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University of California
Berkeley, California

Jack and Eleanor Bollinger:
Oakland Army Base Oral History Project

Interviews conducted by
Ann Lage
in 2008

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Interview #1: October 23, 2008
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Lage: Okay. We're getting started here. And today is October 23, 2008 and I'm Ann Lage, from the Regional Oral History Office, working on the Oakland Army Base project. And today I came to interview Jack Bollinger and—

01-00:00:21
Eleanor: [corrects pronunciation] Bollinger.

Lage: Bollinger, thank you for correcting me.

01-00:00:23
Eleanor: Yeah, Bollinger. I had to learn that myself. [they laugh]

Lage: And then I came to find out that Mrs. Bollinger— And your first name is?

Eleanor: Eleanor

Lage: Eleanor.

Eleanor: E-L-E-A-N-O-R.

Lage: Okay, thank you.

Eleanor: You're welcome.

Lage: That Eleanor has a connection with the Oakland Army Base that goes way back, maybe before anyone else that we have interviewed. So I'm going to start with Eleanor this morning. And tell me where you grew up and how you come to know the Oakland Army Base.

01-00:00:54
Eleanor: Well, I grew up in West Oakland, near DeFremery Park, and we'd ride our bicycles down to where it was to be the army base. And sometimes a navy ship would come in; we'd talk to the fellows and they'd give us ice cream. And then one day, we were coming back; all of a sudden there was a lot of sirens and police motorcycles and a motorcade. And there passing was President Roosevelt.

Lage: Good heavens!

01-00:01:19
Eleanor: So apparently, he was looking the place over to determine if it was going to be the army base, but at that time--.

Lage: And could you recognize him [at that time]?

01-00:01:27
Eleanor: Oh, yeah. I said, "Oh, it's President Roosevelt." I think there was about two or three of us.

Lage: That must've been pretty exciting.

01-00:01:33
Eleanor: Yeah, it was.

Lage: And this wasn't announced in advance?

01-00:01:36
Eleanor: No. Well, not that we knew. We just happened to look, and there he was. It was a motorcade and a large convertible, black car.

Lage: Wonderful. Now, if you don't mind my asking, when were you born? And what time are we talking about?

01-00:01:50
Eleanor: Oh, 1926, May 12.

Lage: Okay. So how old were you when you were riding your bike around that area that became the Oakland Army Base?

01-00:01:59
Eleanor: I must've been about twelve years old.

Lage: So it was in the thirties. Was it already sort of filled? I know a lot of that land is filled land.

01-00:02:08
Eleanor: No, we just rode down there and there was the water. And then the navy ship would come in and—

Lage: And were there roads and infrastructure?

01-00:02:19
Eleanor: Yeah, there was roads. There was roads down there, because he came in the motorcade. But we didn't look around too much; we just happened to be there riding around, and there was the ships there, one ship. And we'd talk to the navy guys, and they'd give us ice cream. It was about three or four of us. I can't remember who was with me, but we remembered that area. I was telling my husband about it. I said, "Oh, I remember that many, many years ago, before it was the army base."

Lage: Yeah. Well, that's kind of nice, to have this picture of what it was like. Do you have a mental picture that you can describe?

01-00:02:52

Eleanor: Well, there weren't any buildings around. It was just a field. And then [we] came up to the water and looked around.

Lage: And the bridge?

01-00:03:04

Eleanor: Oh, let's see. The bridges were built in 1937, wasn't it?

Lage: Right. So you must remember the building of the bridges.

01-00:03:10

Eleanor: Oh, yeah. My brother-in-law worked on it. He worked on the Bay Bridge, and my nephew worked on the San Rafael Bridge. Yeah. Many moons ago.

Lage: [laughs] Right. Now, the two of you, you were telling me, met in junior high?

01-00:03:24

Eleanor: No. Grammar school.

Lage: Oh, in grammar school.

01-00:03:26

Eleanor: In the seventh grade. Then we went on to junior high, then he went to Tech and I went to McClymonds. Then he quit to go in the navy.

Lage: Okay. Well, is there any other memory of that area that you might be able to tell me? Was there any ethnic quality to the neighborhoods of West Oakland at that time?

01-00:03:50

Eleanor: Oh, yeah. All different nationalities, and everybody got along. And McClymonds— junior high was the same thing. A lot of different nationalities.

Lage: But which do you recall? Yourself, were your parents recent immigrants or—

01-00:04:06

Bollinger: Oh, yeah. I'm first generation.

Lage: From?

01-00:04:09

Bollinger: My mother was from Italy, my father from Mexico. And everybody— there were Islamics, there was all nationalities. And we all had a good time.

Lage: It didn't break up into competing groups?

01-00:04:24
Bollinger: No, everybody got along. I think the majority of them were first generation; there might be a few that were foreign born, I don't know. We never bothered about that. Everybody was just—I was into sports, and we just got along fine.

Lage: Well, that's a nice picture. Okay, I think if you don't mind, we'll just turn to Mr. Bollinger. Let me come, I'll stop this just for a second. [recording stops & re-starts] Okay, we're back on here with Mr. Bollinger, Jack. May I call you Jack?

01-00:04:47
Bollinger: Yes.

Lage: Okay. And let's get a little something of your background, Mr. Bollinger. When did you come to the Oakland area?

01-00:05:09
Bollinger: Well, I was born in Kansas, 1925. I was raised in Nebraska, till I was thirteen years old, and then came to California.

Lage: And your parents? Had they {inaudible}?

01-00:05:20
Bollinger: [over Lage] My father was electrocuted at work when I was five years old.

Lage: Oh, my!

01-00:05:24
Bollinger: So my mother raised five of us kids. Had four sisters, and I was the only boy.

Lage: Were you the oldest, or in the middle?

01-00:05:30
Bollinger: No, I was next to the youngest. And my youngest sister just died a couple months ago, so all my sisters are gone now.

Lage: Oh, my. So your mom must've been a strong woman.

01-00:05:43
Bollinger: Oh, yes, she was very strong. She remarried the man that was working with my father when he was killed.

Lage: What was your father's line of work?

01-00:05:55
Bollinger: He was an electrician.

Lage: Oh, he was an electrician, too? Yeah.

01-00:05:59

Bollinger: Yeah, there's a lot of electricians in our family.

Lage:

Goodness! So she remarried. And what brought them out to the West Coast?

