

Alice Logan – Oral History Transcription

Interviewee: **Alice Logan**

Interviewers: **Tori Otten** (archival specialist), **Jenifer Baker** (deputy archivist)

Date of Interview: 12 April 2023

List of Initials: AL = Alice Logan, TO = Tori Otten, JB = Jenifer Baker

Location of Interview: Warren County Admin Building in Lebanon, Ohio

Transcriber: Ted Hitchens (Records Specialist)

[Begin transcription 00:00:03]

TO: Okay. Today is Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. My name is Tori Otten, I am the archival specialist of the Warren County Records Center and Archives. We are here for the Warren County Employee Oral History Project. I am here alongside my coworker...

JB: Jenifer Baker. I am the deputy archivist.

TO: And if our guest today would like to introduce herself...

AL: My name is Alice Logan.

TO: Alright, so Alice is here to talk to us today so just for some general background you obviously already said what your name is. So when and where were you born if you would like to tell us.

AL: I was born May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1956. I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

TO: Okay, and where did you grow up?

AL: I grew up primarily in Goshen (Ohio) until I was about ten or eleven years old. My parents moved to California, so I went to California. I lived in Corona, California and I grew up there until I went to high school. And from high school I went to college ... I joined the army.

TO: Oh, very nice! So since you did work – obviously you joined the army, how many years were you in?

AL: Three years.

JB: Where did you go to college?

AL: I went to college after the army, I completed three years in the army (in) different places. After the army I moved back to California where I had lived and went to college at Mesa Community College. Got my associate's degree there.

TO: Awesome. So then how did you end up back in Ohio?

AL: Well, (I had) gone through a divorce and so my daughter was four at the time and I moved her and myself- my parents had moved back to Ohio prior a few years before that. So I figure I'd just come back to Ohio. My parents lived in Lebanon (Ohio), so I just moved and stayed with them until I got adjusted.

TO: So before you worked for Warren County and as you've spoken of the military, did you have any other jobs? Maybe locally before you worked for the county?

AL: I did. I worked as a medical receptionist at a doctor's office because my associate's degree was in medical – strongly medical. Then I worked in the doctor's office for a few years then I (worked as) a secretary for Lebanon schools. I worked in their- due process secretary for their developmental psychologist, where they did reports ... Did that for a little bit. (Then I was a) secretary and receptionist for the Clinton County drug and alcohol program for about a year. Then from there I went to secretary for a Middletown hospital and I was with them for over eight years. Worked as a secretary for a clinic, a prenatal child health clinic for awhile. Then after that ... my husband told me about the job at the (Warren County) sheriff's office and I thought "well I'll give it a try" because we were relocating. We were building a house, we lived in Monroe at that time. Then we moved to where we live now in Clarksville. So I took a job at the sheriff's office.

TO: When did you start at the sheriff's office then?

AL: Approximately in July of 2006.

TO: And when did you technically retire?

AL: On December 9<sup>th</sup> of 2022.

TO: Something kind of interesting right before you left – the sheriff's office and the jail collectively got shifted into a different building.

AL: Yes.

TO: So, was there anywhere else besides where the Memorial Drive and the Justice Drive sheriff's office that your office is located?

AL: Primarily we were located in the building on Justice Drive at that time.

TO: Just for the record, what was your technical job title?

AL: Clerical specialist. I first did scanning- at the beginning I just did scanning. We scanned such things as incident reports, crash reports, different reports that the sheriff- arrest reports, I would scan them in there. So I did that for probably four or five months and then a position in the jail became open because they needed additional help. So I took that job as a full-time jail clerk.

**TIME 00:05:00 MARK**

AL: It's technically called 'Clerical Specialist Corrections.'

TO: So what were some of your daily tasks and duties for jail clerk?

