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Interview no. 934

Marvin Shady

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While I would like the first interview session to center on William Moran, your predecessor as editor of the *El Paso Labor Advocate* and an outstanding leader of labor in Texas, tell me some biographic information on yourself.

Where were you born?

About when did you get into town?

You went to work here in El Paso in 1932, and became active in the union in 1938/9, didn't you? [based on an El Paso, 1988 interview with Dr. George N. Green, for the Texas Labor Archives]

Which union was that, was it the Typographical union?

What kind of situation did you have and where?

I've just started to read Charles E. Hershberger's *The El Paso Labor Advocate and its editors from 1909 to 1939*, and am in the process of copying it for you.

Hershberger wrote that Moran was the third editor of the *Advocate*, after Henry Walker almost ran it into the ground and basically brought it back even better than before, is that right?

Just so I have it on tape, let me repeat some of the information Hershberger had on Moran, let me know if you know differently-
born May 4, 1876 in Leadville, CO -that was the scene of some mining strikes, wasn't it?-
1 of 7 brothers
moved to Ft. Worth
became Sec Tres of state organization of bricklayers, published *Southwestern Bricklayer* monthly magazine until he died in 1945 and then his wife took over the editing duties
came to El Paso in 1914 to start union owned and operated brick plant

Hershberger said Moran was compared to John L. Lewis, [President of the United Mine Workers] in manner and action-- is that a fair comparison? Can you describe him for me, I don't think I've ever seen a picture of him.

Moran's editorship of the *Labor Advocate* is covered pretty well in Hershberger's book, he apparently was a model crusading editor for various reforms, is that how you remember him?

How did you get started with the *Advocate* and Bill Moran?

How was it working under Moran?

Aside from his position as editor, he was very active in state labor, the Texas State Federation of Labor (TSFL) and the national and international bricklayers' union, wasn't he?

After reading the proceeding for 40 years of TSFL conventions, I noticed that Bill Moran was the only consistent voice that spoke out for El Paso or West Texas, what kind of effect did this have on the local labor movement?

He got the 1924 AFL convention to El Paso/Juarez, what can you tell me about that convention?

That was during Prohibition, wasn't it?

Hershberger in his book believed that Moran basically followed the policies of the AFofL, and especially of Samuel Gompers, even to the point that he followed the Pan-American Labor movement of Gompers--
it that a fair assessment?

There is so much to what Moran did and meant to the El Paso and Texas labor movement, can you talk to me on something that I haven't touched on?

Now, how about yourself, we've already touch briefly on when you came to El Paso, how was the situation when you came here?

The *Advocate* offices were on South Oregon street then, weren't they?

Hershberger wrote that Moran had the finest print shop while on South Oregon, can you tell me about that?

Which newspapers were being printed back then? - did you work at any of them?

Did you ever work in any of the print shops?

You've been a member of the International Typographical Union for over 60 years, neven having had your membership lapse, how has it been for you as a union member for so long?

Did you ever have a desire or need to take out a traveling card?

Marvin Shady, interviewed by Covacha-Quauhtlatoo, Tuesday, November 17, 1998, in the offices of the *El Paso Labor Advocate*, El Paso, Texas

Q: You're looking pretty good, Mr. Shady, considering a couple of years ago you had some health problems. Obviously, you've recovered, and just talking to you over the phone, you seem to be doing much better

S: Oh yeah, I'm OK, at my age, I guess...

Q: I wanted this interview to deal mostly with Bill Moran, William Moran. I think largely because I certainly wanted to look more into his life and what he's done in labor not only in El Paso but in Texas, although he's not unknown in the rest of Texas. But I think the impact he's had on El Paso, specifically, is very strong. But before I wanted to start with him, I wanted to get a little more biographical information on you, Mr. Shady: where were you born, when you came to El Paso.

