the United States but I'm not sure. Grandpa Nazzaro was a businessman who eventually owned a couple of different businesses: gas stations grocery stores butcher shops that sort of stuff, so there was always a lot of food because he owned the grocery store and it was good food and my grandmother was an excellent cook and saw we were raised with...my Dad was raised with Italian food. And then my poor English mother was introduced to all these rowdy Italians who speak with her hands and loud voices and didn't know what to make of them and they didn't know what to make of her either. But eventually they all came around to loving each other. That made it possible was that they had a beautiful son –I don't need to tell you who that was- who had blue eyes just like his grandfather so there must be some Celtic blood in there somewhere to get these blue eyes and it's in southern Italians especially. So then just a month or so? Yeah- November 19th was my birthdate, 1941 and I've forgotten the actual date of Pearl Harbor occurred, but when that happened my dad for a variety of reasons but he was he was very patriotic and he said to my mother who just had me, “You know, I need to go back in the Navy.” Because before he was in the Navy he'd been working for the Wright Aircraft Company assembling engines. He said “I have mechanical skills that they can use.” So he went back into the Navy in 1941 and immediately went to training outside Chicago he was old-fashioned in some ways; he hardly drank at all- he might have a beer once in a while. He would tell me about watching cowboy movies when he was a kid and his favorite cowboy fan would walk up to a bar and ask for a glass of milk and he always thought that was cool (laughter). So Dad...stayed in the Navy for the second term because he'd been in for 4 years previously as an enlisted man and he stayed and quickly was promoted to Chief Petty Officer which made him sort of like a sergeant in the Army. And then after that he was made a Chief Warrant Officer which was a commissioned officer. So most of the time that I knew him he was either, in the first couple years of my life he was a chief and then I became a warrant officer he had great mechanical skills; whenever anything broke, everybody in my family and his family would say “hey can you fix this?” And they called him Andrew though his name was Andrea. They'd say “Andrew can you fix this?” And usually he could. He had great skills. He was mostly during the war he was stationed in blimps. If you know anything about blimps, they don't move very fast and they mostly hover. And where these blimps were was over the North Atlantic looking for German submarines. Now there were a few blimps that were shot down; his wasn't, but it was a tricky thing because there were various blimps in his squadron which were shot down. He never told us about that, I only found out about that later. In fact I was reminded of it the other day- I have an old blanket, I have two old blankets. I asked him “where did you get

these?" He said "Oh one of our guys died- he was shot down." Eventually I found that out. So we sold all of his goods and sent the money back to his family. You know that back in those days the Navy was a real community and he was one of the few people that almost never cursed and would have a beer but rarely ever drink hard liquor, and would have a glass of milk. So after he was stationed there in blimps, he was moved to Georgia so my first couple of years I was raised in...I've forgotten the name of the town; it's on the coast of Georgia. It's strange- I may come back to it. But he was in blimps there too.

MJ: How many people could these blimps accommodate?

AN: I think probably a half dozen or so, maybe more.

MJ: How did they avoid being shot down?

AN: I don't know. Good question. I don't know, but I'm glad they were not shot down. So then he moved, we moved from Georgia to Norfolk, VA. From one naval port to another naval port so it made a lot of sense. That's where I started going to school, in Norfolk VA. We were not far from Virginia Beach so Dad and I would sometimes walk down to the beach after a big storm and see what had washed up. We found one day that there these huge logs as long as this table- big ones like this that had washed up. He said "let's go get the car and couple of big pieces of rope." So we went and got the car and a couple pieces of rope and we dragged these big poles back home. Right of salvage, you know? He used it to build a fence all around his side yard and planted roses along it. So those were good days in Norfolk and he was still in the Navy. I was in elementary school and he then said, "Hey everybody we have to go get shots!" I said "Why's that?" He says "Well there's a rumor we are being transferred to Panama." And I'm thinking, oh wow it would be great to go to Panama. So one day we go in and get all the shots from a clinician- shots everywhere. After we got all our shots he says "well they changed my orders." I said "where are we going?" He said, "Jacksonville, Florida." I said, "God. Jacksonville." What a letdown after thinking about living in Panama and maybe learning Spanish at the time- nah. Jacksonville. So we moved to Jacksonville and one of my strongest memories of moving to Jacksonville, now remember, where we lived before that was Norfolk VA. Not far from Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, right? We moved to Jacksonville and start junior high school, and the kids, they had a game- in which they would gather together in teams out on the playground and attack the new guys.

MJ: Attack the new guy? That's the name of the game?

AN: yes. And they said "where are you from?" I said I just came from Virginia. They said "Oh- a damn Yankee." Now even at that age I knew some history, and I said "Well no- Virginia was the capitol of the Confederacy." No, you're a damn Yankee. So I was their target for the next 6 months until a couple of their parents said "Well you know, Virginia was the capitol of the Virginia. He's not a damn Yankee." So anyway, Jacksonville was where my dad was stationed and one of my fond memories was he was in charge of an armory, naval armory and in there they had some turrets that hang on the airplane with the guns on them. They had a couple of those mounted on big frames. And so I would go and first would go to the swimming pool and he would drop me there for a couple hours and then he would come pick me up and take me to his office which was the armory and say, want to get up in one of these? I'd say yeah. And they were motorized and so I

could sit in there and I could pretend I was shooting down airplanes but it was the real thing. Not a monitor and a screen but the real thing. Course you had to imagine all of it because there were no planes flying around in front of you. So that was a day out with dad- couple hours in the pool, then go ride the turrets in his armory.

