

Freeman Funk: Third City Manager of Fredericksburg (Part VI) --
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By Suzanne Volinski, CRRL Intern, editor
Interviewed by Nancy Bruns

(Third Session, Tape 2, Side A, May 28, 1999)

Interviewer: So you wanted to locate the mall within the city limits, but it simply couldn't be done.

Freeman Funk: That's right. And so it went to Spotsylvania County and then everyone wondered what will become of downtown. From then on I only know what I read in the papers... And as I told you my problems-if they were problems- were that the mall didn't locate in the city or that it did locate at all. It had a terrible impact on downtown. It just came about that people saw an opportunity to operate these gift shops, antiques shops, junk shops-which ever you want to call them. They could do that because they operate with low overhead only. They have to have low rent in order to survive on a small volume of sales, a small dollar volume. They couldn't have competed with people selling merchandise of a standard type. Then the "standards" left. It became necessary for property owners to reduce the rent to find a tenant. The tenant was then what you have now. They are happy there and certainly a lot of the tourists are happy. Some want to shop and some want to tour. Some of them want to do both.

Interviewer: And happily you'd already fixed up the sidewalks, park benches, street lights and put in the underground utilities.

Freeman Funk: Probably in anticipation of a change of business, but in a timely manner.

Interviewer: It certainly worked out.

Interviewer: Let's talk again about something we touched on last week- we were talking about the use of buildings and how they are converted to other uses. The Fredericksburg Area Museum is one of those buildings. It had been the old city hall, am I correct?

Freeman Funk: Yes, it was the second oldest continuously used city hall in the nation when it was discontinued as a city hall. New York City being the oldest. This gets pretty personal because I was involved in this but that's the only approach I have. I would make notes about

things I thought would happen in the future--one of them was the development of the waterfront. It's here because it is on the river. Highway commerce. And I told you about my master plan for streets. And I had an idea about City Hall. I knew it couldn't always be a city hall because as the city grew, the staff grew, functions grew.

Interviewer: Simply no room to operate? Freeman Funk: Right, so I began to contemplate this. The only use I could come up with is a museum. Well, we have plenty of museums around for tourists. Tourists wouldn't miss one that didn't get there. After I was out of office, the City Hall was moved to another location-the Post Office... Which I personally thought was a mistake. Time went by and the building began to deteriorate.

Interviewer: The building was standing empty.

Freeman Funk: Yes. A little spark came into council. I don't know to whom to attribute this. Perhaps George Van Sant or others. They thought maybe a museum would be a possible salvation of the building because the building was historically significant. And quite important in this city and maybe it ought to be preserved. Maybe a museum was a way to do it. They appointed a committee to look into this and decided they did need a museum and made the initial efforts to get it going. They would appoint a board of directors to do what they could. Well, I was very much surprised getting a phone call asking if I would be on the board of directors. Because here I had been out of office, cast aside. I was surprised. But they said, "It's a natural thing." You've spent so much time there and you know that building. I love the building. I thought and still think it's a great building. So I said okay I'll accept appointment to the board. And the board met and asked me to be president of the board. This was a step more than I had anticipated... I said yes. We had some money available and we interviewed people for director and we got Ed Watson. who has a done a great job. We needed money and we couldn't ask council for money. They appointed me chairman of fund raising... I did know Sam Melton who I had met in his fund raising capacity for the hospital. I suggested that maybe they would like to talk to Sam in our fund raising effort. They told me to go ahead. I knew he had retired. But I got him and he remembered me and he said, "Yes I would be interested in helping you." He came on a per diem basis. He never raises any money. He tells a selected group of people how to raise money. He uses a card system: Go up there and take five you know and see if they will be interested in being initial members and contributors to this museum. Don't ever underestimate. People will be insulted if you ask too little

money. And he's right. The fund raising started and money started coming in nicely. And here came the RF&P railroad, sister railroad of the Virginia Central, and they said our president would like our railroad to contribute and what would you think of \$50,000? Another week went by, and Mr. Stoner of Fredericksburg Hardware said I have been interested in City Hall and preservation. I want to put in \$50,000 into this. And we were rolling, and when we got through we had made more money than our budget. We were able to make the renovations and to establish the displays. Ed Watson knew how to get people to do displays.