AL: Quite a bit. There was a lot. The county deals with fourteen courts in our county. So in all those courts they have their own forms that they want to use so we had to process- When inmates were arrested, we would get paperwork from the courts for a hearing. So we got paperwork for that or their charges. So we had to make sure each of those paperwork from the various courts was accurate. If we doubted or had any questions about them, we would contact the court. Everybody is human so sometimes errors could be made, so we had to make sure the paperwork was in order. We had to make sure that was done before they were released, double-check them. If I had to call the court, I called the court. If I had to talk to the judge, I talked to the judge.

JB: When you say there are fourteen different courts- We're familiar with the courts here at Warren County so like Probate, Common Pleas and all of that. What are some of the other courts?

AL: We had the mayor's courts. We had the Monroe mayor court. If the offense occurred in Warren County, that would go through Monroe but they would have- we would have to house that inmate if they were arrested. So that would be like Monroe, we'd have South Lebanon mayor's court, you'd have

Franklin Municipal Court, you have Morrow mayor's court. Harveysburg, not too much but still a part of our courts, not very often. Lebanon Municipal Court. Waynesville, some of the outlying areas ... the village would have their own court system...

JB: Most of them fed into Warren County?

AL: Yes. If they arrest was made by those agencies, they would be held in our jail so we would have to process them (JB: Okay).

TO: Was there any entity within Warren County that had their own area to house inmates? Or just the jail?

AL: It was just the jail. They relied on Warren County Jail to house their inmates.

TO: Interesting! I don't know why in my brain I assumed that Mason would be big enough to house—

AL: Mason may be big enough to hold them but if they had court that day, they would eventually transfer them to our jail by the end of the day ... There was quite a few!

JB: That is extremely interesting. I had no idea.

TO: So, it sounds like you were busy! What other things ... How long would the standard process be for you to have to handle dealing with one particular- Would you handle one inmate at a time, or would you call an entity and be like "give me all your information or all the arrests you've made today."

AL: Well when the arrests are made and the inmate is booked in – of course they're fingerprinted and (photographed) and properties and all that – my aspect of my job was mostly the paperwork aspect of it. Charges had to be filed within four to eight hours. If charges weren't filed, then we had to release the inmate. So that's up to the officer to make sure that he goes to the court and files charges with the court, then in turn the court would send us the paperwork of what charges he's facing. Then we would put into our jail system when that inmate would have court. Each court had their own specific days or times when they would have court. If they didn't post bond, they stayed in jail until they have their initial hearing. Usually within four to eight hours they would go to court, depending on what day they were arrested. Obviously the courts don't have court on weekends, so just depends on—Some courts won't have court for seven days...

TO: Interesting. I never considered all of the things, going behind the scenes—

JB: A lot of moving parts there!

TO: Our minds are so blown every time we talk to someone from the court systems because we have not comprehended the amount of work that you are all putting in and how things get done. So it sounds like you in particular were a very large part of making sure things were running on schedule

**TIME 00:10:00 MARK**

AL: Yes. And like I said, the clerks- many people don't know that. The sheriff's office and the courts rely on us clerks to make sure everything is in order when that inmate walks into that door to get booked in, we have to make sure everything is in order as far as paperwork is (concerned). Like I said, sometimes if we don't have the paperwork then we contact the courts.

JB: So you guys have a checks and balances for them when it comes to that?

AL: Prior to their release – depends on what charge he's being held on, if a misdemeanor or felony. Obviously the felonies go to a different process. Felonies sometimes can go to the lower courts, but the judge will not make a decision because they'll have to transfer the case files to the Common Pleas Court to see if they're going to be indicted. That process can legally take up to 32 weeks; normally it's 46 weeks before we hear if they're going to be indicted or not. The grand jury meets on Fridays, so they only review what packets they have for that particular day, and that inmate's term may not be up so he might have to wait awhile. So if he doesn't bond out, then he has to wait until he hears from the grand jury. Hypothetically if it's not a felony and just misdemeanors, then they'll go to the court like I said usually within – let's say for instance County Court – they're rested on the weekends, then Monday they'll have a (hearing at 9:00 a.m.) ... Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays in the morning. On Fridays is at 2:30 in the afternoon, so they'll have a hearing. At that time the judge will either release him on his own (*indecipherable*), or set a bond ... Once he gets the release or continue, we get the bond information and we enter all that information in the computer. If he's going to be released, they fax that to us. Once we fax it, our process is that we verify (that) the paperwork is in order and then we run them through LEADS (*Law Enforcement Automated Data System*) which is the law enforcement system that shows active warrants or something. So we have to run them through LEADS to make sure there's no active warrants. If there's no warrants then we can go ahead and process release. We take the packet (and) give it to the booking officer, and their process is released from there.

