

Butch and Jo Lyon Transcript

CK: We're at the Alpena County Library, the date is February, not- November the 10th, 2015, and we have at the table with us Jo and Butch Lyon; and, ah, Diane Madsen; Carole Cadarette and Cindy Kus. We'd like to start out questioning ah, both Jo and Butch about their, ah, involvement in music, his especially- hers too. How long ago'd ya start playin music, Butch?

BL: Ahhh, oh wow! Ah, 51 years ago. No, longer than that, 61 years ago.

CC: 61 years ago- and your first instrument was?

BL: Drums. Yep.

CC: And any other instruments along the way from then 'til now?

BL: I played electric bass for a short time with a rock and roll band-

CC: OK.

BL: - in the Petoskey area. Yah.

CC: Alright. Ah, and the music scene for you started where- in Alpena or otherwise?

BL: No, in East Jordan, ah, with my dad's band, the Bundy Mountain Jamboree. And ah, I was fourteen and we played an average of six to eight jobs a week, all through my high school years. And one of those nights was in Traverse City on WPBN TV we did a live show, ah, at 6:30 every Thursday night for four years for Oleson Food Markets.

CK: Six to eight nights a week?

BL: Six to eight jobs a week?

CK: How did you do in school?

BL: I was a B- average (laughs).

CK: That's impressive.

CC: And your greatest influence in music? What got you started? Talk to us about your parents.

BL: Oh, well, my parents, ah, my, my, it was a family band- The Bundy Mountain Jamboree- my mom played a big bass upright, and ah, my dad played accordion, guitar, fiddle, ah,

JL: (Whispers) Organ.

BL: and, and, organ later, but ah, and then my brother played bass, I played drums and my sister yodeled. And then we also had a couple of other guys playing fiddle and a steel guitar player and a lead guitarist. So it was a good-sized western swing band. And we played all the way from ah, Cadillac to Newberry, and on Friday nights, most of that time, we were in Alpena. Driving to all these places from East Jordan.

CC: And the Bundy Mountain, Bundy Mountain Jamboree also was something you were involved in here in Alpena?

BL: Yes, I was 14, first job I played at Memorial Hall.

CC: How many years did you do that?

BL: I think we were here about four years.

CC: You taped on one night and it was on the ne, in-

BL: Yeah- Ralph Diethelm, who was from WATZ ,ah, became our emcee and he taped it on Friday night and then it was rebroadcast on WATZ Saturday morning.

CC: I think encompassed in that was also a contest. Didn't ya have a contest?

BL: Yes, ah, yeah, in all the places that we played, all the different towns we played there was ah, local talent, and there were contests for singing or playing instruments, ah, which you were one of them here and, ah, I think that um, I met somebody else the other day, ah, and, and, I'll think of their name, eventually, um; but there were a number of people and then whoever would win the contest here, towards the end of the year there would be other contests and they would ,ah, compete against each other and eventually, ah, at least in the beginning, some of these contests ah, they ended up in the Bundy Mountain Jamboree, the contestants would win a job with ah, with the Bundy Mountain Jamboree.

CC: And I believe the winner was picked by applause, right?

BL: It was picked by applause, yeah. Like here, ah, Ralph Diethelm had an applause meter, and ah, and he would decide, it would be Ralph's decision here who would be the winner.

CC: -In years we're talkin' the 50's, right?

BL: Okay, we're talkin' 59, 60 years ago. Yep.

CC: Okay. Yep.

CC: And this happened at the radio station?

CC: The Armory.

BL: At the armory; however, things happened at the radio station too, ah, I think the band made ah, two or three records at the radio station, and ah, they, they were sold probably at most of the dances and shows that we did. And you can find the records on the internet by typing in Bill Lyon Bundy Mountain Jamboree. And actually, you might even be able to hear 'em- not sure.

CC: Have you got one?

BL: I have a record, yes.

CC: So, ah, after all those, the years you that played with your family, um, did, the reason was, what- did, did you break up, was there a reason- I mean your dad was running a store I know, in, in Cheboygan.

