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Contact:

Special Collections, University of Delaware Library
181 South College Avenue
Newark, DE 19717-5267
302.831.2229 / 302.831.1046 (fax)
http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec
askspecref@winsor.lib.udel.edu

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
DR. ALLEN SCHIEK
MRS. ELIZABETH SCHIEK
MARTHA SCHIEK
ARCHAEOLOGY IN DELAWARE
JANUARY 26, 1977

Transcribed by:
Rebecca Herman
March 4, 1978
C: We are taping Dr. Allen Schiek, Elizabeth Schiek, and Martha Schiek for the oral history department of the University of Delaware and the Special Collections Library. Dr. Schiek, suppose we start with you. Where were you born? When were you born? Tell us something about your early life.

A.S: I was born in RenoVah, Pennsylvania, June 1, 1912. I lived there about three months and then moved to Williamsport. Moved to Wilmington, Delaware, in June of 1929. Went to Wilmington High School one year and then went to Temple University for pre-dental and dental.

C: And you've been practicing dentis...

A.S: Forty years

C: In Wilmington?

A.S: In Claymont.

C: In Claymont

A.S: Only and the Army.

C: When did you become interested in archaeology?
E.S: We started our interest in Delaware history and one of the archaeologists in the state, Harold Lang, an old timer, took us over to Arch Crosier who we consider the grandfather of archaeology in the state of Delaware...took us over to his house out just over the line in Pennsylvania to see about some Delaware books and he signed us up with the Archaeology Society and we went to our first meeting at the library and they were calling for helpers to work on the Dickinson Mansion down outside of Dover, John Dickinson Mansion. So we signed up and that was our first adventure to go down there on Sundays.

C: And Elizabeth, had you been working before? Had you been interested in this before? As a student did you live in Wilmington?

E.S: I was born in Wilmington and they tell me I was a year-and-a-half old when I came to Claymont and I've been stuck here ever since. I thought I was. My father was in business and then I married a dentist who wasn't gonna move but army days changed that. We traveled.

C: In your school days were you interested in history?
E.S: No, Oh! Yes! history but archaeology was a wild dream.

C: So, all this came about by this visit?
E.S: Yes, yes, Arch Crosier, we were signed up for that. We've been up to our ears in it ever since.

C: Well, when both of you became interested in this project, what kind of work did you do afterwards in the field of archaeology?
A.S: Well, most of it has been in historic archaeology but with a good portion in pre-historic and some salvage archaeology work.

C: Where has this taken you?
A.S: Well, mostly within the state of Delaware and into nearby Pennsylvania but we've traveled quite a bit to archaeology sites and we've been to South Dakota, Mexico, Yucatan, twice to Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Germany, Austria, Italy, and we expect to leave within a month for Egypt, and it's all primarily archaeology, our interest in archaeology.

C: Do you do any digging at these sites?

A.S: You're not allowed to in foreign countries without special permission and this...well, our daughter will explain. She has been able to do work in Greece, somewhere in Greece.

C: What kind of information are you able to pick up when you go to these sites?

A.S: You take the artifacts you find and try to reconstruct them and date them and from that tell the type, the economic conditions of people, the type of work they were interested in, what their living habits were and very often the changes that have taken place in buildings which are left standing. Remodeling had taken place over periods of years. The Mortonson House was an example of that. It was built on Crumb Creek in Pennsylvania and it was originally built by a Swedish family and then it was taken over by an English family and then it was on the Baldwin Locomotive Works ground and the Baldwin Company insisted on preserving it. We did archaeology work on it and then the building was moved and it is now down on the grounds of Old Swedes Church.

E.S: The Veritol Corporation bought it.

A.S: The Veritol Corporation bought it and didn't want the building there anymore, so it was moved to Wilmington. Sorry, that was The Derrickson House. The Mortonson House was two miles or so
up Crumb Creek from there.

C: And did you work on The Mortonson House?

A.S: No, we did not.

C: Your daughter Carol worked on it...Martha...your daughter Martha worked on that...in that house.

A.S: That's right.

C: And that's on the site. She was actually involved in the digging.

E.S: Yes, oh yes.

C: Now, do you have you been actually involved in the digging in these local areas? Suppose you tell us about some of the sites that you've actually been involved in. and if you wish you can take turns telling about it.