TO: With the amount of work that's occurring that all of you have been doing as clerks, is there night work going on or do you all somehow manage to fit that in between 8 and 5?

AL: In the beginning, there was only one clerk who worked for the jail of the Sheriff's Office and Corrections, that was Judy Layman(?). And I was the second person that was hired because the volume of the paperwork and the census was increasing, so they hired me. It was just the two of us and so our hours- she worked 8 to 4, Monday through Friday. My hours would vary. Mine would be like – Tuesdays I would have to work at that time 12(pm) to 8. Thursdays I had to work until 7:00 because Franklin Court has court on Tuesday evenings, so someone had to be available in our office to receive the paperwork and updates from the court. Our hours would vary; the second clerk would vary Monday through Friday.

TO: Are there still just two clerks?

AL: No. Not anymore! It was very hectic in our job. After Judy left – she transferred to another department – they hired another person. So it was still two persons, but that person didn't like the job. Sometimes they don't know what they're doing! You have to understand what we have to go through. Being in the jail, people are skittish. We're among the inmates – we're face-to-face with the inmates. We have them sign paperwork ... Some people are not comfortable with that atmosphere and environment. And that was okay, that was fine, she was a great person. But it just wasn't right for her. During the absence, I was by myself for three months to do all the paperwork. They wanted to make sure they hired the right person – which I can understand – so my dedication to my job was always 110 percent. So I stayed there until work got done. But after awhile, they hired a second person and she and I were there together. Then in the old jail, they finally hired a third person. And it was a very small room ... only three people in tight fitting. If you tilt your head to the right, you could see the window outside the wall!

**TIME 00:15:00 MARK**

AL: We all three worked together ... They hired a third person because they were building the new jail which was going to be opening soon, so they wanted to be prepared for that. When the transition goes to the new jail, she already knew what to do and what her job function was. So we made sure that happened and got everything together. At this time there's still three people.

TO: So just purely out of curiosity, what percentage of the inmates that you saw were women for Warren County?

AL: Good question. I'm not always good with numbers.

TO: Just give me a rough approximation.

AL: We had probably 20 to 30 percent were women. In the old jail we didn't have much space for women. It was mostly for men. In the time of the old transitional jail, they had to shift some of the males because the population of women were getting larger because felonies ... (*indecipherable*) ... because drugs were getting higher and higher with fentanyl and meth being used. We had to do some changing

around. We changed some of the pods to become a female pod and then we had to move the males around. So that was kind of a challenge a little bit at that time. So not a very big percentage. Now it's become a little bit larger, but I'd say maybe 30 percent for women.

TO: We had talked to individuals who worked in the old historic jail on Silver Street and it was always that there were far less women. And when they got women, they were using the spaces for something else and unfortunately they had to come up with space.

AL: When I was there, we had to pay Butler County and Miami County to house our inmates there. I would also have to help manage the transports (and) how many we were going to send to Butler County and Miami County. Mostly Miami (County) wasn't too many. Most went to Butler County because they had the space for them and we didn't have the space. Male inmates would be shifted over to Butler County, and they would only be brought over if they had court hearings or if they were scheduled to be released so those were people who weren't going to be moved much so we could minimize the movement of our inmates. After awhile that became cost-prohibitive, pretty expensive for the county's budget so they looked at other means. The courts looked at sentencing. There were decisions made among the courts...

