

Oral History Interview
Orin Snider
October 6, 1964

Historical Note: Orin Snider was a local farmer who served as the A.H.S. football coach.

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MR. ENDACOTT: Well, where did you practice football here—where was your football field?

MR. SNIDER: Let's see—when Ike was playing it was the fair grounds.

MR. ENDACOTT: Out at the old fair grounds [located just west of Mud Creek and south of West First Street] or the ones where we are now [Eisenhower Park]?

MR. SNIDER: The ones where we are now but before that why we were at the old fairgrounds.

MR. BARBASH: Where were the old fair grounds located?

MR. ENDACOTT: That's over where the city dump is now [no longer the site of the city dump]—that used to be the circus grounds and the fair grounds and I don't know how they even happened to move over there but they bought this ground over here and put the fair grounds over there. I don't know what year—it's been there ever since I can remember.

MR. BARBASH: How about—you practiced and played your games at the fair ground or just practices?

MR. SNIDER: Well, no, we used to practice over at the Garfield—we didn't have any play ground. That was where the City Auditorium is now and we'd go up there and practice—too far to go out to the fair grounds. This was in 1906.

MR. ENDACOTT: You played your games out there, though?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah, I think the best gate we ever had—in the time that I was playing—was \$14.10.

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MR. BARBASH: What kind of [football] helmets did you have?

MR. SNIDER: Well, we'd get a woman's stocking and cut it off and tie a knot around that and roll it up and put it over our heads.

MR. BARBASH: How about padding—did you have shoulder pads?

MR. SNIDER: Yeah. The farmer boys would bring in the seat pads from the horses and they would cut that in chunks about that big a square and pass them around and they would sew them in their sweaters for shoulder pads.

MR. BARBASH: How about—did you use hip pads?

MR. SNIDER: No.

MR. BARBASH: How about thigh pads?

MR. SNIDER: About what?

MR. BARBASH: Thigh pads?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, some of them had rattan strips and some just had quilted—about that thick—about like and—

MR. BARBASH: What kind of material were the pants made of?

MR. SNIDER: Oh, duck and mine—my dad wouldn't buy me any so Frank Parent was coaching then and gave me a pair [of] football pants—mine was that white cotton cloth and a little bit of quilting on it.

MR. BARBASH: How about your—the shoes—did they have football shoes?

MR. SNIDER: Well, we took a pair of kinda worn out dress shoes and we'd nail one cleat that way—well, that's all the cleat we had that there V-shape and we'd do it ourselves.