

HockmanGeorge_19930202

RICHARD SHARPLESS: This is an interview with George Hockman.

The interview's taking place at 60 Flagler Street,
Raubsville. It's February 1st, 1993. How old are you,
George?

GEORGE HOCKMAN: Fifty.

RS: Okay, and where are you from?

GH: Williams Township, and I was born on Coffeetown. I went to
school at (inaudible) School, Williamstown Elementary, and
Wilson High School.

RS: So you've lived here all your life.

GH: Yep. All my life, yeah.

RS: Okay, you married, George?

GH: Yep. Married.

RS: How many kids do you have?

GH: Three.

RS: Okay, what are their ages?

GH: One's 20 and one's going to be 22 and one's 14.

RS: One's in college?

GH: One's in college. Debbie's in college, yeah.

RS: All right. You're an Army veteran, right? [00:01:00]

GH: Yep.

RS: When did you go in the Army?

GH: Nineteen sixty-eight.

RS: '68. Was that right out of high school?

GH: No. No.

RS: What did you do out of high school?

GH: I worked at Lafayette College.

RS: You did?

GH: Yeah.

MARTIN DESHT: What did you do up there?

GH: Maintenance.

RS: Maintenance.

GH: Yeah.

MD: Holy cow. What kind of maintenance?

GH: Mowing grass and stuff. Just like they do now. Pick up the garbage and stuff. All kinds of odds and ends.

RS: You were there how many years, then?

GH: At the college? I'd say about four years.

RS: Then you got drafted?

GH: Yep. Then I went in the service, yeah.

RS: You were in Vietnam?

GH: Yep. A year-and-a-half in Vietnam.

RS: A year-and-a-half?

GH: Yeah.

RS: What unit were you in in Vietnam?

GH: Third and Thirteenth Artillery.

RS: You were wounded, right?

GH: Yep. Twice.

RS: Twice?

GH: Yep.

RS: How did you get wounded in the artillery?

GH: Shrapnel. And a bullet. [00:02:00] I got shrapnel in my right hip and a bullet in the back of my head, on the top of my skull.

RS: Must have been -- the bullet in the head was a superficial wound, wasn't it?

GH: No, just went in the wrong way, you know? But they never took it out. I had to get it taken out when I come back to the States, then. Because it started bothering me, and they took it out up here in Easton Hospital.

RS: In other words, the VA didn't do it.

GH: No. Nope.

RS: Okay, so you got two Purple Hearts, right?

GH: Yep. And I got an Army Commendation Medal. One of them, what I got? I got another one, too. Bravery Medal, for bravery.

RS: You were at a firebase then, right?

GH: Yep.

RS: Where at?

GH: All over. Cù Chi. Saigon.

RS: Cù Chi?

GH: Yep.

RS: I was out there when I was there two years ago.

GH: Yep.

RS: Yeah. I'll be damned.

GH: I was all over, yeah. [00:03:00]

RS: When you came back from the Army, where did you go to work then?

GH: The Red Head gas station for a while. I worked there, I don't know, about a year. And then I went to work for my brother-in-law, roofing and siding, Donald Kester, down here on Mill Street in Raubsville. And I worked for him for 17 years.

RS: Now that was a roofing company?

GH: Yeah.

RS: And what did you do? General--

GH: Yeah, cutting and stuff. Roofs and stuff. That's all.

RS: So you worked there for 17 years.

GH: Yep.

RS: Where did you -- what happened to that job?

GH: Well, I hurt my back. That's when I hurt my back and I had that ruptured disc in my back.

RS: Was that an on-the-job accident?

GH: Yeah. That was on-the-job accident. After that healed up,

then I couldn't do anything for about a year, so I got a job as a security with Miles Security in Allentown.

RS: What was the name of that company?

GH: Miles.

RS: Miles?

GH: M-I-L-E-S. And I worked down here at the old Durham paper mill. I'd say that was about a year. [00:04:00]

RS: Did you get workman's compensation for that injury?

GH: Yep. Yep. Yeah, they paid me all, all the time I was off, they paid me for that.

RS: And what happened with the security job?

GH: Well, then I went from there to Hummel's Lumber.

RS: Hummel's Lumber? Okay, that's up in --

GH: Bushkill Drive, yeah.

RS: -- Bushkill Drive.

GH: Easton, yeah.