TO: You got creative! So in that regard, since you operated with the incoming inmates freshly arrested – would you also be in charge ... of working (with the state) to get the (inmates) transferred to the (state) prisons?

AL: We would. Once we got (notified) that someone is sent to prison, it would actually be up to the Court Services department. The Sheriff's Office makes those arrangements. They knew who was being sentenced to prison. "Is so-&-so ready to go?" Because they may still have pending cases through the county even though they got sentenced on one case, they could have a pending case on something else. So they would always check with us and we'd verify "yes this person is ready to go." So they would make arrangements to transport them to ODRC (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections).

TO: Interesting. So what is something that people don't know about your position? Obviously we have learned many things.

JB: There's a lot I don't know!

AL: Well obviously, when we moved into the new jail—In the old jail, central control handled most of the public. They would handle the calls when the public came in, when attorneys came in ... They would handle most of that information. But when we came to the new jail, that became our responsibility because we had a window at the new jail. We would see civilians, the attorneys, people coming for

assessments. We had to coordinate if it was okay, we would check attorneys' credentials and make sure they are who they are.

**TIME 00:20:00 MARK**

AL: We'd make sure their barcode was active. If their bar card was not active, they weren't allowed to see their client. There was one time we had to refuse one person because he (was licensed to practice law) in Kentucky, but he was coming to Ohio to see a client to represent him and we had to say "no, you can't see him." He was not happy. But, you know, he understood so he called his boss who was in Kentucky but also practiced in Ohio and so he had to make his boss come, so the two of them saw the client together. So there's things we had to go through with the public. We deal with people who are very angry. Someone once cussed me out because they wanted to know when their loved one was getting picked up by another agency. He was being held on a holder from an agency in northern Ohio. We can't tell them because of security reasons. So they were not happy about it, so she left and came back with her mom! (*laughter*) ... So mom came in and said "I want to talk to your supervisor." Well, my supervisor wasn't available. Unfortunately that particular case, that agency was already in our booking area picking up (her) loved one – but I couldn't tell them that because for security reasons, we can't have them following the agency personnel with their loved one. So I said "I'm 110 percent sure he's going to get picked up. Wait another twenty-four hours or more and I'm pretty sure you're going to get a call from him saying 'I'm in such jail.'" But they calmed down. They apologized to me. So there's things like that, we deal with the public at times, so it was quite interesting.

TO: High tension by the sound of things.

AL: But some of the things you mentioned that people don't know about for our job – the clerks are the court liaison personnel. Like I said, we are very detail oriented. We have to be sure the paperwork is involved or that person won't get released. It may hold up their release. If there is supposed to be a release but we don't have the paperwork and the inmate says "hey they released me today," there's times we called the court but can't get hold of anybody. I'll call somebody at their home, I'll get a home address or phone number, I'll call them. But if I can't get a hold of them, he won't get released until the next day. So that's why it's important that we tell the courts please, please get us the paperwork that you're supposed to because that could possibly violate their rights. But since we didn't have an order to release them, it was within our rights to hold that inmate until we got the paperwork. So that sometimes got pretty interesting. There are times with interactions with inmates – there were several times in the old jail ... if you go in the double-doors, you're led in by a control officer, there's inmates being booked. It's a very small area. It's very tight and you've got three holding cells and then you have the booking area, and behind that was change-out rooms and by that was the restroom and where they shower them out. All inmates are showered, given head lice shampoo and all that stuff. There are times when they get angry and they'll get agitated – maybe they're having withdrawal symptoms – so there are a lot things we are interacting with when we are trying to do something else on another inmate ... signing papers for the court or doing notary service.



AL: We have to be aware of all of our surroundings. If something happens ... There were a couple of incidents that happened (where) I immediately left the booking area to let them do their jobs, I'm not involved or interfering with anything. So sometimes people don't realize that. We are in contact with the inmates that way- just take care of our surroundings. The new jail has a much better atmosphere. You feel more safe but I've never felt unsafe the whole time I've worked there. I knew the corrections officers really well and I know what their routines are, so you make sure you trust your instincts. You know what they're doing. As clerks, we kind of step back a little bit. But it's interesting to see some of the process that goes through.

