

Rowan University

## Rowan Digital Works

---

RCA Oral History Transcripts

University and Regional History Collections

---

5-27-2015

### Interview with Ted and Rita Markiewitz

RCA Heritage Program

Follow this and additional works at: [https://rdw.rowan.edu/rca\\_histories](https://rdw.rowan.edu/rca_histories)



Part of the [Engineering Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you -  
share your thoughts on our feedback form.

---

#### Recommended Citation

RCA Heritage Program, "Interview with Ted and Rita Markiewitz" (2015). *RCA Oral History Transcripts*. 37.  
[https://rdw.rowan.edu/rca\\_histories/37](https://rdw.rowan.edu/rca_histories/37)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University and Regional History Collections at Rowan Digital Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in RCA Oral History Transcripts by an authorized administrator of Rowan Digital Works. For more information, please contact [jiras@rowan.edu](mailto:jiras@rowan.edu), [rdw@rowan.edu](mailto:rdw@rowan.edu).

File Name: 0806151412\_Ted\_\_Rita\_Markiewitz

File Length: 00:42

[START OF TRANSCRIPT]

[0:00:07] Ted:

The SPS 12, I said the SPS 12 I says RCA that's our radar that was the best radar we had and I worked on that thing. He said what do you mean you worked on it, where is the destruction books. They got the book and everything it's my name on the drawing right there.

We did break... we were out at when we were a picket ship on the ADIS line, Air Defense Independent Line. We tracked every aircraft in and out of the country. If they didn't add, do certain maneuvers we would scramble planes up to intercept them. This is the '50s, the cold war I guess you'd call that, right. I don't think I saw any plan... most of them the ones we picked up were Russian planes. I've never heard of Korea... I never saw a Korean plane; I wonder what it would look like.

I started in the mailroom with RCA and a week later I got a job as a draftsman in RCA, electrical drafting although all my schooling was mechanical. Then that whole plant moved and became Moorestown plant, the building over there on River Road. We were called plank owners of Moorestown. You know what a plant owner is, right. We're the first ones like when you're in a ship you're the first crew. That was us in Moorestown first group.

The rest of my years end up in Moorestown but I did a lot of traveling.

[0:02:00]

Wallops Island is one of them where we had... we've got about 7 or 8 stations like Wallops Island that the trains, the crew to operate the radars. The rest of my life was at Moorestown.

[0:02:24] Speaker 1:

Okay, you started in Camden.

[0:02:28] Ted:

I started in Camden, yeah.

[0:02:30] Speaker 1:

Okay. When was your first assignment?

[0:02:32] Ted:

Assignment?

[0:02:33] Speaker 1:

The first assignment.

[0:02:35] Ted:

I was in the mail clerk and I would take mail over to the thing. After I met the vice president of RCA Mr. Case, I met him in Moorestown too. I was his mail delivery at the time. However, I was going to

Drexel at night and I got a degree and I became an electrical engineer.

**[0:02:59] Speaker 1:**

Why were you going to Drexel?

**[0:03:03] Ted:**

Well, I was working as a draftsman in Moorestown and my father is a plumber who also was RCA. He was a plumber in RCA in the 17 building, that same building where the mailroom is and he had to get a job during the war because they said... my father was doing this plumbing on the outside by himself and they said no you got to have a job that's national.

**[0:03:32] Rita:**

A defense. Defense job.

**[0:03:32] Ted:**

Right, defense-type work. He got into RCA and he was a plumber in that same building there, 17 building. What was...?

**[0:03:51] Rita:**

You were helping your dad on one of his projects and someone from RCA wanted to know what you were going to do after you finished high school.

**[0:04:07]**

He noticed something in you and suggested that you go to college.

**[0:04:16] Ted:**

Yeah, okay. I'll mention a name here, Jake Sinixon, an engineer at RCA Moorestown. My father, we went over his house in Camden put in a copper... after the war a copper pipe replacing all the galvanized pipes in the houses and that's what my father was working on. Even though he worked at RCA in the morning, at night he was doing these and the weekends he was doing these other jobs.