RS: And you were there how long?

GH: Nine years.

RS: And what did you do there?

GH: Made deliveries and worked in the yard and odds and ends. Mostly deliveries that I made.

RS: When did that job end?

GH: Last April.

RS: Last April? So that was in April of '92.

GH: Yep.

RS: What happened?

GH: Well, he couldn't get nobody to run the place anymore the right way, to run the lumber yard. You know, he didn't buy any more material, so he couldn't make a go of it there, so.

RS: Was it because of hard times?

GH: Yeah, you know, the economy and this and that. I guess his prices went a little too high, and people went elsewhere to buy, you know?

RS: Who did he generally sell to? A contractor?

GH: Yeah, and factories and stuff.

RS: Was that a very --

GH: A lot of factories.

RS: Was that a very big operation?

GH: No, not that big.

RS: How many people did you have working there?

GH: Let's see. Five guys.

RS: So he just closed down?

GH: Yeah. He just closed it up, yeah.

RS: How old a guy was he?

GH: Oh, he's in his forties.

RS: So he's young.

GH: Yeah. Yeah. He was in his forties.

RS: He just couldn't make the bills.

GH: Yep. He couldn't get nobody to run the place right, you know, or knew anything about lumber and stuff like that.

RS: Oh, he didn't want to do it himself?

GH: No, he didn't want to do it himself, no. He just wanted to get somebody in there that knew something about lumber and run a lumber yard, but everybody he had in there, they didn't [00:06:00] know what the Hell they were doing.

MD: Well, Hummel was a longtime operation.

GH: It was. It's been there a long time.

RS: So this is the son, I guess, or probably of one of the--

GH: No, this guy here, he owns a golf course out there.

Woodland Hills Golf Course. They bought the place now.

RS: He bought it from Hummel.

GH: Yeah, well he bought it from the other two guys that owned it. They originally bought it from Mr. Hummel, and these other two guys were in partnership and then they went and sold it to this guy.

RS: Oh, I see, I see. And what else does this guy do?

GH: Builds homes.

RS: He builds homes?

GH: Yep.

RS: So he just didn't want to run it.

GH: No, he didn't. He just didn't want to run it, you know.

RS: But you also said that business was bad there.

GH: Yeah. Yeah.

RS: What have you been doing since then? Since April of '92.

GH: Mowing grass at the golf course, his golf course. Because he took me right from the lumber yard and put me out on his golf course. [00:07:00] All I do now is mow grass out there. That's it.

RS: But you're off for the--

GH: Winter, yeah.

RS: When are you going back? Do you have any idea?

GH: Well, he said about the middle of April.

RS: Middle of April, okay. So you're off for four or five months, then.

GH: Yep.

RS: That's a pretty good stretch. And you collect unemployment?

GH: Oh yeah, yeah. Collect unemployment, yeah.

RS: In these jobs, over the -- what was the best-paying job you had?

GH: With my brother-in-law.

RS: The roofing?

GH: Yep.

RS: Have you managed to keep up with that wage in any of these other jobs?

GH: Oh yeah, yeah. That's a little under the wage, but you

know. I've got to watch what I do with my back because--

RS: So really, the back made a difference in what you were doing.

GH: Yeah. Yeah.

RS: Is your brother-in-law still in the roofing business?

GH: Yep. Still in business, yeah. And my youngest brother works for him, too, now. He worked for him when I got hurt, too. [00:08:00] It was just the three of us.

RS: So it was almost like a family business.

GH: Yeah.

RS: In terms of your economic situation since, well since you got out of the Army, has it improved at all?

GH: Little bit. Not much, but a little bit.

RS: When you say a little bit, what do you mean by that?

GH: The economy's so high. Everything's so high now, you know? Like a budget. I live on a budget, you know?

RS: Right, right. So it's tough.

GH: Yep. It's tough.

RS: Does your wife work?

GH: No.

RS: No?

GH: No.

RS: So it's really just your income.

GH: Just my income, yep.

RS: When did - okay, you said -- so all these jobs you've had -- about three or four jobs -- have you tried to get anywhere else, like steel mill or things like that?