TO: Did you ever have to help with any processing if they were lacking in hands that day?

**TIME 00:25:00 MARK**

AL: No, we're not allowed to because they have special training (so) we're not allowed to get involved in that. They want to protect us as well so we try not to get involved – we just kind of stay out of the way.

JB: Did you learn a lot of this on the job? It's kind of like a situation—

AL: On the job, yes, but we go through training. We take lots of classes of the do's and don'ts of what to watch out for (like) behavior ... If they're getting real agitated, you can see what their body is doing and say "I better step back..."

JB: I'm just thinking like if you see a job opening for a clerk's type of job ... Obviously you're going to understand where you're going to be employed, but I think those are a lot of things people aren't considering in the process, so that's so interesting.

AL: ... We mention to our supervisors it may be best when you are going to hire a clerk specialist for the jail section – maybe have them shadow with us if they're willing to do that on a volunteer basis. Just come for an hour or two just to show them what to look out for – Do you really want this type of job? I think it would be great if they could implement that.

JB: Yeah, I feel like it would take a very specific type of personality to be able to thrive in that sort of environment.

AL: Absolutely.

TO: (I'm just like) reeling with this information! I'm imagining you had to be very collective individuals to maintain your calm – don't get agitated when you're near a potentially agitated individuals and just-very calm people to be back there ... Your poker face is probably amazing!

AL: Yeah because anger or retaliation doesn't solve anything. You have to understand the inmates (and their mentality at the time ... some are going through so many emotions. So you just have to be a good listener. Be aware of what's going on. Just let them say what they want to say and you try to calm them down with other words.

TO: Interesting. You guys are definitely jacks-of-all-trades. So, you've already spoken a bit about how when you worked with one particular clerk at one point but also that you got to know the correctional offices very well in that setting. Are there any coworkers, managers, anybody else you worked with that really had an impact on you?

AL: I wouldn't particularly say one person. We're all as a team. We all work together as a team. When I first started Randy Turnbow was the warden at the time, Major Turnbow, a few more months after I arrived there as command staff after he left. And actually Major Tinsch (spelling?) ... position for a little bit. He was great to work with (he helped me), and I helped him because he knew (that) I knew the job in and out pretty much, so he kinda relied on me to help do things. As a matter of fact ... After Major Tinsch, then Chief (Barry) Riley came in to be part of the warden filling in until they could find someone. Again, the process can take a long time to find the right person for the job. When Chief Riley filled in, we worked together- I helped him implement the job description for the jail clerk, what I did, so we kind of worked together on what kind of things I did ... With all the change of command staff, nobody knew what we did. "We'll just rely on the clerks! They know what they're doing!"

JB: You got a lot done!

AL: We had to do a lot to get that done. The corrections officers, all of them from the sergeants to the lieutenants to the majors, I think all were impactful in different ways.

TO: Sounds constantly exciting.

AL: Yes. Never a dull moment!

TO: So, you said that obviously Chief Riley when he was filling in- and also just when you were going to be leaving and helping with your job description change – were there any other projects that you got to help with over the years that kind of stick out to you?

AL: We had state inspections every year. I helped with that a little bit, getting the data. In the beginning when I first started, it took a lot to do that part of it. How many inmates were arrested, how many were drug related, how many were felonies, how many were misdemeanors, what race were they, what ages were they, all broken down...

**TIME 00:30:00 MARK**

AL: So we had to get all that data and get it together so we could give it to the state. And that report is done once a year, so that's part of our responsibility to do that but that was pretty interesting to do that. It's much better now because we have our new computer system, we can now at least tally some of that. But before it was by hand. I had to- we had housing lists I had to do by hand in certain colors and this and that, so it took a lot the first few years. But other than that- other projects, not really. I had to work on some statistics. The Lebanon Police Department asked me for some special statistics and it took a little while to gather that up and he was real appreciative of that information and he sent a letter to the Sheriff thanking me to help him do that. That was really nice.

