Due to time constraints, Bill was unable to answer the questions below during the program. Here are his answers.

1. Can you comment on the famous jay-walking incident when students closed down High street and disconnected the electric buses?

This occurred in February 1964 when Columbus police entered a campus sorority house and arrested a student for an unpaid jaywalking ticket. The next day OSU students gathered on High street and protested by blocking the street and disconnecting the electric buses. This incident is described in vivid detail (with a photo) in Chapter 4 of my book on OSU in the Sixties: The Unraveling of the Old Order.

2. Do you remember in Spring of 1968 when Highway patrol was on tops of buildings on the Oval?

I do not remember that, but it doesn’t mean it didn’t happen. I did have reliable witnesses tell me they saw law enforcement on the top of buildings in the spring of 1970.

3. How would you compare/contrast the Black Lives Movement and the nationwide protests today with the Student Campus unrest of the late 1960’s?

There are some similarities and some differences. One of the similarities is with protests in February 1970 when the Columbus police shot and killed a 15 year old unarmed black teen in the back for running away after trying to break into a vending machine. One of the differences is that the protests on campus in the spring of 1970 involved a coalition of African American activists and antiwar activists and others. In the past those groups didn’t trust each other and pretty much operated independently. I doubt we will ever have the exact same circumstances we had in the spring of 1970; nevertheless many (but not all) of the issues that concerned students then, stubbornly remain in some form today.

4. % graduating in 4 years 1960 vs 1969?

Couldn’t find any statistics on four year graduation rates in that period, but figures do exist on overall graduation rates and they show they remained relatively consistent at between 35% and 40% for the decade. Remember that back then, OSU was open admissions and part of the expectation of faculty was to flunk out “weaker” students.

5. Were you actually on campus during any of the riots? What was that experience like?

I was on campus for the Speakers Rule protests in the spring of 1965, which were not riots, but were extremely well-organized, well-disciplined and effective. I was also an on site witness to the so-called D-Platoon riot in fall of 1967, which I thought was more of police over reaction than a student riot. I was also on campus in the spring of 1968. There were plenty of protests that spring and the atmosphere was very tense, but no riots. By the time of the big one in the spring of 1970, I had graduated. All these are described in greater detail in The Unraveling of The Old Order.

6. Were you in ROTC?

Yes, but only briefly. I participated in ROTC as a first quarter freshman, but then I dropped it because I thought it was Micky Mouse. When I turned in my uniform I remember this old sergeant telling me I should reconsider because they were going to get me anyway. I blew him off. Four years later they did get me. President Johnson ended graduate school deferments beginning with my class (class of 1968). I enlisted in hopes of avoiding Vietnam. It didn’t work.

7. Was the University Theater north or south of Lane on the west side of High?

South of Lane and west of High.

8. What about the Char Bar?

A popular hangout, especially for the fraternity and sorority folks. Discussed in more detail on page 41 of OSU Student Life in the Sixties.

9. Any photos of antiwar demonstrations?

Not in Student Life in the Sixties book, but several are in The Unraveling of the Old Order book. See pages 230, 270, 289 and 325 for example.