



Interviewee: **Dave Lucas**

Interviewee Number: **37**

Interviewers: **Athena Aardweg, Judy Barricella**  
**& Tony Buba**

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Dave Lucas

Interviewer: Hi, Dave. Dave, what we are going to start doing is start by giving us your name, where you are from, where you grew up, and a little bit about your family.

Dave: My name is Dave Lucas, David A. Lucas. I live in Pittsburgh on 6360 Marfield Avenue in Squirrel Hill, but I'm originally from Clairton. I lived with my mother until she died. Then, I moved to Pittsburgh and got married. My wife, shortly after birth, she contracted spinal meningitis and it just progressed, and now she can't walk so she is bedridden. We do have a caregiver coming in 9:00 to 1:00, but then I take over and it gets kind of rough, you know, for me to take over. I spend four or five hours here and then I go home and do all the cooking and the cleaning, laundry, and all the rest of the activities. It gets kind of rough but I survive, I do it.

Interviewer: Do you have any kids?

Dave: Yeah, I've got a daughter Julie Lucas. She's 24 right now, I think. She's going to get married next year, hopefully. Her and her boyfriend are in Florida right now. They're coming back today. Well, she did work in West Virginia, but she has another job and she works in Uniontown.

Interviewer: How often do you see her?

Dave: Not too often. About once or twice a month.

Interviewer: So your wife is at home in bed, but her mind is okay?

Dave: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. So what does she do all day?

Dave: Just lay there.

Interviewer: Watch TV?

Dave: Yeah.

Interviewer: Read a book?

Dave: Well, I told her, I asked her to read books. She said she likes to read books. But we have a thousand books at home and, when I give her one, she just looks through it and puts it down.

Interviewer: Does she ever get a chance to get up in a wheelchair? Can she do that?

Dave: Oh, yeah. When our caregiver comes, we have a lift where they lift her up and they put her in a wheelchair. We got her an electric wheelchair but she seldom does it herself. She lets the caregiver do it or lets me do it.

Interviewer: So, then at night you have to put her back in the bed?

Dave: No, no, no. Before the caregiver leaves, she puts her back in bed.

Interviewer: Oh, so she's just up between 9:00 and 1:00?

Dave: Yeah.

Interviewer: I see. I see. Where does the caregiver come from?

Dave: Arcadia. That's in Monroeville.

Interviewer: Is that paid for by who, the state?

Dave: Yeah. I think.

Interviewer: So you work here at Life Span?

Dave: Yes. Well, see I'm working with the Urban League, too.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dave: The Urban League is trying to find me a job, but the Urban League wanted me to stay here and I told them I'd like to stay here. I like to do what I'm doing. I'm doing the filing, you know, and I said I like that, so he just said stay here.

Interviewer: What do you do here?

Dave: Filing.

Interviewer: Filing?

Dave: Yeah. Work in the clerical department with Wanda.

Interviewer: And they can't hire you?

Dave: Well, you see, they gave me a paper to fill out about what my likes and dislikes are. And I told them I like to do filing. But on the bottom, I put one of the main objects is acceptance. Because I figured I knew if I got hired, I'd be working with people with no

handicaps and, you know, some people look down on the handicapped and I knew about it.

Interviewer: We all go through it. How old are you Dave?

Dave: Sixty-one.

Interviewer: So you have some disability?

Dave: Well, let me start way back when. Okay, in 1955 my cousin and I were playing a stupid game of "tag you're it" going back to school after lunch. Okay, the school was on the other side of the street. The street cut in front of it, okay Now the street's a hill. Now, he stopped before you cross and, a dummy like me, I kept running. In the middle of the street, I fell, and by the time I got up, a car came up the hill, hit me and I flew 10 feet in the air, come down, hit my head on a curb and I went to the hospital. I had a skull fracture, brain concussion, partially paralyzed on the right side of my body. I spent three years in the hospital.

Interviewer: Three years?!

Dave: Three years. Yeah, you know where the Children's Institute is now? Well, it was called the Home for Crippled Children then and that's where I spent my three years.