The guy in that one house Jake Sinixon he come down and he started questioning me. He says oh you just... you graduated high school what were your marks. I told him and he says oh that's great. He said what college are you going to. Nobody had finished high school before in my family. None of my family... all the family ever finished grammar school, uncles and aunts and everybody.

**[0:05:18] Speaker 1:**

You started in the mailroom.

**[0:05:20] Ted:**

Yeah.

**[0:05:21] Speaker 1:**

What did your... the person that hired you for the mailroom what did he tell you?

**[0:05:28] Ted:**

Well, he said that he's not hiring me because I'm a kid that has to deliver mail. I only want somebody who's going at school at night and looking for a better job and I get him in the building and that's where his ... Mr. Day, and that's what he did. He got me, you know, a week after I got in there he's sending me for interview and that's

how it happened. I got an interview at the River Road plant and then that's the place where they told me to stay on the tracks when they went on strike a week later.

**[0:06:09]**

I wasn't even in the building yet and I'm going on strike.

**[0:06:18] Speaker 1:**

After that.

**[0:06:19] Ted:**

Sinixon told me go to college and he looked at my father and my father looked at me I said why go onto college. I mean I'm the second one to go to high school. My sister was the first one. What's this college stuff?

Well he happen to be a night school teacher at college at Drexel. When we went back he came back with a bunch of papers for me to... he said sign these. I fill them all out and he said now take them over to Drexel and get in there. He told my father it's only \$35.00. You only need \$35.00 to start and so get him started and I did. I went to Drexel like 10 years.

**[0:07:10] Speaker 1:**

That's where you met your wife Rita?

**[0:07:13] Ted:**

Well, no at Drexel I became the student president. I worked my way up as student president and then I get a letter in the mail saying engineers because engineers we're at the basement. That's where the engineer was. We weren't in classrooms up there we were down in the basement where all the equipment is.

I said then if... they sent me a letter saying that, you know, derogatory remark about it engineers you got to learn how to become humans. You got to get some...

**[0:08:05] Rita:**

Humanities or something.

**[0:08:07] Ted:**

You had to take these elective. One elective was differential equations. I don't know why... and that's the one I took because all the other guys told me in work is that you're going to be an engineer get that course, so I took that course. The other ones were differential equations...

**[0:08:28] Rita:**

History.

**[0:08:32] Ted:**

History was the other one and I took the history class. I get up there early and I sat down and then this girl came in and she sat down two chairs from me. An electrical engineer at Drexel at night there's no girls in the classrooms, what was she doing here. That was history so I got in that then.

The other elective was astronomy which I did take too. When she sat there then I don't know what happened. I guess I walked her out to the bus...

**[0:09:12] Speaker 1:**

Rita, you finish the story.

**[0:09:07] Rita:**

I was the business major at Drexel. I spent two-year day school at Drexel and got an associate degree and my father wanted me to go further and I said no, I would like to work and earn a living. I went to work and it didn't take long to realize that my father was right. You go for your education. I didn't want to leave my job so I went to night school and I went back to Drexel.

I was at Drexel maybe a few years when I met Theodore. He sat down next to me at... actually; I sat next to him at history class.

**[0:10:00]**

Usually I was the only girl in my classrooms and he had the seat that I wanted that I always picked. I always sat up front close to the professor because I was there for an education.

**[0:10:18] Ted:**

I took that seat because like in chemistry when you're sitting in the back you're going to sleep. If I sit in the back in history I'd certainly will do, maybe go to sleep so I said...

**[0:10:30] Rita:**

We met in history class and he walked me... I don't know if you know Drexel, they have this huge court... they call it the great court and they have these marble steps and he was walking me to the front door and when we were coming down the steps I fell. I claim he pushed me and he claims I fell for him. We got married a couple of years later.

**[0:11:01] Ted:**

Here's a bad remark now about Drexel. That was an architecture school. The building and everything was 100 percent architecture. You know the stairway like three feet and then five inches, three feet and then five. Who can walk down those stairs without tripping? That was the bad part about it. Some architect designed this, nobody checked them.

