

Michael Sargent

Side 1:

[1/1] He was born in Asheville but spent youth with grandparents in Tennessee. On their death 1965 he returned to Asheville, volunteered for the army and was shipped to Germany.

[1/34] At 18 he was ordered to Vietnam but called back at last minute. Said this was not a good time to be in uniform because service people were called names and spat upon.

[1/93] After visiting Kansas for a short while he came to Asheville to visit his mother and stayed. His wife to be was attending UNCA and on the Dean's list. She wouldn't go with anyone without a degree.

[1/113] He went to A-B Tech culinary school. His professor said, "High expectations are the key to everything," and visits him in the store where he is head of the fish department. [Robert Werth]

[1/151] When he was a boy he went to the Plaza Theatre which was segregated. When Claxton School was integrated and there were no problems with the students - just the parents. He had black friends. However there was trouble in the late 60's. His wife who is 3 years younger, told him of riots in the Lee Edwards High School. [Ronald Chambers]

[1/180] He worked as assistant food service director for Campbell University in Raleigh. His wife worked in an outreach program as a social worker until funds were cut out. They returned to Asheville.

[1/213] He compares big cities with Asheville and likes the slower pace and outdoor life available here.

[1/253] He feels that southerners have a bond of friendship wherever they go.

[1/288] He remembers a dairy farm on Beaverdam Road and the dirt roads. He shopped in West Asheville with his father. [May's Market]

[1/324] As a boy he delivered papers for \$5-6 a week and purchased his pants and shirts at J.C. Penney's uptown.

[1/334] He worked at the Shrimp Boat Restaurant in Westgate, which was just opening in 1988. There used to be carnival rides in front. George was a good businessman (see tape). [George Coggins]

[1/380] Ingles first opened July 4, '88. He never missed a day. There are a total of about 184 stores in all now and 10-12 close by. He was first with the Woodland Hills store and then one in Oteen and then Enka. Everyone kind - feels like a family. [Bob Ingle, Sr., Bob Ingle, Jr.]

[1/432] Most employees have never worked for anyone else. Jack's mother worked in the deli. Ingles likes to hire family members. [Jack Brigman]

[1/489] He has had offers to work in other places but likes it where he is. There are 8 in the seafood section working 40 hours a week on shifts. He likes to train new employees.

[1/557] He likes to contact customers by name - 60% are return customers. The "mean customers are the ones Mr. Ingles pays him to serve."

Side 2:

[2/1] His mother was at Grove Park Inn for 20 years and went to work for Buck's in the late 50's in customer service.

[2/35] At first he wanted to get a degree in psychology but his wife, as a social worker with excellent grades couldn't get a job, so he decided to look around. He was influenced by chef Werth, and went into the cooking school. He went to hospitals and nursing schools while in training. [Robert Werth]

[2/84] In the recent storm (the blizzard of '93) he helped his neighbors.

[2/98] The store is open all night for factory workers who are on shifts. The store is restocked at night.

[2/128] There is no price differential for employees but they get benefits through vacations, etc.

[2/150] He does sale ads on the store microphone. This is the flag ship of the chain (#3) where programs are tested and employees trained.

[2/162] Each department has its own department head but they all help each other.

[2/203] He and his wife had a small short order cafe but the competition from franchised chains with their advertising and buying power made the business unprofitable.

[2/251] He discusses his job at Campbell University and the Shrimp Boat. Sargent's Cafeteria was near Craven Street Bridge, he sold it after 3 1/2 years. [Hulon Fagan]

[2/311] He and his family live in West Asheville - it used to be called "Worst Asheville," and was a rough-neck area. He feels that there is a great promise for the future and a small town area with parks that he likes for his children.

[2/407] He discusses his approval of the apartments going in to the center of town (Haywood Park and above Woolworth's), takes his children to Bele Chere. His children attend the Health Adventure with their school.

[2/436] He took a course in the Mendenhall School of Auctioneering and ran an auction for the Christian Women's Club to raise money for the Eliada Home on July 4, 1988. He would like to be spokesman for the National Cancer Society.

[2/490] Regarding the use of tobacco, he feels the government needs to be involved with help to alternative farming to families who have grown tobacco for 6 to 7 generations.

[2/551] He feels that the mountains are a protection from the drug problem of bigger cities, but he was exposed while attending middle school in Asheville. He talks openly with his children about drugs and sex. He names his family. [Glenda Reems Sargent (wife), Nathaniel Blair Sargent (14), Ashley Jane Sargent]