A.S: Well, the one that has involved us the longest is The Caleb Pusey House in Upland, Pennsylvania, where the excavation...it's all done by amateurs with some professional advice but I surveyed the area and decided we could do it in four to six months and it's took us ten years with only two rooms but it had a dirt floor and one was a nine-and-a-half foot deep cellar which had been filled in from a trash pile.

C: You didn't know the cellar was there?

A.S: No, nobody knew it was there.

C: And it was only after you began excavating then the digging.

A.S: Yes.

C: Now, when are you able to dig?

A.S: On weekends.

C: You work. You're a dentist. You work all week. When....

A.S: We would be up...all the amateurs in the society...we worked usually just Sundays and occasional holidays when it suits people.
C: And so work must be very slow.
A.S: It's slow but at The Pusey House especially, we had a lot of interest and a lot of workers and a few of the older children in Upland got interested in it and helped us. They did not do the digging but they helped sort out the dirt so that... to get the... rid of the dirt and to retain the pottery and glass parts and any metal parts.

C: And what actually were you able to discover from that house?
E.S: Well, in the one room that didn't have a cellar, we found a thirteen foot well and then outside in the back we found what we called outbuilding number one that we think was an ice house. In the front right up against the house we discovered another one we called outbuilding number two which we think was a cold cellar where they stored roots and vegetables and things like that or could have made beer... stored their beer because Pusey did make beer in the house. And then the most important part of the discovery was what we called the east wing which was outside of the house and that's where the oldest material was uncovered and the only association with Pusey was discovered there were two... the handle of two different spoons with his initials, a C. for Caleb and a P. for Pusey and that was the only association with Caleb Pusey. And that was what we called the east wing and that had the oldest material and the most interesting material. Everything else was jumbled upside down.

C: Does that material stay in the house?
A.S: At present we have possession it but are returning it to The Pusey House as soon as they can move...

C: Restore it?
A.S: Well no, they have...
C: Is it being restored?
A.S: It has been restored. Well, we do not feel that the restoration followed the archaeological findings exactly. For instance, we found the house originally had leaded glass windows and they were replaced with wood framed windows and they put in baseboard heating. It was just not...
C: They removed some of the basic, fundamental structure of the house.
A.S: Sure, that's right.
C: So, you were dissatisfied with that.
A.S: Sure, Yes.
E.S: The original roof was an A roof and they put on a hipped roof because that's what people were used to seeing. The hipped roof was put on later.
C: How old was this house?
A.S: 1683 and it's the only known building in Pennsylvania that William Penn stayed or visited.
C: The only one remaining.
A.S. The only one remaining.
E.S: That wasn't rebuilt.
C: That's very interesting. Have you worked in Delaware on any of the sites?
A.S: Yes, the Frederica site was a very unusual site. They had the contractor for that section of the Frederica by-pass had bought the rights to a gravel pit and they found in this Adena material from Flint Ridge, Ohio, large ceremonial blades, some two-and-a-half to three feet long, beautifully chipped and the
workmen went in there and robbed it. And I heard about it. I was chairman of the State Board of Archaeology at that time and I put out a call for help and we got people from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey. They all came over to help reclaim...and Maryland...to help us salvage what was there but they had...

E.S: Saturday, Sunday, Monday we had.

A.S: But it had been pretty well cleaned out before we got there. Fortunately we were able to recover some of the material from the people who well, literally stole it from the state. Most of it was down in Maryland and it is now in the State Archaeologist Collection.

C: What's the technique of digging? What's the process that you use when you find a site?

A.S: In starting an excavation you select a basepoint which is actually ground zero and all measurements are made from there. In Delaware or in pre-historic archaeology we use a metric system but in historic archaeology you use the normal feet, inches so forth because you're having to translate it to carpenters, stonemasons, who do not know the metric system. So depending on the site you're working on is your measurements. Then you lay this out in pre-determined squares and you should excavate by strata in other words you make a test pit and discover the strata. Then you follow this strata through all...

C: You mean the layers.

A.S: Yes. You follow the layers according to their color and content. And this way you usually can date eventually you can date...

C: Each layer
A.S: Each layer.

C: Do both of you do the digging yourselves along with others?

E.S: Well, his job was supervising a lot and you have to keep your eye on everything that's going on. I keep most of the records. We have the youngsters put every shovel full that comes up goes through a screen and sorted and sifted and then I separate it into stone or metal or flint or what we call treasures, it might be a piece of jewelry or teeth or anything. Bones are another category and then bag it and keep all the daily records.

