

**Collection #
DVD 0257-0258**

**JOHN HAAN
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2012**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Kendra E Clauser
March 2013

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 DVDs (1 master and 1 copy for library use)

COLLECTION DATES: 16 July 2012; 14 minutes, 34 seconds

PROVENANCE: Indiana Historical Society partner project with Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, 2011-2012

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: DVD 0253 James Haan Interview; DVD 0255 Mike Haan Interview

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0005m0002

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

During the early Cold War, fear that the USSR would bomb the United States prompted bomb shelters, bomb drills, and efforts such as “Operation Skywatch,” a civil defense program to assist the United States Air Force to monitor the aircraft in the sky. The USAF believed Operation Skywatch was essential because it was a low-cost alternative to contemporary radar, which was not effective enough to detect low-flying aircraft. Operation Skywatch was staffed by the all-volunteer Ground Observer Corps. The GOC found its origins in WW II with the recruitment of volunteer observers along the United States coasts. In response to growing tensions between North and South Korea, the GOC was re-envisioned with GOC volunteers manning observation defense posts in gaps between proposed radar network sites 24 hours a day. Suspected threats were reported to filter centers operated by the USAF. As technology improved, the need for the GOC diminished. By 1959, the GOC was inactivated.

John Haan was born in 1944 and grew up south of Cairo, Indiana on his family’s farm. He experienced Cold War drills in school and prevention suggestions on the family’s first television set. He was eight years old when the Cairo tower for the GOC was dedicated in 1952. He helped his father staff the tower at night. John’s family, along with other neighbors and members of the local grange, (a chapter of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, which was a service organization formed nationally in 1867 to assist farmers and their families to transition into commercial farming after the Civil War), helped with the two-hour watchtower shifts, even during busy days maintaining family farms.

Sources: Material in the collection

Callander, Bruce D. “The Ground Observer Corps.” *Airforce-magazine.com*. Online journal of the Air Force Association. February 2006. <http://www.airforce-magazine.com/MagazineArchive/Pages/2006/February%202006/0206goc.aspx>.

Cromwell, Bob. “Cold War Watchtower, Delta Lima 3 - Green, DL3-G.” *The History of Information Security and INFOSEC / Military History Tourism*. Accessed March 6, 2013. <http://cromwell-intl.com/security/history/dl3g/>.

Nordin, D. Sven. *Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900*. Baton Rouge, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1974.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Folder 1 contains the recording of John Haan's oral history interview. DVD 0257 contains a MP3 file version of the interview for backup only (master). DVD 0258 contains a MP3 version of the interview for library use (copy). John Haan was interviewed as part of the Cairo Observer Corps Oral History Project. Topics include growing up near Cairo, Indiana, building the Cairo tower, the Grange, the Ground Observation Corps, and being a child during the Cold War. The interview was conducted by Nicole Poletika on July 16, 2012, in Cairo, Indiana as part of research for her graduate thesis in public history. Poletika is a graduate student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

John Haan oral history interview, audio MP3 file on
DVD (1 master and 1 library use copy)

CONTAINER

DVD 0257–0258