Interviewer: How old were you when this happened?

Dave: Eight.

Interviewer: Okay, so you were there for therapy or medical treatment?

Dave: Well, little bit of both.

Interviewer: Yeah. Okay. So, you went to the Home for Crippled Children, and you were there for three years and you went to school there then, right?

Dave: Yeah. Actually, before I got hit, I was in the first, second, third grade and then I got hit and I spent first, second, and third all over again in the hospital. And I came back and spent third and fourth at home and went to another school, and I graduated. I went to fourth, fifth, and sixth and then graduated.

Interviewer: And so you were walking like you are today?

Dave: When?

Interviewer: When you came home from the Home for Crippled Children.

Dave: Yes.

Interviewer: You were able to walk and you were able to go back to school.

Dave: Well, the doctor said in the hospital I wouldn't be able to do anything again. I wouldn't be able to walk, talk, drive a car. I'm driving a car. I got married. I'm walking. I can't run a marathon!

Interviewer: No, neither can I. Doctors are amazing, huh? To say you'd never do it and here you are.

Dave: When the doctor did my brain surgery, he said when he opened up my skull to relieve the pressure on my brain, he said it looked like somebody took a meat cleaver and went through my brain.

Interviewer: Wow!

Dave: It was Dr. Koskauff. He was from Germany. He was way ahead of his time. And he did my brain surgery and, I think, when he did the brain surgery, the right eye he pulled over, I think, and there's something in there a vein or an artery or something, pulled it over. But I went to an eye specialist to see what I could do about it. See if they could get it back in the right place and he said, "Well, we could do it but you will have a 50/50 chance of having double vision." And then I'd had to go back and tell him to put it back and that would be a waste of money. So, I figured I would keep it this way. Because I've had it this way for over 30 years before I decided to try it, and I'm 61 now.

Interviewer: So you went to regular school?

Dave: Yes.

Interviewer: And you graduated from high school?

Dave: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Where did you go to school?

Dave: Well, my home town was Clairton and I graduated from Clairton High School. But there were kids there that made fun of me and all that stuff. I put it out of my mind but some kids got under my skin.

Interviewer: And what would happen?

Dave: We'd settle our differences. Well, this one time, we were gonna fight and I slipped on the floor and I fell and that was it. He thought he got me, you know.

Interviewer: Yeah. Right, right, right.

Dave: But everything was okay after that. When I was in high school, I knew I couldn't be on a football team, so I spent three years as a coach. Not a coach, a **(TRACK 2)** football manager, equipment manager, take all the equipment to the games. I spent three years doing that. My last year in high school, I was on a varsity club.

Interviewer: What is that? I don't know what that is.

Dave: It's a whole bunch of guys on the football team and they get together and they talk and they raise money for the football team. They sell candy and stuff like that.

Interviewer: So when did you graduate? What year did you graduate?

Dave: 1967.

Interviewer: Okay. And then what did you do when you finished high school?

Dave: Well, I went to the Rehabilitation Center in Johnstown and I spent six months there in shipping and receiving. And when I graduated from there, they were supposed to find me a job but evidently not. So, I went to the employment office to look for different jobs. And I found one job in a warehouse where I was taking care of six dogs. Six Doberman Pinschers, big ones. And the guy said whatever you do don't let the dogs run out of the warehouse. So one day one of the dogs ran out of the warehouse and I went running after it. About killed myself running.

Interviewer: So, did Voc Rehab help you at all to find a job?

Dave: You mean in Johnstown?

Interviewer: When you came back from Johnstown, you went back to Clairton?

Dave: Yes.

Interviewer: Yes. I mean in Clairton?

Dave: Well, nothing had actually happened until I got married and moved to Pittsburgh. And then I went through the VRC and they helped me. Wait, let's back up a little bit. They helped me, they found me a job. I worked at Giant Eagle for 13 years.

Interviewer: What did you do there?

Dave: I was a bagger for 13 years. Bagger and stock work. That was the one on Centre Avenue, the one that went out of business. Either Pitt or UPMC wanted that property so they gave him an offer he couldn't refuse and he said "bye guys." And he said before he goes he wanted his people to find jobs.