01-00:06:07

Bollinger: Because he was working out here at the time. He was working for PG&E. And he came back there and married her, and then we— My youngest sister and I came with them, and the older girls stayed back there because my mother was partners in a beauty shop, parlor; and this other lady took care of the girls, and they worked there and learned a trade.

Lage:

I see, I see. So you came out, just two of you. And where did you settle?

01-00:06:32

Bollinger: We came to Point Richmond and stayed with my aunt and uncle for a while. I went to school in Richmond, till we moved into Oakland.

Lage:

Now, what would be the year that you moved out?

01-00:06:44

Bollinger: Pardon?

Lage:

What would be the year that you moved out here to the West Coast?

01-00:06:47

Bollinger: It was 1939.

Lage:

Okay. So the war was on the horizon?

01-00:06:57

Bollinger: Yeah, it was on the horizon.

Lage:

Yeah. But Richmond was a different place than—

01-00:07:01

Bollinger: Yes, it was.

Lage:

—it became during the war.

01-00:07:02

Bollinger: There was no shipyards or anything to speak of. I know we arrived late in the evening, when we got in. Must've been almost ten o'clock when we arrived at my uncle's house. And I have a bunch of boy cousins there. And I had never seen the bay, so we went swimming in the bay that night. [they laugh]

Lage:

Oh! Did you like the change of venue? Were you happy to be out here?

01-00:07:25

Bollinger: Yeah, it was nice. I enjoyed it.

Lage: So you were thirteen at that time. And so you were in high school during the World War period.

01-00:07:35

Bollinger: Yes. Yeah, I was at Tech High, and I quit school and enlisted in the navy.

Lage: Oh, you did?

01-00:07:41

Bollinger: Uh-huh. I was seventeen, and I went in.

Lage: And where did you serve?

01-00:07:46

Bollinger: Well, I was two years and one day up in Farragut, Idaho. I was a cook, and we were teaching school, teaching cooking. And I was cooking on the troop trains up and down the coast. But finally, after two years, I went over to the Philippines, on a land base there for a while. And then I got on a ship, operated around the Philippine area.

Lage: I see. Do you have any war stories that are etched in your mind?

01-00:08:12

Bollinger: [laughs] Well, we had Japanese prisoners of war working for us. And they have a guard with them all the time. And they were down cleaning up the beach, and a guard dropped his gun, got it all dirty. So he took the clip out and told one of the Japanese to take it up, get him another rifle. And he didn't think what he was doing, and he was surrounded by rifles in nothing flat.

Lage: Oh? By whose rifles?

01-00:08:42

Bollinger: By our men. They saw him coming up to the area, [laughs] they surrounded him right now. But I had about six or eight of them working for me in the galley.

Lage: How did that work out?

01-00:08:53

Bollinger: Fine. We didn't have anyone who could speak Japanese, but one of my prisoners was a civilian, and he spoke some English. So I'd relay my orders through him. I had a phrase book, and we could talk to them and tell them what we wanted done.

Lage: Did they cooperate?

01-00:09:16

Bollinger: Oh, yes. They were happy because they took all the prisoners of war to a big field and fed them at noontime, and I needed them mostly at noon time. So I

said, "I'll feed them off the chow line." And they were tickled to get something other than K-rations. So they all wanted to work for me.

Lage: Interesting. Did that affect sort of your reaction to the Japan at all, to get to know these people?

01-00:09:47

Bollinger: Well, I don't think it affected me too much because I figure everybody's human anyway. Well, I didn't enjoy being at war with them, but— We had a Japanese boy in high school; we just thought he was the finest guy you ever saw. And they put him in a concentration camp, and we were fairly upset about that. But I don't think I really hated them. At a movie at night, we'd hear a commotion, and the Japanese would come up and be watching our movie, from the jungle. And the S.P.'s would go out and catch them every once in a while.

Lage: Oh, really? They'd be that close?

01-00:10:26

Bollinger: Yeah, they were really close.

Lage: Yeah. That's really interesting. So were you there when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima?

01-00:10:35

Bollinger: Yeah, I was there at that time. Well, I got a Philippine Liberation ribbon. That's what I got out of it.

Lage: So you came back after the war, and what happened?

01-00:10:52

Bollinger: They tried to get me to stay in the navy. I really loved the navy. I still do.

Lage: Now, why did you love the navy?

01-00:11:01

Bollinger: Oh, I don't know. I joined the navy to become an electrician.

Lage: I see. You thought that you'd get trained.

01-00:11:08

Bollinger: Uh-huh. But when we graduated out of boot camp, our camp was quarantined for spinal meningitis. So after we were out of boot camp, we quarantined for five or six weeks. And so by the time we got out, all the schools were closed. They were all full. So they took four of us and put us in the ships company galley. Ships company is what runs the base. And we went over there and there was this chief. They called him Doggie, because he looked like a bulldog. And he says, "Pick your watch. Two on port, two on starboard." And I says, "I'll take port." He says, "Okay. Oh, by the way, you're cooks now."

Lage: That was the training you got.

01-00:11:54
Bollinger:

Oh, no. We were what they call strikers. We didn't actually go to school, we just went right in and started cooking, right alongside the {other cook?}. So we learned {faster?} {inaudible}.

Lage: Learned on the job.

01-00:12:02
Bollinger:

Yeah, I got my rate within two months out of boot camp.

Lage: You get a rating, you say?

01-00:12:07
Bollinger:

Yes, I made third class. Six months later, I made second class.

Lage: I see.

01-00:12:11
Bollinger:

I would've made first class, but they put a six months {inaudible} restriction on it. So I made first class when I was in the Philippines. The commissary officers there, after the war was over, wanted me to stay. And I told them no, because any rate made after July of 1944 was a temporary rate. I said, "They'll knock me back to second class." He says, "No." He says, "You'll be a slicky." And I said, "What's a slicky?" He said, "It's a chief petty officer, but no hash marks." You don't see many of them around. And he said, "Well, you really want a warrant officer." He says, "You'd be in line for a warrant officer." Which I think's the best rate in the navy.

Lage: I'm so naive about these things. I'm not sure what the rating and the warrant officer signify.

01-00:12:57
Bollinger:

An enlisted man is from chief down. And then an officer starts from ensign up. This guy's in between.

Lage: In between the highest enlisted man and the lowest—

01-00:13:09
Bollinger:

Uh-huh. He's usually been an enlisted man and worked his way up. And where the officers wear a gold stripe, he wears a blue and gold stripe. And there's a warrant and a chief warrant, and they're usually pretty sharp guys.

