

INTERVIEW WITH  
Orin Snider  
on

October 6, 1964

by

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Abilene, Kansas

This is an oral history interview with Orrin Snider on October 6, 1964.

MR. SNIDER: Ike came back and took post graduate, after he graduated he layed out a year, after he graduated, and then came back and wanted to brush up on mathematics for his West Point examination and so I had been out of school--well, I graduated in 1907, coached him in 1910.

MR. ENDACOTT: 1910?

MR. SNIDER: Uh-huh.

MR. BARBASH: He went to the Point in the spring of '11, didn't he?

MR. ENDACOTT: Yes.

MR. BARBASH: How did you first meet him? Did you live near him?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yes.

MR. ENDACOTT: He lived right across over here in this house--

MR. SNIDER: I lived about a half mile southeast of here.

MR. ENDACOTT: He was raised right there along side of him.

MR. BARBASH: You grew up with him and Red Asper, then, didn't you?

MR. SNIDER: Well, I was older.

MR. BARBASH: Oh, I see. Did you play with him when you were a youngster or were you still too old to do that?

MR. SNIDER: Well, I was a little old for him and more with Ed.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever go on any of their vegetable selling expeditions?

MR. SNIDER: No., I was too busy on the farm.

MR. BARBASH: How about high school--you coached him in just his graduate year--right?

MR. SNIDER: Post graduate.

MR. BARBASH: Post graduate?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. They didn't have any rules against post graduate--those days.

MR. EMBACOTT: What kind of a team did they have that year?--Pretty good?

MR. SNIDER: Well, that was a pretty fair team, they won a little over half of their games, I don't know, I don't think in those days--we didn't try to teach the fundamentals too much--didn't go in for hard

football--just more fun.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did they have a regular schedule that the schools they played between the schools just like they do now?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. ENDACOTT: Who set those things up? The coaches?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, coaches and the principals.

MR. BARBASH: How come you were picked to be the coach?

MR. SNIDER: Well, they didn't have any money to hire a coach then--I was one of the poor man's coaches.

MR. ENDACOTT: Didn't they pay you any salary?

MR. SNIDER: No, I farmed during the day and when it was corn shucking time I'd shuck corn till about a half hour before school was out and go in and hitch the horse and buggy and go in and coach them--I'd go in about three times a week--then I did all the refereeing--didn't have the money to hire a referee.

MR. BARBASH: What was your practice like--did you have any set routine in practice or did you just get the boys together and show them a few plays or what?

MR. SNIDER: Well, of course, we had to have our signals figured out and give them their plays.

MR. ENDACOTT: What position did Ike play there--half back?

MR. SNIDER: No. Left tackle.

MR. ENDACOTT: Left tackle?

MR. BARBASH: If you could call it a system--what kind of a system did you use?

MR. SNIDER: Well, there wasn't such system to it--but get in there and give them a few fake plays and try to teach them who to hit and when to hit them.

MR. BARBASH: I interviewed Howard Funk--about a month ago and before I interviewed him I looked in the Abilene paper and there was an article--they had all the season games in there and they had one with Enterprise Academy that fall and when I told Funk this, he said "No, that this wasn't true that that last year they didn't play Enterprise Academy", do you know if that's true or not?

MR. SNIDER: Enterprise Academy that last year?

MR. BARBASH: That would be 1910.

MR. SNIDER: Well, no, I don't think we did.

MR. BARBASH: It's interesting because the article in the paper is very detailed. It tells who scored the touchdowns and so on and that's why I wondered if they just faked it or what?

MR. SNIDER: I don't remember Abilene ever playing the Academy but once. I was coaching then but that wasn't the year.

MR. BARBASH: Was Ike on the team then when you played the Academy?

MR. SNIDER: I couldn't tell you for sure.

MR. ENDACOTT: Edgar played on that same team, too, didn't he?

MR. SNIDER: No, Ed played four years--'05, '06, '07, and '08, yeah, Ed, when they went to school, why, Ed was the best player, but--

MR. ENDACOTT: He was?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, Dwight was pretty light.

MR. ENDACOTT: About what did he weigh then?

MR. SNIDER: Dwight, Oh, I suppose about 130 pounds.

MR. ENDACOTT: Is that all? How come he played tackle then?

MR. SNIDER: Well, he, in post graduate weighed more than that--he was up around 160 then.

MR. BARBASH: What sort of uniforms did you have for the team?

MR. SNIDER: Anything they could pick up.

MR. BARBASH: Where did they get them--who payed for them--the school--

MR. SNIDER: They did.

MR. BARBASH: They payed for their own?

MR. SNIDER: Uh-huh. We bought one football--beginning of the year and we saved that--we had an old one left over from the year before and we saved the new one for the games and the next year why we used that for practice and they just had to pick up their own uniforms.

MR. BARBASH: I see.

MR. ENDACOTT: There wasn't any color arrangement or anything else on it then, was there?

MR. SNIDER: No colors or sweaters.

MR. ENDACOTT: How could you tell the other side then?

MR. SNIDER: Well, you just had to take your chance.



MR. BARBASH: Did Ike ever play backfield for you?

MR. SNIDER: He did before I coached.

MR. BARBASH: I see.

MR. SNIDER: I think he played quarterback one year.

MR. ENDACOTT: He played baseball too, didn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Did you coach baseball?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: Well, on this playing backfield, this is another thing that is interesting, too, because when I checked the newspaper on this, they had him playing backfield, they had him scoring touchdowns and so far everybody I've talked said this isn't true--Howard Funk said it's not true.

