The David and Barbara Pryor Center
for
Arkansas Oral and Visual History

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Arkansas Memories Project

Charles Scharlau

Interviewed by Scott Lunsford

January 10, 2008

Fayetteville, Arkansas

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Transcript Methodology

The Pryor Center recognizes that we cannot reproduce the spoken word in a written document; however, we strive to produce a transcript that represents the characteristics and unique qualities of the interviewee's speech pattern, style of speech, regional dialect, and personality. For the first twenty minutes of the interview, we attempt to transcribe verbatim all words and utterances that are spoken, such as uhs and ahs, false starts, and repetitions. Some of these elements are omitted after the first twenty minutes to improve readability.

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

- Em dashes separate repeated/false starts and incomplete/ redirected sentences.
- Ellipses indicate the interruption of one speaker by another.
- Italics identify foreign words or terms and words emphasized by the speaker.
- Question marks enclose proper nouns for which we cannot verify the spelling and words that we cannot understand with certainty.

- Brackets enclose
  - italicized annotations of nonverbal sounds, such as laughter, and audible sounds, such as a doorbell ringing;
  - annotations for clarification and identification; and
  - standard English spelling of informal words.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.

Citation Information

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Scott Lunsford interviewed Charles Scharlau on January 10, 2008, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: We're here today at the—uh—now is this—uh—still—what is the name of this building here?

Charles Scharlau: Well, this—uh—building is the Southwestern Energy Company . . .

SL: Okay.

CS: . . . building.

SL: We're at the Southwestern Energy—uh—Company building in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Today's date is January 10, 2008. We're going to be talking with—uh—Dr. Charles Scharlau.

CS: No doctor.

SL: No doctor?

CS: No doctor.

SL: Well, you're a Juris Doctor.

CS: Juris Doctor. Yeah, yeah, that's [*laughs*]—that's—that's not a legitimate doctor by any means. [*Laughs*]

SL: I guess that's right. Um—and—um—uh—we—uh—uh—the interviewer is Scott Lunsford, and—um—uh—Mr. Scharlau, I'll need to ask you if it's all right with you that we're videotaping this event—this interview.

CS: Yes, it is.

SL: And that we will place this in the Special Collections Department in Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas campus.

CS: That's fine.

[00:00:54] SL: If you don't mind, if you could say and spell your entire name . . .

CS: Okay.

SL: . . . that would be good.

CS: It's—uh—Charles E. Scharlau.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: Charles. *C-H-A-R-L-E-S*.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: E—uh—stands for Edward.

SL: Okay.

CS: Uh—and then—uh—Scharlau. It's *S-C-H-A-R-L-A-U*.

SL: Great.

CS: And—uh—I think I'm the third.

SL: You're not sure?

CS: [*Laughter*] As far as I know. Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

SL: Okay. That's good.

CS: I'm the third. Yes.

[00:01:24] SL: Well, I've got to thank you for—uh—spending this

time with us. Um—we've been looking forward to this since—uh—we—first crossed—well, you and I have crossed paths a couple of times over the years, but most recently about the Bob Lamb video . . .

CS: Right.

SL: . . . that you helped us with. And it was at that time—uh—I was able to kind of snare you into this process. [*CS laughs*] And we're really glad to be here and—and followin' up with you.

CS: Well, thank you. I'm—I'm looking forward to it.

SL: And, of course, this thrills Barbara and David Pryor. You know, it's their center that allows this stuff to happen.

CS: Yes.

SL: And you've always been on the list for us to interview . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and I'm glad we're finally getting to you.

Joy Endicott: I'm gonna just pull your tie the rest of the way down.

CS: Oh, okay.

JE: There we go.

CS: Thank you.

[00:02:09] SL: Um—so I guess we're gonna have to start with where and when you were born.

CS: Well, my birth date—it was April 24, 1927, which makes me right at eighty years old, I believe.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: Uh—it was in Chicago, Illinois, and my v—very early childhood years were there. Uh—my dad—uh—uh—was primarily a—a salesperson. Uh . . .

SL: And what was his name?

CS: Charles E. Scharlau also.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And his father's name was Charles E. Scharlau. Uh—I really don't know much about my grandfather—uh—or grandmother as far as that's concerned—uh—because—uh—uh—I don't know when my grandmother died, but it must've been very early because—uh—my grandfather died when my dad was about—uh—five years old.

SL: Hmm.