BL: Ah, we, we, started running the store, we moved to Cheboygan and, ah, it was after I graduated. And, ah, my mother, my mother started teaching school and my dad ah, actually ran the Gold Front Theater and bar for a while. And ah, we played at the Gold Front and we actually, we actually for a while

split the band into two bands and started working bars at that time. Ah, dances weren't going over as well, so we started working bars with ah, with two different bands.

CK: Okay.

CC: But you travelled to Arizona too with a bus-

BL: Yes at one point, ah, after we moved to Cheboygan in 1963, ah, my dad and my brother and I bought a, a bus that was converted to a, a motorhome, it was a road bus, and we did one winter in the Scottsdale area playing music as a trio- with organ, guitar, and drums. And ah, actually had to hire somebody while we were out there because my brother was gonna get drafted and he joined the Air Force. So, we had a good time, that, that was a fun time, fun trip and we played, ah, I think, we left Cheboygan the day President Kennedy was shot, and I think we had a hundred dollars in our pockets. And we worked our way out, worked while we were there, and worked our way back.

CK: You played gigs along the way?

BL: Mmhuh, yep, yep, we did. Ah, we would pull up to a, a club, or if we were driving by one, we'd actually turn it around, and if it looked like it was a club that had entertainment, or big enough for entertainment, we would drive around. There were caricature pictures of the band painted on the side of the bus, and we would pull up and just go in and sit at the bar and within 15, 20 minutes we would have a job for that night. They figured if we driving something like that, that we were good enough that they would hire us. They'd get on the phone and call all their customers and ah, and advertise that way.

CK: Did you sleep in the van?

BL: Yes- it wasn't a van, it was a 33 foot road bus.

CK: Oh that's right! You said it was converted.

CC: Do you have any pictures of that?

JL: Somewhere.

BL: Somewhere I do.

CC: That would be interesting, as your family, ah, you know, as a family travelling. When you talk about that, you obviously had inside of there the instruments, and if I remember correctly, the organ at that time was not a lightweight.

BL: No, it was heavy, and, and we had, had organ trucks but, we still ended up lifting (laughs) the organ up and into the back of the, ah, the back of the bus. It was it had the, the engine in the back, and we had it converted so it had a pretty good sized floor. So we put all of our, all of my drums, the organ, ah, and actually, a big speaker, that went with the organ. And ah, we had everything, a PA system that fit in the back of that bus. And then the bus would sleep ah, four people, and ah; but it had everything in it, it was just like today's modern bus.

CC: So once the, once you were back and, and, and playing around different places, ah, um, how long did that go on for- I mean did you, did you find other musicians and go off in a different direction as far as the name of the band or -

BL: Well no, when we finally quit ah, playing,ah, with the two split up bands, with the split up band, ah, my dad and I ended up with ,ah, two music stores- one in Cheboygan, and one in ah, Remus, Michigan, down by Big Rapids. And we worked those stores for quite a while and in 1967, ah '66, Jo and I got married. And in 1967, I was gonna get drafted, so I joined the Air Force. So, I was in the Air Force, Jo and I were in the Air Force actually. Ah, in Texas, California, and then in Las Vegas, ah, for about a year. And ah, I ended up ah, hurting my knee and they kicked me out, so to speak. They didn't really kick me out; but they didn't have and other jobs open for me at that time that I could do, so they, they gave me an early out. And, came back and worked ah, with my dad selling instruments again for a while at one of the stores. And then ended up ah, Jack Venzloff was working with us also, in one of the stores. And Jack and I, ah, ended up with Chet Olson and formed actually, the Tennessee Playboys-

C: Mmhuh.

BL:- and then we dropped the Tennessee part when we came over here and just went by The Playboys, and that was in 1969.

CC: Did you come to Alpena strictly to play at one place?

BL: Yes, ah, Bob Moors, who had Bob Moors music, er, Moors Music at that time, was from Cheboygan and he knew who Everett Grohls who was the manager of the Adobe Room. He found out that Everett was looking for a band, Bob knew about us, we were playing probably at the Gold Front or Snoopy's in Cheboygan at that time and Bob brought Everett Grohls over to listen to us. Everett hired us on the spot, for three nights a week. So the first two years that we played over here, was three nights a week- and so we were driving back and forth from Cheboygan, Jack and I were; Chet was actually driving back and forth from the Soo, because he was going to college- getting his electronics degree. So, once, once Chet graduated and got his degree, then we all moved over to, to Alpena- in 1972.