From there, we were in Jacksonville for quite a while. At one point when he was transferred, he was in Jacksonville at a couple of different Naval Air, other smaller bases early on. And then they transferred him to Morocco. I was about in 7th grade when they transferred him to Morocco. No0 beginning of the 8th grade. He said "you know I'm going to be here for 4 years. It might be kind of fun if the whole family came." So we did. WE went to live in Morocco. It was quite strange because when we first went there, there were no houses on base available so we lived out in down in a very house. We had a garage attached outside and that was where we left all of our stuff that we had shipped over there- household goods. Left in the garage because there wasn't much point in unpacking because we were going to be moving on to the base in the next several months. There it was in the garage and we came home one day and the garage door was fully open, garage was almost half emptied out. We sent and saw the neighbors and they said "Oh were sorry to see you're moving!" We said we weren't moving. "Oh well we saw the truck putting all the boxes in there!" We said "Yeah they were moving alright but they were thieves." They stole a good portion of our household goods which was ok because it lightened our load going home. WE stayed in Morocco. Dad had already been there 2 year by the time we got there so we stayed in there for another 2 years. It's a beautiful country- really beautiful country and the people were nice to us. It was a time when they had just achieved independence from France. There were all kinds of cheers going up and anybody who was French was looked at strangely.

Am I going on too long for you?

MJ: No. But I wanted to ask- it seems like a logical step here, that your childhood must have had something to do with your interest in Geography and travelling.

AN: Absolutely. Absolutely. Because one of the things my dad did- there were times when the naval air station would survey stuff, which means "this is old stuff, put it in the bin, we'll sell it or destroy it." He saw these maps going in the rubbish and they were big rolled, classroom maps. They were continents and the United States and so he snagged them, brought them home, we hung them up in the garage. That was the only place big enough to hang them up. Every once in a while he and I would both go out there and look at these maps and say "Wow it would be fun to go there. It would be fun to go there." We learned from that time- that was probably around 6 or 7th grade. I had from that time forward, always an interest in maps. And from that came my interest in Geography. My interest in human settlement. Yeah- that was good.

MJ: I know you studied history- that was your major in undergrad.

AN: In undergrad yes. The only reason I did that, well, I like history. But the reason was they didn't have a Geography Program. If they'd had a Geography program at the time I would've been in the middle of it. So I studied history and one of the people there was a professor of Geography but he was teaching- he was the only one. They didn't have a department. I took every course he offered. He recently died as a matter of fact? Padgett was his name. He was famous for

fishing- he was a good fisherman, and for drinking beer; he drank a lot of beer. I think that goes with fishing. Yeah, so Herb Padgett, I asked him as I was getting next to graduation, "So where did you go to grad school?" And he said, "LSU." I said, "Well, I'm really interested in studying Africa but neither of the schools I've chosen were really high or big on Africa." But they were nearby and I could afford them. So Between LSU and Florida State, I chose Florida State. Remarkably, half of the professors I had at Florida State were U of M grads. Who would have thought, you know? But they were very good and I learned a lot from them. I was in a hurry, so I took almost exactly a calendar year, finished, let this be a lesson to you- finished in...have you already finished your masters degree?

RB: Um, I will be finished technically in August.

ANL: How long you been working on it?

RB: I started September 2017.

AN: Ok- I beat you. I wrote a thesis on East Africa. Graduated from there and in the meantime had applied to several universities, including University of Chicago who laughed when they saw my name. Nazzaro? No, we don't need any of those guys. U of M admitted me but then when I called her to check on some details they lost my papers. Even telling me "Oh all this stuff came except for this one thing you needed to know about." They didn't even know who I was. "But I have the papers here." Sorry, we don't know who the heck you are. I guess it wasn't to be. I had also applied to Michigan State which was where I really wanted to go because one of the people there was a person whose books I had read, an Africanist. A man named Harm DuBlay (sp). He was just a fantastic lecturer and had his family had left Holland during the Nazi incursions and had moved to South Africa. He said when he got South Africa, he discovered the Nazis were already there. You know? At least he spoke Dutch and Africans so he could communicate. He went to Northwestern. Which meant it was destiny because my wife went to Northwestern, so you know, anyhow. SO from Florida State to Michigan State, Michigan State doctorate in Geography and my focus was on African Studies.

MJ: Were you drawn to teaching at that point?

AN: I wasn't until they, Michigan State has done a lot of stupid things but they also have done a lot of good things. One of the good things they did in my time anyway was to say, "You know, an awful lot of these doctorate grads are going to one way or another end up teaching. They do research but they are going to end up attached to a university and they'll be asked to teach. So what we need to do is to take these doctoral students and put them through program not too intense, but a program which allows them to prepare lesson plans, and allows them to present lectures, and allows them to have their lectures critiqued by professors and their fellow graduate students on the basis of presentation style, content, how well they've constructed the lectures to prepare them for that time." And so they did that for my class and I think for several classes after mine. They may still be doing it I don't know. I thought I really liked this- this was good. I could talk to classes. They had us talking as grad assistants to classes anyway, so that was pretty cut and dry when it came to professor4, whose class it was, gave you his lessons and said this is what I want you to cover. The other stuff we had to invent. That was a good experience and then I thought, yeah I could do this- I could be a professor at a university. So one