Interviewer: It worked out nicely.

Freeman Funk: I was happy to be part of it. I was reelected beyond what I was supposed to. Each time they said stay on until we get this done, then that done etc.

Interviewer: How long did you stay?

Freeman Funk: Five years as president and six years on the board. And then I think I went back on the board. It's been a real honor to be asked and to have participated in the process.

Interviewer: This is Nancy Bruns and I am here today (Sept. 9, 1999) with former City Manager and retired City Councilman Freeman Funk, and we're going to wrap up our earlier interviews with a few topics that we've left out--so we're going to talk about some random subjects. We're going to begin with something very important--the Mott's Run Water Storage and Recreation Project. And that was a failed bond issue, but why don't you tell us the whole story?

Freeman Funk: Thirty years ago and a little bit more the city was exploring places to establish a water reservoir and a study was made. It was called the Three Reservoirs Study as I recall, and three sites were picked out in a preliminary manner by engineers... one of them was Mott's Run. And as we began to look at it we thought wouldn't this be a wonderful place for a large reservoir? Larger than the city needs even. And so we engaged Spotsylvania folks in conversation saying what do you think of this? It's undeveloped land. We wouldn't bother anyone's house or a minimum number and we'd have all the water we would need, we think. And extra land around for a large recreational complex. The water would back up from Mott's Run to Rt. 3 so it was quite extensive.

Interviewer: It was.

Freeman Funk: The county folks decided that they would like to join, and we had some cost estimates and they, unlike the city, as I mentioned earlier on these tapes, they had to have a referendum to issue bonds. Something happened. The people of Spotsylvania--the voters--decided no they didn't want to do it.

Interviewer: How many million was it?

Freeman Funk: I don't remember the details and unfortunately some details have slipped. Maybe that's the reason we're doing these oral histories... I got a call last week from the county executive of Spotsylvania asking about my comment in the newspaper about the failed bond issue. They find nothing in their records to indicate that they ever had a bond issue and they don't how much it was, what the vote that turned it down was, or anything like that. The city records are very sparse on it.

Interviewer: As they would be.

Freeman Funk: A little bit was found including newspaper clippings, enough to tell when it happened. But it was a big thing in its day and here it is so dim.

Interviewer: Almost lost.

Freeman Funk: Almost lost. But to bring it into the current context, Spotsylvania County is working very hard to get reservoirs established and are going to use-- starting perhaps in December--water from Mott's Run. The smaller Mott's Run was the one that the city built and "utilized", and I'll use that word advisedly because the water never was used except to ensure the FMC plant that they would have the water that they needed.

Interviewer: But this [earlier effort to finance water management] was a failure-- they turned it down?

Freeman Funk: I don't know why. It might be it wasn't promoted properly. Maybe the board of supervisors had a change in the meantime. Perhaps the people in office did not advise their constituents of the necessity for this. Thirty some years ago the necessity wasn't there. It was futuristic to them, and they thought

Spotsylvania was stagnant in growth. Nothing was happening. They just didn't realize how valuable Spotsylvania was to them.

Interviewer: (Consulting a list of suggested topics) Let's look at a couple of other things that we want to include. There's one called "John Lee Pratt and the Water Bill letter." That's got an intriguing title.

Freeman Funk: These are a little bit funny. John Lee Pratt lived in Chatham, the mansion immediately across the river on the east bank- exactly opposite downtown Fredericksburg. And at that time he was reportedly the 10th wealthiest man in the United States. Having worked successfully for General Motors and others, he was an engineer who got into upper management and obtained stock and things like that. Anyway here he was and he had no appearance of being wealthy. He drove an older model automobile although General Motors would have given him any model, I believe. He has city water in his house and we sent him a bill every three months as we should. One time I got a letter saying you have overcharged me for what I have consumed.