**[0:11:34] Speaker 1:**

Then you two were married and you stayed at home and raised your children.

**[0:11:40] Rita:**

Yes.

**[0:11:41] Speaker 1:**

Then your career started. Talk about your career progression - where did you go, what were the major programs you've worked on, what was so important about them.

**[0:11:54] Ted:**

Well, the doomsday plane was one. That's the first satellite communications on an aircraft.

**[0:12:01]** Well I worked on that and I worked on the LEM program. I designed the electronic driver system of the Rendezvous Radar and so all that circuitry that operates a radar that was designed in Moorestown. That's was one. Then what else did I had there?

**[0:12:28] Speaker 1:** That was on the Apollo program?

**[0:12:32] Ted:** That was Apollo, yeah. I worked on the Viking, you know the satellite that landed on Mars, the Viking. Now I worked on that at Hightstown. I was transferred to Hightstown. They needed somebody that worked on a satellite and I went there.

**[0:12:57] Speaker 1:** What year was that?

**[0:12:58] Ted:** I don't remember the dates but when we were finished with the job I did pretty good over there. Those guys were wondering where I came from that I could... I knew all this stuff about transistors. First of all, when I was designing stuff it was tubes, you know vacuum tubes, right. Then in the moon you could not use vacuum tubes. You had to use transistors. I had signed up for Drexel transistors but it wouldn't be for another year before they started it.

RCA had to make their own school in Camden Catholic High school; they had the second floor there at night. I'm designing in the day time and we're learning how to design at night. They hired somebody that teach us how to do solid state electronics.

**[0:14:00]** From that day on we never worked with tubes unless you're troubleshooting an old one then you have to know how to do that. When I got on the ship there was some equipment that had tubes. I was --

**[0:14:15] Speaker 1:** That was the RCA after hours programs that you went to school that was RCA that sponsored that?

**[0:14:25] Ted:** Oh, yeah for the moon program. Yeah, in other words none of us... we all worked with tubes all of a sudden you weren't allowed to have tubes they were too...

**[0:14:36] Rita:** They were going up to the moon and then everything had to be miniaturized.

**[0:14:40] Ted:** They said that would shake and they break and the filament would break and something like that. We had to go semiconductor. Now we had a crash course in semiconductor, which was the best thing. You know part of the world in engineering is that your life is five years. If you don't go to school and continue going after five years you're out of it because that's how fast the thing that --

**[0:15:11] Rita:** Technologies.

**[0:15:12] Ted:** Now RCA sent me to Hightstown and I worked on a satellite that the Earth Orbiting Satellite that was one of them and the other one is working on... they had a trouble on it so they couldn't get it to work. They called me on a Sunday and I had to drive up there. I was already back at Moorestown but then I had to drive up and we have to troubleshoot the thing and the girl after we finished we got it working. We had to call the people in California which were operating that vehicle.

**[0:16:04]** The secretary came on and told me to sign this paper. They put my name there. There was a lot of paper and a lot of names on them. Then I signed it, but I didn't know what it was for. Later on I found out that they... the paper was given to... was made into a ceramic chip all those names that worked on the Viking and they glued her on the bottom of the Viking ship that's landing on Mars. Our name is up there on Mars. If I had known what they were going to do I got all my kids name there.

**[0:16:56] Speaker 1:** What was it like working for RCA?

**[0:17:01] Ted:** It's the only place I ever worked so I can't compare it with anybody else, but it was good. I had no criticisms at all about what I was doing. I kept getting good jobs for some reason. I guess it's because I kept going to school and I didn't... I liked Drexel. Considering that I had to take a subway over there and...

**[0:17:32] Rita:** How did you like working for RCA?

**[0:17:35] Ted:** RCA I liked it.

**[0:17:38] Speaker 1:** What was the best thing about working for RCA?

**[0:17:43] Ted:** Well it wasn't like a factory. When I first worked in Camden it was like a factory. When the whistle went off everybody is leaving. They're going to get some stuff...