MR. SNIDER: I don't think so. Howard would know better really than I would but it's a little bit like the tale you heard--a young fellow telling his dad that Abilene High School beat K-State one time.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, you were down at Manhattan when he wrote you those post cards that you've got over there--what was he playing then, was that baseball or football?



MR. SNIDER: The one where he said he'd lost the game?--that was baseball.

MR. EMDACOTT: That was baseball?

MR. BARBASH: Who was he playing for?

MR. SNIDER: Abilene High School.

MR. BARBASH: Abilene High School?--How about that last game of the season in his post graduate year--Howard Funk was telling me that you people went down to play this team and Abilene was expected to win but they were beaten pretty badly and Howard said that he suspects that they pulled in a couple of the town team boys--do you think this is true?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, they may have but I don't want to say it for the record--but, I was invited out to spend the night and Downs was the principal and I asked him if he could take care of the boys if I went out with the principal there to stay all night and he said "yeah", and Six MacDonell and Briney had got off at Salina and they caught a later train and brought up a quart of whiskey--they were up the biggest part of the night shooting craps and drinking whiskey. That was a good part of the cause of our losing the game--Six MacDonell went to punt and he missed the ball, and he nearly broke his leg.

MR. BARBASH: Did you have any contact with Ike after he left high school--did you pal around with him the rest of the year or anything like that?

MR. SNIDER: No, I was farming. He and Six MacDonell palked around before he went to West Point.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did he ever come there hunting or anything around your place?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, I went hunting with him.

MR. ENDACOTT: Was he a pretty good shot?

MR. SNIDER: Just fair.

MR. BARBASH: What could you say about his ball playing--was he a good ball player?

MR. SNIDER: He was a fair player--yeah--I think he played up to West Point.

MR. BARBASH: Yeah, he did.

MR. ENDACOTT: He played in the backfield at West Point.

MR. SNIDER: Well, I mean, though, in baseball--I think he was on the--

MR. ENDACOTT: I don't know if he played baseball or not at West Point.

MR. BARBASH: I don't think he did.

MR. ENDACOTT: He played football, though, then he got hurt.

MR. BARBASH: Yeah, they had some good writeups about him in the New York papers.

MR. SNIDER: He played again Jim Carlisle--Jim really hit him. He told me the coach there told him his playing was helped by his never stopping--he just kept churning when he hit that line--he kept churning and finally break through.

MR. BARBASH: Mr. Snider, there is a story that goes around town that nobody has been able to pin down yet that Ike, one summer, played semi-pro ball in Junction City under a different name--do you know if this is true or not?

MR. SNIDER: I don't think so.

MR. BARBASH: You don't think so?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. ENDACOTT: He couldn't very well play baseball under an assumed name that close to home because everybody knew him around here, didn't they?

MR. SNIDER: The only ones that played baseball from here were Six and Briney--North Central Kansas League and Bud Hoffman--Bud couldn't make the team so he come down--back home--went awful lame for three--four days--said he got hurt--couldn't play. He'd got let out--he was pretty proud, too.

MR. BARBASH: Did Six ever make the minor leagues at all?

MR. SNIDER: He made that North Central Kansas League.

MR. BARBASH: That's as far as he went?

MR. SNIDER: As far as I know--yeah--I'm sure that's as far as he got.

MR. BARBASH: How about that Salina game in Ike's post graduate year that everybody writes and talks about when he started banging heads with that other lineman on the Salina team?

MR. SNIDER: Well, really, who got roughed up was Six MacDonell--that was wrong about Ike--it was Six MacDonell and they say Ike jumped on to this guy that bumped him and it wasn't Ike, it was Carl Nicolay, cause I was refereeing and I had to go pull Carl off--he had him by the throat, choking him.

MR. ENDACOTT: It wasn't Ike but it was Carl--huh? Well, Ike gets credit for being meaner than he actually was then, doesn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, generally, always had a grin on his face.

MR. ENDACOTT: He just liked that contact, didn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, he liked football.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever see him in any of the kid fights around town that they talk about?

MR. SNIDER: No, I didn't, I wasn't around when he--that Merrifield and that Dirk Tyler--

MR. BARBASH: You didn't see the Dirk Tyler fight?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. ENDACOTT: They say that was a good one.

MR. SNIDER: Well, it didn't last too long. Ike hit him and--Bud told me that Ike bit him in the chest and he just folded up and Ike was quoted "he said, 'that Dirk telegraphed all of his punches so he could keep out of the way of them'". That story didn't do Ike too much good. Then they had another story about Junction City coming up, you know, and playing a--had a negro and the team wasn't going to play with him-- Ike said "his folks come to this country for all for liberty not just part and he'd play the game if he had to play it alone"--well, there isn't anything to that story at all--that was Bill Stern's write-up. He had one, too, about Ike carrying Knute Rockney's boxing gloves when Knute was here to fight--Knute Rockney never fought here--never heard of his fighting.

MR. ENDACOTT: I never did either.

MR. BARBASH: How about the West Point story--were you involved in that at all, in getting--in helping to get him into West Point?



MR. SNIDER: No., I think Senator Bristow and Charley Harger were the ones that knew.

MR. BARBASH: How about Joe Howe? Did he have---

MR. SNIDER: Joe, I guess, helped a little.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever see Ike after he came back from West Point again--when he was back in town?

MR. SNIDER: I saw him after--just before WWI started. I talked to him and I asked him if he thought we could keep out of WWI--and he said "No", he said, "either to go over there and fight or else do like Hitler did over there, take all the small countries in South America and fortify them and keep them out, he said--go over there and fight."

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever--you weren't in on that poker game that he had when he came back that time with Mamie, were you?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever meet Mamie here in town?