CS: Uh—and he was raised by a sister who was twenty-some-odd years older than he was.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And early in his—uh—career—and I'm telling this 'cause it sort of leads to what happened to us later—uh—early in his life [*SL coughs*]—uh—he was sent by his sister to—uh—to live on a

ranch in Nebraska where—uh—he was—uh—uh—I guess—uh—just a ranch hand. And—uh—somewhere in our archives—and I was unable to find it last night [*laughs*]—there's a picture of him. He was in the Nebraska National Guard back in the—uh—early 1900s. But eventually, he came back—uh—to Chicago. Uh—uh—his—his elder si—the sister who kind of looked after him—uh—was married to a lawyer there in Chicago, and—uh—uh—uh—he—uh—he worked there. Uh—course, a lot of that time was during the Depression, and it was—uh—you know, it was pretty touch and go. Uh—but he—he always had a desire to get back to—to farming of the land. And—uh—uh—he—uh—oh, I guess along ab—about 1939 to 1940, we moved to Florida, where he looked for a place. Uh—and we spent about a year there in a town called Sarasota . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . which—uh—you know, I wish he'd bought land there. [*Laughs*] But—but he didn't. And we moved back to Chicago and spent a short time there, and then he began to look around in Missouri and Arkansas and found a place—uh—four miles north of Mountain Home, which he liked. Uh—we bought it—uh—and—uh—one reason he liked it was between our property line and the state of Missouri was about twenty miles, and it was

what they called open range back then. So . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . anybody could run cattle or hogs on it. And so we—we moved—uh—we moved there.

[00:05:49] SL: Um—let's talk a little bit about—um—do you remember where in Nebraska that—and was it a relative's ranch?

CS: No. No.

SL: No?

CS: I—I—it was—uh—I don't know whether it was a relative or—I—I don't think it was a relative.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: Just—uh—just—uh—somebody they knew, or a friend.

SL: And he—um—um—was—um—there for his teenage years and . . .

CS: Yes. Yes.

SL: . . . early twenties, maybe?

CS: Yes, yeah—grew up. Uh—his—uh—sister was fairly highly educated.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And her husband, as I say, was a lawyer.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:06:29] CS: One of the—uh—things that—uh—sort of handed down from my dad to me was that his father—uh—as I say, died when he was very young—uh—had been a—uh—uh—had been in the Civil War—served in the—and actually I—uh—went to the—uh—Veterans—or something—Administration and got a little records of me [CS edit: him]. Served in the 57th Illinois—uh—Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War, was injured falling over a log on a skirmish line in Georgia [*laughs*], and—uh—uh—after he got out—uh—he came back, and he became a lawyer—actually served in the Illinois Legislature, so I'm told . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . for a short time. And—uh—uh—evidently—uh—uh—was fairly successful and had a—had accumulated—uh—some sort of wealth . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . which—uh—uh—was looked after by the sister and her husband. And—uh—when—uh—when—uh—his sister finally died, and I think her husband had died bef—but I'm not sure who died first. Anyway—uh—I know Dad was involved in a lawsuit over the estate . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:08:02] CS: . . . and—uh—and got a little bit of money but not—

not much. Uh—but one thing that he regretted was that he'd—uh—spent his—uh—youth out there on a ranch instead of goin' to school.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And—uh—he just beat into me all the time that I had to get an education. I had to get a college education. And—uh—the fact of the matter is that when I got discharged from the Marine Corps and—and—uh—got home—got off the train at Cotter, Arkansas—uh—he didn't say, "Hello, son," or—uh—or "Glad to have you home." He said, "The university at Fayetteville has delayed—uh—freshmen—uh—registration until—uh—[*laughs*] all you guys got back, and—uh—you need to get over there."

SL: So you came in on the GI Bill.

CS: I came in on the GI Bill. Yeah, yeah.

Trey Marley: Did we mention the sister's name?

CS: Nancy.

TM: Nancy. Okay. [*Unclear words*]. [*TM clears throat*]

CS: Yeah.

[00:09:02] SL: Um—well, that was a great—that was a great opportunity for the veterans coming out of that war . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . was the GI Bill.

CS: Yeah—yeah.

SL: It changed a lot of folks' lives.

CS: It—it enabled me to go. Uh—you know. Two things that enabled me to get through school was—uh—the GI Bill and then—uh—during the summers—uh—startin' in—uh—this would've been in the—let's see, I think I enrolled in the fall of [19]46. And then the summers following that, the government was building Bull Shoals Dam . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . which I was able to work on every summer. So I made enough money to—uh—to—uh—get into school—I mean, to continue school.

[00:09:48] SL: How long—how long did it take 'em to build that dam—Bull Shoals Dam?

CS: Oh, it took—uh—it took—uh—it took about four years.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah, 'cause it—uh—uh—well, you know, they first built Norfork Dam.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And—uh—then they followed it up with Bull Shoals Dam. So there was dam building going on all the time there.

SL: All the time. Mh-hmm.

CS: And I think that was one reason my dad—uh—in addition to—uh—to wanting to get back to—to farming or ranching—uh—moved to Mountain Home because he knew about the dams comin' in and knew there'd be opportu—might be some opportunities there.

[00:10:28] SL: Well, before we get to Mountain Home, let's—let's talk about your mom. What—what was—uh—the story on your mom?