Lage: And they carry significant authority.

01-00:13:24
Bollinger:

[over Lage] They carry a lot of weight in the navy, yeah. They carry a lot of weight, uh-huh.

Lage: But you turned that down. Was that—

01-00:13:30

Bollinger: Well, I think if he had asked me about more time, I might've said yes— [Lage laughs] But we were ready to leave.

Lage: Did you have Eleanor? Was she your girlfriend at the time?

01-00:13:40

Bollinger: No. When we came home, they had a grammar school reunion. And she knew a friend of mine, and she says, "You know how to get ahold of Jack? I hear he's back." And so {Lee?} got ahold of me, and we went to the class reunion. And we started going together then.

Lage: Oh, nice. So when did you marry?

01-00:14:03

Bollinger: It was 1947. September 21.

Lage: Okay. You're good with dates here.

01-00:14:08

Bollinger: Yeah, well, it's sixty-one years we have now.

Lage: Yeah, wonderful. Okay. You became an electrician. And how do you train for that?

01-00:14:20

Bollinger: We have a four-year apprenticeship. And I was in the first class that went all the way through, after World War II. And at the time, you almost had to be a veteran and have a father in the union to get in.

Lage: And you did, both those things.

01-00:14:35

Bollinger: Yes. So I became an electrician in four years.

Lage: So you join the union after you finish your apprenticeship, or before?

01-00:14:45

Bollinger: No, before.

Lage: Before. So you kind of get accepted in.

01-00:14:47

Bollinger: Uh-huh, uh-huh. You work in the days and go to school at night.

Lage: I see. Where did you go to school?

01-00:14:54
Bollinger:

Well, it was Laney Trade for a while, and for a while we went to Roosevelt High School. They had some night classes there. They've changed it now to a five-year apprenticeship. Because of all the electronics and stuff we didn't have in those days, I guess. My son is an electrician.

Lage:

It really is a strong thread here in your family.

01-00:15:13
Bollinger:

Yeah, I {had?} a son-in-law {was?} an electrician, a brother-in-law's an electrician, my uncle's an electrician, my step-dad, my dad.

Lage:

Goodness!

01-00:15:22
Bollinger:

A lot of it in the family.

Lage:

The fact that your father got electrocuted must've sort of hung over you. Or did it?

01-00:15:31
Bollinger:

I respect it more than most. And I'm very cautious and I watch all my men. In fact, when I was an apprentice, they wanted to send me out of town as a foreman. [chuckles] We were doing the explosion-proof work, and it's kind of a specialty. Like gas station stuff. And it's kind of a specialty, so the thing won't blow up. And we were doing stations up in Eureka, and they wanted me to go up there and do a station. But the union wouldn't let me go until I was a foreman. [they laugh] But I made foreman right away. I found out later, when we had our hundredth year anniversary, that I did the biggest job this union has had, this local union, in a hundred years.

Lage:

And what was that?

01-00:16:19
Bollinger:

General Motors plant.

Lage:

In Fremont.

01-00:16:21
Bollinger:

Uh-huh. I had 350 men working for me down there. And it was quite a job.

Lage:

And when was that?

01-00:16:31
Bollinger:

I think I started in '62. I was there three years. I know I was there when President Kennedy was killed. That's '63, right?

Lage:

Right. So as an electrician, you supervise other people. *You* did, as a foreman.

01-00:16:49
Bollinger: Yes. Yeah, we're working foremen. We work with our hands.

Lage: And who do you report to?

01-00:16:56
Bollinger: Well, we have a superintendent.

Lage: Of the whole—

01-00:16:58
Bollinger: And he comes to all the jobs.

Lage: Superintendent from the union?

01-00:17:03
Bollinger: No, from our shop. I worked for {Scott Buttner?} Electric. They were on Grand Avenue in Oakland.

Lage: I see. That's what I was getting at, whether you were kind of an independent person or you worked for an electrical contractor.

01-00:17:13
Bollinger: No, they had their regular foreman. If they liked you, they kept you. I was there twenty-three years. They keep you on as foreman, whether you're running work or not, usually, just to keep you. So it worked out fine. We did a lot of nice work in this area.

Lage: Yeah, that sounds very interesting. Now, let's focus in here on what we're supposed to talk about, which is the job at Oakland Army Base. Tell me the date, and then how you happened to get that job.

01-00:17:52
Bollinger: I'm not sure why they chose me for the job. They just picked their foremen, and they went to do certain jobs.

Lage: How does a foreman get picked? By the union or—

01-00:18:04
Bollinger: No, no, by the shop.

Lage: By the shop that you were working for.

01-00:18:07
Bollinger: Uh-huh. They have union rules. If you have a job of so much horsepower or so many outlets, you're automatically a foreman. And if you have so many men working for you, you're a foreman. When you get over ten men, you're a general foreman. So that's all set up in advance, by the union.

Lage: So your employer picked you for this job at Oakland Army Base.

01-00:18:32

Bollinger: Yeah, they picked me for that one. And I'm not sure why. But it was a very good job. I wouldn't say a complex job, but we did everything. We set our own telephone pole lines, bringing in the power. At a place called Capehart Housing, Senator Capehart had something to do with it. This was 1957.

Lage: Right. I wanted to get the date. And what was the base like at that time? You say you had to set your own poles.

01-00:19:00

Bollinger: There was quite a few buildings and stuff.

Lage: But no housing? Or was there other housing?

01-00:19:05

Bollinger: I don't think there was any housing {on there at the time?}. And we put in eighty-eight units of six different buildings, two-story buildings. And the job ran for 360 days. And so we had a lot of pipe work, conduit, and Romex. So it just covered all different types of wiring. And fire alarms. A complete job.

Lage: Right. Now, how do you remember it so well? Did you look it up, or do you really remember 360 days and—

01-00:19:38

Bollinger: Well, yeah, I just knew it was 360 days, because it was almost a year. And I remember the year, because I got my new pickup that year. And I did do another building there, the recreation center.

Lage: Was that at the same time?

01-00:19:55

Bollinger: No, no, it was a different date, and I don't recall if it was before or after. Could've been before. I think it was, but I'm not positive. It was a concrete block building. They had a bowling alley and a library and a wood shop and just all kinds of stuff.

Lage: And so you put in the whole system.

01-00:20:16

Bollinger: Yeah, we put in that complex. I think it only run three months or so, wasn't too big of a job.