the way to becoming a professor at a university, there were a group of three of us who were good friends. And all of us were working with Harm DuBlay. It was a time when there wasn't much grant money available for research abroad. But we all three wanted to work in Kenya. So he said "I'll tell you what I'll do, you each write your proposals, give them to me and I'll look at them and if I see linkages between those, I'll see if I can't write a master proposal that covers all three of your proposals and get you money from Midwestern University Consortium for International Activities." He had a name already so it was good that our stuff was going under his name. He didn't have to do that- he did that because he felt we were good students and that we'd be good students in perhaps good professors later on. So on a basis of that, I got a year of supported research in Kenya working in an area that I had discovered. Things are discovered in Africa. I had discovered it by looking at a map- there was population density map. Here in the highlands you can see all kinds of towns and villages in Nairobi and a couple big cities. Way over here on the coast is a second-largest- Mombasa. In between, it seemed like people forgot to reside there. What's going on? Then I looked further and said "Oh it's because it's really dry and it's not a good place for planting" and then in the middle of that really dry, almost semi-desert, here's a lump of population, just BIG lump of it. I looked at about 80,000 people living in this place. I thought "what is there/" It turns out it's a range of hill called the Taita Hills. Here they're mountains, there they are hills. Why are they hills there? Because they're not too far from Mount Kilimanjaro so by comparison, they were hills, which got up to 7200 feet. Kilimanjaro is 19,340. So I went to, I put together the research plan, I carved mine out with money that came from the MUCIA grant and I traveled over there and I bought an old used Jeep, thanks to my parents; they sent me some money. IO said "I need to buy a vehicle and I can't afford a Land Rover but there is a Jeep shop that has one that needs to be reassembled because they've been pirating it for parts to fix their other Jeeps." So they re-pirated the parts and built me a nice Jeep that was good- a CJ5. Covered over back door. So I bought a mattress and threw it in the back of the Jeep, and a few tools which you might need here and there- wrenches and screwdrivers and couple of plastic water canisters in case I'm out there in the plains and I need water, which I do now (drinks). I could get water out of the jugs. I drove from Nairobi down to the Taita Hills.

MJ: By yourself?

AN: Yes. But I must say I did my homework before I went. I had gone, you may know that the State Department probably still funds a USIS Libraries everywhere. So I hung out at the USIS library. Because it was the time that they were having reports on the elections. This is when Nixon won. Beat Hubert Humphrey. I was there- all of us Americans gathered in the auditorium the night of the final vote. Beginning, it looked pretty good. You see the change in people's faces as it got later- we were all like "Oh my God not Nixon." You can tell from this that I am a dyed in the wool Democrat, always have been always have been. Nixon was far from it. While hanging out in the USIS library I was asking around about materials dealing with the people who lived in the Taita Hills. One of the people told me "Well, there's a bookstore- it's an education bookstore that has books which are sold to the Tita schools." SO I went down there and talked to the man and I bought a couple of the books and they were mostly books in a language of the Tita people, which I could puzzle some of it out because it was similar to Swahili which I had studied. I wasn't the best Swahili student but there was enough that I could understand and communicate.

So, while in the bookstore, I said “is there anybody her in Nairobi that comes and buys these books?” They said yeah- there’s a guy named Amos. Amos Manjalla, who works in the USIS library. I had just come from there. So I rode back to that library and I said “is Amos Manjalla around?” They said he was here today. Can I have a meeting please? So Amos came out. Really nice guy. When he found out I was going to the Taita Hills, he was just beaming. “Wow! You’re to my hills to do research?” “Yeah! What can you tell me?” We had several evenings sitting around eating dinner and drinking beer and talking about who my contacts should be. I got a list of names of people to talk to when I went there which was a great thing. The lesson I learned from that, maybe I already knew it- it never hurts to ask questions and be polite to people because you tell them what you’re interested in and they’ll say “Oh that sounds like it could be interesting- here’s an inroad into that area.” So I drove down to Taita with a bunch of names and where they worked and what they were doing and one of them was a principle of a high school in the town which was the center of the Taita Hills. A Town called ----- . So I went and met the principle of the school and yes indeed he was a friend of Amos Manjalla. He said ‘hey we’ve got an American here – preschool teacher.” So I met this American that same day and his name was Tom Wolfe. We’ve been friend sever since. Not close friends because he’s got a lot of other things going on. But I see him every once in a while. Tom said “let me talk to the principle here and see if I can do this.” He went to the principle and said you know I’ve got a big house that the Ministry of Education has given me. It’s too big for me but Andre Nazzaro- I could be happy to share it with him while he’s here.” What a bonus. All I did was share food cost and buying oil to burn in the oil lamps to light the house. Not alabaster lamps but regular ones. Pressure lamps. We had a good time there for a year. I left after a year and I collected all the, well you never collect enough ingot, for I collected a lot of information and came back her e and got to work in the archives. Colonial Archives from Kenya which had been purchased by Michigan State. What a piece of luck that was. So I could go back and I had historical details of stuff that id found out while living in the Taita Hills.

So from there back to here. Well, here I am.

MJ: can you take me through being hired here?

AN: yeah that’s where I was heading. I was sitting in London visiting some friends who I met when I first sent to Kenya. I stopped off in London to do some reading in the Public Records Office. Chancellery Lane among them, which they had so many records from colonial times. Also did some reading in the Library at the British Museum. So, I have a reader’s card for the British Museum. Just like Marx? Did he have one? Some wild dude. Also had one. So I spent a couple months there reading in the Public Records Office before jumping on an airplane and going to Kenya. Starting this work in the field. On the way back I stopped in London to visit my friends and I had told the people at the African Studies Office in Michigan State that I was stopping off there and they knew I had been there the previous year collecting information from Public Records. I’m sitting there drinking a cup of tea, delicious tea, and a telegram came for me. It was from Harm DuBlay. He said “I don’t if you are interested, but if you are, Eastern Michigan University is advertising for an Africanist to teach in the Geography Department. A fellow there who taught there before is going to work in Israel.” And so I think he had an association with Harm Dublay too somehow.

MJ: What was his name?

AN: I can't remember. He left, I came in, was interviewed in July. It was kind of funny because I'm sitting in London enjoying myself. I've got about \$500 left, wondering what the hell I'm going to do when I get back to the United States with \$500. So they get this telegram from Harm DuBlay and I replied to Easter Michigan. He told me who to reply to. I said "I should be back around July 26 in the Detroit area. I'd be happy to come for an interview if you'd like to have me." They wired back immediately saying, yes- we've scheduled you for a meeting on July 26th. Come in. So I did and a couple days later they said "We think you're the right person for the program. Welcome aboard." So I was hired. When you talk about luck- I mean, everybody wants that kind of luck these days. But I lucked into it. I was prepared for the job because I had an education at Michigan State with good field experience in Kenya, so I felt prepared and I felt...the thing I didn't like, is the sit-down, you find out a couple weeks before, here are the classes that are assigned to you. You'd think- I got to teach that many classes? Shit! Sorry.

