

Interviewer Tips

Stories, histories, wisdom and knowledge have all been passed on orally throughout most of human existence; thus, both interviewer and interviewee should take pride and enjoyment in honoring this ancient tradition.

Allow ample time for the interview; once memories get flowing it is easy to spend several hours reminiscing. Where possible, interviews should be conducted in the actual location pertinent to the interviewee's memoirs. Interviewers should take necessary steps to provide for their and their subjects comfort (a comfortable chair, a cup of water, etc.), as well as removing - wherever possible - extraneous distractions.

Be sure to test the recording device, volume settings and battery life before beginning. Take notes during the interview; this allows you to readdress topics without interrupting the interviewee's current train of thought. Have a camera with you so you can photograph related items referred to during the interview. It is a good idea to type a transcript shortly after the interview - while it is fresh on your mind. Ask the interviewee for a follow-up interview if time gets cut short or if more material comes to light.

Questions

(but don't limit yourself to just these)

- __ When were you born?
- __ Where were you born and where did you grow up?
- __ What is your earliest memory?
- __ What do you remember most fondly about your childhood?
- __ What do you remember about school: (and why?)
 - __ primary school
 - __ high school
 - __ favorite subjects
 - __ teachers
 - __ clubs/sports
- __ What do you know of your family history?
- __ How much importance have these played in you life:
 - __ family
 - __ friends
 - __ education
 - __ religion
 - __ community
- __ Why did you move to Canal Fulton?
- __ What is your favorite part about living here?
 - __ least favorite
- __ What is the most memorable event that has happened since you've lived here?
- __ What to you is the most fascinating part of Canal Fulton's history?
- __ What stories do you know about the canal?
- __ What stories do you know regarding Canal Fulton's:
 - __ people
 - __ buildings
 - __ businesses
- __ What memorable pranks or stories can you recall?
- __ What jobs have you held in your lifetime?
 - __ What did you most like about them?
- __ Name your favorite vacation?
- __ What is your biggest regret in life?
- __ Name the biggest changes you've seen through the years:
 - __ society
 - __ technology
- __ What words of wisdom would you pass on to future generations?

Notes/Comments

(you'll probably need more space than this to write in so have a notebook on hand too)