Sure enough, there was an error--a compensating error. We read water meters to the nearest cubic feet. ...to make it faster (to bill) we billed to the nearest 10 cubic feet. The billing we did in the office was done on a bookkeeping machine and it would add and subtract but not multiply... Well, a water meter is a continuous device, like a clock on the mantel-if I tell you it's 2 p.m. and I'm a couple minutes off at 2 p.m. and then I read it again at 3 p.m. that doesn't make 3 p.m. wrong just because 2 o'clock was. Well, all of this put together adds up to the fact that he multiplied all of this out and... it's about seven cents worth per 10 feet. When we billed if the number ended in four we would drop it, and if it ended in five we would round it up. The bill we computed we added up. I thought well he is spending his time in a very valuable way--he's trying to save his money. So what I did-- I went back two years and refigured those bills. It turned out he owed us four cents instead of us owing him three cents.

Interviewer: Did that satisfy him?

Freeman Funk: Oh yes. He just wanted the facts. You get to be a multi-millionaire by looking after the pennies. I didn't find anything wrong about what he did. I was just fascinated.

Interviewer: What about "stop filling for the parking lot?" Did that involve him?

Freeman Funk: Oh yes. Mr. Pratt owned land on the east bank of the Rappahannock River. It was land that flooded once or twice a year. We were making use of excess dirt in our public works projects. We bought some land on the west bank and we started making parking lots by filling, using the excess soil from our public works projects. He saw that and he wrote a letter, saying, "You've got to stop doing that. When you put soil in on your side of the river it causes the stream to change and it puts pressure-impacts--on my side and it's likely to erode away my land." I wrote him back and said, "Yes sir, you're right" and we stopped.

Interviewer: Oh, you stopped?

Freeman Funk: Oh, we stopped. We didn't want to go to court.

Interviewer: It was an early impact type of problem where a citizen saw the effect of the public work and objected

Freeman Funk: That's right. So we suspended work on the parking lot and fill-making land so to speak. After his death we resumed it.

Interviewer: Would that have impacted that much?

Freeman Funk: No. That's just a person using his engineering background to show that he knows what is going on.

Interviewer: Is he also involved in the feed sacks?

Freeman Funk: Yes this is a secondhand story. That deals with my wife's first husband, Hotsy Moore. Hotsy and his father ran the Young Sweetser Co. and Mr. Pratt dealt with them in buying feed for livestock that he had at Chatham. In those days feedbags were gingham and many people used them as cloth for making dresses and things after the bag was empty. Wash it out and sew it up. Mr. Pratt didn't want a gingham apron or whatever, so there was a little refund. You could take them back to Young Sweetser if you didn't want them and turn them in and they would give you a little refund. They could reuse them-fill them again. And he very carefully brought his back and got his refund of pennies. It added up to a great deal of wealth in his lifetime. (Both are chuckling.)

Interviewer: There's another story here about pennies. The Mary Washington hospital preliminary location survey... and that preliminary survey involves pennies.

Freeman Funk: I was on the Mary Washington Hospital board for a couple of terms and got to know the staff and the board and had been off about a year when one of the plans was approaching early maturity if a plan can do that. And they decided that a new hospital was likely to be built. The first thing was site selection. The hospital board asked Spotsylvania and Stafford and the city to nominate two locations each where they would like to have the new hospital sited. The board asked me to do the preliminary engineering of evaluation those sites.

Interviewer: This would have been in the '80s?