MJ: It's fine.

AN: I had to teach four classes and they weren't the same class- different classes. So that kept me up at nights preparing all those lesson plans for four different classes the first couple of years. July 1969.

MJ: You got here in kind of a turbulent time at EMU. There were a lot of demonstrations happening. What was that like? What did you walk into here?

AN: I walked into crowds of students and almost got bashed by the Sherriff Harvey folks.

MJ: Tell us about that.

AN: Well, it was anti-Vietnam war activity of course, and then there were shootings of students at Kent State which really set the students off here. They went out and did this awful thing of standing in the street protesting. (Laughter). This threatened the police forces and our college administration, who I think, I'm using word substitution here- scared "witless." Of these student protesters. Now I can tell you because I was standing there amongst them: I was only twenty-what? 1969, I would have been 27. So I was 27 years old so I looked like a lot of the students who were standing around in the crowd. I was there observing and shouting and the same as the students, and the Sheriff's people were coming up to me and I noticed something interesting about the sheriffs people. There was a white patch on their shirts where a badge and badge number had been; it was no longer there. So they're protecting themselves from accusation of what they were doing which was bashing students. Keeping their badges inside their pockets. Now, they were- I give them credit- they were good at bashing black students and white students alike. There was no discrimination there. You're a student, you're bad. That was a tricky time. There was a group of us, three or four of us from the Geography Department who were fairly young faculty who decided amongst ourselves that it would be good for a bunch of us to place ourselves where we could observe and record what was happening should there ever be a need for someone, maybe this is that time, be a need for reporting on what we observed. A couple of us went over to the dorms on the north side of campus and said "we're here to hang out in case there's anything going on over here." The night before there had been,

at a smaller hall, short driveway. The Sheriff's guys had been there and there was a curfew on- you have to be in your dorm at a certain time. They decided very unwisely, that they would protect themselves- the students- by throwing beer bottles out into the driveway. So they did, and the whole driveway was filled with huge shards of glass and the Sheriff people really irritated by this. They began shooting tear gas into the dorm. A couple of people had collapsed lungs- students inside the dorms, because of the tear gas. Let's think about this. A Sheriff and the administration had said they must be in their dorm room after a certain hour. Now what would be the thing you could do to get them out of the dorm? Spray tear gas in the dorm. What do you do when they're not adhering to the policy of stay in the dorm? When they come in you bash them over the head. So we had a couple of collapsed lung people and others who were injured by being bashed over the head. That was the night before that we went and stayed in the dorms. The three of us got into the dorms and were called first into an office. Ok here's what we're going to do. I said "wait a minute who are you guys?" They were the guys the administration sent over to keep an eye on things. This was the wrong crowd. We were in there to watch what was going on but those guys were the guys who were watching. They didn't know who we were so we hung around and actually they weren't a bad bunch it's just that they were given orders by the administration to keep an eye on things. That night, that dorm, big dorm- I can't remember the name. Helicopters were coming by the windows of the dorms and shining their beacons in the windows. One of them was a girl's dorm. You'd think the sheriff's guys were getting their whatever, thrills from peering in the dorms.

MJ: How do you think Sponberg reacted to all that?

AN: He was totally unprepared for the situation. Went to the Holy Trinity Church where he met...where's your building again?

RB: that's across the street.

AN: Across the street, yeah. Did anybody tell you about the beehive they found in the building? Oh that was Stackowitz. There was a tower on it. There was a giant beehive in it the tower one time. People walking by and the bees were coming out bzzzzzzz...anyway- so we had a meeting. Students who were upset, faculty who were upset, faculty and administrators saying how they are. Here's Sponberg sitting at the front table. The meeting was called by the Holy Trinity Church to bring people together right? To smooth the difficulties. The only words that left his mouth during that whole meeting were these words: "I'll take it under advisement. I'll take it under advisement." What does that mean, Professor Sponberg? That was the sum total of his contribution to the conversation. Eventually things did calm down, but it wasn't because of anything Sponberg did it was just because, you know, OK, we've made our protest we can walk away now. You run out of tape yet?

MJ: No- it's still recording.

AN: Sponberg- there were people who loved him and then there were people who came in like me and thought well, when is he going to do something? And from our observation it wasn't much he did. Now, he was a scholar. And that was why he was hired- he was a scholar. But as an administrator I don't think he was very prepared for the job. Or if he was prepared he forgot his preparation.

RB: Who was the Department Head when you came in?

AN: That was John Loundsbury. Who is now out in Arizona I think. I lost track of him. He hired me in that summer. I came in September to start. Where's Loundsbury? He took five of his favorite faculty and moved to Arizona State. Which was good because it was meant we had a bunch of new faculty who replaced him. They became very productive faculty. But Loundsbury left and was replaced by...a U of M geographer who was...he looked like a Department Head. Blue blazer, pale blue shirt, colorful striped prep tie, shiny polished shoes, grey hair, smoked a pipe. Was the archetypal Department Head. Ross Norton. No, Ross Norton Pearson. Ross Pearson was actually Department Head when I came in even though I'd been hired by Loundsbury. Poor Ross. He shared with, and this I have from people who ought to know, he shared with Sponberg a drinking problem.

MJ: Heard a little about this.