Lage: Well, tell me a little bit more about the housing, if you can. You mentioned the Capehart housing, which I guess was the senator who—

01-00:20:34

Bollinger: Yeah, Senator Capehart, yes.

Lage: —set up this system of financing.

01-00:20:25

Bollinger: I think he was doing it everywhere throughout the United States, I guess.

Lage: Right. So how did it strike you, the quality of the housing, the style, compared to other things you'd worked on in the civilian world?

01-00:20:50

Bollinger: I think it was pretty nice. They had nice kitchens. I remember putting in the Formica. They put it in, because we've got plugs and stuff going in around there, so we kind of work in close proximity to everybody else. And the apartments were all similar. The print would say, same as apartment so-and-so, except opposite hand. You have to turn the print over and things like that.

Lage: Were the kitchens electric or gas?

01-00:21:21

Bollinger: They were gas.

Lage: It was a little before the all electric kitchen.

01-00:21:25

Bollinger: Yeah. But they were very nice units, I thought they were. They had an entry hall, and then a stairway upstairs that was two-story. And they had a laundry room.

Lage: So each unit was two storeys?

01-00:21:43

Bollinger: Yeah, each unit was two storeys. And there were six buildings. Some of them larger than others.

Lage: Six buildings and eighty-eight units. So there were a lot of units per building.

01-00:21:52

Bollinger: Yeah, eighty-eight units.

Lage: So they'd go upstairs and have the bedrooms upstairs and the living area—

01-00:22:01

Bollinger: The whole apartment was one level, either a second or first level.

Lage: Oh, I see. That's what I wasn't getting straight. So the buildings were two storeys, but each individual unit was one storey. That's what I wasn't getting.

01-00:22:16

Bollinger: I remember on building eight, I was going over the plans one morning. We're just getting ready to start the eighth building. And something didn't seem very clear, so I went over there and took a man with me. We got the prints out. And I'm reading the prints and he's writing down all these figures. That's for the calculator.

Lage: Yes.

01-00:22:37

Bollinger: And he was adding them up and I was doing them in my head. We come up with the same answer at the same time. But we knew something was wrong, so I went over to the general contractor and I says, "Brownie," I says, "I think you're screwing up in building eight." He says, "Why?" And I says, "There's supposed to be a cantilever over there on the first floor." He says, "You're crazy." And I said, "No." So we got on the print. Well, he didn't understand it, either. It was kind of confusing. So he called up San Francisco, got ahold of the engineer. Sure enough, I was right. They had to tear out a *bunch* of stuff. He said, "I'm glad you caught it. It saved us a *lot* of money."

Lage: Wow! So the cantilever was called for on this building.

01-00:23:11

Bollinger: [over Lage] That's where it extends out way beyond the footing.

Lage: Oh, I see.

01-00:23:14

Bollinger: Kind of overhangs.

Lage: And they'd missed that.

01-00:23:18

Bollinger: They had somehow missed it. It wasn't very clear on the prints, I'll have to admit. It just didn't look right to me, and I kept kicking it around and finally figured it out.

Lage: Right. How many bedrooms were these units? Do you remember that?

01-00:23:35

Bollinger: Some just had one, some had two.

Lage: Okay. So they were probably, do you think, for the enlisted men?

01-00:23:44

Bollinger: Yes, uh-huh. Enlisted personnel.

Lage: Okay. And bathrooms?

01-00:23:49

Bollinger: Yes. Then we had a laundry room. Every one had its own bath. And they had a laundry room, and washers and driers in there.

Lage: Yeah. Okay. And did you work in civilian housing at this same era? I'm just trying to get a comparison, whether the quality of the materials was any different.

01-00:24:08

Bollinger: Oh. At the same time, you mean?

Lage: Yeah, around this era. Was it pretty typical?

01-00:24:12

Bollinger: Yeah. Well, as an apprentice, you work six months for a shop, and they transfer you to another shop, every six months. The reason, a lot of shops specialize in a certain type of wiring. So I worked six months here, and I learned motors and controls; six months here, I learned house wiring. I did mostly commercial work throughout my tenure through the—

Lage: Through the whole period of time. Okay. Did these buildings meet the same city, county building codes that civilian did?

01-00:24:51

Bollinger: Yes.

Lage: They were subject to the same codes.

01-00:24:52

Bollinger: Uh-huh. But we had army engineers inspectors, and it was a resident on the job. Never forget him. We called him Mama {Zimmerman?}.

Lage: Tell me about him.

01-00:25:04

Bollinger: He was an old fuss budget. But we had what we call as built prints. We go by the print when we build it.

Lage: This is the blueprint.

01-00:25:13

Bollinger: Uh-huh. But it doesn't show the exact location where we buried a pipe or something. So we make that on another print. And he did a beautiful job. He had it all color coded. He was a whiz bang at that. He was all right.

Lage: Yeah. But he was a little fussy, you say.

01-00:25:27

Bollinger: Oh, he was fussy.

Lage: Yeah. So he was the army's oversight person. Yeah, that's interesting.

01-00:25:33

Bollinger: Yeah, he was a good, sharp guy.

Lage: Uh-huh. You have very good memory of this. This is a long time ago.

01-00:25:39
Bollinger:

Yes, it was.

Lage:

But you did spend almost a year, I gather.

01-00:25:41
Bollinger:

{The only other?} thing that stands out in my mind is all the men working in the building—carpenters, plumbers, anybody—usually, they come in the entryway. And it's a fairly good size. And they all set their lunch pails there and everything, and they go to wherever they're working. At lunch time, they come back there to get their lunch and eat. And there was a young kid—I think he was eight or nine years old, maybe ten—and he come around there, and he leapt around in there and stomped on the guy's lunch pail. [Lage laughs] And destroyed it. And they called the provost marshal, and he come and picked him up. But his father *was* {the?} provost marshal. [laughs]

Lage:

Oh, that's good.

01-00:26:22
Bollinger:

I've never forgot that. But they told him that either you keep the kid off the job, or we're walking off. So they did, they kept him off of it. He was a *mean* little kid.

Lage:

So there were people already living on the base, then, it sounds like, if this kid was—

01-00:26:38
Bollinger:

Oh, yeah, there were people around. There was officers and a certain amount of cooks and stuff and whatever, guards.

Lage:

Yeah, well, because the base {inaudible}

01-00:26:49
Bollinger:

[over Lage] But I don't think it was families. I don't think it was family units.

Lage:

I see. Do you think these were the first family units that they built there?

01-00:27:00
Bollinger:

Could be, I don't really remember. Could be.