**[0:18:00]** It is push carts there to get some money from Campbell soup; you know across the street and stuff like that. Here you work in smaller groups. They always had groups and they were doing certain designs and certain things like that. I mean I never had any problems with RCA engineers, bosses or whatever.

I was offered a job at Wallops Island, right there, when I was ready to retire and I told the boss that was trying to hire me I said I'm an engineer and no way that I think I could talk to people and tell them they're not doing too good. That's not my thing so I refused that job.

Everybody says you're crazy. I said well I'm not... I studied electronics and that's where I went all the way.

**[0:19:07] Speaker 1:** What about your supervisors how did your supervisors treat you?

**[0:19:12] Ted:** They did good. I always got good jobs and I wondered why I was getting a lot of good jobs but then I realized that I performed. In other words, they give me a job that the other guy couldn't do or something like that and I got to go in there and figure out what is going on and something like that. I was way ahead because I was studying at Solid State while everybody else was still on tubes.

**[0:19:41] Speaker 1:** What about your coworkers?

**[0:19:46] Ted:** Best bunch of guys you could ever have. When I got to Moorestown we formed an investment club. We had draftsman, engineers and anybody else secretaries and things and we made an investment club.

**[0:20:05]** Now, maybe we violated some law because when we got the AEGIS system we knew all of the companies that were feeding things and they said we'd buy that stock for an investment club. A woman who did that, I forgot her name.

**[0:20:26] Rita:** Martha Stewart.

**[0:20:27] Ted:** Huh?

**[0:20:27] Rita:** Martha Stewart.

**[0:20:28] Ted:** Okay. Martha Stewart and she went to jail for... I said don't tell anybody we're buying this thing. Meanwhile what happened was I was going to the ship and I get a letter from RCA from the guys on RCA. They broke up the club and I got my money back. I said oh, they didn't want to keep the investment there. I went out and bought stock on my own when I got it and I formed my own stock --

**[0:20:59] Speaker 1:** Did you spend a lot of time with your coworkers outside of work?

**[0:21:02] Ted:** Yeah, we had the meetings for the investment club. It was called the Drafting and Engineers Investment Club. We also had what they call...

**[0:21:13] Rita:** Baseball, you had baseball.

**[0:21:17] Ted:** Well, I was on the baseball team the RCA Moorestown baseball team.

**[0:00:07] Rita:** The State Club.



**[0:21:24] Ted:** One game I had... I was a good hitter. I hit a homerun the first time up. Next time up I hit another homerun. Third time up I hit another homerun and the fourth time up they took all the infielders and the extra fielders and they put them all up against the wall. I really whacked as hard as possible and I only got a double.

**[0:20:00]** Another friend of mine who was working at RCA had his children there and he said come to Ted and he says, Ted they all want to know how to bat like you. That was the baseball team and I --

**[0:22:11] Speaker 1:** Do you still socialize with some of your RCA coworkers?

**[0:22:15] Ted:** I don't know where everybody is anymore. A lot of them I know that died. I'm 84 I don't... yeah, I can't think of anybody that's...

**[0:22:32] Rita:** No, honey.

**[Voice overlap]**

**[0:22:35] Ted:** In our development that... Killion is still there.

**[0:22:40] Speaker 1:** What about your development when you were working at RCA? Were there other RCA workers, coworkers in that development?

**[0:22:48] Rita:** They were in the area because we used to carpool. We took turns driving... we took one car... a carpool of workers.

**[0:23:00] Speaker 1:** In your opinion how did RCA change South Jersey?

**[0:23:09] Ted:** You got Moorestown now. Have you been there lately? I mean we had two little buildings, now it's like a hundred acres more. Moorestown was a little town like a little homey town and it felt like that. That RCA plant there is bigger than I think Moorestown. It grew and I don't know anybody that works there now.