Interviewer: And that didn't happen?

Dave: No, it didn't. Not to me anyway.

Interviewer: So, he was one of those private owners of the Giant Eagle. It wasn't a corporate Giant Eagle?

Dave: Yeah, he was a private owner.

Background Voice: I remember where that store was. It was right up by UPC, on the corner.

Interviewer: Well, it's still there.

Background Voice: No, it's not a Giant Eagle now.

Background Voice 2: The new Market District is just down further on Centre.

Interviewer: You mean the Giant Eagle up towards Negley is not there anymore?

Dave: No, this was on Craig and Centre.

Interviewer: Yeah, that's the one I mean.

Dave: It's still there but it's all boarded up.

Interviewer: Really?

Dave: Yeah, I don't know when they're going to tear it down. Maybe in the next 20 years.

Interviewer: So that's where you worked?

Dave: Mmmhmm. For 13 years.

Interviewer: And when did that close then? When did you stop working there?

Dave: In June of... 2000 or 2001, something like that.

Interviewer: So, you've been looking for work since then or did you get another job after that?

Dave: Well, I went back to the VRC to go back and work with them and he told me about the Urban League and I went and they found a job here but the job here was working in the kitchen and Patty saw that I had trouble with my right arm, so she suggested computers. So, I went there and the girl here was teaching me computers but she had her own work to do. She couldn't spend that much time with me. So, they had a girl named Eleanor and she was working downstairs in clerical. and she came up and saw me and said they could use me downstairs so I've been here ever since.

Interviewer: But you don't get paid?

Dave: Yes, I do.

Interviewer: Oh, you get paid?

Dave: Oh, yeah.

Interviewer: Well, good.

Dave: I'm not a volunteer.

Interviewer: So, this is a job for you?

Dave: Yes. I get paid by the Urban League.

Interviewer: Oh, you get paid by the Urban League. Okay.

Dave: Minimum wage.

Interviewer: Right, right. And then, ultimately, you get paid by the county. The county probably gives them the money. So, when you first had this automobile accident and when you came home, your right arm was always like that then?

Dave: I could use it more then, but now it's getting progressively, it's so spastic.

Interviewer: Were you always left handed?

Dave: No.

Interviewer: You had to learn to write with your left hand.

Dave: Yeah, definitely. Yes.

Interviewer: What's been the hardest struggle for you?

Dave: Well, I try not to let things bother me but when you work with people with non-handicaps, let's put it that way. Because I worked at Giant Eagle for 13 years, you know. When a blind person came in, I took care of them. In fact, the blind people even asked for me because they knew I'd take them around. I spent time with them, I'd get them what they want, and I didn't rush them like everybody else does.

Interviewer: So, the struggle is other people's attitudes or what? The hardest thing, what's the hardest thing for you in life? What big obstacles have you had to face?

Dave: Being faster. Like I said, when I want to use my right arm, I have to put it up here to hold things. And downstairs, there's file cabinets. They're four tall, four high and trying to get my right hand up there. I have to throw my arm up there to get it up there. But that's really not a struggle. I've just learned to do it, that's all. And I don't worry about it. But like I said, the biggest thing is being accepted into a place.

Interviewer: Why do you think people don't accept you? You're just a guy.

Dave: Yeah, but I'm different from other people. I walk funny, I walk with a limp, I drag my foot. I can't use both arms. And just like my eyes, I can't see out of both eyes at the same time. See, when I'm looking at you out of my left eye closed, I can see him.

Interviewer: Yeah. I don't know you could keep your eyes on lots!

Dave: Yeah, both you guys! But that doesn't prevent me from driving a car.

Interviewer: Yeah. Right. Do the glasses help that eye?

Dave: The fine print, forget it, I can't see without glasses. They're like magnifiers; I've got to have them to read.

Interviewer: So, you supported your family on working at Giant Eagle?

Dave: Well, my wife gets money from the state because she is disabled, too.