Lage:

I wonder what this kid was doing there.

01-00:27:04
Bollinger:

I don't know. He lived on the base because his father was provost marshal.

Lage:

Yeah. Oh, that's funny.

01-00:27:10
Bollinger:

But he was a mean little kid. [they laugh]

Eleanor: Probably bored.

01-00:27:13

Bollinger: Yeah. Think back, it was kind of funny. [laughs]

Lage: Yeah. Now, did you observe anything else about the life of the base or the work of the base, aside from what you were doing?

01-00:27:24

Bollinger: No, I don't recall what was going on. I know we set up pole line coming in. {Run} underground from the pole to each building.

Lage: And where did you attach the pole line to the—

01-00:27:39

Bollinger: We picked it up off another pole line, I believe. One thing I remember is they have all the footings poured and they put what they call a termite shield on, which you never see. {It's only done?} {inaudible}. It's a sheet metal thing that goes right over the top of the footage, so the termites can't come up to the wood. And then they put all this {red block?} in and it's poisoned, so no bugs or anything can get in there. And they put in too much.

Lage: Too much poison?

01-00:28:09

Bollinger: No, too much {red rock?}.

Lage: Oh, I see.

01-00:28:11

Bollinger: So they had to take out a certain amount. And so I told them, "I can use that." So they filled my old pickups with so much {red rock?} I could hardly drive. And that time, I was going to build my front porch. I was going to raise it up in brick. And I had to have {red rock?} to fill in. So I got all poisoned rock there. [they laugh]

Lage: Now, you say you'd never seen this termite barrier.

01-00:28:36

Bollinger: Yeah, it's a termite shield, they call it.

Lage: Why do you think they put that in?

01-00:28:42

Bollinger: I don't know. Like I say, it's the first time— I think it's the *only* time I've seen it.

Lage: I wonder if it was the environment there was different, or just—

01-00:28:49
Bollinger: Well, it's all fill. I know when they was using the pile drivers, the first couple whacks with a pile driver, they go about five or six feet each time. And then when they get it down to where it's only moving a sixteenth of an inch, that was deep enough. And then they poured them full of concrete and did the footings and everything.

Lage: Do you think they were built according to the earthquake codes we have today? When you build on fill—

01-00:29:13
Bollinger: Well, I think that part of it was, yeah.

Lage: You think the pilings were down {deep enough?}.

01-00:29:17
Bollinger: Yeah, they had pilings. I don't remember how many, but they was all along the footing. And they went down, oh, probably twenty-some feet.

Lage: That's pretty dramatic.

01-00:29:30
Bollinger: Yeah, they're corrugated, like a pipe, and they just drive them down. And then they drop rebar in there, fill them full of concrete, and the footing sits right on top of them.

Lage: Interesting.

01-00:29:41
Bollinger: Yeah, they were well built. I would say they were well built.

Lage: Yeah, yeah. Good. Were they attractive? Did you see them all finished?

01-00:29:47
Bollinger: Yeah. Oh, yeah. They were very nice.

Lage: Are they still there?

01-00:29:51
Bollinger: I don't know. I haven't been back on the base in— I kind of doubt it because they tore down all the navy housing over in Alameda here, just within the past year. It's all nice new big homes now. So I kind of doubt if that's still there.

Lage: Okay. Let's see, what'd I want to ask? Oh, when you reported to work, were there any special security entryway procedures or anything like that?

01-00:30:20
Bollinger: No, not there, uh-uh.

Lage: You just—

01-00:30:22
Bollinger: We just drove in and went to work.

Lage: I guess they weren't concerned about security, as they are today.

01-00:30:28
Bollinger: No. I worked at naval air, but they had security over there at the time.

Lage: Okay. Now, let me just also ask you, you were working for an electrician.

01-00:30:42
Bollinger: Electrical contractor.

Lage: Contractor. And who was the general contractor?

01-00:30:49
Bollinger: Now, that's one thing I did forget. I know the guy, the superintendent's name was Brownie, and it was in San Francisco. And I can't remember the name. We'd square dance on Wednesdays, was it? We'd square dance. And we would always share a bunch of stories. So the day after, I'd always go and see all the big shots, the superintendents and all that, and I'd tell them some stories. And so I had to call San Francisco on this deal I was telling you about, that I discovered, and talk to them. And the gal says, "Oh, you're the one with the stories."

Lage: They got passed right on?

01-00:31:27
Bollinger: Yeah. They got passed right now.

Lage: So what kind of stories did you tell?

01-00:31:31
Bollinger: Oh, just funny stories. None of them *too* dirty. [they laugh]

Lage: Okay, we won't ask you to repeat any here.

Eleanor: He wouldn't have told me; he knows I don't like those dirty stories.

Lage: Yeah. But you heard of them.

Eleanor: {Yeah, yeah?}.

01-00:31:43
Bollinger: Just guys usually tell them.

Lage: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Okay, that's good.

01-00:31:54

Eleanor: I don't know if you were aware that the Oakland Army Base, they had Italian war prisoners. Did you know that?

Lage: I didn't know that.

01-00:32:00

Eleanor: Yeah. I didn't either, until a friend of ours—it was, oh, about four years ago—was telling me about it. There was a documentary on the TV. And they had the Italian prisoners there. The Italian gals that {he?} sent would go over and they'd have dances. And they were able to bring them home for weekends. We would {drive?}. And a lot of them fell in love, but they had to go back to Italy before they could come back here to get married.

Lage: So they were Italian—

01-00:32:26

Eleanor: Yes. Italian prisoners.

Lage: —not Italian American.

01-00:32:28

Eleanor: Italian prisoners. That's what they were.

Lage: Gee, a long way from home.

01-00:32:31

Eleanor: And I don't know how the Italian population over here found out, but they would have dances over there and bring them home. I thought, gee, how nice. Had I known, I'd go down there, [chuckles] but I didn't know about it. I'm sure my mother wouldn't have let me. But anyway, I thought that was quite fascinating.

Lage: Yeah, that is fascinating.

01-00:32:46

Bollinger: Yeah, up in Faragut, Idaho, we had German prisoners of war working for us. And they loved it up there, because it reminded them so much of Germany, I guess. All the snow and everything.

Lage: Right. And working in the kitchens, with you?

01-00:32:59

Bollinger: No, not in the kitchens. They unloaded trains in an area we call cold storage. That's where all the food comes into. And that's what they were doing, unloading. The army would bring them over and they would unload the trains and stuff.