**[0:23:46] Rita:** Beth works there.

**[0:23:47] Ted:** Who?

**[0:23:48] Rita:** Beth, Lockheed Martin.

**[0:23:50] Ted:** That's right my daughter-in-law lives there... works there, yeah. That's right.

**[0:23:55] Rita:** She works in the lab. She is a chemist. They also have the AEGIS ship there. I think RCA did a marvelous job for South Jersey. If everything had to be miniaturized and I think they played a big part in having these computers that we take... we really don't realize what a remarkable thing that is.

**[0:24:27] Speaker 1:** Now, you then went to work for RCA.

**[0:24:30] Rita:** Yes. I went back in 1984 because Maria was getting ready to go to college. Somebody had to pay the bills. Then today the college expenses are tremendous but when my daughter and my son went to school we were able to afford it because mommy went to work.

**[0:24:55] Speaker 1:** What was it like working at RCA?

**[0:24:58] Rita:** Well I met some very, very beautiful people. I still have contact with them. We call ourselves the lunch bunch group and we get together occasionally. Now of course now we are up in years so we don't meet as frequently we would like to. We were supposed to meet in January but because of the inclement weather we were not able to get together and I miss that. I really would love to. We always promise we're going to get together those of us who live in New Jersey but it never comes to fruition.

**[0:25:37] Speaker 1:** This lunch bunch was all RCA?

**[0:25:40] Rita:** Yes. We were all RCA. We used to meet at lunch and then gradually we retired. We still kept in touch.

**[0:25:52] Speaker 1:** Okay. What about your supervisors?

**[0:25:56] Rita:** My last supervisor was excellent. I can't say too much for the one before.

**[0:26:03]** My engineers that I worked with you could not ask for better group of people. Most of them are men of course. Now I guess the women are starting to get into the engineering field. Smart guys.

**[0:26:22] Speaker 1:** A lot of people talk about the RCA family.

**[0:26:26] Rita:** Yes.

**[0:26:26] Speaker 1:** What does that mean to the both of you?

**[0:26:34] Rita:** I love the girls that I worked with. We didn't... we solved all family problems at lunch time and now when we get together it's all medical.

**[0:26:49] Speaker 1:** What about you Ted? The RCA family what's that mean to you.

**[0:26:54] Ted:** Everything that we did outside of my own family was with RCA. We had... one of the draftsman was a cook in the Navy and we formed a club called The Steak Eaters Club. We had about 20 RCA guys – big bosses and so forth and we would cook our own steaks at Cooper River Park where they have the fireplaces. Every month we would

have a shindig there with... I have a cartoon of all guys on that thing.

We had bosses there and no women though. I don't know why the women... but it was all men. That's how I learned how to cook steak. My family when I got a job and I took them all to a steakhouse in Camden and I bought them all... I say I would buy the steaks for you.

**[0:28:10]**

I bought them all the filet mignon right there, everybody was there. Six people in my family I'm eating and the beautiful steak and nobody is eating and I said what's the matter? My aunt says Ted it's just not cooked. I mean that's the level that I had overcome that you could eat red meat steak.

**[0:28:45] Speaker 1:**

All right. Now tell us about some of your recollections that you haven't mentioned so far. Give us some of your stories. What was it like... tell us some of the interesting things that happened during your career?

**[0:29:00] Ted:**

Well, that I haven't hit yet what didn't I hit yet?

**[0:29:07] Rita:**

Well that you met Alan Shepard. You used to... when you went on these trips you met some of the astronauts.

**[0:29:13] Ted:**

Yeah, I worked down in Virginia, Wright Patterson, on what was called LOLA Lunar Orbiting Landing Simulator. There was a bunch of models. They had a 20-foot ball of plexi glass and with the moon carved on it something like that. Once in a while they'd bring some astronauts down and they're going to practice with that to show how the vehicle goes around, you know, that had a little backroom over there and they have the cameras going around doing what the vehicles are going to do.

