

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Joseph Biancanelli

Date 2006 September 12

Primary Maker Joseph Biancanelli

Medium digitized audio cassette tape

Description Audio cassette tape of an interview with Joseph Biancanelli. He was interviewed on September 12, 2006 by Bruce M. Stave and Sondra Astor Stave for the G. Fox Oral History Project at his office in Hartford, Connecticut.

Biancanelli was born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised on Long Island. He attended State University of New York at Oswego. He worked in the travel business and for American Airlines. His wife was from the Hartford area, which is why he moved to Connecticut. He opened a travel agency office, Capitol Travel, in the Richardson building in Hartford in 1982. He was trying to build a portfolio of corporate accounts, and he approached G. Fox & Co. several times, but they already had an agency. In 1985, he was able to have G. Fox as a client, and his office moved from the Richardson building to the G. Fox building. He ran G. Fox Travel and Ticketmaster until G. Fox closed in 1992. He managed both corporate and leisure accounts. At the time of the May Company ownership of G. Fox, Harry Black managed the independent businesses housed at G. Fox, such as the travel agency, an optician, and the jewelry department. Biancanelli stated that these businesses gave a percentage of the commissions to G. Fox in lieu of rent. Even though the vendors were not employed by G. Fox they were still given employee discounts and parking. After G. Fox closed Biancanelli moved his business to

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West Hartford Center and changed the business name to Connecticut Vacation

Center. He was able to retain his other corporate accounts. He ran the business

for one year before selling it to Henry Wrotniak. Biancanelli then worked for

American Express running call centers. Biancanelli discusses his perception of

Hartford in the 1980s. He started to notice changes in Hartford after Travelers

was purchased by City Group and the closures of Sage-Allen and G. Fox. Hartford

became more of a commuter city - people came in to work, then left at the end

of the day. Biancanelli described how the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

affected the travel industry. The interview ends with Biancanelli describing how

he feels about Capitol Community College moving into the G. Fox building and

how that is bringing younger people into Hartford.

Dimensions Duration: 57 Minutes, 12 Seconds