S: Well, I can preface this- where I was born, I was born in Larned, Kansas, June 4, 1913. That's eighty-five years ago, then some. But on the other hand, my mother passed away when I was a baby and actually I lived with an aunt and uncle all my life. Like mother and father. On the other hand, I still had a daddy that I saw regularly. But I have something that goes along with a labor background. In 1922, of course I was nine years old, I remember, my uncle was a boilermaker, working in Kansas, and they had a strike. He was, at that time, the strike chairman of the group that went out in this small town, Hoisington, Kansas, on the Missouri Pacific. But the fact was that the strike was so bad there that they had called out the militia. And had under militia [martial] law during the strike. He had a hard time. Anyway, the fact was that they blackballed him, he couldn't

get a job anyplace. And that's how come that we moved to El Paso in 1926, that was four year later. But the fact, that at that time, it was kinda, it was something for me. I wasn't quite old enough to really understand what was really going on. But he lost everything he had during that strike. They didn't have benefits like they have today. If they had any benefits, they had to get out, pass the tambourine or something to get the money to eat with. Anyway, Basically I got a start right there, that strike was really something. I remember almost every day of it even though I was just a young boy.

Q: So he was a boilermaker over here, or did he get something else?

S: Yeah, he came here and hired out in 1926 as a boilermaker. That's a long time ago now, but things have changed completely. They don't even have boiler makers like they did then, cause they had to keep those old steamers running all the time. Well, during the war they had over a thousand people working in the shops out there.

Q: This is World War?

S: Two.

Q: I remember the headquarters they used to have on Alameda, didn't they?

S: Where?

Q: Alameda, down on Alameda, they used to have their headquarters there. I remember, iron workers and boilermakers, wasn't it? I thought they had this hall down there.

S: Let's see. No, not on Alameda, I don't recall anything down there. Of course, when I had the Labor Temple down there, they met down there, they met in there, the boiler makers. It's almost, it's a union now, that see. When they had so many good members -I mean a lot of members- in it, it began to wane a little bit after diesel came on. They

merged, let's see, there was another union that merged with them. The blacksmiths. Blacksmiths and Forgers I think was their name. But anyway, they merged into the Boilermakers. And they're still in existence. In El Paso right now I haven't seen any of those guys so I don't know what they're doing. They still have some boilermakers and I'll tell you why. Because on those diesels they don't need boilermaker anymore 'cause they work strictly, but they were iron workers, you know. I talking about heavy iron, I'm not talking about structural iron and the iron they use in the buildings. I'm talking about heavy iron. And they're the ones that if there is anything, like, say for instance a step that comes off of the diesel, those boilermakers make those. There's maybe one or two working out there yet. But outside of that, El Paso became more or less a maintenance place than really overhaul like they do like in, say, the engines that move out of El Paso west, go in for an overhaul. They overhaul them on the road. But when they go in for a major overhaul, they take them to them shops out in Oakland, I believe it is. That's Southern Pacific, but I'm sure they're still on. But he later, after 1937, '38, '39, I believe it was in '39, just before the war, there was a slacking in work. He was an international rep for the boilermakers for about a year, year and a half. He went down in East Texas- now I can't remember. There was some organizing going on down there and he was down there. But he was down there for two or three years. Then later he retired and then he came down here with me when I bought it in '45. And he couldn't hardly wait to retire so he'd come down and help me! (laughter)

Q: So you say in '45, that's when you bought the *Labor Advocate*.

S: Ah huh. Yeah.

- Q: And you bought it from Hershberger, or from Bill Moran?
- S: No, Hershberger had nothing to do with running the paper. No, it was Bill Moran. I had worked for Bill for over ten years. When he died, he set it up, he wanted me... Well, he was doing it to protect his wife's interest in it. He set it up so I could buy it. It was a strain, I'll tell you what. But on the other hand, I managed to hold on.
- Q: And he also was publishing the *Southwestern Bricklayer*, wasn't he?
- S: Yeah, uh huh.
- Q: And his wife took over the paper after he died?
- S: The only thing, she... He died, I believe it was in July, almost at the armistice. I'm talking about the end of World War II. She put out the Labor Day edition in '45. And I took over in October, '45. She tried to keep the *Bricklayer* going but there was no way. 'Cause she couldn't travel all over. That was the end of the *Bricklayer*.
- Q: Yeah, because that covered all the state of Texas, right?
- S: Yeah, it was the official journal of the Texas State Conference of Bricklayers. And at one time had been really a progressive labor newspaper to the state, the *Bricklayer*. You see, that's when he came to El Paso. When he came to El Paso in 1914, he came here from Fort Worth. By the way, he had the *Bricklayer*. That was his interest in, he came out here to buy a print shop so he could print the *Bricklayer* himself. Anyway, to give a little more- where he got his ties to the International so close. Harry Bates at that time was an international representative from the International Bricklayers. And he lived in Fort Worth with Bill. They were very good, close friends until Bill passed away. Bates and he were real close. Bates later became the International President of the Bricklayers.