MR. SNIDER: Never met Mamie.

MR. ENDACOTT: That was Charley Case that was in on that.



MR. BARBASH: Did you ever spend any time at the Eisenhower home?

MR. SNIDER: No, I didn't.

MR. BARBASH: Red Asper--when I interviewed Red Asper, he said that he spent a couple week ends there.

MR. SNIDER: We used to stop there on the way home from school--Ed and I'd walk home from school together and stop there and chew the rag when that story come about---

MR. ENDACOTT: Tell him that story.

MR. SNIDER: Ed and I were setting out by the barn and I was smoking a cigarette. I had it pretty well hid in my hand--always had to on account of getting caught so Mrs. Eisenhower come out there and as she went by why Ed said, "We weren't smoking" and she said "Well, a guilty conscience needs no accuser". She'd never know we was smoking if he hadn't busted out.

MR. BARBASH: What was Edgar like as a person?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, he's little cocky--he was a good kid and all that but he just a little bit cocky.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever know any of the girls that Ike dated in town? Like Ruby Norman?

MR. ENDACOTT: Ike didn't date Gladys Brooks as much as Edgar did, did he?

MR. SNIDER: I didn't think either one of them because Gladys Brooks was kinda one class above them--that is, socially.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yes, she came from the north side.

MR. SNIDER: No, she wasn't north of the Union Pacific tracks.

MR. ENDACOTT: That's right she wasn't--she lived down here.

MR. SNIDER: But--she was top class and Ike was kinda of middle class.

MR. ENDACOTT: Dave Wilkie told me one time that as far as he know Ike never did have a date with her.

MR. SNIDER: I wouldn't know. I heard that she went back East, some kind of a doings when he was in West Point--she went to some kind of social affair.

MR. ENDACOTT: I didn't know that.

MR. SNIDER: I think it was just before she married Brooks--she was on this--not vaudeville---

MR. BARBASH: Chautauqua?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Go ahead maybe you've got a better question, Endy.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did you know Mr. Eisenhower, the dad, very well-- what about him, there have been a lot of stories about him, how strict he was with the kids. Was he so strict with the kids?

MR. SNIDER: I just have an idea he was.

MR. ENDACOTT: He was that typical old German master, wasn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.--He--you notice that when Ike talks--he talks more of his mother.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, the old man Musser didn't like Ike's dad too well, I know that.

MR. SNIDER: Well, that was the reason--see--the old man ran a grocery store in Hope and went broke.

MR. BARBASH: Didn't Musser pay for his coming back from Texas up here-- to come back here to work at the creamery--pay for Ike's father?

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, Mrs. Eisenhower was a swell person, wasn't she?

MR. SNIDER: She seemed to be --- however, I was never around her very much.

MR. ENDACOTT: Everybody that knew her said that she was a wonderful person.

MR. SNIDER: I really didn't know her until after--later years and I talked to her a little--she was--her memory was gone at that time.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah, that was when I knew her--was when her memory was gone but the old man was pretty tough--he was awful tough but he was smart.

MR. BARBASH: Did you know why the --why his father left the creamery--after his father worked at the creamery a number of years he just got up and walked out--he quit, and he went to work for the United Utilities and the story I always have heard, but I never have been able to pin it down, is that there was some hard feelings there was why he quit the creamery and went to work for the utilities.

MR. SNIDER: It might be--I heard one story that Ed got kicked out. He jumped Elmer Forney for a raise at a bad time and he was going to quit and Elmer kicked him out.

MR. ENDACOTT: Elmer was pretty tough anyway.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. He kicked him literally, too.

MR. BARBASH: Really?

MR. SNIDER: It wasn't just---

MR. BARBASH: How about the other places in town that Ike worked?

MR. SNIDER: I never knew of his working.

MR. ENDACOTT: I don't know that Ico worked too many places.

MR. BARBASH: Well, there's a story goes around that he worked in a grocery store here in the south end some place.

MR. SNIDER: If he did, I didn't know anything about it.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, where was there a grocery store down in here?

MR. SNIDER: Theodore Muss.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, that's clear up there by the tracks.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, that's about three or four blocks.

MR. ENDACOTT: That's the only grocery store that they had--I had a fellow in this morning over there tried to tell me that there was confectionary store and ice cream store over here where the school was and I told him he was crazy.

MR. SNIDER: Where?

MR. ENDACOTT: Where the Lincoln School is--was there ever a confectionary store anywhere around there?

MR. SNIDER: Well, there wasn't anything after 1890. I tell you where there was a store, is over here where that machine place is.



MR. ENDACOTT: Over here?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. Just south of it--just south of the track about 100 feet and next to Buckeye. There was an ice cream parlor and later a grocery at Southwest 14th and Cedar. Joe Abith had the ice cream parlor and Cecil Baker the grocery.

MR. ENDACOTT: Was that a grocery store?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, a little grocery store. I know--cousin and I went in one time and tried to rob it--stuck our fingers out to a man and says, "your candy or your life".

MR. ENDACOTT: And he gave you the candy?

MR. SNIDER: No--he grabbed us by the collars and threw us out. My uncle said that we were the "James boys".

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever go on any of his overnight camping trips around here?

MR. SNIDER: No, I think there was a kind of a club that Joe Howe had a club I forget what they called that--Knights of Honor.

MR. BARBASH: The "Bums of Lawsy Lou", wasn't it?

MR. ENDACOTT: Something like that, but there was quite a number of those kids in on that thing.