TO: So we've already spoken a few times about this. You worked in the old jail from 2006 to 2022. Right before you left, what was that shift like moving from a much smaller space that you guys even shared with County Court to having this large new state-of-the-art facility?

AL: It was awesome ... When they told us "it's going to be another few months, another few months," (I said) "I can't wait to get out of here" because it was awesome moving out of that space. Where our office was located you go in the old jail, go to booking there's a door and there's a long hallway, our office was straight to the right of that. That was our office, a small office, it used to be a storage compartment. Until a couple years before I got there it was a storage compartment, so they had to move everything out and created this jail-clerk space for us. It was so nice like I said, the kitchen was right next to us. We had all kinds of noise and music so it was sometimes hard to concentrate but I would not hesitate to go down to the kitchen and tell them to turn the radio down or else I'll turn it off. But anyways, the kitchen supervisors were helpful in that part of it. But anyway we were involved- inmates were coming up and down the hallway whether they were transporting them to courts, or inmates who were kitchen helpers, trustees could come down the hallways - our door was right there. But now that we transitioned from the old jail to the new jail, it took us a few days but we actually moved into the (new) jail in October of 2021. That's when we moved into there. I think they had the grand opening last year (2022) but we moved in (prior to that) but we had to make sure all the packets (and) all the files got moved over. When we finally moved over, "that's not going to work" so we had to make some adjustments ... we had to order all new packets so we could put them in a different file area. We had to get the computers hooked up, it took awhile to get the new furniture. But we still had inmates. We were still trying to work with what we could and of course they transported the inmates securely into the new jail.

AL: We were now moved into the administrative side of the new jail. The con of that being there is that we had less interaction with the corrections officers because we're now totally in a different area. We didn't see as much, we didn't interact with them as much. And that part saddened me because (they)

were family. I kind felt like I lost forever family even though they were just on the other side of the wall. But still, I miss that aspect of it. But it was good. We still had the big space. (We have) plenty of room now at the jail, we've never had to refuse anybody especially with the pandemic. The pandemic hit when we were in the old jail. When the pandemic hit, some people got to work from home. We couldn't do that, we had to report to work every single day even though somedays we didn't have much to do because (of) the census, we'd have to do emergency releases, the courts would have to change things (like) how to put people on ankle monitor so we could make space. We still had to make space for felonies. Misdemeanors got released sooner than when they should have, but we had to make it work. Like I said, the pandemic had an impact on a lot of people.

**TIME 00:35:00 MARK**

JB: This is kind of a backtrack question that came to me. But, you mentioned that it was you and another woman Judy when you first started. Who was doing the jail clerk stuff before that? Were there other people doing it...?

AL: Before Judy?

JB: Before the two of you.

AL: I don't know that for sure. My assumption was that it was done by the supervisors. I think at one time the jail was run by deputies. Then they changed it over, and I think that's what part of that- the unions started getting involved saying "we need to start differentiating that" ... It was just more profitable money-wise to have corrections officers to run the jail instead.

JB: So it was sort of created around that timeframe?

AL: Correct.

JB: Okay.

AL: Correct, right.

TO: Well another question kind of pertaining to earlier, kind of not ... If there was a juvenile being charged as an adult, would they be housed at the mail jail or at the Juvenile Detention Center since they're kind of broaching two worlds at once?

AL: They have to be 18 or older to be in our jail. If they're seventeen (and) being charged as an adult, they would be housed at JDC (*Juvenile Detention Center*), but ours they have to be eighteen or older. No exceptions to that, they had to be eighteen or older because obviously they're with other adults. We've had inmates at JDC who just turned eighteen, but Juvenile can house them at eighteen. That's their discretion. But if they feel at the age of eighteen that they're compromising other inmates, younger youth, we would house them. But they would have to be eighteen. We've had several high-profile cases, the one if you remember Austin Myers? He was sentenced to death. He'd just turned 19 when he was in our jail and he was the youngest ever sentenced in death row for his actions what he did.

