

**Collection #  
DVD 0255-0256**

**MIKE HAAN  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2012**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 2 DVDs (1 master and 1 library user copy)

**COLLECTION DATES:** 16 July 2012; 18 minutes, 23 seconds

**PROVENANCE:** Indiana Historical Society partner project with Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, 2011-2012

**RESTRICTIONS:**

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** DVD 0253 James Haan Interview; DVD 0257 John Haan Interview, 2012

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2013.0005m0001

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

During the early Cold War, fear that the USSR would bomb the United States prompted bomb shelters, bomb drills, and efforts such as “Operation Skywatch,” a civil defense program to assist the United States Air Force to monitor the aircraft in the sky. The USAF believed Operation Skywatch was essential because it was a low-cost alternative to contemporary radar, which was not effective enough to detect low-flying aircraft. Operation Skywatch was staffed by the all-volunteer Ground Observer Corps. The GOC found its origins in WW II with the recruitment of volunteer observers along the United States coasts. In response to growing tensions between North and South Korea, the GOC was re-envisioned with GOC volunteers manning observation defense posts in gaps between proposed radar network sites 24 hours a day. Suspected threats were reported to filter centers operated by the USAF. As technology improved, the need for the GOC diminished. By 1959, the GOC was inactivated.

Mike Haan was born in 1942 about a mile from Cairo, Indiana on his family’s farm. He helped his father build the Cairo observation tower, watching it rise from the ground through community help. He also accompanied his father to tower during his two-hour GOC shifts. He describes how often the community worked together on local projects, whether helping one another during harvest or supporting the CGC.

Sources: Material in the collection

Callander, Bruce D. “The Ground Observer Corps.” *Airforce-magazine.com*. Online journal of the Air Force Association. February 2006. <http://www.airforce-magazine.com/MagazineArchive/Pages/2006/February%202006/0206goc.aspx>.

Cromwell, Bob. “Cold War Watchtower, Delta Lima 3 - Green, DL3-G.” *The History of Information Security and INFOSEC / Military History Tourism*. Accessed March 6, 2013. <http://cromwell-intl.com/security/history/dl3g/>.

Nordin, D. Sven. *Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900*. Baton Rouge, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1974.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Folder 1 contains the recording of Mike Haan's oral history interview. DVD 0255 contains an MP3 version of the interview for backup only (master). DVD 0256 contains a MP3 version of the interview for library use (copy). Mike Haan was interviewed as part of the Cairo Observer Corps Oral History Project. Topics include growing up near Cairo, Indiana, building the Cairo tower, the Ground Observation Corps, and being a child during the Cold War. The interview was conducted by Nicole Poletika on July 16, 2012, in Cairo, Indiana as part of research for her graduate thesis in public history. Poletika is a graduate student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

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Mike Haan oral history interview, audio MP3 file on  
DVD (1 master and 1 library use copy)

### CONTAINER

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