Freeman Funk: Yes, in the late '80s. Because the new hospital now isn't so very old now and I went to the counties and the city's planning departments. (I told the hospital that I would do it but not for a fee.) The first thing I had to do was make a list of criteria for hospital location. Electricity, sewer, gas, water, highways especially; I insisted that there be two ways to get to the hospital; interfering things like high tension power lines. Another criterion is value of land. I did not deal in dollars. But I had to evaluate them for usable and unusable land in the tract because the chances are you'd have to buy the entire tract. Knowing what you want to know and being able to do it are two different things. I did not have the planimeter which is a device for determining areas of irregular tracts of land and I did not want a boundary survey. I had the topo maps (from the planning departments.) I used the criterion of 20 feet of cut. If you had to make a level plain for a parking lot and a building and you had to cut more than a 20 foot it would be too expensive to cut and fill. The determination of those areas became a little bit of problem. I could draw it on a map. This is the contour line we're going to follow. But it is irregular as contour lines always are. And I came up with the idea of using pennies. So I got a hand full of pennies and on each map I drew the area I wanted the acreage of, and I filled that area with pennies- not overlapping, just touching... and not following the exact edge. So by just putting pennies down and knowing the area on that scale map that a penny covers and knowing the number of pennies and then multiplying that would give me the acreage.

Interviewer: How did you know to do this?

Freeman Funk: I'd never done it before. You always go for the more accurate. This was not accurate, but it was accurate enough for the purpose... My wife Mary Frances went with me and we walked over every one of these parcels. In one place we were offered and used a golf cart because it was a part of a golf course--Central Park. I still

believe if we had selected Central Park as the best location, I believe Mr. Silver would have given it to the hospital but it wasn't suitable for a hospital in my estimation... But he was willing for us to look at it and insisted we use a golf cart when we were looking at it. The one we thought was the top of the list is the one where the hospital is located today. On the Benoit tract--and I am real happy with it. I believe it serves the community best and I am glad I didn't have to do the dollars and cents on buying that land. Because I am sure it was very expensive. I made a grand presentation of this study to combined physicians and the full board as I am doing today and they bought the idea.

Interviewer: You also sited Chancellor's Village?

Freeman Funk: No. I was involved in Chancellor's Village as the only on-site hospital employee/ representative during construction of it, but I had nothing to do with siting. The hospital provided me with a little trailer out there right next to the contractor, and I monitored the construction to see that the value was received by the hospital and Greystone properties.

Interviewer: We're continuing to look at random subjects here and we have a little note called "Big Flood/State Aid." Is that the big flood of... (1972)

Freeman Funk: This flood was the '70s. The Rappahannock River did reach flood stage and some few families were displaced--on the Stafford side of the river. We were up-trying to do whatever was necessary and the National Guard was helping. So we got a phone call from the state saying "we are on our way" and we said "okay, come on." And they set up an emergency headquarters in a local grammar school... These were emergency personnel and they went into action to relieve all this trouble that we were having up here. So they asked us to round up everyone needing housing. They said "now we've got to bring trailers to put out for people to live in." We said we don't allow trailers in the city. "Oh, you have to allow them." If the council said no trailers, that's what we as administrators will say. The state folks got kind of mad about that. The number of people who showed up for aid at this office was five or six. It turned out that no one needed aid ... they went and lived with relatives and did what was necessary until they could get back into their homes. People never abandon a house. They try to reclaim it.

Interviewer: (Resuming the interview.) A couple of typical complaints - Repave our street but only on weekends. And why were you out of town during the snow?

Freeman Funk: That's about all there is to it. I'm always astounded by what people want us to do. I learned in Fredericksburg that people can't accept no and they can't accept yes. They knew you were going to say no and if you said "yes, we'll do that," they went right on and continued to stamp their feet. I don't know if that's peculiar to this area or just humankind the world over. In Westwood there are some dead ends and one lady called and said you'll just have to do this some other time. I have to get my children to school ... You can't pay overtime to pave streets on the weekends. People just have to be inconvenienced at times to get what they want in the long run. We put up with those things as best we could... One man used to hound me through the press and through the radio. We used to do a lot of radio stuff. When something unusual was happening we'd go to the radio station and try to talk to the people. I had a call one day through the radio from a lady who expressed herself so well that I asked her to come down and talk with me. And eventually she was employed by the city and was a city employee for some years. (Mr. Funk said she was an excellent employee.)