AN: About Sponberg? Yeah. Sponberg left here and went up north and had some problems up north. Drinking and maybe being too close to some young women. But that I don't know about for sure- it was rumored. So, Ross he treated me well, I can't say he didn't. Even though he was U of M and I was MSU, you know. But no, he treated me well but he didn't have much imagination. If he did, it died sometime before. We had some good people come in during that first year one and year two. Year two, Carl Ogela (sp) came here. Got his PhD at University of Georgia. He's really from Boston area but went to university of Georgia. He was a very very good professor, lecturer, and was loved by the faculty. And an excellent racquetball and handball player so he made his mark here a couple of ways. Took over the weather station which was his when he started running it. We had a guy before him that ran it but he ran it later. We don't have it anymore- been given up by the department. He was one of the very good people who came in.

Steve- I just saw him teaching over in the new Strong...Steve came in not long after I did. Steve Loduca. Geologist. He was a very good man. Very good man. In fact, as you look over there at Strong, that's the new Strong, you know, well about twenty years ago, I proposed to the Provost that it is time, well past time, for Strong to be re-commissioned and maybe rebuilt, maybe torn down, but it was in terrible shape then. I worked on it and the Provost came up with some money to bring some architects in. Architects came in and made some suggestions and the Provost said "well I don't think we can afford to do it." So it went on the back burner. Steven and I worked on it and Steve took it to the end and had some work done. Credit Steve with a lot of that. I started it way back. We almost made it but not quite. Steve took it over and time was right and he got the beautiful building you see over there now.

MJ: Do you like the new one?

AN: Yeah. I like it a lot. I asked myself "Why did I retire?"

MJ: DID ALL of the different programs in Geography and geology- was it always a smooth relationship?

AN: Bumps and grinds sometimes. Geographers and geologists approach things a little bit differently but there's been a lot of imagination among both faculties. Particularly- a couple of geographer had the best imaginations in the world...you see where this is going? Two of us said "you know

what we need here?” We were both cultural geographers. “We need a historic preservation program.” So let’s get off our fat bottoms and write a couple of proposals and see what we can do. So we wrote three proposals that year, all three of them got funded. That’s pretty remarkable. Three in a year and all got funded. One of them was study of the Huron River-historic development along the Huron River. The other was to build a curriculum in Historic Preservation and what was the third one? I forget the third one. We got all three funded and so

MJ: Was that funded by the National Trust for Historic Places?

AN: Yeah. They funded the curriculum development. And Michigan History Division funded the Huron River one. What was that third one? I think the third one was...oh shoot. I don’t know.

MJ: I read about the Huron River survey- surveying old power sites along the river. I didn’t see any mention of the other two. So the Huron River project was project was funded by who?

AN: Michigan history Division. It’s one of those funny stories, I don’t know if you want to turn the tape off for this...yeah turn it off.

MJ: OK. I’ll pause it right now.

AN: Yeah. It embarrasses Marshall when I do that.

53:58 – portion edited out

MJ: Can you talk a little bit about Marshall before we go on into the Program further?

AN: Marshall came from California. He drove a VW camper bus. When he had longish hair. I don’t think I’ve ever seen a beard, but longish hair. As soon as he drove into Ypsi, he’s got a California tag on the back of his VW bus, and he was pulled over by police. They said “Are you one of them California hippies?” Marshall said he was the new professor at Eastern. “You sure? You look like a hippie.” They accosted him but didn’t arrest him- just delayed him. Checked his license to make sure he was real. He said “what have I done?!” Coming all the way over here to get accosted. He is one of the gentlest people I’ve ever known. Mild mannered, I don’t think I’ve ever heard him shout at anybody about anything. He’s a very true scholar. He did a lot of work. I don’t know if you put the dates together; when we got the grant for the Historic Preservation-the Huron River, it wasn’t long after that I was asked to serve as the Chief of Party in Yemen.

MJ: I was wondering how that fit together.

AN: It doesn’t fit together comfortably. The Provost asked if I would please do this.

MJ: Meaning Yemen?

AN: Yeah. I thought about it and I apologized to Marsh and I said I’m going to be away for two years, which will be ok because having two co-directors, sometimes that slows things down so I’ll be absent the first two years. I’ll be in Yemen. He took the program and really pushed it forward. Probably better than he could be had I been here poking around and poking my nose in all the time. But he kept me on the books as a co-director which is kind of him. But he was the central force after we got it going and he kept it going. Yeah.

MJ: Did the early budget, whatever budget there was, did it allow for new hires, new instructors?

AN: that was the problem. They allowed for some money but not enough to pay the salaries of full time professors. He and I talked about this a lot and we said "We've got a lot of people around here working in different organizations who are involved in historic Preservation and we probably can get them to come as adjunct faculty. We can make the argument that adjunct faculty who are practitioners in the field really give a strong flavor to the program which ties the student into what's really happening in the field." Let's not be apologetic about that- let's use that as a main argument for why we're doing it. Administration at one time to another, will say "Well we can't give you any budget but we see you're doing fine without it." So we shot ourselves in the foot in one way. But eventually we did get a couple of positions approved. But it was a struggle.

RB: Can I interrupt to ask some clarifying questions, dates? You were hired in 1969. Do you know when Marshall McLennan was hired?

AN: I think it was 1970 or 69.

RB: Then the HP Program was created in what year?

MJ: I know when the first classes went up.

AN: We actually created it in 68, the first classes were in 69.

MJ: I was thinking 79, when the first classes were put up.

AN: Sorry- I'm losing a decade there. That's right. 79 was when I went to Yemen. That's about the same time the first classes went up.

RB: You got the grants in 79 as well?

AN: 78/79.

RB: Thank you.