Lage: Boy, many stories. I wish we could go into all that.

Eleanor: Tell her about the time, Jack, when they were running around the warehouse.

01-00:33:25

Bollinger: Oh, yeah. They had these carts they— Well, they were unloading sides of beef. And they have them on carts, and they take them off the train, and they go down and put them in the chill box, or freezer. And then they come back to the warehouse, they get that cart going as fast as they can and they jump on it. And it just spirals. And the sergeant, the army sergeant [chuckles] is hollering, “Nein! Nein! Nein!” [they laugh]

Lage: Probably the only word he knew.

01-00:33:50

Bollinger: Yeah. They were having fun. They ignored him. They were all young, young men.

Lage: I think that that kind of camaraderie is interesting. And you seem to have a very open attitude towards these prisoners.

01-00:34:05

Bollinger: Well, I like people. I do. I really do.

Eleanor: Nice people.

Lage: Right.

Bollinger: Yeah.

Eleanor: He had Japanese prisoners in the Philippines.

Lage: He told me about that, yeah.

01-00:34:18

Bollinger: One day when I was in the galley, our officers came in. All the big brass. And they asked me, says, “You have prisoner so-and-so working for you?” And I had to get my list out; I couldn’t pronounce it. I said, “Yeah, he’s here.” He says, “Which one is he?” And I said, “This one over here.” Big, tall. You don’t see many tall Japanese, but this is a big, tall guy. And he never said a word. And you’d talk to him with that phrase book, he’d do the work fine. He never reneged on anything. And they’re talking to him, pretty soon he starts talking crystal clear English.

Lage: Oh!

01-00:34:55

Bollinger: He was an officer in the Imperial Marines. He shouldn’t have been on the work party. And he went to school over here in Stanford.

Eleanor: You said Stanford.

01-00:35:03
Bollinger: Stanford.

Lage: He had *gone* to school?

01-00:35:06
Bollinger: Yeah, he'd graduated from Stanford.

Lage: Oh, my goodness!

01-00:35:09
Bollinger: And they took him away. I never did get a replacement, either.

Lage: So they wouldn't put officers on that kind of work party.

01-00:35:15
Bollinger: No, they don't. Rank has its privileges. And when we were coming back on a ship, they had work parties. And being that I was first class, I didn't have to go on any of the work parties. But they'd call my name and I went down to the galley anyway. And I said, "Hey, I'm first class." And the guys says, "Ah. Stay in here and talk with me. It's better than hanging out up on deck." So we just hung out in the galley.

Lage: Now, I'm getting back to the army base and thinking what other insights you might be able to give me. Did you go off base for lunch or dinner?

01-00:35:51
Bollinger: We usually carried our own lunch.

Lage: Oh, you told me you had your own lunch. So you didn't have that much interaction with your old neighborhood of West Oakland.

01-00:35:58
Bollinger: Yeah, that's true. You only have a half hour, and sometimes you get there and eat, or sometimes you can't get waited on right away, so we'd just normally carry our own lunch. She packs a good lunch.

Lage: When did you move here to San Leandro?

01-00:36:15
Bollinger: 19—

Eleanor: August of '54.

Lage: Oh, before you were doing this job. This same house?

01-00:36:21
Bollinger: Yeah, we've been here a long time.

Lage: Nice neighborhood.

Eleanor: You know where we moved to when we got married, was a former WAVE barracks, on Telegraph Avenue.

Lage: Oh, I don't know. I'm going to put you on here.

01-00:36:33

Eleanor: They rebuilt— it was a WAVES barracks. And then after the war, to get housing for the returning veterans, they rebuilt and they just repaired them and {inaudible}

01-00:36:45

Bollinger: [over Eleanor] It was kind of a barracks type building.

Eleanor: Some were one bedroom and one was no bedrooms. Anyway, rent was cheap. Like twenty-eight dollars a month for everything included.

Lage: So that's where you moved to—

01-00:36:56

Eleanor: Yeah, after we got married. I worked for Union Ice Company and we delivered ice there, and they were telling me about it all.

Lage: Now, where about?

01-00:37:03

Eleanor: On 28th and Webster, was it? Right near the hospital up here in Oakland.

Bollinger: Well, you know where Sears is?

Lage: Yeah.

01-00:37:11

Bollinger: Almost two blocks, right over there.

Lage: Oh, I see, right in that neighborhood.

01-00:37:13

Bollinger: Yeah, between—

Eleanor: Former WAVE barracks.

Bollinger: —Broadway and Telegraph, and between 26th and 28th.

Lage: Now, coming back to you here, how would that housing have compared with what you were building?

01-00:37:25

Bollinger: No comparison. It was just kind of a barracks [chuckles] worked over.

Lage: So the kind that they put up quickly for the {war?}.

01-00:37:32
Bollinger: Yeah. They just threw up some partitions, I think. And we had an ice box, no refrigerator. We had to finally buy our own. And a little dinky kitchen.

Lage: So they did better by the post-war army people, you think.

01-00:37:45
Bollinger: Mm-hm, mm-hm. We did move. We had got one with a bedroom. First there was no bedroom and just all open.

Lage: Just one big room?

01-00:37:58
Bollinger: Well, the kitchen was kind of—

Eleanor: It was a large room, with a narrow hall to the kitchen. And there was a little room right next to the bedroom, like a built-in, a walk-in closet. Which was {adequately?}. And we'd have to wash clothes early so they would get {on the line?}. Everybody was having babies, [Bollinger laughs] and you had to get out there first to hang up the clothes.

Lage: Oh! Well. And then you moved to a bigger—

Eleanor: Yeah, right across the street.

01-00:38:21
Bollinger: Yeah, right across the street, there was one with a bedroom, and we got that.

Eleanor: That was thirty-eight dollars a month.

01-00:38:26
Bollinger: Yeah. But that included everything. Garbage, lights.

Lage: Can't beat the price.

Eleanor: No.

01-00:38:32
Bollinger: Well, we weren't making that much money in those days.

Lage: Yeah, yeah. So this was right after the war, and you were doing your apprenticeship.

01-00:38:37
Bollinger: Yes, uh-huh, uh-huh.

Lage: Well, that's an interesting aspect of housing in the area, too. Okay, I can't think of anything else to prod you on, related to Oakland Army Base. But if you have some other—

01-00:38:53
Bollinger:

Well, I can't think of anything.