TO: In the jail, is there anyway to isolate individuals such as solitary confinement?

AL: They do, depending on like if they're sex offenders involved in that. They house them in a separate pod or separate cells, they would isolate them, or if they're going to harm themselves or others depending on the circumstances and charges. But they do a classification by charge. When they're booked in, they see what their charges are – and it's by a number system – they get points to whatever-misdemeanor or felony charges, it's by points system. So they go to a certain points system then they're housed in either minimum, medium or maximum pods areas. So it'll depend on those pods where they'll be housed at.

TO: If someone were of a higher profile case, would that require more work from you?

AL: Not from me because I just do paperwork. Now ... I know in the new jail sometimes they may have to have an additional corrections officer work beyond whatever census we have. So many officers work each shift depending on what our census are. But if we have an inmate who is a high-security or threat to themselves like threaten suicide, then we put them on a one-on-one watch where an officer will stay with them and watch them.

TO: Well moving on a bit from very specific departmental questions – sorry, we're just incredibly curious people! So some broad questions more about the county as a whole, what would you view as some of the highlights of your time with the county?

AL: Bear with me a moment to look at my notes. Some things I had to write down.

TO: We love note-taking!

**TIME 00:40:00 MARK**

AL: Probably the first one, sadly, (was) Sgt. Brian Dulle. He was killed in action. That happened during my work at the sheriff's office and it was very, very hard to deal with among many. And especially when you have to encounter the inmate who caused that death. So a lot of—it was hard on the corrections

officers ... but we still had to do our job. You can't treat the inmate any different than the other inmates, but you still had to maintain awareness and alertness. I did attend his funeral and stuff, many of us did, but that was a hard part. I guess another one – you mentioned before about high-profile cases – when I was there Austin Myers, Ryan Widmer, Terry Froman. Do you remember any of those cases? It was pretty hard...

JB: So when you had those high-profile cases, did you ever get questions in your personal life about those inmates? So like if you were at a party or something after hours, would anyone ask you about stuff like that? Or was it...?

AL: No, we don't talk about it outside work unless the case has been resolved (and) they've been sentenced. If the case is still pending, we don't talk about it. We're just not allowed to do that. Not that I'm that social, but it's still interesting the cases. Terry Froman- I've had face-to-face interaction with him because he wanted papers signed and stuff. But I didn't treat him any differently, you know. Looking back now- the guilty part of him- all the stuff that he did ... That's what's interesting about our case, we get to see some of the information, the details of the cases and the charges and what happens, and especially the sentencing part of it and that aspect of it. That was interesting, some of those cases was an interesting part of my job ... You don't realize the judicial system until you start reading up on some of the cases and see what happens.

AL: Another thing, I was able to shadow with Carl Harris of the Prosecutor's Office. I got to shadow with him to learn more about my job. I asked if I could volunteer on my own time, or whatever, to see how the system works. And I did. I got to work with him, and he showed me being in the courtroom was his job was all about. I also learned what a pretrial and a conference hearing is ... which is sometimes in the judge's chambers where the prosecutor and the defense attorney meet with the judge to find out if there are any new changes. If there's going to be a plea, then we move to open court and we announce those changes on record in open court. If there's no changes, then they go off on their merry way. So that was part of the process how I learned how that works. People don't understand that ... "when's his next court date – he already had a pretrial." Well you can have many pretrials and conference hearings. The public doesn't understand that so when we answer the phones on a daily basis, we have to explain that process to the public.

TO: Would there ever be a situation where you would have to go into an active court case? Like, say, in the courtroom for something?

AL: No.

TO: Okay. I was hoping you would say that!