JL: But you did work summers- because we moved over here in the summer-

BL: Yes, we were working year-around.

JL: -but you said weekends.

BL: Oh, oh, yeah, when we moved over here, then we started five, five nights a week and, and year around, and ah, two years after we had been here, or three years after we'd been here, ah, they put us on payroll, with two weeks paid vacation, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield...which is unheard of with bands.

JL: But it wasn't that soon though.

BL: OK.

JL: OK, it was in 1970 um- 1978.

BL: Oh, it was that late-

JL: That's when

BL: - OK.

CC: But still and all, that is unheard of-

JL: Unheard of.

CC: I don't believe in any other business, ever did that, because they never had a band that long-

BL: Right

CC:- in one place.

BL: Yeah, we played until, I think it was 1986, early 1986-

JL: '85.

BL: '85

CC: OK. So, started out three nights, went to five nights, full-time, with benefits, pretty good pay...

BL: Yes.

JL: Deer season was seven nights a week.

CC: And deer season was seven nights a week-

JL: Mmhuh.

CC: - and special entertainment during those times too.

BL: Yes, we had lot of, ah, a lot of ah, visiting bands, ah, Jan and Dean were here, and ah, the Drifters came for a week and, ah, what was the other band?

JL: Beach, The Beach Boys? No.

BL: No.

JL: That was Jan and Dean.

BL: The Drifters and then there was another one-

JL: The Ink Spots?

BL: The Ink Spots, my dad and I did The Ink Spots in Cheboygan, and that's also where I met Jo- was at the Gold Front when my dad and I were there.

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: In 1960-

JL: Five.

BL: -five.

CC: So did you-

CK: Fifty years ago.

JL: Yeah.

CC: Did you hold down a second job or was that your job?

BL: The, the, second job, once we got into the music stores, my dad and I both started doing piano service too-

JL: But you were in school too.

BL: -piano tuning. Then I went to college for a couple, two and a half years I guess, in Petoskey- during that time when I was in the store. Ah, driving back and forth mostly- hmm. But ah, you have anything to add?

JL: And then you started tuning pianos for Bob Moors.

BL: Yeah, when we came over here, then I worked for Bob Moors through Moors music.

CK: So that was kind of a second job?

BL:

That was a day time job. Yeah, I, I was doing piano work, Jack was selling- he worked for Sports Unlimited or Big Jim's at that time. Ah selling- and I think he sold cars for a while. And then Chet opened up a Lafayette Electronics store.

CK: Oh, OK.

BL: And he had that for quite a while, until Lafayette went bankrupt, then he had C and K Electronics, and he worked, worked that. And Chet worked with us til '83, until 1983; he quit, and went east to work electronics. And then, um, that was pretty much the last we saw of Chet until recently, ah, he visited a couple of times on his, on his way to visit his folks in the Upper Peninsula. But ,uh, this last summer, ah 2015, Chet came through and ah, stayed for a few days and we had a 32- year reunion. And we played a couple of nights, ah, one night at ah, Carole Cadarette's ah,Maplewood, and ah, the next night we played ah, in Hillman, at the Hi Way Inn.. So, after 32 years, we didn't really forget a whole lot of things. It was like, it was like another night at the Adobe Room pretty much. Except,we missed having the Adobe Room folks there- most of 'em.

CC: (Whispers) Yeah. But you had a full house.

BL: We did have had a full house.

CC: Yes ya did.

DM: Who played, who took Chet's place when he left?.

BL: Ah, the-

JL: Dave Cole.

BL: Dave Cole from Port Huron took Chet's place for about a year.

JL: His picture's in there.

BL: And, ah, and then ah, the guy that ah, that repairs guitars-

JL: Daoust.

BL: Larry Daoust. Ah, my mind isn't as good as it used to be. Larry Daoust came in and he played for about a year with us also.

JL: (whispers) Was it a year?