(Interruption to change tape. Final session, Tape 1, Side B)

Freeman Funk: One man criticized me because I was out of town when a snow storm hit Fredericksburg. I was taking a weekend to visit my mother ... I had enough depth of staff so that I had no duty during a snow storm. The city engineer is the key person during a snow storm, and there was the superintendent of public works. I just had to say, "Yes, I was out of Fredericksburg during the snow storm." I think it was the same man who criticized the city crews for being out playing with the snow plows--there were two snow plows running down the bypass--when there was serious work for them to be doing. As a matter of fact they were doing the most serious work. We had only one four lane highway, and that is the bypass. And the most efficient way if you have two snow plows is to put them side by side down the bypass. This is our principal highway with the greatest volume of traffic and I thought we were doing just right thing. A citizen didn't think this was the right way and he was very vocal.

Interviewer: Was he your only constant critic?

Freeman Funk: Oh, I think so... .

Interviewer: (Interviewer is consulting a list of suggested topics) A suggestion for the selection of a city manager process. You have some thoughts on that having been through the interview process...

Freeman Funk: When I was appointed to City Council about six years ago we didn't have a city manager. We were between city managers, so to speak. And it was incumbent on City Council to find a city manager and appoint someone. I was new in the group. I didn't want to offend or step out in any way, but I did have some background in this having been city manager. So I suggested how we might go about it if they want to try. Of course we advertised in the appropriate publication to get applicants. Many people don't understand how to do interviews and what questions to ask... And these were going to be personal interviews and we were going to ask people to come here and meet with the council and get to know each other, so I suggested a case study interview method. I developed a questionnaire. Each applicant would answer questions and the council then could ask questions about that. These questions were based on problem areas that I had encountered 20, 30, 40 years before. And I put them into "what if," and it formed an interesting basis and we saw some interesting variations in attitudes.

Interviewer: You gave all the candidates the same questions?

Freeman Funk: Oh yes. We saw them on different days and no two people were interviewed at the same time so there was no cross referencing.

Interviewer: Give an example of what you would have asked.

Freeman Funk: Suppose you feel that the refuse truck is stopping at the wrong place, and people on there are dropping in to have a beer what would you do? I thought I did the right thing when this happened to me. Of course, [the crew] said they were just dropping in to have a sandwich. I didn't think beer drinking was the worst thing in the world, but on the job I thought any kind of drinking was not to be done. I just made a rule that the refuse truck couldn't stop any place that sold beer unless they were under contract with the city to pick up refuse or garbage. That seemed to solve the problem, except then a council member got a complaint from the place where the men had been stopping ... that these men are entitled to stop for a sandwich. And they came to me and said, "What are you trying to do? Put this man out of business by not letting the truck stop there for lunch and buy what they wanted?" So that's the reason I put it down to see what this

new city manager would do if he encountered anything that ridiculous. So the method worked. After it was over we selected Marvin Bolinger whom I think was an excellent selection. I went out on an interview with Gordon Shelton... We were appointed to be the interviewers in Tennessee of Marvin Bolinger and of anyone we wanted to talk to. We were the most available, so that's why they sent us. It was interesting that they selected us because that meant Gordon Shelton and I would have to spend a lot of time together on this trip, and we hadn't been speaking much because he led the drive [in 1978] on Council to fire me. We came to a great reconciliation on this trip. I said, "Gordon look, we're going to have a lot of contact on this trip and on council business. If it suits you, it suits me: let's forget the past and work with what we got and move on. He said, "Do you really mean that?" We were driving along, you see. I said, "I do." Anyway it was an interesting trip.

Interviewer: It sounds like it was a successful trip.

Freeman Funk: It was.

Interviewer: We're going to talk a little bit about use of the computer.