Q: Mr. Moran was in that international union too, wasn't he?

S: Well, he wasn't so much, other than... I'll tell you what- one of the things that Bates always would bring him in on all international conventions, every time they had one, they didn't have one every year. They had what you call a biennial convention, every two years. Bill had always been quite a politician in state labor. Before he came to El Paso, must have been 1910 or '12 or someplace earlier than '14 because he moved here in '14 to buy the *Advocate*. At that time he had been -if I'm not mistaken- he was the original Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas State Building Trades. And he held that position for quite some time. You know, that was before my time and I don't have any idea to give you any kind of a record on that. Later, then, he was in probably in the thirties, early thirties, he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas State Conference of Bricklayers. And he gave that up, and then, probably, that's way before my time. It had to be back in maybe the twenties or thirties, but then, I'm talking about - it was in the twenties because I went to work for him in the thirties. Along about thirty-five, thirty-six, someplace along in there, he took over the job again, of Secretary-Treasurer of the bricklayers conference, the state conference. They had, at that time, I think about twelve local unions in the conference. I don't remember how many there were. Probably in time I could figure out who they were.

Q: All right. You know, I got off of that Hershberger book, on the editors of the *Labor Advocate*, that he was born in Leadville, Colorado in 1876. Weren't there some strikes up there? Did he ever talk about them?

S: Never did. Never did. In fact, the matter is that I think he was gone from there. Probably was gone, because as I recall, he was in El Paso in 1918 during World War I. Of course, before this he had been at that time -in before in thirty-five, thirty-four, someplace along in there- he became, -or maybe later, thirty-six, or thirty-seven- within that three or four years, he became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Bricklayers again. But he had been back, and I'm thinking now that he was one of the originals. But I'm not sure, you see, that was before my time.

Q: Hershberger, was writing that he came here also to try and get that brick plant going. That union brick plant they had, the American Brick.

S: Well, he oversaw it, yeah. Because he was always instrumental in keeping the... You know, at one time El Paso was really a brick town. This town had more brick houses than anyplace in Texas. And he was instrumental in a lot of that. In getting fireproof houses and that sort of thing.

Q: Right, I saw how they changed the building codes so they couldn't make frame houses. So they all had to be made out of brick.

S: Yeah, they had to have a certain amount of brick in it or else they couldn't ... (laughter) Well, he had a lot of friends over the years. Gee, I ran into some of these old mayors, back then, that he was real buddy-buddy with. I'm talking about El Paso mayors. And that was something else that was before my time and I'm not up on being able to name any of them. I do know, 'cause I was told about it, that he was very instrumental in getting those things changed to make El Paso a fireproof town.

Q: I know he didn't like Tom Lea very much. Tom Lea came out against unions, he got this ordinance against picketing on the sidewalks passed.

S: Well, I don't know if it was Tom Lea, but I think the council had something to do with that. Because Bill and he were pretty close.

Q: Maybe just politically...

S: Yeah, politics.

Q: They described him in that Hershberger book as being very much like John L. Lewis. I've never seen a picture of him. Did he kinda look like president of the United Mine Workers, John L. Lewis?

S: He was a real guff person. You know, I'll tell you one thing, I was always impressed with him. I seen him walking down the street, and I didn't notice him. But I saw him coming down the stairs one afternoon and he had hands come down below his knees. Real long arms. (laughter) I asked him what his shirt sleeves was. He said thirty-eight. He had to have them special made. He was quite a guy with fisticuffs too. They told me a lot of times where they get to go to fist city in union meetings. (laughter) In fact, the matter is, I was told that he cleaned out the Chamber of Commerce one night, physically. (laughter) 'Cause he was an old fighter. And not only physical, because, you know, he could take you apart with words too. The fact that he went down there and he had some opposition. "Well, I'll tell you what, there's another way to settle this." And they told me about it. Well, that's kind of a fairy tale, you don't talk about that, but you know...

Q: But he was a bricklayer by trade, right?

S: Right.

Q: So he was very strong physically.