BL: Yeah, it was about a year.

CC: And I think you brought in a, a lady vocalist, did you not?

BL: Eh, we, we tried some different women and I don't remember their names.

CC: OK.

JL: I don't either.

CC: OK, well one was ah-

BL: Unless you do.

CC:- ah, yeah, I was told that there was at least two. Let me think what their names are. Um, um, anyway-

JL: I can't think of...

CC: -do you think at that point, like with everything, it wasn't your music that got stale, it was, the ah, the way, the way things had worked out with business and everything- I don't think your music ever got stale because you kept adding these different people and I think that brought- every time you add someone that brings a different faction in. But do ya think the business atmosphere changed ah, Butch?

BL: The business atmosphere did -

JL: A lot. A lot.

BL: -and it was the drunk driving laws.

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: And, and I think that the- and I don't know this for a fact, but- all the stories that were going around is that the police were actually waiting outside of bars to check people, and and...

CC: And you were right there by the State Police Post.

JL: Yep.

BL: We were next to the State Police Post.

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: So it made it handy for them. Arnie Stump just came to mind too. He was a really good banjo player and he worked with us for a while.

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: Freeman Colgar, ah, worked with us, he was over-

CC: Steel player.

BL: -he was a steel guitar player, and ah, another steel guitar player that came in a couple of times and played with us was Hank Evener, who was my dad's steel guitarist. And ah, he was a blind steel guitarist, and ended up doing quite a lot of things in Nashville.

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: And a lot of the people who worked with my dad ended up ah, doing working with, with famous people, ah, and one of them that, that I just got a hold of last year, was Johnny Colmus, who is from the Clare area. Ah, and he worked, he worked Las Vegas for 30 years, and, ah, he had his own bus, and ah, he did well out there. Ah, and there were, there were some other...my brother is trying to find somebody ah, that was nicknamed "burrhead" and I can't remember his name, his real name, but ah, my brother just thinks he located him in the Phoenix area..

CC: Well that is – wow.

BL: Yeah-And he's a, he's a, producer of ah, some people who are well known, I guess.

CC: OK. The name just came to mind- Kathy Cole-

BL: Cathy Cole was-

JL: That was Dave's wife-

CC: Yeah.

BL: - was Dave's wife.

CC: Yeah, at the time.

BL: Yes, yes. She sang, she sang a few times with us too.

CC: Okay.

BL: The biggest problem with, with, hiring somebody full time was we were a trio and the, the, the bowlin' alley was unwilling to pay another person. So that's basically why we remained a trio. We used people for a short time, as guests mostly.

JL: And you were on the payroll, that's why.

BL: Yeah, we were on payroll. They were unwilling to, to pay somebody extra.

JL: And then I'd like to add too, um, you forgot about the radio. Don Parteka had a radio show every Friday night-that he'd come into the Adobe Room. It would be live- do you remember that?

DM: That was before I, I moved here.

JL: OK.

BL: OK, that was, that would have been-

JL: That was in the 70's, so...

BL: Yeah, that would have been in the mid '70's- I would say.

JL: Mmhuh.

CK: So if you couldn't make it to the Adobe Room, you could listen to your performance on the radio?

BL: Yeah, I had forgotten about that. So lots of things happened over the years, ah, and, and things come to mind sometimes, not in order. (Laughs)

CK: Mmhuh, mmhuh. Just curious, since were on the Playboys- what did they sound like?

BL: We, we, first started, when we first started, it was pretty much ah, all country and mostly older country, ah, and then we started learning at least two songs a week, our, our practice day was one day a week in the afternoons, and we would, we would pick out a couple of songs to learn each week. And one would be probably the modern country- what was modern back then- and then we would do a rock and roll, or a standard, or a polka, because we had every body, a, a big mix of people because of the bowling alley. And so we had people from 18 to 98. So we had, we had tried to please everybody, we weren't loud- we tried to make it ah, so that people could talk while they were in there, and we tried to keep people on the dance floor.

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: And, and that's one of the things that kept us there for a long time; because if you have people on the dance floor, they like what's going on. So we always tried to do dance music.