Lage:

—thoughts about a project or—

01-00:38:56
Bollinger:

Well, a couple thoughts come to mind, when I was working in the recreation center. They poured the concrete floor. And the inspector was there. And he told me, he said, "This floor is going to be a finished floor. There's not going to be any linoleum or anything on it. We want it perfect." And these finishers are there, they're finishing away. Pretty soon he walks right up there with a straightedge. He says, "If you don't fix it, they're going to jackhammer it out and redo it." They worked late that night, and they did; they got a beautiful floor out of it. But he wasn't going to accept anything else.

Lage:

That's interesting. Really high standards. And this was the army inspector?

01-00:39:35
Bollinger:

Yes, uh-huh. Then the building was up pretty well. They were painting, and we were hanging lighting fixtures in the library, I remember. An earthquake hit. And man, we almost fell off our ladders because of big fixtures. And so we jumped down and I went in to see if everybody else was all right. A painter was out in the hallway. He had his cloth down and everything. And he just painted our panel where there's pipes coming down. And it knocked him off the scaffolding. He grabbed ahold of these pipes and he's just sliding down because of the wet paint. And his bucket of paint went through the doorway, in on this beautiful floor.

Lage:

Oh!

01-00:40:11
Bollinger:

And boy, did they get busy and clean it up. I don't know if they ever got it all out of there, but—

Lage:

Oh, that's a fascinating story.

01-00:40:15
Bollinger:

But the earthquake did it.

Lage:

Did the earthquake do any damage to the building.

01-00:40:21
Bollinger:

No, it didn't seem to. See, the building was made in two sections, and it had a flex joint in there. When we ever had a pipe going between the two, we had to put a flexible joint in there.

Lage:

I see.

01-00:40:31
Bollinger: So it moved.

Lage: And they were kind of in anticipation of potential earthquakes or settling?

01-00:40:36
Bollinger: Yeah. Block buildings usually do very well in earthquakes and stuff.

Lage: I see. How about the housing?

01-00:40:43
Bollinger: I think this was before the housing.

Lage: Okay, so you think you did the rec hall before.

01-00:40:47
Bollinger: Yes, I think so. I can't remember. I'm not sure. No, that's where Gus came to work for me. Yeah, I'm sure it was before.

Lage: Okay. Well, anything else? I like that little story.

01-00:41:02
Eleanor: Did the librarian ever call you? There was a librarian up there at Oakland Army Base, and we got her number and he just called somebody.

01-00:41:13
Bollinger: I called and left the number.

Lage: We haven't been able to get an answer.

01-00:41:19
Bollinger: Oh, you haven't, huh?

Eleanor: Because she lives in San Francisco.

Lage: Right. She hasn't—

01-00:41:22
Eleanor: She took a taxi all the way from San Francisco to Oakland to go the cathedral dedication.

01-00:41:27
Bollinger: And she seemed to be a very interesting lady.

Lage: Well, we have her name and we've tried to contact her, but—

01-00:41:33
Bollinger: Yeah, I hope you do, because she seems to be very interesting.

Lage: Yeah. And that would be a nice perspective {inaudible}.

01-00:41:36
Bollinger: Yeah. I think being a librarian, she would probably know more about the base.

Lage: Yeah, more about the life of the base. You kind of set up the {inaudible}.

01-00:41:44
Bollinger: Yeah, we were just in our spot, we didn't move around too much.

Lage: Was the library in this recreation building, do you think?

01-00:41:51
Bollinger: No, it was probably two or three blocks, as I remember, from—

Lage: So the recreation building had a bowling alley. And do you remember what else?

01-00:42:01
Bollinger: It had a library, a wood shop. I don't know if they had a photography lab or it. There was a number of things going on in there. It was a nice building. It was very nice. And I think the people probably enjoyed using it. I think it was just a two-lane bowling alley, a small one. But it looked like a nice recreation center.

Lage: And they also had officers clubs, I guess, and a mess hall. But was that there when you were there?

01-00:42:35
Bollinger: Yeah, I don't remember. I never got much on that part of the base. And we came into the base, the Capehart housing was right there, and so we didn't have to roam around too much.

Lage: Very good. Okay, I'm going to close this off here.

01-00:42:50
Bollinger: Okay, great.

Lage: I really appreciate your good memory.

01-00:42:55
Bollinger: Well, I didn't see that much of it, is the problem.

Lage: Yeah, but what you saw, you remember. I'm going to turn this off now.

01-00:43:01
Bollinger: Cooking, they were mostly young black men. And there'd be eighty to a class. And we were feeding 7,000, so we could absorb a lot of help.

Lage: I realize that we really weren't recording that first part; I'd forgotten to push the button. So would you mind repeating? We have to go way back to— You're just telling me about your ethnicity in Nebraska. So I'm sorry.

01-00:43:34
Bollinger:

When I came to California, I didn't know what nationality I was.

Lage:

Right. You had said that off camera. And I thought, that's interesting. Let's go back. I hadn't asked you what your ethnicity was and what kind of community you came from in Nebraska. Tell me that, and then we'll talk a little bit about that.

01-00:43:54
Bollinger:

Okay. I was raised in a little town named Fairbury, which is thirty-three miles from Beatrice, Nebraska, which is the third largest city in the state. And I lived in Beatrice for a short time. And we came out here in 1939. I didn't know what nationality I was, because it didn't seem to be important. There was a lot of Germans, English, Pollacks, everything. Farmers. Most of them farmers.

Lage:

And all speaking English and—

01-00:44:26
Bollinger:

Yeah, all speaking— I never heard—

Lage:

Not too recent.

01-00:44:27
Bollinger:

I think there was one Spanish couple in town, but I can't recall.

Lage:

And you mentioned there was one what we call now African American.

01-00:44:39
Bollinger:

Uh-huh. And he was a conductor on the railroad, and he lived across the street from the depot. And you'd never see him. He'd just walk across the street and go to work. He had his conductor's hat on and all this. And we knew his wife because my cousin lived next door. And we used to go to the grocery store for her, and she always gave us cookies. She was a real nice lady.

Lage:

So you had some positive—

01-00:44:59
Bollinger:

Yeah, uh-huh.

Lage:

And did they have children that went to school with you?

01-00:45:02
Bollinger:

No, just the couple. And you never seen her out of the house, hardly. And they seemed to be very, very nice people.

Lage:

Now, when you came out here to California, you became aware of "who am I"?

01-00:45:17
Bollinger: Yeah. Well, so many people spoke broken English and stuff, and I really became aware of it. And they seemed to kind of gravitate towards one another. And that's how I became aware of it, I guess.