Freeman Funk: Long ago when computers were virtually unknown, the city kept its books by hand. The general ledger, the payroll documents were all done by hand, and the auditor -we had an annual audit by a Richmond firm-put in his report that it was time to start using a bookkeeping machine for the general ledger. We had a bookkeeping machine I told you about it with the water bills. I thought, "Bookkeeping machine? I said there's a computer." Data processing can be done and you don't have to use a machine in your office. I looked into it and I found sure enough it was possible. In those days computers were room size, but I found you could rent time on a computer in Richmond for instance. And I found a lady who could program computers. We engaged her and she came and examined what we needed done and then wrote a program for us to do what we wanted done. But how to get the information down there? We used the bus. We would put a package on the bus with all the information and it would go there and they would run it for us and send it back. This worked quite well for us and it was inexpensive. This leads to another story about that program. I was so pleased with the program and the results that we got that I went to the State Auditor of Public Accounts-the top man- that we reported all of our financial data to every year. Every town, city and county has to give an annual report.

Interviewer: You'd mail this in?

Freeman Funk: You'd fill out forms and there was a lack of uniformity in that.... I went to him and told him what we'd done and I said, "If you could get every town, city and county to do it in this uniform way by using one program for everybody, then you could get data on anything just by pressing a button ... How much did they spend in the State of Virginia for sidewalks or medical care? Or whatever.

Interviewer: Did he go for it?

Freeman Funk: No. And I said you could use our program. We've paid for it. He said it might favor one machine over another-and I don't think we want to get into that. I later determined he retired within about two years and he just didn't want to bother it.

By the way, the programmer and I went to the Virginia Municipal League that year and we gave a program on what we had done "Utilizing data processing for small cities." Skipping the bookkeeping machine, we had jumped from hand posting to data processing without any intermediate steps.

Interviewer: Tell me about the printing press. I'm intrigued by it. and we're about to leave it out.

Freeman Funk: There are a lot of forms to be printed for the city and nearly every department just went out and shopped for what they wanted, but all the bills had to come through my office. The city manager is also the city purchasing agent. We had a method for handling that sort of thing. Usually it's just a routine matter to issue a purchase order.... But the printing process was so slow I thought we ought to print up some ourselves and I looked into how you do offset printing. And I discovered the Multilift process that wasn't new at all, and I thought we could learn the Multilift process and turn out these forms. So I talked to a friend who is in the printing business, Sydnor Billingsley-Billingsley Press-who is in the printing business, and he had an offset business and he had a Multilift machine and showed me how it would work. I thought I could learn to do this and we got in touch with the Multilift people and they brought up a machine and we bought it... I became the city printer and it was a fascinating process. I did it in my spare time-- at nights and weekends. Here again a constitutional officer who won't be named.... He decided I was tramping on his territory because he wanted to go to his printer to have their printing

done because that printer could generate more votes for him than I could.

Interviewer: It was patronage?

Freeman Funk: Exactly and yet I was the purchasing agent and I had the final say--where I say is where we'll get it. That bothered him a great deal. He didn't go to City Council. He must have known that I had approval there. This time he called up a local printer... "Do you know what that guy Funk is doing now?" "He's printing forms." "He's printing forms." It happened that the printer he called ... was Sydnor Billingsley. ... It turned out I had helped him (Sydnor Billingsley) get into a phase of printing he was unfamiliar with--the photography phase--and I went to Baltimore with him to look at equipment (a man was going out of business) and I helped him set it up...

Interviewer: This came from your earlier experience in photography and in developing pictures?

Freeman Funk: Yes, isn't it funny how one thing ties to another?

Interviewer: Yes, yes it is.

Freeman Funk: But (the constitutional officer) never gave up. He never gave up. He was a bulldog...

(Interruption of tape.)

Freeman Funk: I wanted to point out that I did not continue forever running the printing press. But once I had got it established pretty well, I began to get help in from the high school--the DE and DO programs--where the students came and worked part-time. The students caught on very well... Just about six months ago I was out in the yard and a man walked down our driveway and shook hands with me and he said, "You don't remember me do you? I 'in Roscoe Edwards He's been working in printing for the federal government all these years and now he is ready to retire. He got his start with the city program. He gave me a \$2 bill he'd printed in his job. Of course, he couldn't take it home with him. He had to get it in the usual way.

Interviewer: Oh so he works for the mint?