GH: Yeah, I tried to get in Johanna Farm, but the minute I filled out [00:09:00] the application and put my age down, they said they don't want me. Because I'm too old already. I was forty, forty-six when I put my application in there. They don't want me. They don't want old guys. They want young guys, you know? That's what my neighbor told me because he works there. He's the one that got my applications for me. And he said they want the young guys. They don't want the old guys. And that's the way it is every place you go for a job. You put your age down, they look at that, "We don't want you." You know?

MD: Do they say that?

GH: Oh yeah, you can tell just by looking at them when they look at that application.

RS: Because really, it's against the law for them to discriminate.

GH: Yeah, but that's mostly all it is. They don't want these- you know, they want the guys out of college or young guys.

RS: How about benefits? Did you -- are you covered with any benefits?

GH: When I'm working, yeah. I ain't now, but when I work at

the golf course, I've got Blue Cross Blue Shield there.

RS: But when you're—

GH: When I'm home now, I ain't got nothing. [00:10:00]

RS: So you're only without benefits at least a third of the year.

GH: Yep.

RS: This bother you at all?

GH: No, because I'll be back to work and get my benefits back. I just tell Georgie and them to be careful what they do is all.

RS: How about pension? Did you have any kind of pension plan when you worked at any of these other places?

GH: Nope.

RS: Did Hummel pay you benefits?

GH: No, not at first, no. But when this new guy took it over, then I got my benefits right away.

RS: How do you feel about the situation? You're in an almost difficult situation, in a way.

GH: Yeah, well I take it day by day. What can I say? You know?

RS: Did you expect -- when you went to Hummel, for example -- that [00:11:00] the place would go out of business?

GH: No. No. You know, I thought I'd be there til I retired.

RS: You were there how many years?

GH: Nine years.

RS: Of course, I guess you'd expect to stay with your brother-in-law, too.

GH: Yeah. If it wouldn't have been for my back, I'd probably still be with him too.

RS: (pause) What else? (pause) (inaudible) I'm watching, I'm watching you (laughs)

MD: Don't watch me (inaudible).

GH: You know, like I tell you, the economy's rough now, you know. But as long as I make a living for my family, I'm happy. And I repair, you know, like lawn mowers in the summertime and stuff, make a few extra bucks here and there. [00:12:00]

RS: How about your, your daughter's work?

GH: Only the one does, but right now she's laid off, too. She does a couple hours a day at college, in the offices up there. Running the errands and stuff like that for them.

RS: Does she have a scholarship?

GH: Yep. Yep, she gets a couple of them every year. She gets scholarships.

MD: She must be a pretty smart kid.

GH: She is.

MD: What's she studying?

GH: She's going to be a teacher.

MD: A teacher?

GH: Yep. Elementary ed. and education, she's studying.

RS: Is it tough with a kid in college like that?

GH: Oh, a little bit. But when she needs money, if I got it, I send it to her, you know? But very seldom she asks for money. She usually makes her own money and stuff.

RS: How about your other daughter? What does she do?

GH: She was working at UPS in Allentown. Now I think she's working at the video store in Wind Gap. And they laid them off out there after Christmas. Now she's working at the video store out there in Wind Gap.

RS: Does she live at home?

GH: No, she lives up there in Bangor.

RS: So you really have only your son at home.

GH: Yep.

RS: You said you thought you'd stay with the lumber company until the end, until you retired. How did you feel when the place shut down?

GH: Oh, I felt bad, you know. I figured, well I had a home there and I'd be there, like I say, until I retire. But there wasn't nothing I could do about it.

RS: How about the other guys that were working there?

GH: Well they all got laid off and got new jobs now. I know the one clerk that worked there. He's working at General

Supply now. The heavyset one.

RS: How about the [00:14:00] other guys?

GH: I don't know where he's working, the other guy. And the secretary that we had, she's working in Nazareth for some kind of guy that makes this stuff for tires, that seal tires and stuff up with. This new stuff? That's where she's working. But I don't know where the other guy went.

RS: Have you thought about going anywhere else? Obviously you have, but --

GH: Yeah, but like I said, age got a lot to do with it.

RS: How about the economy?

GH: And the economy, yeah.

RS: Have you tried to go anywhere else other than the--?

GH: Yeah, I've been looking, but you try and they never call you, you know?

RS: Do you have any idea how many applications you've filled out?

GH: No. In my lifetime?

RS: No, I mean just in the last couple years.

GH: No. Not offhand I don't.

RS: But enough, in any case.

GH: Yep.