Interviewer: So when you guys were first married, was she working?

Dave: No. **(TRACK 3)** See she, like I said, shortly after birth, she contracted spinal meningitis and then just progressed.

Interviewer: So, did she use a wheelchair or did she walk?

Dave: No, she was walking.

Interviewer: She was walking?

Dave: Yeah. It just progressed to a point to where she can't walk anymore.

Interviewer: What are you most proud of in your life?

Dave: Being alive. And doing what I can do. I have to say I try my best in everything I do, but my best isn't good enough for some people.

Interviewer: Well, then you don't need them. It's true.

Dave: Well, when I started working here, my handicap really didn't affect me until I got here. I want to be faster, filing faster and doing everything a little faster. My handicap really didn't affect me until I reached my 60s then it really affected me with my arm getting so spastic.

Interviewer: So you were able to use your arm more, like when you were bagging, you were able to use both arms?

Dave: No.

Interviewer: Oh, no?

Dave: I like just like rest my arm on a back stand and then grabbed things. The people were amazed I could do what I can do with one arm. In fact, I had one person tell me "You do better bagging than people with two hands. And you're faster than people with two hands."

Interviewer: Well, when you came here and you say you want to be faster, did somebody tell you to be faster?

Dave: Oh, no, no, no.

Interviewer: That's the pressure you put on yourself.

Dave: It's me. No one tells me to be faster. It's me. Just me.

Interviewer: Who's had the biggest influence in your life?

Dave: Well, would you believe I used to watch studio wrestling and they had the big muscles, you know, and they had an influence on me? So, I just said if they can do it, I

can do it. So, I got myself a set of weights and started lifting weights and built my body up.

Interviewer: Good.

Dave: And when I was at Giant Eagle, I weighed 175 pounds. Now I weigh 150.

Interviewer: Wow.

Dave: Yeah, I bulked up like crazy.

Interviewer: And then you stopped doing it?

Dave: Yeah, because I hurt myself right here, right in the chest.

Interviewer: So, are you healthy?

Dave: Yeah. Okay, because I had this skull fracture, brain concussion, I'm fighting epilepsy, which I have, but I'm taking medication and I haven't had a seizure in 20-30 years now. And I'm also fighting cholesterol and high blood pressure and I'm taking pills for that, too.

Interviewer: You know that's a lot of people. Not because you have some disability. So you've been taking epilepsy medication for 30 years.

Dave: Yeah, you might as well say. Well, see, I didn't know that I had it until I started to run with this kid that was on the bad side. And I started drinking and I wound up in the hospital and I said no, I don't want to do that no more. So, I stopped drinking, and here I am.

Interviewer: That was a long time ago?

Dave: Oh yeah. A long time ago.

Interviewer: So you were sowing your wild oats for awhile?

Dave: You could say that.

Background Voice: Well, he is from Clairton!

Interviewer: Is your mother still alive?

Dave: No, my mother's dead. My mother-in-law's dead too. And my father-in-law's dead. My father-in-law was a body man. He had his own private body shop and I

worked there for maybe a month, and he thought it would be too hard for me, and so did I, really. That's where I met my wife Suzanne.

Interviewer: You met her at the body shop?

Dave; Well, not really. I met her at Open Doors for the Handicapped. They had one at the Hyatt House in Pittsburgh, and that's where I met her. And she was with another guy and I wanted her. And he wanted to come fight me so I said, "Come on let's go!" And he had a cast on, too! I said, "Come on let's go outside." So, my old employer I used to work for, she stopped it and that was it.

Interviewer: That was it.

Dave: So I got her.

Interviewer: Stole her heart. And so where was she from?

Dave: She was from Pittsburgh.

Interviewer: And you were in Clairton?

Dave: Yeah.

Interviewer: So you had to go back and forth.

Dave: Yeah, for awhile.

Interviewer: Do you live in a house or an apartment?

Dave: It was one big house at one time until I got the wise idea to cut it down and put it into three apartments. We've got first, second and third floors. But see we had people living on the third floor but the city came around and said you can't do that. You can only do that if you have a fire escape there. And, when my mother-in-law was living, she gave the house to my cousin as a – I can't think of it.

