

## **Fred Hearn**

### **Side 1:**

[1/7] While he was growing up he lived on Montford Ave and then Cumberland Circle. He had a bike but, though he helped his father in the Hearn bicycle shop, he was not particularly interested in mechanics.

[1/29] His father sold typewriters and adding machines as well as bikes. He even sold a few motorcycles. he shop was on #4 Government Street (now part of College) [1925 Asheville City Directory: J. M. Hearn & Co., 4 Government St.].

[1/44] His uncle had a bike shop [1936 Asheville City Directory: Merrill's Cycle Store, 51 Commerce St., E. Clifton Merrill] and was more involved with motorcycles. [E. Clifton Merrill]

[1/56] There always were boy and girl styles. The girl bikes had no bar because, with dresses [girls did not wear slacks] it was hard getting on and off, there was a double bar below for support rather than a cross bar. [He said that boys were not teased if they used a girl's bike - NOT SO - I remember!]

[1/70] Bikes, small bikes with training wheels and tricycles were very popular at Christmas.

[1/79] Early bikes had large front wheels. He tried it once and found it fun but tricky. His father never sold them but had one on display for a while.

[1/87] When he was growing up, bikes had one or three speeds. With the development of gears and larger and smaller sprockets, bikes now have 5 and 10 speeds.

[1/109] There were no formal bike clubs when he was in the business - just informal groups - no organizations. He had not heard about the clubs (see enclosure).

[1/121] He watched the riders in the Olympics and as a dancer was able to appreciate their stamina.

[1/128] His sister like to dance. He danced with her and attended a class in a studio on Charlotte Street. He doesn't remember much about Murray. [1930 Asheville City Directory: Luva Stratton School of Dancing, 246 ½ Charlotte St.]. [Elizabeth Hearn Hayes, Luva Stratton (dance teacher), Arthur Murray]

[1/151] He became involved in the Rhododendron Pageants with Russell and Harrington [Directory: 1942 Herschel R. Harrington of Harrington-Russell Festivals] and worked with them to train groups from small towns around Asheville. He worked out the choreography and trained the dancers for the festival. [Edith Russell, Herschel Harrington]

[1/178] He loved performing - it was a physical and emotional outlet.

[1/183] When Ted Shawn, all men's dance company [Ted Shawn and His Men Dancers] toured Asheville, he was asked to meet them and show them around. He was auditioned and when he was called and told one of the men was leaving the company and he could join the group, he got on the next plane for Florida. He worked right in and did his own choreography on a number of pieces. [Ted Shawn Co.]

[1/217] Shawn taught basic ballet and from there on dancing was free style. Fred never took notes while working out the choreography for dance.

[1/235] It is difficult getting good male performers. Each dancer has his own style. Ballerinas know how to help with lifts.

[1/263] After having performed professionally where dancing is a steady occupation, it is difficult working with volunteers.

[1/275] Except for the fact that there might be more children attending matinees, all audiences are much the same. One can feel the audience's response.

[1/297] His children were brought up in New York and, while they never danced themselves, they loved to see performances from back stage when he was stage manager.

[1/308] He has two sons: James, a builder, is named for Fred's father. He has one son but is divorced. Michael is a lawyer, married to Joan and has two sons. Fred, age 5, is named for him. [James M. Hearn II, Michael Hearn, Joan Hearn]

[1/334] He met his wife in Florida where he was training. Her mother rented rooms to the Shawn dance company. The company headquarters was in Jacob, Mass. in a big old farm house and the area was called Jacob's Pillow. [Lucille Dean Hearn]

[1/381] In Florida he enlisted in the Air Corp. but when Berlin was staging "This is the Army" he had the pick of the entire Air Corp. Fred was picked and went back to Broadway and toured the U.S. and Canada. He later married Lucille who was the secretary for the superintendent of public schools. [Irving Berlin]

[1/414] He found that dancing solo or with a group equally enjoyable. he men, of which three and the pianist are left, are like a big family. The bond was close and there was never a feeling that they weren't close.

[1/453] Dancers always felt the audience's response. One time they played to an all-black male Navy personnel. Faces were not visible until they smiled, then they saw the white teeth and the white uniform.

[1/476] He has worked with some tremendous people. "The greater the star, the greater the person." Demanding and unpleasant "would-be" stars washed out. [Ethel Merman, Gwen Verdon, Forrest Tucker, Paul Lucas]

[1/504] Theatrical people live in a whole different world but the basics are the same. People are people wherever you are. He knows Bridges (see his tape) and they both have returned to Asheville after having worked in New York. [John Bridges]

## **Side 2:**

[2/1] Fred was in the Glee Club at Asheville High School and went to Black Mountain College. He attended Cecil Business School and then joined the Shawn Company.

[2/27] When his sister called one Christmas to say that his father was ill and his mother, who had been keeping books for the store, needed help, he came home. He was needed at the store, the bicycle market was good so he returned to New York to pack the family and they moved into the Dunbar apartments until he bought this house. [Elizabeth Hearn Hayes, Nancy Susan Tiddy Hearn]

[2/41] Market for bicycles was good and, while there were no formal groups, employees from the shop would go off on rides.

[2/57] The lock shop and the bicycle shop are on different streets (Walnut and Broadway) but they connect in the back. There was a photo of the key shop in the paper with Justin after I phoned for the interview. He and Coates were with Hearn for many years. [Dean Justin, Eugene Coates]

[2/75] Employees come in as teenagers. There is no apprentice system. The men learn by doing and are covered with a life and health insurance policy. There is no retirement program.

[2/123] Enthusiasm for biking grew as people learned it was good exercise and fun. He retired in 1989 and Rocky took over. [Rocky Beach]

[2/152] Pro Bikes came in several year ago. He didn't feel the competition as he was working with family bike needs.

[2/171] Pro Bikes is a local company. It covers all ranges of bikes but specializes in mountain riding; in fact, people move here in order to bike the mountains. Their emphasis is on professionals such as the riders in the Tour duPont. He knows that there is an increased interest in biking but knows about it only through the television (see enclosure).

[2/186] He has had no contact with the Hondas or Harley Davidsons except what he sees on TV and feels that the difference between motorcycles and bikes is as different as day and night, feeling that motorcyclists are an interesting wild bunch of people (see Rousseau tape).

[2/219] Regarding changes in the city since his return, he feels that there is a growth in culture; downtown is coming back. He used to have membership to plays but, after his wife's lengthy illness and death, he gardens and watches TV.