RS: You never tried going to work for Bethlehem Steel or --

[00:15:00]

GH: No.

RS: -- Ingersoll Rand or any of those companies? Well, of course when you were working with your brother-in-law and the other, you know --

GH: Yeah, I didn't have to, you know.

RS: So economically, you're just about keeping up.

GH: Yep. That's it. I keep up with it, and that's it.

RS: How do you see it down the road?

GH: Well I hope it gets better.

RS: Do you have any hope for this new administration in doing anything?

GH: I don't know. I sure hope so. But the way things are going now, I doubt it. Because he wants to, what, raise the Social Security up to 67 now? I don't think so.

RS: In other words, you expect you're going to be working up until you're not, looks like -- (laughs)

GH: Yep.

RS: -- we're all going to have to work until we're --

GH: Yep. We're all going to have to work until we can't work anymore, I'll bet you. [00:16:00]

RS: Do you own the place you live in?

GH: Yep. Yeah, I own that, yep.

RS: So you don't really have any mortgage or anything like that.

GH: No. No. That's one good thing.

RS: What about your son? What does he want to do?

GH: He wants to be a basketball player or a baseball player.
He wants to go to college and play baseball or basketball.

RS: Is he good enough?

GH: No, he's good, yeah. All I've got to do is get him to do
his work in school.

RS: Well that's important. Without that, why, it's going to be
tough to get in school.

GH: That's what we keep telling him. If you want to play
sports, you've got to get those grades up. Because next
year, he's going to start high school, and he's got to have
a B average to play any sports in the school.

RS: Oh yeah?

GH: That's what they say, yeah.

RS: Does he play ball now?

GH: Basketball, yep. Williams Township. [00:17:00]

RS: Junior High? Midgets?

GH: Midgets, yep.

RS: You think you're going to be able to help him through
school?

GH: Oh yeah. By that time, yeah. By the time he gets ready to
go to school. And you know, you never know, he might get
scholarships, too, if he buckles down.

RS: Your daughter had scholarships most of the time she's been in college.

GH: Yep.

RS: She's a good student.

GH: Yeah. She gets them every year, just about. She writes in and fills the papers and sends them in and she gets them.

RS: So that's a, at least that's a --

GH: Big help, yeah.

RS: Let's go, let me ask you a little bit about the -- do you think the government could do anything more to help the economy?

GH: Yeah. They could.

RS: What kind of things do you think they could do?

GH: Oh, hell, they don't have to raise -- they keep raising taxes and this and that. They don't need to keep raising taxes. [00:18:00] You know, they could help the people that need the help, instead of helping the rich ones. Like what they're doing now. Every time they get a raise, who gets the raise? The Congress and all these big shots. Christ, they're making enough money now. They can give it to the senior citizens that need the money, you know? That have the tough time. Tougher than what I've got, probably, some of them probably do.

RS: You just mentioned the fact that they're talking about

extending the Social Security. What do you think about the fact that they're also thinking about taxing benefits or cutting back on increases and the cost of living?

GH: I don't think they should. Nope. No way. Because if they cut back, how are people going to live? How are we going to live? They cut back and they raise Medicare up, take the Medicare away and this and that and cut back on that, how the Hell are people going to live? They ain't going to live. What raises do they get in Social Security, whether they pay it out and put it into Medicare? You know.

[00:19:00]

RS: You think the government should invest in industry more or put more money into jobs?

GH: Yep. I think so, yep. [inaudible] for these people that couldn't work and stuff. I don't think they're going to do it, though. And to him, it's a big joke. You know, he don't have to come out in the cold and work. He's sitting down there in that big white house pushing a pencil. He ain't trying to help the people.

RS: Well, we'll have to wait and see whether he keeps his promises. But you don't have much hope that he's going to.

GH: No. They all promise you this and promise you that right before they get elected, but once they get elected, what happens?

RS: In your -- well, since you got out of high school, in your lifetime, have you seen any - do you think things have gotten worse economically?

GH: Oh yeah. A lot. Anybody can tell you that. [00:20:00] It got worse.

RS: In what way? In terms of --

GH: You look back years ago, when you got paid, you used to go to the store and buy what? Three or four bags of groceries for \$25. You can't do that today. I take notice of that right away. If you don't live on a budget, you might as well forget it.

RS: As you're -- so you're talking about inflation? You're talking about increasing cost of things.