S: That might have been what got those arms on him, I don't know. I guess, but he had long arms. You wouldn't know it other than if you singled him out and see.... But he had, someone, -maybe Hershberger might've mentioned that- but he had a long mane. Thick of hair. Always, pretty full, full headed. But he had a lot of hair. He wasn't bald at all.

Q: His voice, did he have that thick voice. That strong thick voice like John L. Lewis does?

S: He could do pretty good on the floor, on the convention floor, addressing a crowd. He didn't do too bad.

Q: He did have a reasonably good relationship with the Chamber of Commerce.

S: Oh yeah. He had been here, since 1914. In 1920, I think El Paso had about fifteen, eighteen, twenty thousand or something like that. Back that far back, you know. Well, after all, he was here then. And the Chamber of Commerce would naturally -in all these growing cities like this- he was a member. He hung out in there with them.

Q: There were relatively few strikes in El Paso.

S: Well, there were several strikes that the *Advocate* has stories on that I don't know anything about. I know that there was a strike in, I think, in 1914 or something like that, the streetcar strike.

Q: Right, right.

S: It was kind of a hefty strike. They had a lot of blood letting.

Q: The union lost that one, didn't they?

S: I'm not sure, I don't recall. That is history, anything that happened before my time, I haven't been on top of it. But they did have several strikes. But he was pretty hefty in

helping them. One of them was, let's see, the Electric Company strike was in, They had about three strikes. One right after another. Finally they lost one. They were out for several years. After the war they would come back in. In 1936, I think, was their first strike. Then they had another one a year later, in '37. And that was, that was a tough one. They were out quite a while before they went back. I don't remember what happened. Let's see...

Q: That Electric Company strike, was that by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers?

S: No, that's a different local than the one that's out here in construction. It's still here but it has a different number too. And the fact that they organized them during the latter part of the war, and they got their contract back and they got them all back in there. There was a peaceful few years, it was peaceful because of the strike. They were able to go into the company and negotiate a deal. But they were out, they lost the second strike. There was the one, the name of Pete Clay. Pete Clay, his wife was the president of the Union Label trades, my wife was secretary. He finally passed away, after the war. He had a job in construction work during the war. A lot of work going on, you know. He got a job with the international for awhile. That was before I took over.

Q: Let me get back to you, you were here with your uncle and your aunt...

S: Well, after that, I went to work for Bill in 1932 as an apprentice.

Q: So that's when you got your union card?

S: Yeah. No, I didn't get a card. You see, there was a five-year apprentice period. I had gone to vocational school in the printing trades, and I had a couple of years. So when I

went to work for him, they gave me credit for one of those two years that I had in school. And then I had to serve my apprenticeship, I had four more years to go, at that time. In those days, when you went to work as an apprentice, they set it up so that you're only an apprentice member of the union after you've had a trial period to begin with. I got my apprenticeship card, I got the deal back there in '33. So I've had a membership in the ITU since 1933.

Q: That's sixty-five years.

S: Yeah, yeah. Over that. Let's see, my arithmetic...ninety-eight. Yeah, sixty-five years.

Q: 'Cause I think I saw your certificate over there for sixty years.

S: Sixty-five years.

Q: So after your apprenticeship, you got your journeyman's situation?

S: Yeah, I got my journeyman's in '36.

Q: And basically you just stayed with the *Labor Advocate*?

S: Well, of course, when I got out of my time. Actually, I spent some time hitting the boards over there on the *Herald Post* and the *Times*. I worked on both of them, whenever I could work. Hell.

Q: So you were on the substitute board over there?

S: Oh yeah. Slip board. I never did have a situation because I wasn't there long enough. I worked there, one of them for awhile. Then it get better over on the other side, I'd slip over on the night. I slipped on both sides.