Interviewer: That's alright.

Dave: Anyways, they take care of it. See, when she died, she put a trust fund for the house and we can stay there as long as we take care of the house and they pay the bills.

Interviewer: So you still have two apartments?

Dave: Yeah, we have the first and second floor.

Interviewer: You have it?

Dave: Not me. It's not in my name. It's in my cousin's name. So when we had the people on the third floor, the city came around and said you can't do that. You've got to have a fire escape.

Interviewer: Right.

Dave: So he doesn't want to put a fire escape in because it will cost him a whole bunch of money, so he wants to sell the house. But first, he wants to find us a place to live. So he put an application in down there at the Shady Apartments on Shady Avenue, right across from Taylor Allderdice. So, we're just waiting to hear from them, but you have to be 62 to get in there. I'm only 61. See my birthday is in September.

Interviewer: So you'll be 62?

Dave: I'll be 62, yeah.

Interviewer: But they have wheelchair accessible apartments in there. That's really what you should be going for right?

Dave: Right. I heard the handicapped have top priority when it comes to the people like that. Is that true?

Interviewer: In some ways, yeah. You get first priority on all the handicapped apartments. If they can't find somebody with a disability to fill the apartments, then they'll go to the next person that doesn't need that accessibility. But, so do you want to move?

Dave: Not really. But, see, my cousin wants to sell the place. So we've got to move.

**(TRACK 4)**

Interviewer: So you have two floors of a house now?

Dave: First and second, yeah.

Interviewer: And you're going to go to an apartment. That's going to be much smaller.

Dave: Yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah. You prepared for that?

Dave: Not really.

Interviewer: What's your wife say?

Dave: Well, she doesn't say much of anything. She keeps quiet. Whatever happens, happens, you know. And if it doesn't, it doesn't.

Interviewer: Yeah. Yeah. So does your wife get a disability check or anything?

Dave: Yes.

Interviewer: Does she get SSI?

Dave: I think so, yeah.

Interviewer: And you get a paycheck?

Dave: Oh, yeah, plus I'm on disability.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dave: You can get disability and work, too, you know. They send me once a month a disability workmen's work with disabilities, and I've got to pay them some money, too.

Interviewer: So are you looking for another job, or you like it?

Dave: I like it here.

Interviewer: And you made me think that it's going to end.

Dave: I hope not, let's put it that way. But nothing's forever, you know. I hope not; that I can stay here. I like it here. I like the people here and they like me. I like the work I'm doing.

Interviewer: Well, then you're probably safe.

Dave: Well, it all depends on what the Urban League says.

Interviewer: Well, they might say no? I'm sort of confused about that.

Dave: Yeah, me too. You're not the only one you know. Well, I told the head of the Urban League, I guess his name's Rodney, Rodney Brown. Well he actually came in here to interview me and talk to me and I told him I'd like to stay here. I like doing my work here. I like the people and they accept me for what I am and I'd like to stay here.

And he must have pulled some strings or something cause here I am. I'm staying here, for now, I hope.

Interviewer: Well, good, good. Well, Patty likes you so much. I don't think she wants to let you go. That's for sure. Where's her office? Is it up here?

Dave: Yeah. Out the hallway, you walk down there, there's a hallway there, go down the hallway, and it's the first door on your right.

Interviewer: You'll have to introduce her to me when we leave. Because I talk to her on the phone and I didn't get back to her right away when she called me the first time, and she called me back. What's going on?

Dave: I know, when Patty told me about this and then she called you and it took so long, I said is this for real.

Interviewer: You guys have any questions?

Background Voice: I was just thinking, a typical parent's perspective, you said, "I don't see my daughter too often, once or two times a month." Your daughter probably says, "Yeah, I see my parents all the time. I see them two times a month." That's how my mother talks about me and I see her everyday. They're two different perspectives.

Interviewer: What kind of work does your daughter do?