AN: I'll give you a further detail. Part of how we funded Marshall and me in the first year was through a sabbatical application. We tied further support of the two of us in a sabbatical application to...we used that money to pay our salaries. That was the plan. Comes time for the sabbaticals to be announced, and they announce that Marshall had achieved his sabbatical- he'd been awarded a sabbatical. That was great. I was waiting for Nazzaro. I don't see any sabbatical down on the list for him. What happened? It was the same project. Pretty much the same words in the proposals. Pretty the same amount of money for each of us in the two proposals. Give or take a nickel or a dime here or there. The Department Head who by that time was Kureth, called the assistant vice president and said, "What happened to Nazzaro's application?" It was almost word for word the same as Marshall's. I think he had the phone on speakerphone. The VP was on the other side. He said, "Well I didn't think I wanted to have two if one of them supported the other one. And I didn't think it was fair to have two sabbatical from the same department." I said "I'm coming over to see you- this is Andrew Nazzaro," I shouted into the phone. I went immediately over to his office. The secretary didn't know who I was from anybody. She said, "Can I help you?" I said "Yeah- The Vice President knows I'm coming to see him and I'm angry." So burst through his inter office and I looked at him and said "What the hell do you mean,

you've put mine in a drawer." That's what he'd done- he'd put mine in a drawer so it was never seen by the sabbatical committees. So as far as they knew there was one proposal and that Marshalls. They were equally good proposals. He says "calm down calm down." I said "I'm not going to be calm until you fix this." There were some four-letter words in there too. He says Ok- I'll give you a research leave and not call it a sabbatical. So, it was a way around it and if I hadn't shouted at him I doubt that would have been found.

MJ: Who was Vice President?

AN: He was Assistant Vice President Ray LaBounty.

MJ: Do you think something like that would fly now? Do you think Eastern was different back then in such a way that you could just barge into the VP's office?

AN: You couldn't barge in then either. I was just being totally irritating.

MJ: Was the program- the HP Program, modeled on anybody else's? Were there any other HP Programs?

AN: Yes- a couple.

MJ: Where did you get your ideas for the groundwork?

AN: We had both been reading a lot of cultural geography stuff. We saw a couple of programs which did a course, maybe one course in historic preservation in the geography department somewhere. I can't remember where, I think out east. Marsh and I looked at those and we talked about them, what they were doing, but no one was doing a whole curriculum. Why don't we steal a march on them and do the whole curriculum and see what happens? It was, as in a lot of these things- being willing to take a chance, willing to risk, willing to put your chips on the table. It was successful and it still is as far as I know. WE hired some really good people- Nancy is a good one, and Ted Ligibel, took it over after Marshall retired. By that time I had been out of it long enough that it was sort of, I didn't feel it was appropriate for me to poke my nose in except every once in a while I would teach a course but it wasn't a major part of my effort.

MJ: that first year in 79, for the first few years, what was enrollment like? Was there interest from outside of Michigan? On a national level?

AN: Yes. Numbers, I think like 20 or so at a time, something like that. I may be overstating it, but once you've seen one students, you've seen twenty students.

MJ: By the way I love that you used that phrase: e decided to steal a march on them. It's such a great historical phrase. I had to get this on tape. I want to ask about EMU's involvement in different building plans- the Historic Preservation Program's involvement. How much is there when there is a building going up, when there is preservation effort on campus like the fires at Scherzer, Welch Hall. "Don't squelch Welch." Can you talk about that?

AN: We were central in Welch. Right after I came back from Yemen when I was teaching one or two courses in preservation. There were rumors that they were going to either demolish or mothball Welch Hall. So I'm sitting there in my office and a student comes banging on my door and she bursts in and she's crying her eyes out. "What's the matter?" she said "they're beginning to

knock down Welch Hall. I said "No they can't do that. Let's go look." So we went over there to look and what they were doing is on the back side at a place, they were knocking bricks out. I crossed their safety lines there to protect me. I crossed them and said "What are you guys doing? Are you beginning to demolish?" They said "No no no we are just mothballing it." I said "What's the hole in the wall?" he says "it makes it easier for us to move the furniture out." I said "Oh my god!" So that's when we launched our effort. I had the buttons printed out, "Don't Squelch Welch."

MJ: We have one hanging on our bulletin board.

An: So the student were very supportive, both grad and undergrad, both preservation students and many others. We talked to one of the VPs who seemed to be sensitive to the idea that Welch- there were better uses for Welch than being mothballed and we went around talking to a variety of people including and architect who did some really nice drawings. Dennis whatever his last name was. Had a bunch of people come in from architectural firms in Ann Arbor and look over the building and say "Yeah this a good quality building and there are things that could be done there." Talked about all this to one of the VPs and he said, "Look we've got a fundraiser telephone fundraiser coming up and we can let you guys use the phones and the stuff the last couple of days of that fundraiser to spread the word about Welch Hall." It was a fantastic piece of luck. So we had about 6 people sitting on the phone banks calling from this list and just saying "Were calling to let you know that there is some concern about Welch Hall blah blah blah. Please register your support with the administration for keeping it intact and restoring it etc." It worked! But again- good luck, being honest with people about what needed to be done or what we thought should be done. We got it done.

AN: When you say "we," you mean you and the students?

AN: Yes. I did play a central role in that.

MJ: Were you involved in the designation of the historic district here too?

AN: The students were, I wasn't.

MJ: Student project for the program?

AN: I'm foggy on that. It might have been but I'm not certain. But I must say, the administration thought once they had a historic district here, they wouldn't have to do anything else. But that is not true.

MJ: Are there any other structures, structural activities that you can tell us about?

AN: It was sad to me to see, forgetting the names of buildings now, Goodison. To see Goodison be torn down because it...Do you know about Goodison the person?

RB: Yes.

AN: It was a WPA project. I mean that's a direct link to a major period in our country when the central government took control of things and tried to help people across the board. So the tearing down of a WPA project structure which has its connection to local architects, seemed to

me to be an awful thing to do but they did it. By that time it didn't seem like it needed to be done.