- Q: You know, the university archives has a lot of the records from the *Herald Post*, and they have a lot of pictures. I'll eventually want to get some of those. They have a lot of the galleys, you know, all that stuff, the composition room.
- S: That's something that's gone by the way now. I've got some old racks of stuff there that's old hot type stuff that's all gone. They don't have any use for any of that any more.
- Q: Bill Moran, when he started the *Labor Advocate*, he had one of the best print shops at that time, didn't he?
- S: Originally, I'll tell you what, originally, from what I've heard. Now of course that's one of those things that I'm not sure. But they told me that to begin with, they had a bunch of real old stuff. He worked with it. Well, I bought it, I still have some of that old junk.
(laughter)
- Q: He had Linotypes?
- S: Oh yeah, he had to. You know, Linotype was in vogue when he got it, it was every place. Now, he only had one, and he bought another one later. But on the other hand, when he started out he only had one. And it was a really old mother, boy, it was a real old. One of the first ones, in fact. As time went on he got another one. Oh, I'll tell you what- I don't know what year this was, but it must've been like 1916 or 1918, and he bought a plant. He bought a shop out that was over in west El Paso. Now, it was called Hellard Printing Company and I don't even know what it was or anything because that was way before my time. But, I do know that he did buy that shop, and in buying that shop he got some decent printing equipment.

Q: Now, getting back. Yeah, so you started working at the *Labor Advocate* and then you were on several of those slip boards.

S: Well, when I got out of my time, you know, that was someone else in the shop. I worked around town. You know, it's kind of hazy what the heck I was doing at the time.

Q: Did you get a traveling card at all?

S: Never did leave El Paso. I never have had a traveling card. I've been an El Paso printer, my membership have been here since I was an apprentice. I never left. I started to, several times, but then work picked up, I went back to work. I wanted to print, that's my vocation. I didn't have any ambition to do anything else.

Q: Some people that take out those traveling cards, they do it, I guess, to see other parts of the country.

S: Oh my, I'll tell you what- the traveling printer was something. I've seen so many of them. Some of them are really fine printers and they'd be here about a week. And all of a sudden he'd decide "Nah, I'm going to leave" and he'd just pick up and go. But they could find work. They knew where the work was, most of them, especially the better men that were really fine printers. There was work wherever they wanted to find work. They watched, they had people coming in and telling them what it was. It was a real busybodies, telling you everything that was happening in Albuquerque and Denver and Dallas. There wouldn't have been too many out of El Paso to Dallas. But a lot of them moving to San Antone and Houston.

- Q: Yeah, 'cause I saw in some of those unions out east -Dallas, Austin, Houston- they show all these people coming in. As I understand it, when you go there you have to put up your card and you have to say where you're coming from. You put your card there.
- S: Well, your card will tell them where you're from. Because each time you get to town, the first thing you do is, you find where you can deposit your card. Because you can't work until you get your card deposited.
- Q: Some people stayed there, like you say, a month or two. Some people were just in and out, I guess it just depends.
- S: They'd get itchy feet. I never had that ambition, to want to leave. Of course, I had a job. I never been hurt too much about working. But on the other hand, some of those guys starved to death sitting there on the board, waiting to go to work. And they couldn't find work. That's when they leave, they had to. And they usually, there's some kind of information thing that they followed to know where to go. 'Cause they leave here and go nearly to Chicago. In those days, they could ride the rails. That was *back* when it was *simple*.
- Q: Is that part of what they call the "tramp" printer?
- S: Yeah. The tramp printer, that's what they were. And some of them never stayed any place for over a month. I know a lot of them that traveled in here. You'd see them today and next you wouldn't see them for three or four months. They'd go to California and go up and down the line out there and come back to El Paso.
- Q: So you had a lot of people coming through.

S: Well, actually, it all depend on how they're hired, you know. Most of these people that came into El Paso knew how to get a little extra work. But you know, during the time that there was a scarcity of people they used to have to lay off your overtime. And if you worked overtime -I'm talking about the printers- as soon as they'd get overtime, these tramps would all leave town. If they had a lot of overtime, they'd come in to claim all the overtime. But then, on the other hand, as soon as they'd get it caught up, they'd leave and go someplace else where they could find overtime. They did away with that during the war.

Q: Because there wasn't any limit on overtime?

S: No. That time, as soon as you had your shift in, as soon as you got your five days in, you know. That was the purpose of it. To help hire these people who were out of work. Back during the depression, it was terrible. If there was any extra work and you had to work overtime, you had to lay it off as soon as the first guy came to town.

Q: You started working with Mr. Moran in the late thirties so you worked with him during the war emergency, World War II. You worked with him during World War II? How was that?

S: I had some problems at that time, I never did go into the service. But on the other hand, I did some other things during the war that think back now- I did a lot of Saturday night work over at the *World News*, that folded, but on the other hand the...

Q: The *El Continental*?