Lage: But your wife tells me everybody got along. Did you sense that, also?

01-00:45:37
Bollinger: Yeah. I don't recall having any problem with any of them.

Lage: Now, when you moved out here, were there blacks in the neighborhood? Because we did have this railroad terminus in Oakland.

01-00:45:50
Bollinger: Yeah.

Eleanor: But see, there weren't very many blacks.

01-00:45:53
Bollinger: There were a few, but not an awful lot.

Eleanor: Some black people came up from the South.

Lage: During the war, yeah.

01-00:45:59
Bollinger: Yeah, yeah, during the war, they come up.

Eleanor: To Richmond.

Lage: Right.

01-00:46:03
Eleanor: I also worked in Moore shipyard.

Lage: Oh, you did?

01-00:46:06
Eleanor: I worked during my summer vacation when I was a senior.

Lage: Okay, I'm going to come over here. [Bollinger laughs]

01-00:46:08
Eleanor: Like Rosie the Riveter, I caught the red hot rivets.

Lage: Yes, of course.

01-00:46:09
Eleanor: I caught the rivets, the hot ones, with a funnel.

Lage: Which shipyard did you work in?

01-00:46:13

Eleanor: Moore Shipyard.

Lage: Oh, Moore, down here in Oakland.

01-00:46:15

Eleanor: Mm-hm. I was a senior, during my summer vacation.

Lage: Senior in high school.

01-00:46:20

Eleanor: Yeah. And I worked for two months. I'd ride my bicycle down there. And I'd have to lean over and catch the rivet in a funnel, take it out and put it in. They put the rivet, the rivet would be outside the ship. The last day, though, the flak fell on my ankle and it started to burn right through. It had gone right through my sock. I had to flick the flak off my skin.

Lage: So was this after the war had begun?

01-00:46:43

Eleanor: No, during the war.

Lage: During the war?

01-00:46:44

Eleanor: 19-about-43, I think.

Lage: So you were a Rosie the Riveter of sorts. Were there women working the riveting machines?

01-00:46:52

Eleanor: Oh, yeah. Not the riveting machines, not where I was. It was the men that did the riveting. I caught the rivet. And then I'd have to—

Bollinger: She was a catcher.

01-00:47:00

Eleanor: —wear a scarf and a helmet on my head.

Lage: And what were the women doing who were older?

01-00:47:05

Eleanor: {We didn't even look?} because I just came in and got up on that scaffolding and I had to hold on for dear life, because they were big ships, and just lean over and catch it. And I don't know, I didn't see many women. I'd just intermix anyway. I was busy working, and I just got off work and rode my bicycle home. [laughs]

Lage: Do you remember how much you got paid?

01-00:47:25

Eleanor: Ninety-five cents an hour. [laughs] That was good money.

Lage: That wasn't bad at that time. Especially for high school.

01-00:47:30

Eleanor: That's right. And then I became a playground director during the school, because they were really lacking playground directors. It was easy to get jobs.

Lage: Yeah, yeah, not a bad time. Okay, we're just back to this question over here. You were telling me, when I realized I had made an error here, about African Americans in the navy with you, I believe.

01-00:47:52

Bollinger: Oh, yes. There were quite a few. They sent a lot of the blacks down to Port Chicago. And they had a big explosion—I don't know if you remember that.

Lage: I do.

01-00:48:02

Bollinger: And a lot of them were killed, I understand. And we had just sent a bunch from our galley down. And I always wondered how had these guys made out, if they were killed. I never did find out. But these guys were all— Any group of men, you're going to have somebody you don't really get along with, but as a whole, we had no trouble. They were pretty good guys.

Lage: Good. And then in your union, was there any integration or any African Americans in the union?

01-00:48:33

Bollinger: Not in the beginning. Like I say, they were only taking veterans, the ones that had fathers in the union.

Lage: I see, that's right.

01-00:48:41

Bollinger: But gradually, they started coming in. And there's quite a few of them now.

Lage: Was that a time of sort of stress in the union?

01-00:48:51

Bollinger: No, we didn't have ladies, either. In fact, I think I had one of the first girl apprentices working for me.

Lage: Oh, you did?

01-00:49:00

Bollinger: And some of them work out fine, others don't. Same as—

Lage: Did you have any feelings about training a woman?

01-00:49:08

Bollinger: No, as long as they could do the work. The girls are good at bending pipe. The lighter stuff. The big stuff is a little different story. And they learn circuitry real well. So they're really an asset. But I find that a lot of them aren't strong enough to do some of the heavier. And we do real heavy work.

Lage: What's some of the heavier stuff that you do?

01-00:49:33

Bollinger: Well, I climb up an extension ladder with a length of four inch rated conduit on my shoulder. And it weighs 108 pounds, I think. And you're up there, and you have to screw it in. And there's only room for one person up there, so you got to do it all yourself. And I don't think *any* of the women I've worked with could do that, probably.

Lage: So maybe you specialize, have them specialize?

01-00:49:58

Bollinger: Yeah. I did nothing but underground for a while, digging ditches and running big pipes; street lighting; and new track, where they're going to put in a bunch of buildings. We put all the pipe in for PG&E and stuff. I did that. I did hospitals for a long time, then I did schools for a long time. So you kind of more or less specialize in one thing or another.

Lage: So times must've been pretty good for the construction industry in this post-war building era.

01-00:50:26

Bollinger: Yes, uh-huh. Yeah. I didn't lose any work until—

Eleanor: '76, I think.

01-00:50:33

Bollinger: '76, the first time I lost most any work.

Eleanor: Off for six months.

01-00:50:37

Bollinger: It got real slack then.

Lage: Really. We did sort of have a recession. Hopefully, we're not going into something similar now.

01-00:50:45

Bollinger: Yeah. Well, the shop would lay off everybody, keep the foremen. And I was doing a job and I had six foremen working for me. [chuckles] And the estimator was crying his eyes out. He says, "I can't afford this."

Lage: Because you have to pay them more.

01-00:51:00

Bollinger: Yeah. But I said, "That's the reason you're making money. I don't have to stand over them." I'd say, "You take the prints, you do this section, you do this section," and they'd go and do it. And it's over and done with. They do it faster and more efficiently. So I think he made money. [laughs]

Lage: Okay, now I think we've covered the waterfront.

01-00:51:20

Bollinger: Yeah, I think so.

Lage: [laughs] Okay. Thank you.

[End of Interview]