

DV 07-26-07 Interview with William Wright

William is a Korean War veteran. He is very soft spoken and has wild crazy hair. He agreed to be interviewed and it takes place in the kitchen of his home. He paid more attention to the TV that was on in the living room than he did me to me or the interview in the beginning of it. After a few questions he began to get more interested in the questions. I tried to be as direct and as clear as I could be in asking the questions but still to me many of his answers didn't sound logical or were very brief even in using the probes. Through talking to him I sense that he may possibly be in the earliest stage of some sort of elderly dementia.

DeAngela Venable: What is it like to be retired/veteran in Lakeview?

William Wright: Real quite, I don't associate much with people in town.

DV: How long have you lived at your current residents?

WW: About 5 years.

DV: What is your past or current occupation?

WW: Construction.

DV: Do you get any support from friends or family here in Lakeview?

WW: No.

DV: Do you give support to other people? (In what way?)

WW: Oh a little sure (like what) o doing favors helping people my neighbors were old and I kept their garden up and mowed their lawn for them.

DV: What kinds of disability or public assistance do you receive?

WW: None.

DV: Are there any challenges you face in being a retired/veteran in Lakeview?

WW: NO not really.

DV: What is one of your favorite foods? How often do you eat it?

WW: I'm not very picky, pretty much anything.

DV: What is your least favorite food?

WW: I don't know some of the fruits I don't like, like watermelon and stuff.

DV: What did you eat for your evening meal yesterday?

WW: I don't think we ate much, we sip a lot of meals.

DV: Thinking of the food system more broadly, what are three things that you appreciate about the food system in your community?

WW: Well you don't know where it comes from to began with so you don't know just like the dog food that was poisoned and things like that I was worried about what I was going to give my dog much less what I eat just because it's on the shelf in Lakeview doesn't mean it could come from China. (So there's nothing you like about the food system here?) No.

DV: What are three things that you don't like so much about the food system in your community?

WW: Well I don't shop you know Jan does most the shopping so I just pretty much eat what she brings home

DV: How does your household get their food? (Probe: Where do they buy it? Grow it? Hunt, fish or forage for it?)

WW: We shop for it but I see labels in the stores that are still on the shelf even though they are expired I don't think that's too good.

DV: Do you or your family face any challenges in getting the food that you want to eat? Can you explain those challenges?

WW: No.

DV: What is the history of your or your family's involvement with food in the past? (Probe: Consider producing and selling food as well as eating and getting it.)

WW: Well we were tomato framers in northern California strictly tomatoes mostly and prunes we had to plant, pick , and irate them we used no strays on them at all we were probably the only ones at our time who didn't we were the only organic farmers around and we didn't even know it. Corporations we straying at that time but we didn't.

DV: Are there some stories connected with food in your family—past and present? (Probe: producing and selling food as well as eating and getting it.)

WW: Just raising tomatoes until we couldn't make a living off of it very well.

DV: Are there special family recipes that you and your family enjoy? Could you briefly describe them?

WW: Not really.

DV: Do any of the groups you belong to eat together? ... Do they offer meals to others (like church, work, groups, Rotary, Lions, bowling leagues...)?

WW: No I'm not a joiner I don't, I don't.

DV: How do you think that farmers and ranchers are faring in the community? Do you have any stories or experiences to illustrate this?

WW: O I think they get money from the tax payers and the government they always crying about money their all driving new trucks though

DV: What do you know about how low-income/disabled/elderly people get food in your community? Do you have any stories or experiences to illustrate this?

WW: The churches help a lot, and they the senior center I don't know how good the food is I think they probably short them and they don't give them it's all money.

DV: Do you know where the food comes from that is eaten in this community? (How far does it come?)

WW: O it's shipped in from all over Klamath Falls and Medford, all over.

DV: Do you eat any local food (including meat)?... How would you get more local food (grown or processed here)?... How do you think the community could make more local food (for people's own eating or for sale within or outside the community)?

WW: Gardens and people putting in smalls gardens it want last you all year but it will help.

DV: Are there ways that you would like to see the food system changed in your community?

WW: Yea a farmers market would be one big way.

DV: You heard or read about how people are changing their food systems in one way or another in other places?... Does that hold any interest for you?

WW: No just the poor people I seem them shopping at the dollar store for a can of beans they have no choice they can't afford to but the best.

DV: Are there other things about the food system in your community that you think are important for us to know?

WW: Well we only got two stores so we don't got much of a choice you go to one or the other I'd say the prices are pretty much the same.

DV: What is your view of what your community will be like in twenty years?

WW: O it will grow and get bigger with the computers and stuff and all that coming in people well be able to move out and work out of their homes so it well grow.