

FB3 – Frank Bridgeforth, “Boy Scouts and WWII Efforts – First Job”

**Transcript: pp. 10-11**

**Time-Line: Decade V, Local and National Events, 1941-1945, “US in WWII. War Orders Pour into Bridgeport”**

FB: 1939. I was eleven-and-a-half, going on twelve. And then I came back to Bridgeport, and I joined Troop 27, that was at Messiah Baptist Church, that’s right up there. I stayed in that troop for about five years, until the war broke out. And while the war was on, while we were in the Boy Scouts, we participated in the scrap drive, the aluminum drive, the grease drive, the paper drive, the rubber drive. I was air raid warden and helper. I loved that job. Because we heard the air raid siren go off -- I was living on South Avenue. I would don my uniform, put my little band on, and go around. All the storekeepers -- they had to turn them lights off. They had to close the doors and turn the lights off for a blackout, you know?

I: Yes.

FB: But I was like king then.

I: [laughs]

FB: A little kid telling people, “Alright, turn them lights off!” “I’ll write you up!” And, you know, they would get like a little fine, because they wanted complete blackness.