GH: Yep. I don't think they have to do that all the time. Every time you go someplace, they want to raise this, raise that. Who the Hell's going to pay for it? Who's going to buy it? Just like you or Martin. You go out and buy something. If I see the price, "Hell, I ain't buying that. It's too much." That's the way with anybody. They go someplace else and buy it, where it's cheaper. A couple dollars cheaper, they save a couple bucks.

RS: Over the years then, your standard of living probably hasn't -- actually has probably gone down. [00:21:00]

GH: Yeah, it went down. Yeah. Yep.

RS: How do you feel about this?

GH: I don't like it. I feel terrible about it. Somebody's got to do something about it pretty soon or the world's going to be in a mess. And the way it looks today, nobody's doing anything about it. You know, all they want to do is keep raising taxes and taxes and taxes all the time. They're going to have to do something to get the economy back on its feet. Cause the way I see it, things ain't getting any better. It's getting worse instead of better. Anybody can tell you that.

RS: When you got out of high school, there were jobs around.

GH: Oh yeah. Lots of jobs.

RS: That's just not the case anymore.

GH: Nope. It ain't the case anymore.

RS: So you're concerned about your children's future, obviously.

GH: Yeah. Yeah. [00:22:00] When I got out of high school, there were all kinds of jobs you could get, easy. But now, and if you ain't got a high school diploma or anything, then you're done there, too, cause they don't want, you know.

RS: And then they're discriminating on a basis of age, too, right?

GH: Yep.

RS: The fact that you've had a back injury, does that keep you from getting any particular kinds of jobs? In other words, do you think that's a factor?

GH: Oh yeah. Because I've got to watch what I lift and stuff.

RS: I mean, when you apply for jobs, do they want to know about this?

GH: Oh yeah. They want to know all your injuries and stuff, if you have any medical history and stuff like that.

RS: Are you still collecting any kind of compensation?

GH: Nope.

RS: No?

GH: No.

RS: So that ended really when you just - when you went back to work.

GH: Yep. When the doctor said it's alright for me to go back to work. Yeah, that just cut right out.

RS: [00:23:00] Do you get any benefits from the Veterans Administration?

GH: No. I tried a couple times.

RS: What did they say?

GH: You've got to have your old records and stuff. Doctor's records and this and that. And the doctor that took the bullet out of my head -- he died and they destroyed all the records.

RS: The doctor's office destroyed the records?

GH: Yeah. When he died, they just got rid of all his old records, and that was it. Cause my wife -- we called up a couple times and see if they couldn't find it.

RS: How come you didn't go to the VA to have that taken care of?

GH: Because I didn't know. I just thought it was a couple pieces of shrapnel in there, you know? Because it kept getting harder and bigger, and every time I hit it, it was sore. So I went to the doctor up there in Easton, and he operated and took it out in the emergency room, and he said, "Hell, that ain't shrapnel. That's a bullet that was in there."

RS: That's amazing.

GH: Yep.

RS: And the Army didn't find it?

GH: Nope. Jesus Christ, when they did my hip down there -- when they took the stitches out -- and I was taking a shower and I rubbed the towel across there and I caught a piece of shrapnel in my hip that they didn't [00:24:00] even take it out. I took it out myself. I had a big hole there. They already had to put stitches back in it again. I went to the hospital and they put stitches back in it again.

RS: That's hard to believe.

GH: I couldn't believe that, when he said, "That's a bullet. That ain't shrapnel." He took it out and threw it in the pan. I heard it hit the pan.

RS: You didn't notify the VA after that, about that?

GH: That's when I notified them. And then they said, "Well, they sent us papers." We sent papers back and they kept sending more papers and we filled them out, sent them back. Then we went to get the doctor report and hear he died in the meantime, and they destroyed all his records. See if I would've had those records, then I probably could've gotten disability or something from them. They destroyed all the records. I tried to get a loan from the Veteran's when I bought my trailer here and they wouldn't even give it to me, you know.

RS: The GI Bill?

GH: Nope. They wouldn't give it to me.

RS: Why not?

GH: Who knows? We filled papers out and sent [00:25:00] them back, and "Disapproved," they said. And that was when I was still in the Reserves.

RS: Because you'd be eligible for a GI Bill.