C: And you're usually the supervisor of the whole operation?

A.S: I have been on The Pusey House principally.

C: What about the dig behind the airport?

A.S: Well, there was no dig...well at the Dover Airbase there was another Adena site found and it was a gravel pit and there were the somewhat more typical Adena type burials but...

C: How old was that?

A.S: Eight to nine hundred A.D. Of course Adena is mostly associated with the Ohio Valley but...

C: You mean they were Indians from the...

A.S: Ohio Valley. But they had migrated here. Why we don't know. Whether they were here for fish, oysters and so forth

C: Trading.

A.S: Yes

E.S: Trading yes.

A.S: But why the number of burials we don't know.

C: Did you find that site yourself? Or someone else found it and you worked on it.

E.S: Some youngsters from the airbase got over the cyclone fence into
the gravel pit and they found this bone and took it to the medical director of the airbase and he was all up in arms because it was a human bone. I don't know which bone or what bones. So he called the state police and then of course the newspaper found out about it and then they called the state archivist and it was really the Frederica...what we called the"Frederica Massacre." We had a Delaware Archaeology Board who just met once a month or was it less?

A.S: About once every three months.

E.S: About once every three months and directed anything that might be going on in the state. But they got busy and from then on from the time of the "Frederica Massacre" and this other site were destroyed...we almost destroyed because the state archivist had to take over the one at the airbase. Well then they worked together...state archaeologists. So now under those conditions...we cannot stop private industry but if state or you're building a highway or any federal construction and they run into anything looks like human burial or human bones, they have...they're supposed to stop work. Now I say if the private industry cannot be stopped because here in Claymont we had a wonderful village down here on Neiman's Creek in what is now the steel company and when they sold out to Colorado Fuel and Iron...it was steel first...they sold to Colorado Fuel and Iron and got hold of some area along the river they ran bulldozers through and picked up all these artifacts but the engineers went back to Colorado, so material from Delaware is now back in Colorado in private homes and probably thrown out because they don't know what the heck they had.
C: Well now, you were both involved in setting up a state archaeology board and...

A.S: No, Geiger and I were involved in writing the state archaeology...the law for establishing an archaeological board with the right of selecting a state archaeologist and the first one we selected has been with the state ever since. That's a period of approximately ten to eleven years.

C: But it was through your efforts that this came about.

A.S: That's right. We had quite a battle with the state legislature to get this established and it took personal pressure from the then Governor Carvel to force it through the House of Representatives. It passed the Senate first, was sent to the House of Representatives and they were about to turn it down and we got word to Governor Carvel and he sent a note down and said that he would personally be down to see that this bill passed.

C: Do you find that agencies are more receptive now to help you or are people still indifferent?

E.S: Peterson did away with the boards.

A.S: Under Governor Peterson the commission form of government was done away with and now the archaeology work...there is no state archaeologist. It comes under the Division of History and Culture which is under the Secretary of State and there is a Division of Archaeology, a Division of History and I forget what the other, the third division is. So, none of the three divisions which should be separated, can do much without the approval of the Secretary of State.

C: Is the Secretary of State co-operative? Has he been?

A.S: I hate to answer that. (laughter)
C: What I wanted to know was, are things moving in this state or...

A.S: No, they are not.

E.S: Even if we have to have a field site, fortunately we have the archaeologist there.

A.S: Yeah. Under the old archaeology board we did establish the Island Field Site which both well, all three of us worked on that and we did get a permanent building and it's one of the few sites in the United States in which the graveyard has remained as it was excavated with a building over it to protect it so you can see how the burials were arranged and many of the artifacts have been removed but were replaced with duplications.

C: Now are you talking about the Bowers Beach?

A.S: Yes, that's the Island Field Site. That is under the state.

C: Amateurs originally worked it.

E.S: No, no, it was really found after we got our state archaeologist.

A.S: But he found it through information from an amateur in Kent County. A lot of amateur was used in excavating it.

C: Did you have any part in that?

A.S: Yes, I had to approve...see I was chairman of the state board of archaeology for seventeen years so that I had to see that it was approved and everything was laid out for the state archaeologist to go ahead. But technically he did the work and we did most of the administration.

C: So, actually as a result of the work you did in getting a state archaeologist, the state could be involved in this project.

A.S: Yes.