JL: And how many times did, did Jack Snyder remodel because of you? He kept adding on-

BL: Yes, when we first started there ah, ah in 1969-70, they could seat about a 100-110 people, and there was a restaurant next door behind lanes 13 through 24. And the restaurant, ah, it was a pizza place if I remember right, it didn't ah, it wasn't going good, or, or the guy-

JL: Komo's-

BL: Was it Komo's?

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: Well they ended up moving anyway. So they knocked the wall out and that made room for about a hundred more seats. So we went from a 100 to about 200 seats, and then a few years later they added on lanes 25- 36, and they also added on to the front and increased the bar area by another 100 seats, so when we got done, you could seat about 300 people in there.

JL: (inaudible)

BL: Probably still can today but they, they don't use it for entertainment anymore, which is a shame.

CC: Too bad, ah, If I remember correctly, um, you touched on it a little bit about these contests, I, am I right in assuming you had contests there too- and you were the backup band- for contests- didn't Budweiser and the like do some contests where you were the background band?

DL: Wasn't there something from Miller's-

BL: Yes, yes there was.

CC: With WATZ-

BL: I think that was when Don Parteka was in doing the, the recordings-

CC: OK.

BL: And, yes-

CC: And you, you were the backup band-

BL: Yes-

CC: Cuz there was no such a thing then as-

BL: - That's right

CC: - as,

BL: I'd forgotten about that.

CC: -like karaoke that you could pull -

JL: No.

CC: -up on the screen- so you were the backup band,

BL: So-

CC: you had to learn that- when, when you had a contest like that and somebody chose a song, I mean, it, things-

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: Yep.

CC:- can get- a little interesting

BL: I remember that now.

JL: They can play anything.

BL: I'd forgotten that.

CC: I know,

DM: Wasn't there also, oops, sorry, something that Dodge- a contest, Dodge Brothers or-.

CC: Chrysler?

DM: No, it was Dodge.

JL: (whispers) I don't remember that.

CC: Yes-

DM: Yeah

CC: You're right, there was something. ..

They started here and then they'd go to different cities and. ..

CC: Wrangler!

DM: Wrangler.

BL: Oh the Wrang-, Dodge Wrangler thing.

DM: Yes.

BL: Ah, I think that was here one year.

DM: Mmhuh.

BL: That was here one year and I think that we did backup for, for the contestants on that. I had forgotten all about that. (Laughs)

CC: That's the only time I got to hear 'em.

JL: And then you also played out um, the Association out at Presque Isle too- once in a while you'd go out there. To try to bring people in, to sell-

BL: The Presque Isle Development-

JL: The dev, development, yeah.

BL: Yeah, on, on Sundays, ah, we would entertain people

JL: mmhuh.

BL: -while they were bringing them out to show them property.

CC: Oh-

DM: Yeah, we did that too.

CC: Oh, so you did do some outside work.

BL: We did- usually it was on Sundays. Ahhh-

CC: Well of course, you only had, what- Sunday and Monday off?

BL: Yeah, and the Deer Hunt Inn in Rogers City, ah we worked over there for two or three months on Sundays.

JL: Also, the bowling alley in um, Houghton Lake.

BL: Yeah, we did, yeah; but it was strictly Sundays.

CC: OK.

BL: It was a Sunday afternoon or a Sunday evening, ah, thing.

DM: You and I worked with a band for a Miller Highlight's Tournament one Sunday. You and I and Neal and Larry Golbeck- Zulu.

BL: That's right.

DM: Yeah, it's been quite a while.

BL: Some of the bowling, the bowling tournaments ah, involved Sundays,

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: -also, yeah, because they were here for the weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

DM: It was a fun party, lots of people.

BL: There were, there were a lot of people and ah, there was, ah , there was one fundraiser that we weren't here for-

JL: Yeah.

BL: And I'll let Jo tell you about that.

JL: Well, we didn't know about it, because it was for us. It was for our, when our daughter was sick and we were in Ann Arbor, and his band and Bob Moors and Jerry -

BL: Ruczynski.

JL: Ruczynski, um, oh, what's his name, the other guy that we didn't know about until just a few years ago, he's dead now, um, his daughter runs the museum-

BL: Oh, Jerry-

JL: Winder.