MJ: Have you ever been privy to conversations about HP becoming part of a different department?

AN: Let me think. I may have heard a rumor once or twice, but, no. Well, WE invite the History Department to be involved when we first started. But they said no, they weren't interested.

MJ: Why?

AN: They were into "real history." Not local history, not preserving buildings history. Now, I'm generalizing because I'm sure there were people who felt differently than that in the History Department but we couldn't get them to do anything.

MJ: What stoops a program like HP from becoming its own department?

AN: That's been talked about a couple of times in the Department. Usually it's out of anger that it is talked about. "You guys are so smart why don't you make your own department?" kind of stuff. Because we like being associated with geographers. Because geographers, cultural geographers at least are very involved with how space is used and how the cultural and historical continuity are preserved. So it could be a department on its own but it would need some really big financing up front to establish a couple of faculty lines. Eastern has been really really selfish about opening faculty lines unless it's tied to some immediate apparent job producing program. Like making paints or coatings or whatever. Those are good, I'm not saying they're not but they've been really stingy about it.

MJ: Was there originally a museum concentration in HP?

AN: Museum concentration...not originally. I think that came along later. It's through collaboration with Greenfield Village that a lot of that stuff came along.

MJ: I'm going to skip some time here to 2003 and 2004 because there is a long correspondence thread in your records about there not being a Department Head at one time and your conversations with Dean of CAS, Linda Pritchard about putting Geography and Geology under Astronomy and Physics. First of all I wanted to know how hard it is to handle all the administrative duties of a program or a department without an administrator like a department head. How hard is that?

AN: We didn't have a period of no department head. I was the department head.

MJ: Interim Department Head?

AN: No, I was the Department Head for six and half years. It was during that time that Linda Pritchard decided that she was going to merge a couple of programs totally off on her own, ok?

MJ: OK.

AN: I doubt that even if Physics and Astronomy people would unilaterally have gone along with it because there had always been and probably now is resolved within the building, there has always been a competition for space in Strong Hall between the physics people and Geography and Geology. And so we wanted more space, they wanted more space so we're fighting over the

same space. For some people like Linda Pritchard, it was a good way to say “hey they’re competing with each other for space. Lets merge them all into one.” I don’t know that, but I wouldn’t be surprised. There was a department head, it was me. So in my correspondence, who was I not corresponding as department head?

MJ: No. One of the biggest points of contention in these letters, these emails, was that there was no Department Head. Linda just kind of seemed like she was saying, “Well, since there’s been no head of the department for so long, let’s just move everything into Astronomy.”

AN: What the hell is she talking about?

MJ: That’s just what I was reading.

AN: No- no no no.

MJ: OK.

AN: There was a Department Head and it was me. Unless she just thought I wasn’t Department Head, then she didn’t read her notes. I sure as hell went to all the meetings with department heads with her.

MJ: Nowhere in any of those communications did I see a response from Physics and Astronomy. It’s funny you brought that up because I never saw a word from them,

AN: I don’t think they were behind that. I think it was just her, wielding her significant...oh that’s too unkind, never mind. She was a pain in the ass. That was generally agreed to by most.

MJ: I don’t think she’d been here very long.

AN: No. She thought making change was just a wonderful thing no matter if it was a good idea or not. So I wasn’t department head? That shocks me. I feel bad now- why did I do that if I wasn’t Head?

MJ: The time came up- “two years without a department head.”

AN: Two years without a Department Head?

MJ: Yeah.

AN: Let me think. Elwood Kureth retired and I applied for the job, and I got the job. Maybe I got it as an interim. Hmmm. I stayed around for six and half years anyway. I was Department Head. When I left that job, we had meetings called the “Atticas Meetings.” Department Head for the College of Arts and Sciences. I must have been one if I was there. I’m being silly now. One of those meetings, I said, “Gentlemen- I’ve decided that this next term will be my last as Department Head.” They said I was one of the good ones. I said it was time to give someone else a chance to do it.

MJ: I was reading about those things, I was reading about LoDuca as Department Head and he said he was serving informally. WE have all this- we can pull it out, I think the box is still pulled.

AN: Having trouble with that time period. So did he serve as acting Department Head? LoDuca?

MJ: No, but I knew you were at some point. I was trying to figure out when that was. Then I just went down this whole rabbit hole of this stuff with Linda Pritchard. Because it is interesting to see the interactions between a department or a program and the Dean. Students don't get to see much higher than the faculty. So it is interesting to see those interactions between administration and the faculty. And also it was interesting to see how the faculty in Historic Preservation seemed like it really banded together. People like Chris Mayda and Norm Tyler. I was reading all of these emails and it was nice to see. It seemed like a team.

AN: Yeah. Much of the time. Sometimes not. Chris- died way too early. She was a hard worker and she, like a lot of hard workers would try, she had a lot of supporters but she had a lot of people who were offended by her energy.

MJ: What kind of energy was that?

AN: "Got to have THIS kind of recycling program." Statements like that. She was right but she sometimes was not very politic in suggesting what needed to be done. But she was good. And she was good for the department. Certainly good for the University. Sorry- I knew her not as well as I would like to have. I think she may have mistakenly believed that I didn't back her up, but I did. But you never know. You never know.

MJ: In the back and forth that I was reading it seemed pretty unified. Maybe you should go through that stuff again. It's definitely good reading. I was on it for 2 hours yesterday.

AN: All emails?

MJ: yes. 2003 and 2004. Almost all emails. Chris Mayda- she passed away in 2016?

AN: Could be. I don't know for sure.

MJ: Can you give your thoughts on a few other people? Gabe Cherem? What was he like?

AN: I liked Gabe a lot, and so did Marshall. Gabe was...I can't say how he specialized, but he did. He had a specialty in hmmm...what was it? No, he was a geographer faculty but more specifically within preservation. What the heck was his field? It was something different. Did you run across that? Help me out here.