E.S: Everything now is being done under the archaeologists and most of it's down in Sussex County and of course that's too much of a one
day trip for us anymore. We're getting too old to take too much of a any...

C: But what are they doing? What is the state doing in Sussex County?
A.S: Well, the present plan of the present Director of Historic and Cultural Affairs is to do nothing but survey sites of pre-historic archaeological sites, list them and not work them. One thing is that we have...we started out originally with a budget of five hundred dollars and it's up to over two hundred thousand now.

C: That's the state budget?
A.S: That's the state budget. And it has been primarily through the Archaeology Board that we got this gradual increase by our need of equipment, materials, space and assistance.

C: Besides the State Archaeologist, who else do you have working for you?
A.S: Well, there's no board anymore so everything is done without the knowledge of the amateurs. We go out and find our own sites and work them.

C: Now, you're involved in the State Amateur Archaeologists Association.
A.S: That's right.
C: And what's your involvement in that?
A.S: I'm President and Martha is on the Board of Directors

C: How many people are members of State Amateur Archaeologists?
A.S: I can't tell you the actual membership by people because we have some institutional universities...it's between eighty and ninety.

C: And would this be state or area? Is it regional?
A.S: The Delaware Archaeological Society was originally statewide but due to differences of opinion and so forth...we met in Dover and
Wilmington but then there were differences of opinion, personal things entered into it so it broke up and the Delaware Archaeological Society now consists mostly of Newcastle County people, on yes the Archaeological Society of Delaware, and the Kent County formed a society and Sussex formed a Society of Archaeology and History. Now, in the set up in archaeology there is an Eastern States Federation of Archaeological Federation and the Delaware Society consisting mostly of the people in Newcastle are the official representatives in that to this Atlantic Seaboard...

C: So it's a larger regional...

A.S: Yes.

C: organization.

A.S: Yes. Then there is now a Mid-Atlantic Conference which you are invited to attend by invitation only and I have just been invited to attend their meeting and they are mainly professionals.

C: And so the professionals include selected amateurs.

A.S: Yes.

C: And you are one of the selected amateurs.

A.S: Yes.

C: And is this a result of your work in Delaware or in...

A.S: Evidently. I don't know whether it's archaeological work or political work. (laughter)

E.S: Well, you worked on Teocal but that was taken away from you.

A.S: Yes, I did some work on Teocal

C: Where is Teocal?

A.S: Guatemala

C: In Guatemala. Alright, would you like to tell us about it?

A.S: We'll let Martha talk because she was on the official staff down
Alright. Martha, suppose you tell us Martha where did you study anthropology and archaeology?

Well, I graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in anthropology. My course work of course was in archaeology.

Now, you've both made me forget what I was talking about! (laughter)

And now...

You graduated... (laughter)

Alright Mother just wait a minute! Prior to graduation from both high school and college I had been doing a lot of archaeological work in the field. When I was in high school I went to the Teocal Project in the University of Pennsylvania. I worked for them for two summers.

Teocal in Guatemala?

In Guatemala yes. My first summer was in the museum in Philadelphia. The second summer I was sent to the field in Guatemala and... You made forget what I'm talking about Mother!

Alright, you were telling us about your summer job.

Alright, I had been two summers in Teocal and then let's see I've been... I worked on several volunteer sites, The Caleb Pusey House is one of them and Morton Mortonson House up in Fall Pennsylvania and then I worked for three summers for the Delaware Archaeological Board on the Island Field Site.

And what did you do at Teocal? You said you were on the board there.

No, I wasn't on the board. I was one of the field crew, one of the field staff and I worked primarily in the laboratory doing
some reconstruction and records keeping and filing and then I also did some excavation there also. As the need demanded I did whatever had to be done.

C: Dr. Schiek you also worked at Toocal?
M.S: No.
A.S: No.
C: No.
M.S: Not at Teocal. He worked on the dentician from Teocal for awhile.
C: Would you like to tell us about that?
A.S: Well, the...one night when we were visiting there they were having some trouble with putting a skull together and they were getting the teeth on the wrong alignment so I did it. So, they asked me if I would do a study of the dentician of the dental remains that they found at Teocal which I had started but did not get a chance to completely finish.
C: Have you ever worked with the remains of the teeth?
A.S: Oh yes.
C: Is that helpful to the archaeologist?
A.S: Well, it is. In fact, the teeth are the last part of the body to decay. The flesh of course...soft tissue will go first. The bones next but the teeth will remain for years. Now, in Teocal we found the front teeth inlaid with jade and on x-raying these skulls, we found that the work that they did for this purely cosmetic reasons because all the teeth had absessed. But they had all the dental problems of modern man. They had impacted teeth. They had caries teeth. They had all types of gum disease which you could see reflected in the bone tissue.
C: Where did the jade come from?
A.S: The jade probably came from well, there was one place in Guatemala where they found a tremendous boulder of jade. It's one of the largest pieces of apple green that was ever found but it was never worked so it probably came from Mexico. Well, it's a local jade it's not like your Oriental jade but it is definitely jade which varies from pure white to dark green.

