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Charles Love Sr.

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Bridges That Carried Us Over Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee:

Charles Love, Sr.

Interviewer:

Belalia Mubashir

Interview Date:

September 18, 2014

Interview Location:

Rialto, CA

Length:

00:06:32

Interview Summary completed by:

M. Camacho Nuno, 2024

Description:

Belalia Mubashir interviews Charles Love, a man who joined the American Legion Post 710 a few decades before the interview. Though it was a bit unorganized, Love saw future potential and was hopeful about making a difference. Post 710 created multiple funds, such as for families of deceased veterans, funds for the community, and scholarship money. Mubashir asks about Jack Hill in Post 710 and Love describes how the man made him feel welcome and impressed in how he treated veterans. Hill made several important decisions, such as helping buy a new Post location. Love also speaks about Hill putting bylaws and procedures in place in the Post which are still being followed. The guest was able to gain knowledge and guidance from Hill when they would talk. The interview ends with Love describing Hill as a pioneer, leader, and an impactful man. Particularly, Love tells how he sees Hill as being instrumental to Post 710 and what the Post was at the time of the recording.

Subject Topic:

- Post 710
- Fundraising
- Jack Hill
- Military Service
- Veterans
- Guidance
- Influence
- Knowledge
- Lasting Impact
- Pioneering Post 710

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site (if relevant)	General Location/Address
Home of Amina Enratibu	Rialto, CA
American Legion Post 710	2181 W Highland Ave, San Bernardino, CA 92407

Temporal Coverage:

2014

Key Events:

- Love joins Post 710 21 years before the time of the recording.
- Raising funds for the community and scholarship money
- The first impression Love had of Jack Hill was that Hill structured person, serious about the Legion, and focused seriously on those who had been in the military.
- Hill helps with the movement of Post 710.
- Hill helps with the Post 710's bylaws and procedures.
- Love saw Hill as a help for the former to focus on Post 710.
- Love describes Hill as a man with a positive influence and being instrumental in shaping Post 710 with other pioneers.

Key Organizations:

- American Legion Post 710

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:01:56 - 00:03:09	Charles Love's first impression of Jack Hill and when he did something great.
Digital Video	00:03:18 - 00:04:22	Hill's contributions to Post 710.
Digital Video	00:04:22 - 00:05:38	Love describes Hill's guidance and how he was a leader.

Related Materials

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Bridges That Carried Us Over Project at CSUSB, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

Q: Okay, today's date is September 18th, 2014. My name is [Belalia Mubashir?], and I'm interviewing Charles Love, Sr. for the Jack Hill Reception.

CHARLES LOVE: Yes.

Q: His name is spelled: first name Charles, C-H-A-R-L-E-S, last name Love, L-O-V-E. We're interviewing here at the home of [Amina Enratibu?] in Rialto, California. Thank you, Charles Love, for interviewing with us.

CHARLES LOVE: You're very welcome.

Q: So tell me a little bit about Post 17.

CHARLES LOVE: Well, I joined this post some 21 years ago, and I came in, (laughs) and it was a little ragtag, and... But I saw a future in it. And we didn't have a jukebox, and we didn't have -- if members [00:01:00] passed away, we had to collect money in a mayonnaise jar and all that. And I looked at all that situation, and I said, "Well, I think we can make a difference with this." So we created a couple of funds, which one is called the Smith Fund, which provides some sort of help for passing comrades, to their families and stuff, and that was one of the things. And then we came up with the Action Fund, and the Children & Youth Fund, in which we do things for the children in the community, and provide some scholarship money.

Q: So Jack Hill was a part of Post 17 when you got there.

CHARLES LOVE: Seven-ten.

Q: Seven-ten.

CHARLES LOVE: Yes.

Q: I'm sorry, excuse me.

CHARLES LOVE: Yes.

Q: When you got there.

CHARLES LOVE: Yes, he was.

Q: What was your first impression of Jack Hill?

CHARLES LOVE: Well, he was a [00:02:00] pioneer that I saw. He was a structured person. He took very seriously the American Legion, and the camaraderieship among the fellow soldiers that come out the military. And that impressed me a lot, and that made me feel welcome, because I look at it now as a home away from home, with the camaraderie and stuff among the GIs.

Q: Can you tell me about a time when Jack Hill did something great?

CHARLES LOVE: Well, I wasn't there when this happened, but I was told he was part of the moving from 8th and Perris to where we are today, 2181 West Highland. He was a part -- he engineered that, from what I was told, that he helped with the buying of the [00:03:00] property, and saw the vision that we could be there, and make a American Legion post out of it. And that's been over 40 years ago.

Q: And this is the post -- the blue one right here?

CHARLES LOVE: On 21--

Q: Yeah, we just passed it today. (laughs)

CHARLES LOVE: --81 West Highland, yes.

Q: What other contributions did he make to Post 710?

CHARLES LOVE: Well, (laughs) I think he -- from what I was told, he helped structure the bylaws and the standard operating procedures that we still use today. He was part of it, from what I was told. I met Jack Hill afterwards, and was introduced to him, and, well, I was younger then, and he was more of a mature, structured man, and... But as the years went by, and I became who I am today, which is the commander [00:04:00] of the post for over four years, I've learned to --

him and I have had conversations, briefly, and it's knowledge for me, 'cause this person, and a few others that I could name, were pioneers of the post to where we are today.

Q: So do you feel like he was guidance for you in your life?

CHARLES LOVE: Not hands-on, but just knowing who he was, and the stories that I heard about him, and the things that he did, it helped me focus on Post 710 to be a beacon and a guiding force today.

Q: So if you were to describe Jack Hill to someone who didn't know him, how would you describe him?

CHARLES LOVE: I would describe him as a pioneer, a leader. [00:05:00] There are many things that I've heard since of -- that he's done in the community of San Bernardino, and I applaud him for that. I wasn't there, but the thing about things that you do, legacies that you leave, it's there for everyone to know, and you don't have to brag about it or nothing. And he's never said to me, "Well, I did this, I did that." It speaks for itself. And that inspires me to be who I am today, and hopefully one day I'll have that legacy also, (laughter) yeah. Yeah.

Q: So is there anything else you would like to say on this video?

CHARLES LOVE: I'd like to say that there are several people that was and still is instrumental to Post 710, and he's one of 'em, and Will... I can't [00:06:00] think of his name. Will Robertson is another, and there are several others, but these two come to mind that are living today, that helped sculpture our post to be what it is. It's a country place, but we have a good -- we have a great time there.

Q: That's all that matters. (laughs)

CHARLES LOVE: Yeah, we have a real great time there.

Q: Thank you so much for interviewing with us today.

CHARLES LOVE: You're very welcome.

Q: We really appreciate it.

CHARLES LOVE: You're very welcome.

End of Interview:

[00:06:32]