Freeman Funk: Yes, he works for the mint (U.S. Bureau of Engraving). He told all about his press. And he was Just in love with his job. He'd been printing all this time.

Interviewer: Let's turn to the present....

Freeman Funk: Can we talk first about the Wallace Library.... When Col. Wallace died in 1905, he had a sum of money he wanted to leave to the community to establish a library. He specified in his will that \$5,000 would be spent to build a building and the rest of it-\$ 10,000-would be used to put library books into it. He even specified the people who would select the books to go into the library... so the money was lodged with the city, and the building got built and used. Fifty years later when I came to the city all the money had not been spent for the books. I wondered about it. Kuzner Bauman, the treasurer, kept the books by bank accounts. If there was a special fund, he would open an account and call it the Wallace Library fund. I guess that was all right. It worked out.

Interviewer: It was interest bearing savings accounts?

Freeman Funk: No, unfortunately not. Just checking accounts. But I said, "Why is this money still here? I said, " I've read the will." This was supposed to have been spent in 1905, '06 and '07. He said, "Well, the board never did say to spend it." I felt the board just forgot that it hadn't spent it, and some people had forgotten they were on the board. I helped correct that. I said to council, "This account has been audited for 50 years. Audited, audited, audited and you haven't complied with the wishes of Col. Wallace. Let's spend the money. So we stopped the appropriation for books and they said what are we going to do and we said, "Spend the money." We took that account down to zero and closed the account. The board for the library-along with a few other boards--was appointed for life. Some got to the point where they couldn't get to the meetings. You've a completely inactive board and no one was even cognizant enough to call a meeting. They were just there. I suggested that we reorganize the board so that members would have a term so that people would serve two years. Now we have active boards throughout the city. We have a lot of boards now. An awful lot of boards.

Interviewer: Let's talk about what you've been doing since your second retirement.

Freeman Funk: We talked about the location of the site for the hospital. I also monitored the construction for Chancellor's Village and that was a new career.

Interviewer: What about St. George's?

Freeman Funk: I also worked for the city in renovation of City Hall into the museum. I worked for the city in that... to see that there was quality control and the wishes of the owner were carried out. And we had a marvelous architect and it all went well. And now I am doing the same thing for St. George's Church. My wife Mary Frances is a member of St. George's and I am not. But of course I'm very interested and when they asked me if I would do this I said I probably would if I could talk first to the architect and see if he wanted me to do this sort of thing and he seemed very pleased. So I've been there every day except Saturday and Sunday since January...

Interviewer: Are you clerk of the works?

Freeman Funk: That's the old term for it. I like resident engineer a little better. Monitor. I've enjoyed that work ... and I've made some arrangements not to accept any fee for that work.

You asked about my career after I was fired by the city. Soon thereafter-within weeks-I was employed by Stafford as a transportation safety engineer. A one-year contract. I met the people at Russell and Axon who were doing the largest water plant that Stafford has- and I began some consulting work with them.

So I renewed my license and worked as an engineer and managed the office in Stafford of Russell and Axon until the work ran out and we closed. I also worked for Spotsylvania in helping with the closing of the FMC plant. They bought the plant and all the buildings down there to make into an industrial park. In the meantime there were things of value that we had to keep track of and dispose of. I inventoried and made weekly reports on disposing of that inventory. I also advised the guards who became contract employees and I remember advising them as to how to become a contract employee so far as the IRS is concerned. This about winds up the work career that I have had.

Interviewer: How about fun? Tell me about playing pool. (Mrs. Funk who had been sitting in on the interview said at that point, "tennis.")

Freeman Funk: Well, okay. I am a tennis player and have played all of my life until I had a shoulder injury and I elected not to have an operation. I've recovered but I had to give up tennis because it was so painful. I have taken up shooting billiards or pool. Mary Frances and I play whenever we can, and we have a table which her son gave us, and it's got to be a regular thing now, I have regular meetings with four people at my brother's in law every Wednesday afternoon.

The tape ran out at this point, and Mr. Funk said he thought this was a good place to conclude this series of interviews. Interviewer's Note.