**[0:30:00]**

Alan Shepard came down and the NASA guys wouldn't let the astronauts talk to those dirty engineer workers over there. You don't want to get the astronauts in trouble. However, Shepard needed high fidelity speaker box and we were doing all these stuff. He come over to our mod boss and he says could you build that for me. I said yeah. Okay, he says, but it's got to fit in the airplane he's got. The jet plane. We had to go over there and measure the cabin of the jet plane to see if we could fit it in there. They had the carpenters build them a box.

When he was leaving I said could I have your autograph and so I got his autograph and it says, "To Me and Rita."

**[0:30:54] Rita:**

To Maria and then he...

**[0:30:58] Ted:** When I said Maria and he's looking at me like oh what's this. Don't tell his wife.

**[0:31:08] Speaker 1:** Were you involved at all with Apollo 13 that whole incident?

**[0:31:13] Ted:** Which one?

**[0:31:13] Rita:** Apollo 13.

**[0:31:14] Speaker 1:** Apollo 13.

**[0:31:15] Rita:** That's the one that they had a movie about that one honey and that's where they got back safely but they never got to their destination.

**[0:31:25] Speaker 1:** They never landed on the moon.

**[0:31:26] Rita:** Yes.

**[0:31:26] Speaker 1:** Yeah.

**[0:31:28] Ted:** No, I didn't know anything different that was happening on that. I don't know whether RCA would have been doing. It wasn't... they really didn't land on the moon. They...

**[0:31:42] Rita:** They had tried and they...

**[0:31:43] Ted:** I always wonder about the moon. This one guy like Collins was going around the moon all the time and that's what the Rendezvous Radar was for. The radar would be tracking that vehicle that's going around the moon and then it would establish the takeoff point because the vehicle is not in view.

**[0:32:07]** They had to do calculations on our Rendezvous Radar so that they would shoot off at the right time to meet up in the sky that's what rendezvous that's the whole theory was. The 13 didn't get to that state though I don't... I never got involved there.

**[0:32:29] Speaker 1:** Okay. What about when the moon shot was going on when they were actually up there walking around?

**[0:32:38] Ted:** Well --

**[0:32:39] Rita:** He stayed up all night. We were on vacation and he stayed up all night to watch them.

**[0:32:45] Ted:** 11:00 at night when they first landed on the moon and we were in...

**[0:32:49] Rita:** Down the shore.

**[0:32:50] Ted:** Ocean City and they were all asleep and I was watching this on television and I was like how could you not watch that. I didn't get involved with anything else like the first one they showed on television. I don't know if they showed the other ones on television.

**[0:33:09] Speaker 1:** Now Rita at this time you were home raising the children. What was it like working for an RCA engineer?

**[0:33:18] Ted:** Well, you know it was really nice. He travelled a lot and he studied a lot. I'll tell you that much. He not only worked at work he did work down the basement. It was work-work. He always has his nose to the books, always. He was either going to school or traveling, working at work and taking us on vacations. He was just a hardworking engineer. All around.

**[0:33:57] Speaker 1:** All right Ted, how would you sum up your whole career in RCA?

**[0:34:03] Ted:** I'd say I couldn't have done better. I mean having been involved in so many major things that happened I wouldn't have believed that I could get that much attention at the time because I was like a draftsman that started out and I said you know so I'm just going to do drawings or something like that.

Going to night school I recommend for everybody. I mean you never have to... you can never stop going to school that's the problem. Otherwise you'll be outside looking in and RCA had a lot of classes. In fact, we always had for engineering they would go in to the library and they give you a tape and they give you a course with a television. You put it in the TV and we could take courses right there in the thing. Ours was library and everything.

One time I used to check out a book on circuit design and I came back to the girl behind the desk in the library and I gave her this book and I walked the lane and she says Ted what did you give me. I said I'm returning the book. She says this is not our book because I had bought one. Since I checked it out so much at that time I thought it should be back in there. She said no you bought it. I said oh yeah I forgot I bought it. I don't have to check it out.

You just think about it, it's been a fun time. I can't think of any bad days.