MR. SNIDER: Yeah--"Lawsy Lou". That was--he kinda raised it right.  
Mel Goff.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah, Mel Goff and Jelly.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. ENDACOTT: Was Carl Nicolay friendly with Ike after he got out of  
football? They didn't pal around--Nicolay was from up north there or  
out west, wasn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Well, I don't know but I never knew of them palling around  
any. He and Six and --Six was his main--Six MacDonell was his main  
pal.

MR. ENDACOTT: Didn't Bud pal with him some?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, some but not very much.

MR. BARBASH: Which Nicolay did he double date with?

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, that would be Carl if it would be any of them.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, Wilbur would be too old.

MR. ENDACOTT: Wilbur was older.

MR. SNIDER: I didn't know anything--I knew about Wilbur and Briney--  
Briney dated Wilbur's girl friend one night--they had a bet on--Briney lost--  
10.00, I think it was.

MR. ENDACOTT: Briney was kind of a cocky sort of a fellow, too, wasn't he?

MR. SNIDER: He was smooth.

MR. BARBASH: Did any other Eisenhower boys play in high school beside Ike and Edgar? Did Earl and--

MR. SNIDER: Earl played.

MR. BARBASH: He played? Did you coach Earl too?

MR. SNIDER: No, they had a hired coach then.

MR. BARBASH: What position did Earl play?

MR. SNIDER: I think he played fullback.

MR. BARBASH: Milton never played?

MR. SNIDER: Jim Robertson played with them.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did Jim play with him?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Did Milton play?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: No-- he was too small?

*This page  
of 109  
12/17/89*

- Page Twenty Two -

MR. SNIDER: When he'd look at you he'd throw his head to the side. I used to think when he lived here he was going to be a screwball--He wore curls too long.

MR. BARBASH: Did you see--you never--did you see Ike very often when he came home on leave--when he was in the service, that is between--he left in 1915--in 1911, when he went to West Point and when the war between then and when the WWII started?

MR. SNIDER: No, I didn't see him very much. In fact, I think he stayed quite close to the house most of the time when he was here.

MR. BARBASH: Did you see him the year when he came home and they had the family reunion, all the boys got together--they all went up town together arm in arm?

MR. ENDACOTT: '35.

MR. SNIDER: '35, you say.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah, it was the 50th wedding anniversary of the folks.

MR. SNIDER: No, I didn't see him that time.

MR. BARBASH: Did he do any punting or passing for you--Ike?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: No, --strictly a lineman.

MR. SNIDER: Well, when he was post graduate--yes, he was smart though--  
might pull a fake on him once, but, boy, he'd nail them the next time.

MR. BARBASH: How about pulling guards--did you use pulling guards?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: How about the forward pass--did you use the forward pass  
often in those days?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, but Bud Hoffman did all of that--he was really good.

MR. BARBASH: It was legal then, huh? The forward pass?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yes, the last year I played--1906--went to high school--  
1906--is when they started it.

MR. BARBASH: How about the shape of the football--it was more round in  
those days?

MR. SNIDER: It was larger.

MR. BARBASH: I see.

MR. SNIDER: You couldn't--it was harder to pass than the football  
now, you couldn't--Bud could throw a spiral but he was the only one  
that I ever saw that could do it.

MR. BARBASH: Who was your drop kicker then--wasn't the drop kick pretty good those days with the almost round ball?

MR. SNIDER: No, we didn't try much of that--we went for touchdown.

MR. BARBASH: How about your extra point?

MR. SNIDER: Well, Bud kicked those, but if I remember--I know when I was playing a few years before that why, they only count one point--touchdown 5 and point after touchdown was 1 point.

MR. BARBASH: How many players did you have on the team in those days?

MR. SNIDER: Eleven.

MR. BARBASH: Eleven?

MR. SNIDER: Carried two substitutes.

MR. BARBASH: That's all?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. Two substitutes and always carried our own official.

MR. ENDACOTT: How did you get from one town to the other--by train?

MR. SNIDER: Train.

MR. BARBASH: Did the boys pay their own fare?

MR. SNIDER: No, the school they played would send them generally 14 or 15 tickets.

MR. BARBASH: I see.

MR. SNIDER: On the train.

MR. BARBASH: How about this story of them jumping the freight, do you remember that one--when they had to--didn't have money to get to the next town?

MR. SNIDER: I don't think there's anything to that.

MR. BARBASH: No, huh? I think they said it was the Salina game.

MR. SNIDER: No, I think it was Junction City.

MR. BARBASH: Junction City?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, but there was nothing to that. I don't know where those--Bill Stern was good at those kind of stories and I know Charley Harger--one story that come out with--Charley Harger wrote in to the magazine that carried it and asked them where they got it and they said they thought it was a responsible person--we found out it was Bill Stern.

MR. BENDACOTT: Make up his own story?

MR. SNIDER: Uh-huh.



MR. BARBASH: Did Ike write to you after he went to West Point at all-- tell you how he was doing or did you just read it in the newspapers?

MR. SNIDER: There were things--were when this story come out about him and the high school not wanting to play a negro and Ike saying what he did, why, I don't know what got out over in England from what I heard and it was causing him some kind of trouble and Milt wired Art Hurd and Art called me and asked me that Milt wanted it either confirmed or denied and Art said "what about it?" Well, I said "Nothing to it" so he wired Milton and said "Abilene does not confirm the story".

MR. BARBASH: How about the fight with Dirk Tyler--did that hurt him in later life--did it hurt Ike in later life?

MR. SNIDER: Well, it wasn't doing him any good and another thing and a couple young fellows that worked for the Reflector--he married the Asling girl and then separated from her--I can't think of his name he was writing a story for Esquire and he called me in and so he wanted to know about that story I had said something to Art Hurd about it and Art said "tell him to let it die" said "it wasn't doing him any good".