BL: Winder.

JL: Jerry Winder. They got a benefit going for us and all those people, all those people who worked the Adobe Room, donated all their tips, all their wages, everything that day, and they made over \$7,000 in 12 hours at the Adobe Room.

CC: Wow.

JL: And we didn't know anything about it, we were in Ann Arbor, and she almost died that day. And all those people were thinking about her.

CC: Yep.

JL: And it was just amazing, when, they came down with all that cash.

CC: Well, I'll tell ya, Al, not only Alpena, but ah, the, the artisans, the artist people, musician or otherwise, are very giving people in this area.

JL: Very, very.

CC: They come out and support.

JL: Still, today. And this was in 1979.

CC: OK, yeah.

JL: So, they're still doing it today for people.

CC: So did you lend your voice to any of these bands, Butch?

BL: Ah, no,

JL: Harmony.

BL: Chet and I did mostly the harmony, we did maybe two or three songs. But Jack, Jack Venzloff was the ah, singer, he had the voice, ah, hard to compete with Jack and ah, he, Jack could sing just about anything, and ah, so he, he ah, was *the* singer.

CC: I just wondered, I've heard a couple of your recordings and I hear voices back there and the harmony sounded pretty good and I suspect that they could've sang lead- very much so.

BL: We probably could have-

JL: They sang a couple.

BL: But we, we enjoyed doing a lot of the harmony things -The Statler Brothers, and the Oak Ridge Boys and, and ah, that, that type of stuff.

JL: Yep.

CC: Jo, any other special stories that you can remember?

JL: No, I won't, wait, I'll remember after I leave. (Laughs)

CC: Well, you can always add in if you need to. We can always do that.

BL: But we met lots of people-

JL: Mmm.

BL: - and made lots of friends over the years, a lot of Air Guard friends that we're still friends with, 30 years later. ... 40 years later, and ah, and, hunting groups that used to come up, ah hunting clubs that would come in and, and there'd be, they would have their own special seating. They, they had to have their table in certain places every year, and actually, some of that huntin' clubs that were competing against each other, there would be big parties- ah-

JL: You also-

BL: - deer season was a party.

JL: -you also went through three managers-

BL: Yes, we went through ah,-

JL: - while you were there..

BL: Everett Groves, and ah, and then Shirley Baldwin-

JL: Mile Linke was-

BL: And Mike Linke.

JL: And then Shirley.

BL: Oh Mike Linke and then Shirley, yes.

JL: Shirley Baldwin and Gail Cherry.

BL: Yes.

JL: Gail's – I don't know her last name now.

BL: Shirley and Gail were co-managers.

CK: Bar managers-

JL and BL: Mmhuh.

BL: For the Adobe Room. Yes.

CC: Who was the owner?

BL: The owner was Jack Snyder.

CC: Who just passed away recently.

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: Who just passed away recently, and ah-

JL: A year ago.

BL: -the last time I saw him was at ah, um, 19th Hole, which used to be-

CC: Twin Acres.

BL: Twin Acres. And ah, I went over to his table and talked to him and he said that the years that we were there, were the best years for the Adobe Room, and the bowling alley, and, and life in general.- you know, they were good years.

JL: They made a lot of money.

CC: Yeah, and they thought, and we thought they'd never end.

BL: Yeah, they were good years for entertainment, ah at the time we had four or five bars that were goin' at least three nights a week-

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: -in Alpena- and every one of 'em were doing good.

CC:Mmhuh.

CK: What were the other ones?

JL: All different music.

BL: The other one was M 30- the one out on M-32.

JL: Bojangles, er, ah...

BL: It was Bojangles at one point

JL: What was it then?

CK: Club 32?

JL: Club 32.

BL: It became club 32.

DM: It was Bojangles. I don't remember what it was before...

BL: And Twin Acres.

CC: Jack's .

BL: Ah-

CC: At one time it was Jack's Bar.

JL: And the Friendly Bar.

CC: Yeah, Friendly Bar.

BL: Friendly had music.

JL: The Courtyard which was

BL: The Courtyard which -

JL: The Apartment... at that time

BL: The Apartment

CC: There was The Apartment.

