

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Bill W. Sutton Interview Abstract
 April 10, 2018

Interviewee	Bill W. Sutton
Year of birth	1940
Place of birth	Huntsville, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Camille Hatcher
Interview date	2018-04-10
Interview location	Sutton home; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Sutton, Bill W. Hatcher, Camille Huntsville, Benton County, Arkansas Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas Preformed Lines Products; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas St. Mary's (Hospital); Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas Education Farming Hospitals Military Recreation Small town life Volunteerism U.S. Marines World War II</p>
Description	<p>Bill W. Sutton begins this interview with a description of World War II through the eyes of a 'very young country boy.' Living on a struggling farm outside of Huntsville Arkansas, Sutton's Dad enlists for patriotic and economic reasons. While Dad is fighting in the Pacific, Sutton keeps his sandbox ready to repel any enemy that might come over the hill. Then there were the daily chores of he and his siblings helping Mom keep the family farm going. That meant milking cows, running a house with no electricity, and receiving communication via a battery-operated radio. Sutton and brother, Max, learned at an early age how to weed and walk to town (Huntsville) to get groceries. On a good trip, Uncle Ralph would bring the family home in his model T. The Dad that returns three years later is changed in several ways. He carried in Sutton words 'so much hid inside him [from the War].' But he was also determined to organize the farm and get an education. Graduating from the University of Arkansas, Dad went on to be a school principal and superintendent. Sutton believes these, and other family experiences, moved him to enlist in the Marines (1958-1961), and then go to college. Like his Dad, Sutton graduated from the University of Arkansas. His degree was in Business Management. He married Patty and later they had two sons. His management skills and goal of</p>

	<p>'quality first' led to a successful career as a staff trainer and a plant manager.</p> <p>Sutton bought the farm from his Dad. He shared the farm with his family. Some learned to hunt. The farm was later sold.</p> <p>Sutton told stories of moving to Rogers in 1969 and joining the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce. Both were good ways to get to know the community. He detailed the work he did on what was then the St. Mary's Hospital Board as it changed alignment to the Sisters of Mercy.</p> <p>In the years Sutton's lived in the Huntsville and Rogers area, he finds the growth 'wonderful, amazing.' He believes Huntsville will benefit from added industry.</p>
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Questions or Comments	https://nwaoralhistory.org
Interview sidebar	<p>Sutton served as plant manager for Preformed Line Products (PLP) in Rogers, Arkansas. During his employment the plant went from 48,000 to 360,000 sq. feet. He calls PLP products the 'super Cadillac' of splicing products and tells of his commitment to the idea that 'when you say quality first you mean it in a business like that.' [00:24:00]</p>