S: Yeah. *El Continental*.

Q: That Boretz's newspaper.

S: I worked there on Saturdays. Almost every Saturday during the war. And then I'd go work occasionally. If I didn't work down there I'd go work at the *Times*. 'Cause they was needing help all the time. And they'd call me and say "Come over here, we need you." Actually, I didn't have any trouble, I did a lot of work.

Q: Did you do, like, hand work over there? What kind of work?

S: Any kind of work. I worked both on the floor and the machine. I had, well, you've been in the shop after I bought it. I was an all-around man, I could work any place. I had enough experience in the printing trades. Hell, I could even run the presses back there if I had to. But I didn't at that time. I wish now that I'd spent more time on the presses because I need to run these damned presses and I'm not doing it anymore. (laughter)

Q: But you could do the classified ads. During the war, was that mostly what you had, did you have a lot of advertising? Of course, you had all the war news, right?

S: Oh yeah. Actually, most of those kind of jobs were handled by one person because he handled them because he knew exactly what they wanted. In the case that you get in and helped him, well, you know. There's always somebody in the shop that was working on the classified that was a regular man on it because that's a tough, that's a hard job. You know, keeping track of them and you gotta... It takes time, it's tedious work. Now, with these computers, you see, it's a cinch. There's no comparison how much harder that work was then than it is now.

Q: Since they went to that pagination process.

S: Well, that's gone yet, but they will, eventually. It'll be in there, I'm sure, within the next year. When they go to that, that'll be the end of the printers because they'll do that in the

editor's desk up there. It's a simple procedure, it's real easy. Of course, you have to be sort of artistic with it. But on the other hand, there's a lot of difference in the printers. Some are more artistic than others and it helps because they just do a better job. More artistically I'd say. And I think this is going to happen on pagination. Some of these guys won't give a damn about what it looks like and just go ahead and throw it together. And they're going to have somebody in there -straighten them out. But pagination is simple. It's coming. They should've had it a long time ago and they haven't. I've often wondered why they didn't. Costs money, might be the reason.

Q: Well, they do have that hardware in there already, I don't know.

S: They're getting more everyday, I understand. They've had scanners and all those all along. But on the other hand, but when it comes to really pagination, it's a cinch. It's a simple thing. You can lay it out and almost the computer will do the work. It's almost automatic. It's beautiful. I'm really impressed with it, you know. But on the other hand, it sure did away with a lot of people.

Q: It did away with all the hand work, that you have to slip things in.

S: There's still some of it that has to be done by hand. But as far as the bulk of the work over there, it's computerized now where it's so simple. The ads and everything. A lot of the ads that come in now, it used to be that all those ads had to be set. Had to put the type together on the Linotype, on the Ludlow, put them altogether. Then put them together, and then get proofs. And you know, and actually, now, that's done in advertising houses. When they come in, it's ready to print. And that was one of the

things the printers held out on a long time, against that. But they couldn't hold it, it's impossible. It was coming, and finally they just gave into it.

Q: There was that, when the teletypers came in, a similar thing, that they had to reset the type.

S: Teletype was something I never had any experience with. I never, you know, I've been a Linotype operator but not a teletype. And some of these later people, ^{like} Like old Weinstein up there. His wife, Gracie, was an apprentice over at the paper and she learned to type and she served her time. She was a teletype operator, and damned good one, too.

Q: Was she in the union also, she was a teletyper?

S: Oh yeah. That's where she learned the trade. She was a good gal. I'm thinking now, some of those other people. Come to think about it, when I first came in the *Advocate* down there. And I'm talking back in the, you see, I came in September -Roosevelt was elected in November- two months before the election. But at that time, shortly after that, Bill brought a man back who had served his time down there. It was old Darrell Parker, that later owned the El Paso Printing Company. And I worked under Darrell for about a year, as an apprentice.

Q: That was one of the few union print shops, right?

S: Well, at that time, there was only two shops. The *Labor Advocate* and Artcraft printing. Then, shortly after this, probably about 1934, maybe '33, Bill Phillips got the label and he had a shop. So there was three shops. Then the Artcraft went out, so there was only two: the *Advocate* and Bill Phillips. For a long time, there was only one, that was the

Advocate. I'm talking about the beginning, the middle of the war. Let's see, there was only two shops.