MJ: I'm not sure either. I don't know.

AN: He was really interested in organizational kind of dynamics. May or may not know that people who are interested in organizational dynamics are often the ones who get the other faculty pissed off. You know? He was...I saw him get angry a couple times because people were, I think, not understanding him on purpose. I thought he did a good job. Who else are you questioning me about here?

MJ: Since we are his students, I have to ask you about Ted Ligibel.

AN: Oh, Ted.

MJ: What was young Ted like?

AN: Historic. You know young Ted had a lot of experience in Toledo. He was only getting his son into U of M because he moved across the line and he could be an in state student. Ted- I liked Ted and Pat both a lot. I wish I- I still have the chance to do more socializing with him because I really like him. Ted knows- Ted remembers people every well. He remembers them in their personal connections and their public actions. He's used that prodigious memory to the benefit of the program. He's done a lot to organize the record keeping for the program, which should be, I'm sure the students would praise him for because it gives connections for something after the program for the students. Ted's top-notch.

MJ: What were your impressions of Nancy Bryk?

AN: Oh- Nancy. I think she's really good. Sometimes find her to be a bit abrupt, but you know, that's her character. No- Nancy is a good one. We have good ones, let's face it. Good faculty.

MJ: Thomas Wagner?

AN: Tom's a bit of a retread. He worked for U of M out at Willow Run for a long time and he is really really dedicated to offering good courses to his students. But I wouldn't associate him with Preservation.

MJ: yes- I was asking for Cultural Geography.

AN: he's a U of M guy, so what do they know? No- he's really a good teacher. His wife has worked for us a couple of times- she began helping us with some proposals. I was writing a paper once, a couple of us, which Barbara took to Hawaii and presented because she was funded. She's from U of M. Funded.

MJ: Where do you see the future of the HP Program here? Where do you see it going?

AN: I'm the wrong guy to ask about that because I've been separated from it for some time now. I think Ted would have the best idea about the future because he's done most about the laying recent groundwork for making it a future reality. If we keep getting good students; I've always said that his program rides on the quality of its students. I'm sure Ted would agree with that, I'm sure Nancy would agree with that. As long as we keep getting good students there is the possibility of the program continuing to evolve along lines that people see as corrective. I don't know how much contact we have these days with the National Trust; I just don't know. That is certainly worth keeping alive. As long as we don't let ourselves fall into a frame of mind that says well you have to be rich to be a preservationist. You don't. My first National Trust meeting was in Chicago and I never saw so many furs in my whole life. Goodness. The people were dripping with jewels and furs. Those were just the men. But I did meet a lot of fine people there who were doing good work. That was part of the grant that Marshall and I got for the first year of the program- we got to go to a national Trust meeting and we made a lot of contacts.

MJ: There are a lot of questions on here, but I am running out of time.

AN: Oh, good.

MJ: Would it be possible to come back, especially to talk to us about Yemen? I want to get you on tape talking about the Basic Education Development Project.

AN: Yeah, sure. I'll "take it under advisement." (Laughter)

MJ: I wanted to ask just a couple of broad questions about EMU. First of all, why did you retire when you did?

AN: Forty-seven years? I was in forty-seven years!

MJ: When did you get the urge to retire?

AN: I did the phase out, so it took me a couple of years. Every other day, I think "why did I retire?" I enjoyed teaching, I really did. I'm about to propose a couple of courses I want to teach in the fall. It probably won't get anywhere with it because there are a lot of people doing things that need to be done and though I don't think Geography of Africa has been taught since I left- that was the original reason I came here. I think there is a clientele out there but still we need to develop it for Geography of Africa, but we'll see. I was just feeling that, you know, forty-seven years is probably enough, you know? So what am I doing now? I'm sitting around wondering what I'm going to do now.

MJ: After forty-seven years, how easy is it to be retired?

AN: Not very.

MJ: I wouldn't imagine. We hear that a lot.

AN: I could go to work at Ace Hardware.

MJ: You could open one- over by my house please.

AN: I spend a lot of time in Ace Hardware so I ought to get paid.

MJ: What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of EMU?

AN: EMU has always been underfunded. By the state. EMU has always been too much in thrall of big sports. That has not changed since I first came here. That has always been. EMU has been in the command of a few local people and those people are, well, they're still around. And I think, don't get me wrong- I like EMU, and have liked it for a long time. My wife has also taught her in the foreign language department as a lecturer. She said to me that she was absolutely charmed by the students. She taught Spanish. Felt that they were a true measure of the cross cutting of American society. She found that really really rewarding. Many students are admirable for holding two jobs, sometimes three jobs, and showing up in class with their work prepared. So we have, I've had, she's had, some excellent students. You know, when you're a teacher that's what you need. Had a few of the others too, but, you know. I can remember teaching the Africa class, talking about Apartheid and having a fight break out in my class. Having to step between a couple people because one of them was a total racist and we didn't know that until we started delving into the details of Apartheid. But yeah- good students. We get good students, with some exceptions.

MJ: You saw through us. Figured us out.

AN: Yeah. Took me a while.

MJ: IS THER Anything else you'd like to say on the record?

AN: Yeah. I have to go have lunch.

MJ: OK, where?

AN: Oh I don't know. We'll see what my wife suggests.

MJ: Well, I'm going to email you today.

AN: how long have we been here?

MJ: An hour and thirty-five minutes. And it's been good! You're a wonderful storyteller. That is nice- to sit across from someone who can tell a story.

AN: Now I have to go find out about these two years when we didn't have a Department Head. When were those years?

MJ: 2003-2004. I don't know if those were the two years- that was just when there seemed to be some contention. The two years without a head came into the argument. I'm going to hit stop here, if everybody is ok with that.