C: What's your interest in archaeology today? Where are you going? What are you doing?
A.S: Well, I'm waiting for publication from the...what is that?
M.S: Well, the Delaware Academy of Science.
A.S: The Delaware Academy of Science. I wrote an article for their publication and I wrote one on a comparison of Greek and Roman coins in comparison to the coins found at The Pusey House. The trace metal content of these coins.

C: Was there a similarity?
A.S: A very close similarity of the same materials and the same percentages showing the metallurgy had not progressed very far from Greek...early Greek and Roman times to American Colonial times. And another thing in that, any coinage was very scarce during the Colonial period of America and the coin of any country would pass for its value.

C: What else is attracting your attention?
A.S: I'm President of the Society and we're pushing for publications. We have one under way by L.T. Alexander on the clay pipes found at The Pusey House which contain quite a few which were by makers unknown previous to this. He has been into contact with people in Holland, England and Canada, pipe experts there and we have
found that there are pipes from The Pusey House which have not appeared any place else.

C: Well, have you done everything that you'd want to? What would you like to do?

A.S: Well, I would like to get a good pre-historic site and supervise the excavation the way I'd like for it to be done. Calling in professional help when it's needed. But here again you run into a case of funding.

C: Money seems to be the big problem.

A.S: Money is the big problem. We can get plenty of people to do excavation. In the Society we have people who are very good at excavation but they lack the technical knowledge of reconstruction and dating. Now, we have had excellent help from the DuPont Company, Hercules Company and the Winethur Museum who have helped us out a lot in...

C: On dating?

A.S: On dating, microphotography, spectrographic analysis.

C: What techniques do you use in dating?

M.S: Some of the techniques used in dating...well, the techniques now are almost infinite. There's carbon fourteen, potassium argo....

C: But do you use them here?

M.S: No, these...

C: What do you use?

M.S: On Colonial sites there's almost no need for any of the highly refined techniques because the potassium argon and carbon fourteen need a very, very old specimen generally because they're geared for dating old things. What you use in a historic mostly are the ceramics, the glasswares, pipe bowls. This is in the reconstructed
condition and then comparing these to what we have in the literature and known information then you generally get a good date. Now with the refinement of the carbon fourteen process, it is possible to use it on some historic sites because they've narrowed it down to a plus or minus of five years on it which is quite workable for historic sites but it used to be...

C: You wouldn't use carbon fourteen at The Pusey House?

M.S: It might be conceivable now but at the time we were excavating there was no point to it because you needed extremely old specimens of five, six, seven, eight hundred years to get a good reading...to get a good accurate reading. But for most historic sites that is not generally required because you've got enough artifact material and enough reference to these things in our own life time that you can get a fairly close date.

C: Mrs. Schiek what would you like to do?

E.S: She didn't finish her story after she graduated.

C: Is there anything else Martha?

M.S: Well, only that after I graduated I did some historic work in Philadelphia on the Blue Anchor Tavern site and Franklin Court and under the foundations of the First...excuse me...Second National Bank of Philadelphia, on some of the original houses that were there before the bank was built.

C: And during the Bicentennial I think that was....

M.S: It was quite a few years prior to the Bicentennial. It was the early seventies I worked up there in preparation for the Bicentennial.

E.S: My dear, I am too old. I have physical problems of breathing and a heart condition so I can't go out...I could keep records though.
C: You enjoyed keeping the records.

E.S: But we used to get up early in the morning and go work hard all day and then...

C: Would you like to tell us, what was a typical day like when you went out in the field?

E.S: Well, when we worked at The Pusey House we were there before ten o'clock and...

C: How long did it take to get there?

