



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) , () Maggie Holtzberg

Accession Numbers:

MH-04-04-FN

Fieldnotes

MH-04-04-D

Audio recordings

MH-04-04-CS

Photographic documentation

- - -M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: 3/26/2004 Contact Date: 4/6/04

Related Accession Numbers: - - , - - , - -

Individual/Group/Event: Dan Kuhs, Business Manager and David Woodman, Business Agent

Address: 22 Drydock Avenue

City: South Boston

Zip: 02210

County: Suffolk

Phone: Daytime: 617-443-1988

Evening:

E-mail:

Website: www.piledriverslu56.org

Contact person:

Title:

Location of Interview: Local 56

Street Address: 22 Drydock Avenue (end of N. Avenue, 3-story glass bldg)

City: Boston

Zip:

County:

Special Needs (including translation):

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community):

Traditions noted for follow-up:

Other Possible Contacts: Sally Addison, Steward

Summary Description: .Spoke with Dan on 3/26 about the oral history project on Big Dig workers. He seemed amenable to talking and helping with identifying interviewees. Suggested I come by the Local

4/6. He has also invited David Woodman, who has been in the trade for over 30 years. Woodman's father was also a pile driver. Dan worked out in the field for 18 years before taking the office job, which he has held for the last 7 years.

Dan says that pile drivers are still working at two sites -- Dewey Square Tunnel/State Street area and Leverett Circle Connector. In fact, Sally Addison, who the Globe featured last June, is the steward on the later site. Modern/Continental is the contractor. Testa is the contractor doing the tear down of the artery.

Dan also mentioned that the pile drivers had "the most earliest on in the project. First in and first out." (They also had the first fatality.) As for current work, the pile drivers are down to about 25 people at this point. In order for us to get permission to enter the work site, we need to contact Rich Lynt, labor liaison with the contractors. His number is 617-951-3610. His sec'y is Teresa Shanley 617-342-1364. Tell them I've been referred by Dan Kuhs.

I arrived a few minutes after 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday and was introduced to Dan Kuhs. He took me to a large room where we met Dave Woodman. I set up the equipment and started the interview. At first the two of them were rather reserved, perhaps put off by the microphone, the formality of recording and not knowing who I was or what I knew. But as the time went on, the two of them opened up considerably. After the first hour, I Dan pulled out some videos to show me and explained the work in more detail, providing running commentary. There was more laughter and generally more trust all round.