Q: There's all these posters, political flyers and stuff- when did the *Advocate* start printing those?

S: From the very beginning, it's always been a print shop. They've always done real well with them. Not like this, because I've printed all of these, every one of them. Every one of these has been printed since I've been here.

Q: They all have that little bug on there, the union label on there? That's still important. I'm glad to see that politicians do that.

S: Well, of course, actually, they've become more union minded, started pushing it, and the first thing you know it helped a whole bunch. We got a lot of work out of it.

Q: So, even under Bill Moran, they started printing all of these.... Do you have any of those kind of flyers?

S: No, I'll tell you what, there was a different printing... The industry was different completely. A candidate run for office... You know, let's face it, in 1930 I think there was about 90,000 population in El Paso. As time went on, it got to be 110,000, I think, in '40. So El Paso, in 1920 there was 15,000. That's all there was here. Back then, in 1920 -and I'm pretty sure I got this right- in 1920 El Paso had 15,000 and Albuquerque had seven. Now, I guess, Albuquerque is as large as El Paso, maybe larger, I don't know.

Q: So there wasn't that much of a need for these kind of posters, is that what you're saying?

S: Well, I don't know. Actually, time progresses. I will give you an example. When Ponder was in office, El Paso built, because that was right after the war. They were building like

crazy. Built a lot of building here. That created a lot of work for a lot of union people in El Paso. And naturally their membership grew, grew a lot. I don't know, I don't have any records on that at all. It's just what I can recall. Some of these unions really grew after 1945.

Q: There was a general increase in membership in almost every union.

S: All of them, all of them.

Q: They were still having their meeting down there at the Labor Temple?

S: A lot of them, not all of them. See, I bought the building in '60, I bought the *Advocate* in '45, but I bought the building in '60. That was the biggest mistake I've ever made in my life. But I bought it because that woman was crying that she didn't know what to do and I was going to have to move. And oh man, I'll tell you what, I'm talking about Bill's widow. She let the building run down and it was leaking and everything was happening. She came down one afternoon and said "I guess what you're going to have to do is, I going to get rid of the building so you're going to have to move." I started looking for a place, but I couldn't find any. That was one of those times that, it was the beginning of the freeway. The freeway hadn't built anything, and El Paso hadn't shifted to any extent. I went on Texas to find a decent location, I couldn't find any. And if I had waited six months, I could've had all kinds of buildings. (laughter) It was, that right at that time, they hadn't moved yet. But as soon as they opened up out there, they really started moving. El Paso changed in a hurry as soon as they built that. It cost me a lot of money too. (shoos meowing cat) I'm thinking back at it, that was probably my downfall when I bought that damned old building. I shouldn't have ever done it. Because it was almost

falling down at that time. It was in a hell of a shape. And I went out and borrowed, I borrowed \$75,000. I don't know how in the hell I did, but I did. I had a hell of time getting it paid back. On the other hand, I got it opened up. All these guys, they kept insisting, saying, "Oh you buy it, Marv. Hell, we can help you." But, that's hearsay. When it come time to paying off, they all moved. (laughter) Well, anyway...

Q: That was the first Labor Temple here?

S: That's the only Labor Temple we ever had as *per se*. Now, they've had buildings that they've used like Carpenters' Hall. It's gone now too. On the other hand, they've had Carpenters' Hall, and Plumbers' Hall, they built and bought them, and the Electricians, they bought theirs. They all got ambition for their own buildings. So there's buildings all over town that you can find a place to meet now. When I first started talking about it, see, it was early enough that there weren't a lot of buildings. They had Carpenters' Hall. Nobody liked it because there was, hell, a lot of restrictions. On the other hand, it was during the Peyton strike, that was when I bought it. And it gave me an idea, you know. There was going to be a big union there with Peyton's. It turned out, that it didn't last long. They were in there with me, maybe, for about three years. Then they went out and got this idea that they would have their own hall, own building. It didn't last either.

Q: Peyton strike, that was what, 1960, '61?

S: That was about '59, '58, '60. In fact, the fact of the matter is that they had settled the strike in '60. Just settled it during when Kennedy ran for President. On the other hand, it had been going on, I think, for three years.

Q: I saw that the Labor Temple in Dallas had the same problem. Couldn't get the unions to help pay the rent. Some union locals had their offices in there and wouldn't pay rent, things like that.