Dave: She's in real estate. Like I said, her and her boyfriend went to Florida and they're coming back today. They went for vacation. Oh, they go everywhere. They went on a camping trip this past weekend, about two weeks ago, and then they all went to Florida.

Interviewer: Well, did you ever say to her, "When are you taking me to Florida?"

Dave: Yeah, but I . . .

Interviewer: You can't leave.

Dave: I'd like to but who would take care of my wife?

Interviewer: Could your wife get more hours of somebody coming in? Like those four hours a day, could she get eight, six?

Dave: Well, see when the Urban League said I could work five hours, my caregiver got an extra hour. So, she doesn't leave now until about 3:00.

Interviewer: So, they're there when you're not? Like your wife is never left alone?

Dave: Right. Definitely.

Interviewer: Okay. I got that.

Dave: The cousin who owns the house, is that who you were playing tag with?

Interviewer: No. This gal is when we were younger, this kid I think, was from Italy. Let's back up. It was my cousin we were playing tag with, you know tag you're "it" and go running down the street and I got hit and he stopped but me being a dummy, I kept on running and fell in the middle of the street. By the time I got up, a car hit me. I flew 10 feet in the air. I hit my head on a curb. You know, I could have died then. Like I said, the doctor was ahead of his time. I went to McKeesport Hospital first and they couldn't do anything with me, so they sent me up to Pittsburgh to Montefiore Hospital. That's where he was located. And then they were going to send me to D.T. Watson Home, but found I was doing so good that they sent me to the Home and that's where I spent my three years. And going back to Giant Eagle, when I was at Giant Eagle. they said I fell down steps but I didn't. I could have killed myself then. I just blacked out and refractured my skull and they sent me to Presbyterian Hospital and the doctor said, instead of making a new scar on this side of my head, he put the scar over the scar. And so I called them, a girl at Workmen's Comp and I said, "You know I heard you can get some money for your scars on your face." And she said yeah but, if you had a scar on this side of your head, you could have got money. But since the doctor did you a favor and put the scar over top the old scar she said now I can't get anything.

Interviewer: Huh. That's weird.

Dave: When I was at Presbyterian, when I refractured my skull and the doctor put it back together again, they sent me to the Collins Nursing Home, but I was only there for rehabilitation. I was there for like three months.

Interviewer: What was that like?

Dave: It was alright for me, I didn't mind it. At least I got fed three meals a day.

Interviewer: How long ago was that?

Dave: 2003. When I blacked out and refractured my skull. See, we had a pair of cement steps going downstairs to the basement where my lockers were. They said I fell down the steps and I said, "No, no. I can't do that I'd kill myself." So, the right thing that happened was I blacked out when I was going back up the steps, and I fell and refractured my skull. And I dislocated my shoulder. Dislocated my left shoulder, and they said I couldn't use it. When I went to rehab, they had them nurse's aides that feed me, and when they give me food and I was feeding myself and was letting my fingers walk like with the yellow pages. It hurt, but I did it myself.

Interviewer: Didn't they put your shoulder back in place?

Dave: He put a titanium piece of metal wrapped around my shoulder, and he said I have a big scar on my shoulder.

Interviewer: That's painful?

Dave: Well, not really. I had pain killers to take for it. It didn't bother me.

Interviewer: So, like if you went through the security machine, would you make it beep?

Dave: Probably would, yeah. Cause I've got titanium here and I've got titanium here. See, when I fractured my skull with my first fracture, I had a big dent in my forehead. **(TRACK 5)** So he put titanium, it's like a fence or something, it's a wire mesh he put in here to fill in that hole.

Interviewer: Yeah. There's no dent. I don't see a dent. Well, they've learned more things over the years, so they could do that. But you were a kid, and you were still growing when that first happened.

Dave: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: So where did you get married? Did you get married at church, a justice of the peace...?

Dave: Oh, yeah definitely. We got married in Clairton.

Interviewer: So how many years you been married now?

Dave: About 30.

Interviewer: Wow! Did I ask you guys if there were any other questions?

Background voices: Yeah.

Interviewer: Is there anything you want to say that we haven't asked you about?