MR. ENDACOTT: Who got that thing up anyway--who was the instigator in arranging that fight?

MR. SNIDER: I don't know--Bud Hoffman was the only one that I really knew that was there.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, Bill Sterl was there.

MR. SNIDER: Well, he must have been because it was in his basement.

MR. ENDACOTT: Bill told me that he was there but I just wondered who got the fight up--who arranged the thing.

MR. SNIDER: I don't know--Dirk was so cocky around here and they figured Ike could whip him.

MR. BARBASH: Somebody told me that Dirk's still alive in California--he's working as a chauffeur, do you know if this is true or not?

MR. SNIDER: No, I don't. He's working as a chauffeur?

MR. BARBASH: Uh-huh----Yeah.

MR. ENDACOTT: He's a yard man and a chauffeur out there some place--his sister told me so--I went up and got a picture of him.

MR. SNIDER: Well, he's kinda off his beam--hear he went to Kansas City and was going to be a prize fighter down there and somebody--got beat up so much that he was--

MR. ENDACOTT: Slap happy?

MR. SNIDER: Hu-huh. I know he went to leave here once and they picked him up--claimed that he had swiped a diamond pin--a masonic pin-- from some fellow here and he claimed that it was on some clothes that his wife had given him.

MR. BARBASH: Wes Merrifield was in town about six months ago and he claims that Ike didn't win that fight with him--that Wes really won-- do you know what the true story on that is?

MR. SNIDER: No., the way I always heard was it was a kind of a draw that Ike met him once when he was back and asked him if he had ambitions to try it again and he said that he was the most unambitious man in Abilene--Ike grew and he didn't. Well, we always had trouble when these South side kids had to go up to North side to take that 7th and 8th grade and they always tried to hang it on to us. My brother got in a fight with a negroe and two of them jumped on to him and he said "Where is the kid?" and I dropped my old dinner box and plowed in, one negroe whirled and hit me and he knocked me about 15 feet, I was sit down against a big elm tree, teacher came a running down and she grabbed them and he had knocked me so far she didn't even know I was in the pack.

MR. ENDACOTT: They don't seem to have that trouble any more though, do they?

MR. SNIDER: No. They've got--I don't know the farmer kids had learned a little bit and the--they just kinda respect them a little more than they used to.

MR. ENDACOTT: We don't have that trouble between the south side and north side any more.

MR. BARBASH: How about--did you see him in 1945 when he came home here for the homecoming?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever--did you have a chance to talk to him at all?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, I was on the reception committee to meet him at the train.

MR. BARBASH: How about 1952 when he came back--did you meet him then, too?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: You didn't meet him in 1952, huh?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, I tell you there was so blame many politicians and fellows around that I saw him walk down the street and I was going to talk to him but he was surrounded by those politicians taking him over to the Opera House to make his talk and question him that I didn't even try. But I've never tried to see him when he's been here--he told Charley Cass to tell me once he wanted to see me that time over here at the Library but I went to the hotel and had to go by guards and everything.



MR. ENDACOTT: Think of anything else?

MR. BARBASH: No, I can't think of anything else--I've just about run out of questions. How about you, Endy, can you?

MR. ENDACOTT: Do you know any stories about him that we don't know about Snyder?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. ENDACOTT: The problem that we run up against in this kind of a thing, Snyder, is that you have to separate the truth from the lies of people and what we are trying to do is to get the people that are "in the know" to give us the right answers to this stuff because there's been so much of this lie stuff out that it's like Abraham Lincoln they glorify stuff that never happened--what we're trying to do is to separate the lies from the facts and that's the reason we're trying to--he was just an ordinary kid--he was in to devilment the same as other kids but he was no better or no worse than any of the others as far as I can find out.

MR. SNIDER: No, I--Ed had more of a tendency and Art was the fighter of the family.

MR. ENDACOTT: He was?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, Art enjoyed a good fight and he's pretty good too. He went up against big old Sy Hoffman and---

MR. ENDACOTT: Now, who was Sy Hoffman?

MR. SNIDER: Bud's oldest brother--he was a big guy--Ike--Art held his own with him but he outfought him and I saw him fight a Reed kid over here and he just got a lot of kick out of fighting him.

MR. ENDACOTT: These historians and these people that write these stories on Ike seem to make out that he was always enjoying fighting with--even if he couldn't pick a fight with somebody else he'd fight with Edgar--they weren't fighting all the time?

MR. SNIDER: No, Dwight was no trouble maker or didn't like to fight.

MR. ENDACOTT: I don't think so either but all these articles that you read and these books they all--he was a fighter from way back when--and he just loved to fight and he'd pick a fight with Edgar just to fight somebody--I don't think he was that type of a kid.

MR. SNIDER: No, he wasn't.

MR. ENDACOTT: He was just an ordinary full of ginger kid that's about all that--

MR. BARBASH: How about baseball--did you ever play baseball with him, Mr. Snider?

MR. SNIDER: No, see, I was out before.



MR. BARBASH: When they played baseball here, did he play for the high school and the town team or just the high school?

MR. SNIDER: No, high school.

MR. BARBASH: Just the high school? Six MacDonell played for the town team?

MR. SNIDER: He and Herb Sommers.

MR. BARBASH: Do you know--who's the pig farmer out south of--down near Elmo, what's his name--Hop Hoffman?

MR. ENDACOTT: No. What is that guy's name?

MR. SNIDER: Hartman?

MR. BARBASH: Hartman.

MR. ENDACOTT: Old man Hartman.

MR. BARBASH: Old man Hartman claims that he played ball with Ike, do you know if that's true?