GH: Yeah. But I told my wife then, "Forget it. We ain't sending no more." Yep, I always -- want you to do

everything, but when you want something, when you want help, they don't want to help you.

RS: So you don't feel too good about the U.S. military right now or the Veterans Administration.

GH: Nope. Nope. Even when I bought my trailer, like I said, I tried to get a loan from them and they wouldn't even give me a loan for that.

RS: And they didn't say why not?

GH: Nope. They didn't say nothing. They just sent a paper back saying, "You're disapproved."

RS: Was it because it was trailer, do you know? Or they just didn't say?

GH: Hell, I had no trouble getting it from the bank, you know? Hell, we went -- me and Chet went to the bank, Chet took me to his bank and we filled out the papers and that was it.

[00:26:00]

RS: This was Chet Flagler.

GH: Yeah. Yeah Chet, Flagler, he treated me all right when I bought my trailer. You know, in the wintertime when I got laid off and we didn't have much work, he lowered the payments on my trailer for me to keep the payments up and stuff. Yep.

RS: How long have you been living in there? Down there?

GH: Twenty-two years.

RS: Twenty-two years? Since 1970, huh? Seventy-one. Well that was right after you got out, then. Out of the army.

GH: Yep.

RS: Yeah. Martin, do you have any questions?

MD: No(inaudible)

RS: What do you think you'll be doing down the road, in terms of your work?

GH: Well I'll probably be at the golf course now, until I retire. Unless he sells it.

RS: Do you feel secure about that job? [00:27:00]

GH: Oh yeah. That's a good job I got. Nobody bothers me. I just mow grass.

RS: What do you do there?

GH: Mow grass.

RS: Mow grass?

GH: Mostly mow grass all summer, yeah.

MD: You said you repair the equipment, too?

GH: Not out there, no. They've got a special man that does that.

MD: You repair it at your house?

GH: Yeah, I'd rather repair mowers at my house, yeah.

MD: Did you go to school for that?

GH: Yep.

MD: Did you now?

GH: Yep. Plus when I get the books. I read the books and stuff, you know. It ain't that hard to learn about them things. It ain't that much.

RS: You do other stuff like that, too, because of course you did my--

GH: Oh yeah, I'll do anything. Weed whackers, chainsaws. A lot of lawnmowers, though. Mostly lawnmowers.

RS: Is this a pretty good business on the side, or not?

GH: Yeah, sometimes. You know, you have your weeks. Just like any other business. You have your weeks. [00:28:00] Some weeks, you're busy and the next week, you don't do even a little bit.

RS: If you didn't do that, could you get along without?

GH: Oh yeah. Like I said, we live on a budget and that's it.

RS: But it's obviously increasingly difficult to live with.

GH: Oh yeah, yeah. You know, because you see stuff you want to buy and you can't afford it.

RS: Has this situation had any affect on your family?

GH: Nope. No.

RS: In other words, your family more or less is resigned to--

GH: Live that way. Yep.

RS: -- living that way?

GH: Yep.

RS: How about your kids? Do they feel angry about it or--

GH: No, no.

RS: Well that's good.

GH: No, they never complained about it, no. But I tell them right now, what can you do? If you ain't got it, you ain't got it. [00:29:00]

RS: You've lived in Raubsville a long time. You think there are a lot of other people around here in the same situation? Have things seemed to have gotten better or worse for other people you know?

RS: Well, probably some of them got better and, you know, some probably got worse. I couldn't tell you because I don't butt into other peoples' business, you know. But probably some people's got it better and some people's got it bad here.

MD: Have you applied to any of the paper mills?

GH: No. I can't stand to work inside, though. I've got to be outside. I don't like working inside.

MD: Paper mills are--

GH: Noisy.

MD: Really noisy.

RS: That paper mill you worked at as a security guard, where was that?

GH: Down here at 611. Durham.

RS: It's closed now, right?

GH: Yeah. It was closed when we were there. They had a few guys who were cleaning up and doing odds and ends and stuff, but now it's closed completely.

RS: Do you know why they closed?

GH: Nope. I don't know why they ever closed up. Of course, another company took it over and they were supposed to open it up and they never got around to opening it up and it still sits there the way it was when I was there. Empty.

RS: There's a lot of places like that around here.

GH: Yep.

RS: What do you think about that? The fact that all these places are closing down.

GH: We all close down sooner or later.

END OF AUDIO FILE.