**[0:36:00] Rita:** I just met one manager that...

**[0:36:02] Ted:** They don't want to hear that.

**[0:36:04] Rita:** It was unfortunate.

[0:36:05] Ted: She was in the secret area. When I go to pick her up I can't get in there so I got to put that bell in there and there are cameras looking at me and then she could open the door.

[0:36:20] Rita: Identify yourself.

[0:36:27] Ted: Now when Jack took over --

[0:36:30] Rita: Jack Welch RCA.

[0:36:31] Ted: When he took over RCA Moorestown --

[0:36:34] Rita: Did you get GE....

[0:36:36] Ted: Yeah but Jack Welch --

[0:36:37] Speaker 1: What was that like?

[0:36:40] Rita: At first I was concerned. You don't know what you're getting into but I wish it had stayed RCA. GE was good for us also. Then we just continued doing what we were doing, but Jack Welch was really good for us.

[0:37:06] Ted: Yeah.

[0:37:07] Rita: He was a doer. They used to call him Neutron Jack.

[0:37:10] Ted: Neutron Jack, right. I told her that Neutron Jack just came on board here and he was up towards your room and he couldn't get in because nobody recognized him on a TV. When somebody opened the door he can hear all that music and the booms coming out and everything.

[0:37:35] Speaker 1: Okay. Just to sum up now. You start with RCA what year?

[0:37:39] Rita: 1950.

[0:37:41] Speaker 1: 1950. When did you retire?

[0:37:44] Ted: '93.

[0:37:45] Speaker 1: '93. You started?

[0:37:47] Rita: '84.

[0:37:49] Speaker 1: Retired?

[0:37:51] Rita: In '94.

[0:37:52] Speaker 1: Okay.

**[0:37:54] Rita:** I worked 10 years and I worked for RCA, GE and then I retired from Martin Marietta.

**[0:38:04] Speaker 1:** Okay.

**[0:38:07] Rita:** It was a nice experience.

**[0:38:10] Speaker 1:** Good.

**[0:38:12] Ted:** I had no red marks at all. Here's a guy like I said none of my family finished grammar school – aunts and uncles and so forth and here I became... I was the top engineer at that point. In other words I'm running jobs down there while I am.... You know....

A little story about Wallops Island. When I went down there and all of a sudden they had a whistle going off it was a long stretch of island there and we had an AEGIS building there and so I said what's going on, he says oh they're going to have a rocket shoot. Further down the island they're going to shoot off a rocket and when they do that you're not allowed to drive on island at all and you can't be outdoors and you got to watch out.

I went up to the top story there and we're out on the bridge of the ship and the guard came up and I said where is the missile. He said do you see that... you could see that thin gray, silver in the sky. I said oh wow that's like a half a mile away. And then all the cars went over the bridge in the mainland they know the missile never goes off in time and they're going to take the day off.

Anyway, the guard says just watch over towards that thing. I was standing there and all of a sudden BOOM! and I said what was that. I didn't see the missile. All I saw was a streak as far as the eye could see.

**[0:40:00]** I said suppose it comes this way they said don't worry there's a guy sitting over there in that room and if the missile is going off in the wrong direction he blows it up. I said You idiot! I don't know any man in the world that would be able to blow that up before it blow us up. I mean it went so fast, you didn't know it went.

Also when I look back at the ocean when they were going to fire that rocket 50 ships out there and I said what's that. Oh, Russian ships. They have a... apparently they got the schedule when the missile is going to be firing off. Other than that there was no ship... you'll never see ships out there.

**[0:40:59] Speaker 1:** You mentioned supervisor. Were you a supervisor at one point or did you just go up the engineering ladder?

**[0:41:07] Rita:** They offered him a management job this is in Wallops Island.

**[0:41:11] Ted:** At Wallops Island.

**[0:41:13] Rita:** He didn't take it because he wanted to get... he like to work as an engineer. He didn't like to have to...

**[0:41:24] Ted:** I don't think I could fire anybody. I couldn't really do what you have to do.

**[0:41:32] Rita:** As a manager.

**[0:41:34] Ted:** That's not my life.

**[0:41:37] Speaker 1:** Okay.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPT]**