E.S: Oh, fifteen or twenty minutes. And... but our trunk was full of equipment. We usually left it there, the shovels and the notebooks and the pencils and the clipboards and all sorts of things and paper bags by the dozens and one interesting thing we had up there that was never done in archaeology before, John Alden Mason who's a famous archaeologist from the University of Pennsylvania, used to come down and help us and we got down in the bottom of the well, it was muck. It wasn't dirt that you could put through the screen and we had no water. We had to carry our own water and take our own lunch and everything like that. So, we called the Upland Fire Company with this muck on the screen and they came over with their spray hose and sprayed light spray and washed all the muck away on the screen and all that Mason said in all his forty years of archaeology he'd never seen that done before. I love to read and still love to travel but it's... I'm just limited that's all. Still mentally, I'm interested.

C: What kind of advice would you give to young people who are interested in working in archaeology?

E.S. I shall let Martha answer that.

C: No, no what kind of advice would you give?
E.S: Well, if you have money O.K. If you don't have money don't try it. Now, she has a chance to go to Guatemala and work but she has to pay her own way down, she has to pay for her food, pay for her board. She could work down there, be a marvelous experience but you've to pay for it. The foundations now days are all clamp­ing down and you aren't getting the money you used to from found­ations so... It's a fascinating study. Years ago I remember reading a book called *Throw Me a Bone* and it was this archaeolo­gist's wife...I suppose the book couldn't even be found now but it was fascinating and the whole thing is that I just look back and enjoy what we have done and the places we've visited. Now, all my life I've wanted to see Egypt and the other place was Anchora in Cambodia but that definitely is ruined I think with the fighting over there. But we hope to go to Egypt next month.

C: Alright Dr. Schiek, what advice would you give to young people?

A.S: Unless they can go straight through to a Ph.D., they have no chance of getting work.

C: Unless they get a Ph.D.

A.S: Unless they get a Ph.D. You must have a Ph.D. Maryland has an opening at the present time and they've had seven applicants and five of them are Ph.D's., without work. So that...and also...

C: Even if you have a Ph.D. you might not get a job.

A.S: That's right. And the current trend is for contract archaeology. In other words a group of three or four of these Ph.D's. will get together, form a corporation, put in a bid to excavate a site for well, for instance, a revolutionary war fort or something and they will hire a crew to come in, do the excavating, do the recording and write the history and for a contract for the state or county
or whatever, whoever hires them. But after you get so far in archaeology, such as in Maryland, Delaware, you're no longer an archaeologist, you're an administrator.

C: Are you sorry you went into dentistry instead of archaeology?
A.S: No, no, I'm still primarily interested in dentistry. I like it and it has led to some interesting work in archaeology.

C: Do you have time for any other hobbies?
A.S: Well, Delaware history. We have I would say...what would you figure?...seven hundred to a thousand books on Delaware history? And...

C: Have you read them all?
A.S: Oh lord no!

C: Do you have time for any other hobbies?
A.S: No, but we use them for reference to find history and information of people and areas and so forth. The same with our archaeology library, it's...you read portions that are of interest to you or what you're doing.

C: For the particular work.
A.S: That's right.

C: Then Delaware history and archaeology seem to take up all your spare time.
A.S: Yes.

C: Any other children in your family interested in archaeology?
A.S: Not, our older daughter is but she doesn't have the time having two children in school and...

C: When she was younger was she?
A.S: Oh yes, she was interested. She worked at the Dickinson Mansion with us.

C: And now you have a grandson who's interested.
A.S: No, granddaughter who's beginning to show interest. Mildly interested.

C: Would you like to see them all involved in this?

A.S: Not unless the situation changed monetarily because it is a catch as catch can profession at the present time.

C: What about a hobby?

A.S: As a hobby, wonderful.

C: Great hobby?

A.S: Yes, you're outdoors and if you're going to do reconstruction of artifacts and all you've got to learn history. You've got to learn what the early trades were, how to make clay pipes, how they made dishes, bowls. How they used wood instruments, kitchen utensils. It's a marvelous background in I'll say folk history.

C: So you really have to have a very broad background in order to be an archaeologist.

A.S: Yes.

C: And you're self trained. Had you ever had any training in history that might have been helpful to you before you became interested?

A.S: Well, I've always been interested in history until I got to college when I had to spend two semesters studying the history of the French Revolution and that pretty near well killed me. But other than that I guess I am interested in history and it's fun to see what our ancestors developed on their own that we still use or somebody comes out with an idea that oh, here's something brand new and you can show it, well, this was used a hundred and fifty, two hundred years ago.