MR. SNIDER: I wouldn't know--it would be some pick up team.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, Hartman--if we figure Hartman out he's 10, 12 years older than Ike.

MR. BARBASH: Eight years older to be exact.

MR. ENDACOTT: Is he? You know who I'm thinking of--this Hartman?

MR. SNIDER: Old John.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah.

MR. SNIDER: I know him--he's kind of a windy guy.

MR. ENDACOTT: He claimed he played baseball with Ike, and I don't think he ever did.

MR. BARBASH: See, I was going to interview him and then I started figuring up the dates and I don't think it could be true because he's eight years older than Ike.

MR. SNIDER: Well, if it was, why it was just like me, I played with some pick up teams here--played those fellows out south--teams like that but if the boys would get a pick up game--they asked us to get a team to go play at a picnic one time--and such things as that.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, where did you practice football here--where was your football field?

MR. SNIDER: Let's see--when Ike was playing it was the fair grounds.

MR. ENDACOTT: Out at the old fair grounds or the ones where we are now?

MR. SNIDER: The ones where we are now but before that why we were at the old fair grounds.

MR. BARBASH: Where were the old fair grounds located?

MR. ENDACOTT: That's over where the city dump is now--that used to be the circus grounds and the fair grounds and I don't know how they ever happened to move over here but they bought this ground over here and put the fair grounds over there. I don't know what year--it's been there ever since I can remember.

MR. BARBASH: How about--you practiced and played your games at the fair ground or just practiced?

MR. SNIDER: Well, no, we used to practice over at the Garfield--we didn't have any play ground. That was where the City Auditorium is now and we'd go up there and practice--too far to go out to the fair grounds. This was in 1906.

MR. ENDACOTT: You played your games out there, though?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, I think the best gate we ever had--in the time that I was playing--was 14.10.

MR. BARBASH: You mean they charged admission?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Do you remember what the admission charge was?

MR. SNIDER: A quarter.

MR. BARBASH: A quarter?

MR. ENDACOTT: You didn't get very many customers then if you only got fourteen dollars in.

MR. BARBASH: Where did the money go---what was it used for?

MR. SNIDER: Car fare and expenses and they claim that Ike's athletic association was the first one ever had--we had one when I was in school there--we had everybody--pretty near everybody signed up and we'd have a two bit assessment whenever we'd run out of money, we just made an assessment--but we didn't begin to break even.

MR. ENDACOTT: Gosh, no, you couldn't have--I bet you had more people sneak in than you got paid, though, didn't you?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, they sneaked in on us and come across the creek and come in from the west side--

MR. ENDACOTT: There was no fence around it or anything was there?

MR. SNIDER: Huh?

MR. ENDACOTT: No fence around the ball field?

MR. SNIDER: No.



MR. BARBASH: How about the referees--you say that you refereed yourself--there were no paid referees in this area at that time?

MR. SNIDER: No. Oh, I worked with some paid referees--Chapman had one out there one time. I had to carry a rule book to prove my points to him once in a while.

MR. BARBASH: How about the--I think one of the authors mentioned a baseball game against Kansas State that Ike played in, did you ever remember that? Six was pitching and Ike was playing right field--the story goes that Ike muffed a fly or something and lost the game for Six.

MR. SNIDER: Well, you can prove that very easily by looking at that post card--who that was against--I think it was against Junction City.

MR. BARBASH: Junction City, huh?

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah, it says Junction City right on that card--it wasn't against Kansas State.

MR. SNIDER: Chapman's the only one that I know of that played Kansas State one year--Kansas State beat them pretty bad.

MR. BARBASH: What was that remark that you made on that television show about the coach--was it the Galina coach that asked you who that

young scrappy---

MR. SNIDER: Swede was?

MR. BARBASH: Yeah. Was that after that big Salina game?

MR. SNIDER: No, that was the St. Johns game. Ford was the coaches name, and they got it down as Bond--J. Bond from K.U.

MR. ENDACOTT: I knew J. Bond.

MR. SNIDER: Did you know Tub Reed?

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah.

MR. SNIDER: He coached at Salina while I was coaching at Abilene.

MR. ENDACOTT: He did?

MR. SNIDER: Bond and fellow next year Tub would beat us 6-0--and Bond--we just tore his team to pieces.

MR. BARBASH: What was he asked you about Eisenhower? What was it Ford asked you about Eisenhower?

MR. SNIDER: Well, he said--he wondered who that big Swede was--he said "I sure would like to have him on my team" but--Ralph Lucier give that game away to Tub Reed--he went back--he was playing tackle--he went back



and intercepted a forward pass and a Salina man right there and he just handed it to him --no, he didn't get a touchdown--Bud run him down but it lead up to a touchdown.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did Ralph Lucier play on that team with Ike?

MR. SNIDER: No, I think that was the year before.

MR. ENDACOTT: The year before?

MR. SNIDER: Let's see--yeah.

MR. ENDACOTT: I didn't know that Ralph ever played football.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, called him "clumsy Lucier".

MR. BARBASH: Did they call Ike "big Ike" or "little Ike" then--

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: "Little Ike"?

MR. SNIDER: "Little Ike".

MR. ENDACOTT: Wonder where that name "Ike" ever came from?

MR. SNIDER: I don't know how that ever started.

MR. ENDACOTT: That was stuck on them from the very beginning and nobody seems to be able to tell where that came from.

MR. SNIDER: I don't know--might have started up at the creamery.

MR. ENDACOTT: Could have.

MR. BARBASH: You didn't work at the creamery with him, did you?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: Did you ever go up there and hang around like some of the other guys did?