S: I got beat out of a lot of things too. They'd come in here and they'd get behind in their rent. All of a sudden you'd go down there and there's nobody there. They'd moved everything out and gone. Well, there's no way to collect it. It cost me a lot of money. I'll tell you what, if it hadn't been for that I'd probably be in pretty good shape. I had a hard time getting that money paid back.

Q: And you moved out of there and into over here, about...what year was that, when you moved over here? About what year was it that you moved over here?

S: I sold it in '83. And I moved to Texas Street, 720 Texas. I thought I was set for life. Cost a lot of money to move that heavy equipment. The old man in there was, I knew him from Cathedral High School, there at the Seminary. When I got over there, he bought the building after I moved in but I had a lease. After the lease was up, I went over to renew the lease. He said, "Ah, Marvy, you don't need no lease. Stay there as long as you want to, I'm not going to do anything, I'm not going to change anything." Shit, six months later he died. (laughter) That was in '83. I moved over there in '83. And I moved over here in '93, so I was over there ten years. But he died after my lease ran out, I said six months, but maybe a year and a half, two years later. When he died, the boy that inherited the building come in there one morning and said "Marv, you're gonna have to move because we're gotta change our operation. You're going to have to move." The old man had left the other building to his daughter. (laughter) As it turned out, I had to find

another place, so I came over here in '93. I was over there ten years. I guess I had two leases over there before he bought it. He bought it, I think, about maybe '79 or '78 and the lease ran out. And I'm pretty sure that's what it was, he bought it about '78. And I'd been over there, at that point about five years. So I had a four-year lease. When the lease ran out, that's when I went over there to see him, to renew the lease. I didn't want to move or anything. But shit, man. It cost me a bundle. To move a print shop, the guy was crazy. Better to just sell it and have somebody else move it. Anyway, that really put me in bad shape. I never have gotten over it. Those two moves, the first one, that cost me a bundle because I was in the basement in the other one. And I had to bring it out of the basement to get it out of there. And all that heavy equipment. I had two Linotypes and the Ludlow. And oh man, I'll tell you what, it was really a mess. Anyway, I go on over to Texas in pretty good shape but I still had all that old hot type equipment. In the meantime, everything's changing to offset. So I bought some offset equipment. Begin to change gradually, I thought I was going to do all right. But then what happened was the move again. This move over here was almost as bad as that one because when I got over here they didn't have any power. I had to put power lines and everything to get it in here. That cost me almost five thousand dollars.

Q: Does it have special electrical requirements, as far as the print shop goes? Did you have to get high voltage wires in here?

S: Yeah, well, you know... All this equipment has got different, because it's old stuff. You got three-phase, you got two-phase. You got just all kinds of service in here. But in order to get that you had to bring full service and each one on a different line. I've got a

lot of single phase too. Of course, that'll work on 220, provided you have the power. But as it turned out up here, it cost me a whole lot of money. I don't even know how much it was. Because, in the first place, the Electric Company came in and they had to put a pole out there. They had to bring the line down here and set the transformers up here on the line and everything. By the time they got through, it didn't cost them anything, it cost me. They're still up there, I'm still using them.

Q: Now you're basically doing it on the Macintosh, aren't you?

S: Yeah, yeah.

Q: Totally difference then in the old days.

S: Yeah, yeah, I've got an old Mac. I bought the Mac when I was still down there on Texas, in '87. One of the *first* Macs, by God, almost. That old Mac Plus, I didn't have the first one but I had the second one. I've got the third one in here, that I've bought another one. Now, I haven't been able to go on up to the better because -I'll tell you what- that Mac now, it's almost like magic. Really good machine, for printing especially. But I don't know, I heard you talking about Bill Moran, I'm thinking about all the things... He was just like a father to me, honestly. He was a wonderful man. I can't say that about his wife. He was a real fine guy.

Q: What was her name, Kitty? Mrs. Moran?

S: Katie, yeah. Katie Moran. Katie.

Q: You got the Texas State Federation of Labor here for that convention or something, in 1924?

S: No, hell. This is something you probably need to get in there. I don't know whether Hershberger did anything on this. In 1924, during Prohibition, he was able to bring the AF of L convention, the national AF of L, to El Paso. In fact, to that point, it was the first time it had ever been in Texas.