C: So, there isn't too much new under the sun.

A.S: Except in electronics. In our society we have people who are
really experts in their field. There's Albrecht...Josephine Albrecht who is excellent on pottery. There's Norman Neilson who is one of the finest metallurgists in the United States. He just help complete a study of the future of the Liberty Bell, doing analysis and what to do to preserve it because it may break in time.

Side II

C: Would you like to continue telling us about various people who work in the Archaeological Society?

A.S: Well, there is L.T. Alexander who is one of the world's top authorities on clay pipes. John Swinahufski who is an authority on the Leni-Lenape Indians.

E.S: Both of them over thirty five year members.

A.S: Yes, both of them have belonged over thirty five years to the Society. We have Sterling Pomeroy who is an engineer, graduate study surveying so he does all our surveying and does our elevation work for us. Milt Barber handles instructor in charge of the audio-visual department of Lincoln University and he does a lot of...most of our photography and does tape recording of the sites as we work many times to save taking notes. He's working for the Society on a site in Pennsylvania which is so far not very productive but it has a plant growing in this area where trees have never been known to grow and this plant is from Central America and this is the furtherest north it has been known to be found. So that, when you go into archaeology you go into many fields, metallurgy, ceramics, botany, photography, there's many branches that you go into in archaeology.

C: You have to be masters of many, many crafts in order to...
A.S: Either that or know where to find them.

C: You obviously know where to find them.

A.S: Well, one of the problems now is the great organization of Delaware. When the Dover Airbase went in there were five sites that we know of were destroyed. I don't know how many have been covered up by paving, by industry, parking lots.

E.S: Along the Christiana River, along the Delaware River.

A.S: Yeah, of course they're being washed away. We're certain that Delaware extended as far east as the continental shelf at one time so there's much archaeology under water. It's pretty near impossible to get to. And we have had help from the skin divers in Delaware in working in the Delaware Bay but that is so contaminated that they can't see much more that two feet in front of them when they get down there. Oyster men brought up some material and we went to hunt it and we found remnants but could not locate anything definite.

C: You don't know what it was that you brought up?

A.S: It was red cannonballs and pewter mugs obviously of Colonial times.

C: Of a ship...

A.S: Of a ship that had sunk down.

C: And they weren't able to work it?

A.S: No, it was off of Fort Harmon and oyster men found it. In tonging they brought up this stuff and they were kind enough to report it but to get down and try to recover, we got a few timbers and but that's about all.

E.S: When they worked at Fort Delaware down...

A.S: Yes, and then Fort Delaware, the Skin Diving Club went down into... under Fort Delaware were reservoirs of water in case they were cut off from water and they went down in there and recovered stuff
that people were trying to get rid of...you know you break...a soldier breaks a knife or something well, he can report it lost and get a new one. If he reports he broke it, well then he has to pay for it. So down the cistern it would go so we recovered the material from that.

C: That's very interesting. Well, I certainly thank you very much for sharing this with us.

A.S: Well, we could go on for hours if we had the time but it's...

E.S: You see so many books. This is all archaeology and back of you on the lower shelves is all archaeology. There's a whole bookcase on the second floor that's all archaeology.

C: It sounds like your library is...

E.S: Well, that's one thing that's keeping me busy now in my old age, that I'm trying to catalogue because someone will say do you have such and such a book and I look in my catalogue and say yes, but I don't know where it is. So, I'm marking them by case on the cards so I'll have a code so that I know which case it's found in.

C: Well, I'm happy to know about the library so it I need something I'll know where to come.

E.S: You're most welcome. We don't let anything out of the house but anybody can come in and use anything we have because we have lost several books by loaning them out. You are very nice to talk to too. So glad they're doing something like this and I think a lot of people they were...Dr. Hutchinson deserved a lot of credit too from Sussex County. He was a hard worker and Purnell, Harold T. Purnell, he left all of his collection to the... Who did he leave his collection to? The archives wasn't it?
A.S.: He gave part of it to the archives until he found out that they sold it and then he refused to give anymore to the state and it is in the possession of his two sons.

E.S.: But there are a lot of old timers, they're all dead now.

A.S.: Well, Harold Lang is still living.

E.S.: Of course, Duke's an old one and he worked with Westlager.

Westlager was a good writer but he's...

C.: Well, I thank you for sharing your experiences in archaeology with us.