CC: And the Eagles Club.

DM: The Eagles Club.

JL: Mmhuh.

BL: So there was, there was lots of music going on – all live music. Ah, they didn't have disc jockeys back then-

CC: No, absolutely-

BL: - except on the radio.

CC:- that's right.

JL: No karaoke.

CC: No karaoke.

BL: Karaoke- that word hadn't been invented yet

JL: Although people like to get up and sing with you.

BL: Yeah, yeah, but ah, it wasn't with canned music so to speak.

JL: Mmhuh.

CK: It sounds like the Adobe Room was a, a destination, it wasn't just people who happened to be at the bowling alley, people-

BL: Oh, right.

CK: - came there to listen to your music.

BL: Yeah, yeah and ah...

JL: To dance.

CK: To dance.

BL: It was dance music, so, it was dance music and it was good music-ah, but it was dance music. People – the dance floor was full, most of the time.

CK: Did you go, Jo?

JL: Oh yes. Oh gosh yeah, I was there all the time, yeah, yep.

DM: My husband and I used to go every Tuesday.

JL: Yep, unhuh.

DM: Tuesday was our night to go out and dance.

BL: Yeah, and Neil Madsen worked with us a few times if Chet were sick, or if Jack were sick- ah, Neil worked with us.

JL: He was so funny. *Oh*.

BL: Funny Neil- the man with the hats.

JL: He kept everybody laughing.

CC: And footwear at times. Funny footwear too.

DM: Slippers.

BL: That's Diane's husband we're talking about.

CC: Yes, Diane's husband. Um, so after, are, if we, when we get to the point of the, ah, I don't want to say the break-up of the- but it really was, we, we were no longer at the Adobe Room- what happened then- in your life?

BL: Ah, I started tuning pianos full-time, for a couple of years and then I, ah, ended up with a job at Alpena Public Schools for 20 years as a custodian, and played music occasionally, but usually only as a, as a sit in drummer.

JL: For fun.

BL: For fun. Ah, it interfered with, with fly fishing and camping in the summer time. So I couldn't do a full time thing.

CC: Well sir, I've seen one of the older trailers that you refurbished- you definitely do know how to work with your hands.

BL: I'm a woodworker and ah-

CC: It was, it was amazing Butch, I, I, I loved that trailer because I used to have one like it.

BL: Yep, that was a 1960-

JL: 2.

BL: 2.

JL: Shasta-

BL: -Shasta trailer

CC: Yeah

BL: That was the kind that had the wings coming off from the back.

CC: So when you think about working with your hands, you're still working with your hands, now I know you travel a lot and you fish and you camp; but I know you also go down to places where you can get together and play music. I think.

BL: Once in a while, yep. Once in a while I, I just like to set in once in a while it's fun.

CC: OK.

BL: And we go over and set in with Jack, once in a while when it's possible.

CC: OK.

BL: Ah, he's still working, ah, every Sunday night at least, ah, in the wintertime-

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: -I think, at the Highway Inn, in, in Hillman. So we get, Jack and I get together once in a while. And we get together once in a while out at your, at, at the Maplewood too.

CC: OK.

BL: It's always fun. It's always fun to get up and play, ah, I gave my drums to my son-in-law-

CC: Yeah.

BL: - and ah, so that I wouldn't be tempted to join a band again. (Laughs)

CC: *Ok-* um, boy I'll tell ya, my, my, I gotta lot of questions and I should have wrote 'em down; but, ah, is there anything else, Jo, anything that you can remember that you'd like to ...as a wife of a musician, it wasn't all fun.

JL: Oh no. No, it was hard.

CC: It was hard, hard, there was times that I'm sure-

JL: Yeah.

CC: -ya just wanted to stay home but ya didn't.

JL: Mmhuh.

CC: Good for you, good for you.

JL: I went down there a lot.

CC: Yep. So anything else, Butch? Did we leave anything out?

BL: No, I, I, we're, we're finally at the point where ah, semi-retirement, I'm helping somebody ah, else get into the piano tuning, and ah, the, the takeover of the hundreds of pianos in this area, and I'm going to ah, slowly back out of it. And ah, we're gonna spend our first , for the first time, three months in Florida. So, retirement is good.