MR. SNIDER: I did when Ed was there--we used to go down and buy ice cream--buy a gallon and go over in the engine room and eat it.

MR. BARBASH: What kind of work did Ike do there?

MR. SNIDER: Pulled ice. Let's see--one of them did some firing.

MR. ENDACOTT: That was Ike.

MR. SNIDER: Was it?

MR. BARBASH: Yeah, later on he did some.

MR. ENDACOTT: He fired the boilers at nights over there.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah?

MR. BARBASH: He, also, pressed butter, too, according to Mrs. Long.

MR. SNIDER: He might have.

MR. ENDACOTT: That "pulling ice" is hard work isn't it?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yeah, of course, they had those chain hoists to pull them up.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah, but you had to pull on that chain, don't you?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yeah, you got plenty of exercise.

MR. BARBASH: Now about the story I heard recently that he fell in one of those ice buckets one time--did you ever hear about that?

MR. SNIDER: Well, they fixed that trap up for Harry Rumbarger--Oh, Ike did fall in--I think this Ike--Syke that commit suicide here a while back was one that got him out--I wonder what ever became of the old man Chamberlin--he was going to sort the facts from fiction.

MR. ENDACOTT: I didn't know him.

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, he wrote to you from out in California--he borrowed some post card or something--I wrote and asked you for it--to let me have it and we got it and sent it back.

MR. ENDACOTT: Oh, yeah, I don't know what ever happened to that fellow.

MR. SNIDER: I never heard. I--he told me he was going to send me one of his books--he was a pretty old man--might not got it completed.

MR. BARBASH: Let's see--there was a question that I had on the tip of my tongue and I've forgotten it. Do you know any more, Endy?

MR. ENDACOTT: No, I don't think of any.

MR. BARBASH: Do you know Abe Forney?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: We interviewed him sometime ago but mostly about the work at the creamery but he didn't know too much because he was on different shifts. Did you ever see him out in California--did you ever see Abe out in California?

MR. SNIDER: No, I seen him here--a couple times, when he was here.

MR. BARBASH: How good a ball player was Howard Funk?

MR. SNIDER: He was a good football player--I don't think he ever played baseball.

MR. BARBASH: He played end for you, didn't he--Howard Funk?

MR. SNIDER: Tackle--that Russell game that we got beat--

MR. BARBASH: That was overnight trip, wasn't it?



MR. SNIDER: Yeah, he had to play against a negro--in those days you had a field judge and he was supposed to be back 20 yards watching the forward pass--had to go 20 yards and so he kinda--this fellow come a running up and said "you're disqualified, you're disqualified," well he had been working clear out of position or working clear out of position and I'd heard what Funk said, he said, "I got that black Son of a bitches hair right in my mouth" and he was going to throw him out of the game and I hollered " I got him kicked out as an official" I asked what he was doing up here and he was supposed to be back there watching forward passes.

MR. BARBASH: Did they still use the flying wedge in those days?

MR. SNIDER: No, very little. Some teams used it but they got, you know, so you couldn't push with your hands and they couldn't grab a hold and pull.

MR. BARBASH: How about the ball when it was snapped from the center, was it snapped directly to the ball carrier or was it snapped to the quarterback and he handed it off?

MR. SNIDER: No, it had to go to the quarterback who handed it off except on forward passes.

MR. BARBASH: To the quarterback?



MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Was he under the center like the T formation today?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: He was? Huh?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Do you use any men in motion?

MR. SNIDER: No, we couldn't have a man in motion.

MR. BARBASH: You couldn't have a man in motion?--How about the line, could you split your ends?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yes.

MR. BARBASH: Send them out wide?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. That was the time that they got old "Spread Eagle" formation clear across the field--the kids got that one there--went down to see a game at Manhattan, Mike Ahearn had it and came back and told me about it--so we tried it out--we didn't have too much luck with it.

MR. ENDACOTT: That weakens you as much as it does the other fellow when you spread out like that, doesn't it?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, yeah. Oh, if you had a slippery man like D.D. Patterson-- instead of throwing the ball he could slip through those wide spreads.

MR. BARBASH: How about Six MacDonell--was he a good football player-- as good as he was a baseball player?

MR. SNIDER: No, we never had Six carry the ball.

MR. BARBASH: Was he a backfield man too?

MR. SNIDER: He was a quarterback.

MR. BARBASH: A quarterback?

MR. SNIDER: About all he did--pass the ball and kick.

MR. BARBASH: Who was your blocking back or didn't you have one?

MR. SNIDER: Well, they all blocked.

MR. BARBASH: They all blocked?

MR. SNIDER: We didn't spread them out any--they were quarterback and three backfield.

MR. BARBASH: What kind of helmets did you have?

MR. SNIDER: Well, we'd get a woman's stocking and cut it off and tie a knot around that and roll it up and put it over our heads.

MR. BARBASH: How about padding--did you have shoulder pads?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. The farmer boys would bring in the sweat pads from the horses and they would cut that in chunks about that big a square and pass them around and they would sew them in their sweaters for shoulder pads.

MR. BARBASH: How about--did you use hip pads?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: How about thigh pads?

MR. SNIDER: About what?

MR. BARBASH: Thigh pads?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, some of them had rattan strips and some just had quilted--about that thick --about like and--

MR. BARBASH: What kind of material were the pants made of?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, duck and mine--my dad wouldn't buy me any so Frank Parent was coaching then and gave me a pair football pants--mine was that white cotton cloth and a little bit of quilting on it.

MR. BARBASH: How about your--the shoes--did they have football shoes?

MR. SNIDER: Well, we took a pair of kinda worn out dress shoes and we'd nail one cleat that way--well, that's all the cleat we had that there V-shape and we'd do it ourselves.

