

Tom Ariss – Oral History Transcript

Interviewee: **Tom Ariss**

Interviewers: **Tori Otten** (archival specialist), **Jenifer Baker** (deputy archivist)

Date of Interview: 6 December 2021

List of Initials: TA = Tom Ariss, TO = Tori Otten, JB = Jenifer Baker

Location of Interview: Warren County Admin Building in Lebanon, Ohio

Transcriber: Keegan Kiley (records center support)

[Begin transcription 00:00:03]

TO: So today's date is Monday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. My name is Tori Otten and I am the archival specialist for the Warren County Records Center & Archives.

JB: My name is Jenifer Baker and I am the deputy archivist for Warren County Records Center & Archives.

TO: Okay and today we are interviewing Tom. So if you would like to please introduce yourself for us.

TA: My name is Tom Ariss and I was born in Akron, Ohio, and in 1936, so do the math! And I grew up in Akron and I went to a ??? high school called St. Vincent then now it's St. Vincent-St. Mary ??? of LeBron James. (TO/JB: Oh!) (TO: Very nice! There you go!) We didn't go together though. And my formative years were in Akron and we had a farm outside of Akron where- near the Akron-Canton Airport. And my father was an insurance salesman for Prudential and my mother was a housewife. She had- I had two older- I had a younger brother and an older brother, dad, myself, and lots of animals stuff like that so she kinda took care of things around the house and farm and dad kinda kept us- chore time, kept us busy that way. And I have a- Akron was where I lived up till I was twenty-one and when I was twenty-one I- I had an older brother who was on the highway patrol and I was working at the fire department and I was on the- it was called Greene Township Fire Department. Small fire engines, in these places everyone was parttime except for the chief, and I was on that, and I was kinda debating you know going to Canton see if I can get on the fire department down there cause that was just down the road ??? Canton was. Anyhow I ended up patrol post in Akron and got an application, filled it out, and the rest was history and that was in 1957. (2:29)