CC: Ahh...

BL: Staying involved with music people through pianos has, has been good too.

CC: I'm gonna ask a silly question- with all the hundreds of pianos that's in Alpena, and the surrounding area, because you cover way out, I'm sure, um- is there any, any time that you just had to say to the owner of the piano, "Can't fix it."

BL: Only, only, two or three times.

CC: OK.

BL: Ah, I, I, sometimes they're, they're ah, in bad enough shape to be a throwaway, and I worked on one this last week, and it was a throwaway piano, and it was a, a 600 to 1,000 dollars to make it workable again, and the lady, and she, she could have spent that money on a decent piano, but it was her great-grandmother's piano-

CC: Mmhuh.

BL: - it got fixed.

CC: So you fixed it.

BL: I fixed it.

CC: Good for you. Good for you. I think that's, I think that's important just like what, what we're trying to-

BL: (inaudible)

CC: trying to do here and, and you certainly have made a, a good part of ah, the history of music in and around the Alpena area; because the Alpena County Library reaches out from the Soo down how far Cindy? What do you consider yourself, how far this, well, with, with the internet , the Alpena County Library reaches out all over- everywhere.

CK: Right.

CC: But we're gonna try to keep ah, the music part of this-

CK: Northeast Michigan.

CC: Northeast Michigan.

CK: Northeast Michigan.

CC: And, and again, I do think that ah, we got a cup of, more than one musician sitting here, you know that, but I think that the, the Playboys, was the longest running band,

JL: Mmhuh

CC: -and from the Soo to wherever...

BL: Yeah, 15 years.

CC: Yeah.

BL Ah, we did run into a, a group in Florida, that had been in the same spot for 14 years at the time that we ran into them, so...

CC: OK, OK.

BL: But ah, they, they were still playing on a nightly basis.

CC: OK. Do you know if Chet still plays regularly or is he just ah, doing set ins and- I know what he does ah, as far as with *his* hands.

BL: He, Chet is working with a husband and wife down in Florida.

CC: OK.

BL: And ah, they're playing, they're doing some playing down there. So he's staying, he's staying into it. And we will get together this, this winter and, and we will have a jam session ah, with my brother and ah, Chet and, and ah, some local talent ah...

CK: Here, in Alpena?

BL: In Florida.

CC: In Florida. Couple hours away from me. I think-

BL: Yeah.

CC: -If you stick around where he's at-

BL: Yeah, Chet's in Silver Springs, and, and Chet's about an hour and a half, two hours from us. I think it was an hour and a half he said it took 'em to get over, ah we're just south of St. Augustine.

JL: But he had given up music for a long, long time.

CC: He had.

JL: He burned out. Mmhuh, that's why he left here.

BL: Chet got into woodworking too. He got into wood turning and he does , he does some beautiful, some beautiful work with vases.

CC: Yep.

JL: Bowls.

CC: You need to go on Diane and look at it, it's so gorgeous- all inlaid.

JL: Did I show you one of the bowls he made?

DM: Yes, you did.

CC: So, again, let me thank you, ah, for-

CK: I have a question-

CC: Excuse me, she has a question, this'd be Cindy-

CK: I was curious, I think I've been taking a few pictures of the Bundy Mountain Jamboree Band, is that-

BL: Correct.

CK -that's what you were called? Where'd that name come from?

BL: The name came from the Bundy Hills near Mount Pleasant.

JL: I just read this lately.

BL: Our, we were living in Remus at the time where we ended up having the music store for a while. And, ah that's where the Bundy Mountain Jamboree got its start, and, ah, my parents ah, were friends, ah, with the theater owner where they were doing shows and he lived at the foot of one of the Bundy Hills and they were looking for a name so that's where the name Bundy- and Bundy Hills Jamboree didn't sound too good so they named it Bundy Mountain Jamboree.

CC: OK.

CK: Thank you.

CC: Yeah, thank you. Thank you guys.

BL: You're welcome.

JL: You're welcome.

CK: We really appreciate you coming in.