MR. BARBASH: I can't think of anything else, Endy.

MR. ENDACOTT: I don't think of anything.

MR. BARBASH: Did Ike's folks ever go to the games or didn't they care for that?

MR. SNIDER: They didn't care for that.

MR. BARBASH: They didn't care for it?

MR. SNIDER: You didn't know Chris Forney, did you?

MR. ENDACOTT: No.

MR. SNIDER: He was as big as Elmer only heavier and we played a bunch of old "has beens" one time--Joner was on the team and Art Sherwood and Ben Kessinger, I was playing center and I weighed between 135 and 140 pounds, I was blocking Chris Forney and he weighed about 240 pounds--I was just hitting--the only thing I could do was to hit his right down there and he was pretty well liquored up and my dad had just bought me a new sweater and I thought that would be fine to play football in--I had it on and I don't know what dad ever came

out to the game for, the first game he'd ever seen and he saw that sweater going to pieces and I'd left on my dress shirt and that was going to pieces and when he got to my heavy underwear--he--couldn't-- that was too tough.

MR. ENDACOTT: He couldn't tear that, huh?

MR. SNIDER: He couldn't -- dad told me afterwards, he said, "I had a notion to come out there and take that fellow".

MR. BARBASH: Before we close, Mr. Snider, is there anybody in town that you know that's still alive that you'd suggest we talk to--I know one of the Nicolay's is still in town.

MR. SNIDER: Both Nicolay's are dead.

MR. ENDACOTT: Both Nicolay's are dead.

MR. BARBASH: They both are dead--huh?

MR. ENDACOTT: Young Nicolay--I taught in school. Is Briney dead?

MR. SNIDER: Briney--yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Howard Funk--now-- I talked to him already and Six MacDonnell is in Topeka.



-Page Forty Eight-

MR. SNIDER: I was trying to think.

MR. BARBASH: Who's this fellow here in--not Schneider--is there a Schneider in town that played with Ike?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: No?

MR. SNIDER: Let's see--there's Bob Snider besides me, but he didn't play with Ike--I was just trying to think who's on that picture, that's what I could go by--one fellow is in down in Texas.

MR. BARBASH: There's one fellow in Topeka, too, besides Six.

MR. SNIDER: Is there?

MR. BARBASH: Yeah, he's a--he was an executive for a Utilities Company.

MR. SNIDER: Oh, Dean Akers.

MR. BARBASH: Yeah.

MR. ENDACOTT: Did he play with Ike too?

MR. SNIDER: Well, he wasn't on that team.

MR. BARBASH: Howard says that he was--he showed me the picture.

MR. SNIDER: Did he have a picture of the teas?

MR. BARBASH: Yeah.

MR. SNIDER: Dean played an end when he played and Ike--well, he might have been because Nicolay was on one end.

MR. ENDACOTT: Was that Wilbur or---

MR. SNIDER: No, Carl.

MR. ENDACOTT: Carl?

MR. BARBASH: Isn't there a Nicolay still alive who double-dated with Ike--isn't that Nicolay still alive here in town?

MR. SNIDER: They're both dead--Carl and Wilbur.

MR. ENDACOTT: There was just three of those boys and I had the youngest one in school.

MR. BARBASH: Who was that?

MR. SNIDER: Don.

MR. ENDACOTT: Don.

MR. BARBASH: Don--he's still here.

MR. ENDACOTT: Yeah.

MR. SNIDER: Well, if I had that picture, but then Howard would know, too, that picture I had, you know, Jones give it to Ward and it disappeared.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, I think we have a picture of that somewhere around here--Scotty, don't we have the football team that Ike played on?

MR. SNIDER: Well, then, it is here.

MR. BARBASH: He's got it down stairs.

MR. SNIDER: I thought it got lost.

MR. ENDACOTT: I found it in a bunch of stuff over there--he threw it in a pile of stuff and I found it--I think I turned it over to Scotty-- Scotty is the photographer for--he has charge of all the cameras, pictures and stuff and I think he--I think we've got that picture but I don't know of anybody else around Abilene that chummed with those guys--this Jolly--he's dead, isn't he?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah.

MR. BARBASH: Red Asper's still here but Red didn't play ball with him-- Red quit school--he didn't go to high school-- he quit after the 8th grade and went to work.

MR. ENDACOTT: Well, I don't know anybody that's still left around here.

MR. SNIDER: Sommers, the last I heard of him , he was in Wichita.

MR. BARBASH: Herb Sommers?

MR. SNIDER: Herb Sommers--but I don't know what's become of him--he--  
wouldn't have any more luck talking to him than I have--I know the  
few times I saw him in Abilene he just wanted to keep pulling away from  
me--that's others I talked to said he's that way.

MR. ENDACOTT: What does he do?

MR. SNIDER: He was running the taxicab down there the last I heard--  
he was a KU law student graduate.

MR. ENDACOTT: I didn't know him.

MR. SNIDER: He caught here for Abilene and he caught in the Central  
Kansas League out at Ellsworth and he went to--I think Cleveland or  
New York and tried out but he didn't last.

MR. ENDACOTT: He went and tried with the majors, huh?

MR. SNIDER: Uh-huh, under John McGraw, I believe.

MR. BARBASH: Six never got a major league tryout, did he?

MR. SNIDER: No, not that I ever knew of.

MR. ENDACOTT: He was--Six was a good player, baseball.

MR. SNIDER: Good pitcher.

MR. BARBASH: Red Asper told me that Six pitched his arm out by the time he got old enough to be in the majors, is this true?

MR. ENDACOTT: He pitched every day.

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