AL: Not at all, no, because I was not a witness to anything ... The last highlight on my notes, I was nominated and awarded the Civilian Employee of the Year from the Warren County Sheriff's Office in 2010, so that was one of my highlights too.

TO: That is something to be very proud of!

JB: Congratulations! It sounds like you all definitely deserve it for everything you contribute to the county.

TO: Especially in 2010, sounds like you were doing the work of five people! ... So we've talked a bit about this in extent to your particular job. But as a county employee as a whole, what were some differences between the beginning of your time as a county employee and the end...?

AL: I think just the learning aspect of what I've done my whole life.

**TIME 00:45:00 MARK**

AL: Even though it wasn't sheriff's (office) related what I did, but what I contributed with my experience helped I think with the sheriff's office. Looking at detail, being detail-oriented, comprehension, understanding what you're reading and hearing. But overall I think it all came together for the sheriff's office. I worked only for the sheriff's office, not too much outside like for County Court. But it helped being a big part of that aspect, helping the courts. It was a good experience.

TO: So kind of in the same aspect, did anything significant happen in your time within the county government which obviously you just briefly talked about the death of Brian Dulle like that obviously affected such a greater aspect than just the sheriff's office like the county government. Covid obviously a large thing, can you think of any big events that happened during your time with the county?

AL: No, I think that pretty much- that would come to mind that pretty most impacted for me.

TO: Yeah we tend to have some individuals say they worked here around the turn of the century. 9/11 is a common thing that people tend to remember about being here at the time. So obviously you've become very detail-oriented if not already before from your many adventures in life. What are some important things that you learned from working for Warren County?

AL: I learned more about the judicial system. (I learned) how it works, and also a better understanding of the inmates. Because some inmates- It doesn't necessarily mean if you're an inmate, then you're a bad person. We all make mistakes. You understand that sympathetic side of the inmate. And it was nice to know when the inmates did accept the responsibility. We've had several who would come back and

say “hey Miss Alice, hey Miss Alice! How you doing?” And I’d say “what are you doing back here?” and they’d say “well I messed up” and I’d say “well from here on out, you’re gonna do better.” And I’ve had inmates who are success stories, who’ve come back as a mentor to other inmates.

TO: That’s wonderful.

AL: That was a nice part about being in the new jail. They come to the window and say “I recognize you. Remember me, Miss Alice?” So we talk about those stories (and) for me that’s a success story for the inmate that they’re not always bad. So it was nice to learn about the whole process. It was good.

TO: I can see how that would be very rewarding.

AL: It was.

TO: So, what do you miss the most about working for the county? You’ve had a couple months to have thoughts on it...

AL: I miss the interactions with the court personnel, professionals, parole ... I’d talk with them on a daily basis, so I miss that interaction. Some of the coworkers obviously I miss, but honestly I think it’s mostly the public. I always like to be a people-person I think on the phones. Some people hate doing the phones which I had my moments, but I just miss working with the public a little bit.

TO: So last big question for you: What advice would you give to current Warren County employees be it the sheriff’s (office) or otherwise?

AL: Always be professional. Remember who you’re working for. Be a good example for them. And just don’t be afraid to ask questions. I don’t think there’s ever a bad question you can ask, even if that person is your boss or manager or whoever... They might say “this sounds silly” but it’s not. Just be respectful (and) just ask. You’re not going to learn if you don’t ask. And I guess also a message for managers and that is to listen to your employees. Your employees have good, good suggestions and I think managers can also learn from that so I think that they need to be good listeners and just spend time with your employees.

TO: I think those are all excellent things to share. I will keep them in mind when I’m interacting with the county myself. So that is the extent of our formal questions, so is there anything else you would like to share with us like your time with the county, any questions you have for us?



AL: I don't think so, I think we covered quite a bit of it.

TO: We did, but this has been wonderful, so if you do not have anything else for us then I would like to extend thanks for the Warren County Records Center and Archives for your participation in our program and we are going to conclude today's interview. Thank you so much!

AL: Thank you very for inviting me.

[End transcription 00:50:16]