Dave: When I graduated from high school, I heard about this place in Johnstown. And I went to Johnstown for six months, shipping and receiving. I graduated from Johnstown. I thought they were going to give me a job, too. So I had to find my own job. That's when I told you I found the job in a warehouse in McKeesport. working in the warehouse I had to take care of six dogs. Yeah, and that was a hassle.

Interviewer: Six dogs at the warehouse?

Dave: Right.

Interviewer: Were they supposed to be protection?

Dave: MmmHmm. A big dog and, when he stood up, he was about seven foot tall.

Interviewer: Oh, man! Did they like you?

Dave: Well.....They better cause I fed them. Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

Interviewer: How come you left that job?

Dave: Well, I didn't leave it, he let me go. He thought it was too hard for me because I had to be fast. And at that time, I wasn't fast enough for him. It was like putting these little soap dishes in a box for vending machines. You know you put in a quarter and get soap powder. He thought it was too hard for me. I stayed there for about a month or two and said goodbye. So, I was back in the unemployment office looking again.

Interviewer: Did you find the job at Giant Eagle on your own?

Dave: No. The person at the VRC found a job for me at Giant Eagle. And, when I first went there, the boss looked at me with one of those looks like, "I have to hire him?" So, I stayed for 13 years.

Interviewer: And, you'd probably still be there if they didn't go out of business.

Dave: Probably, yeah. Like I said they got an offer from Pitt or UPMC they couldn't refuse, and goodbye. Oh, he owns another Giant Eagle in Lawrenceville. I could have went there, but 13 years at Giant Eagle, being on my feet for 13 years, was enough. So, I told them at the Urban League that I didn't want to go back to Giant Eagle. I'd been doing the same thing for years and years. My knees and the backs of my legs hurt so bad when I stand there. This co-boss, he knew when I was hurting. He'd come in and say, "You're hurting aren't you?" And I'd say, "yeah!" I could do that but it hurt like hell.

Interviewer: So, here the filing is not a lot, it seems like that would be a lot of standing too?

Dave: Oh, no, no, no. See, what I do is this girl puts closed files into a drawer. They close them in 07/08. I open the file drawer and get a handful of files out and I put them on my desk, and then I go to the drawer that has active files. I pull the active files out. I go back to my desk, I sit down, and I pull the names off, and write on them "closed" and

I put the date on them “closed”, and I restack them again. And when I get done with them, I go get the closed files, I’ve got to put the files in a closed file, and that’s about it.

Interviewer: Don’t they have things computerized around here? Don’t they have files on computers?

Dave: I guess, I don’t know. I have no idea.

Interviewer: Okay. Well, I think you’ve given us a fabulous story and I don’t think you should put yourself down so much. You’re a great guy, and you’re doing good work.

Dave: Like I say, I try. I try my best with everything I do.

Interviewer: Yeah. You drive down here everyday? Do they have parking for you?

Dave: Oh, yeah. Got to pay for it, of course.

Interviewer: Oh, do you?

Dave; Oh yeah. Thirty buck a day.

Interviewer: A day?!

Dave: Whoa, back up! (laughter)

Background Voice: A month?

Dave: Yeah, a month. Going into the park in the garage, they’re up on top of the hill. and I ask this one guy that works for us, he’s the janitor. I used to put quarters in the machine. I’d spend \$6 or \$7 a day, and I said that’s a little too much. So, he told me about getting a parking permit. I went there and filled out a parking permit. I got it and now it’s \$30 a month. It’s better then putting quarters in.

Interviewer: But I’m parked out here for free. There’s a handicapped parking space out here. There was no meter, nothing. It had a blue line.

Background Voice: It’s supposed to be a loading zone.

Interviewer: It has a handicap sign. Does it say loading?

Background Voice: No, I asked if you could park right there, and they said they usually use it for loading of patients.

Interviewer: Oh. Loading for people who come in. Well, we can only hope that my car is still out there when I go out. I appreciate your time today and thank you so much.

Dave: No problem.

Background Voice 2: We'll be in touch.