CS: Well—uh—we don't have much history on my mom—uh—because she was an orphan.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And—uh—so there's not much. She—she was—uh—born and raised in Indiana. Her maiden name was Powell.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And—uh—she moved to Chicago to get a job, and that's where she met my dad. And you know, that's about all I know about her. Uh—she did have a sister—uh—who also moved to Chicago—uh—and married a—uh—married a—uh—guy working in a bank up there. His name was Peterson. And—uh—she—uh—uh—I remember him. He—uh—he was somewhat older than she was, and—uh—he died back in the [19]40s, I guess, and she moved to California to [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: . . . for better weather and—uh—and lived out there till she died. Actually, I hope I have her genes 'cause she lived to be ninety-six or -seven. [*Laughter*]

[00:11:42] SL: Well—um—so do you—uh—now, how—when did you leave Chicago? How old were you?

CS: Oh, I was—uh—when we finally ended up—when we were down in Florida, I was probably eleven—ten or eleven.

SL: And you . . .

CS: And then—uh—about a year later—twelve, thirteen when we moved to—uh—Mountain Home.

[00:12:03] SL: And—um—how long did you have your mom and dad? Are they . . .

CS: My dad died in 1954.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And my mother in—uh—about 1974.

SL: Oh, okay. Well, that was get—your dad got to see you get your law degree then.

CS: Yeah, he got to see me get the law degree. Uh—he was sixty-four when he died.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: Mother was seventy-four when she died. Uh—but, yeah, he did

get to see the—the law degree, which—uh—I know he came over for graduation and—uh—and—uh—I guess was quite—quite pleased.

SL: Well, sure he was.

CS: Yeah. I didn't have enough money to go to Little Rock to get sworn in by the supreme court, so he gave me twenty dollars. [*Laughs*] And I remember I shared a motel room in Little Rock with three or four of [*laughs*] my classmates. Uh—uh—one of 'em is a—a retired district judge down in Little Rock by the name of Perry Whitmore.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And one was a local Fayetteville resident, "Charlie" Stewart. And—uh—gosh, I don't know who [*laughs*] the other two were. I don't remember. Uh—but—uh—I—uh—I got my job. I went right out of—uh—law school to work for the gas company here.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: Uh—the—uh—I got the job—uh—uh—because of—uh—the dean of the school—uh—Robert Leflar . . .

SL: Robert Leflar. Uh-huh.

CS: . . . who—uh—who—uh—who recommended me.

[00:13:47] SL: You know, I—I have this—um—belief that the way a person—um—travels his path in life is kind of established early

on in their—in their childhood. Do you remember—um—so you—how old were you when you got to Florida? You were maybe . . .

CS: Oh, eleven, say.

SL: Eleven . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: So you remember a little bit of Chicago in your—in your childhood.

CS: Yeah, not much. Not much. I . . .

SL: Um—but you were there in Chicago during the Depression years then.

CS: Yes. Yes.

SL: Um—do you remember the soup lines or . . .

CS: Uh—no, I think—uh—Dad was always able to get some sort of a job . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: . . . and—uh—and I remember having hamburger—uh—once a week and thought that was a big treat.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

CS: Uh—but—uh—no—uh—we didn't suffer like a lot of people did.

[00:14:44] SL: Were y'all in a—in a brownstone, or did you live—what—what kind of . . .

CS: Oh, we had a . . .

SL: . . . house or home did you have in Chicago?

CS: . . . it was a—yeah, well, they had those houses that maybe had two or three apartments and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And—and we were in—be in one.

SL: Mh-hmm. Um—so you were kind of—wa—was it in the central Chicago area or . . .

CS: It was near Grant Park. I remember that.

SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

CS: And—uh—which was handy to run over to—to—to play in.

[00:15:15] SL: Um—when you were growing up as a child, do you remember anything about going to church, or—um—were y'all—did you have—well, let's . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . talk about church for a little bit. Did—did that enter in your life early on or . . .

CS: Uh—yeah, we went to a Lutheran church—uh—uh—for a while. You know, Scharlau is—uh—my grandfather—you know, it's German.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And so we went to a Lutheran church for a while.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And then—uh—after we moved to Mountain Home—uh—Dad, for some reason or other, joined the Presbyterian Church.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And that's where I was baptized.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And then when I got over here, I got to going to Central United Methodist Church, where I've been every since.

SL: Um—well, was the—um—was it—um—I mean, was it every Sunday that y'all would go to church growin' up or . . .

CS: Uh—we weren't that strong a churchgoers.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: We went—uh—periodically, but it was not every Sunday.

SL: Um—what about—um—um—music? Was music ever a part of the household? Was there . . .

CS: No. No.

SL: No.

CS: No.

SL: Did y'all have a—a radio or . . .

CS: Oh, everybody had a radio. Yeah.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And you know, you'd sit around on Sunday evenings listening

to—uh—uh—Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy and "Red" Skelton and people like that.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: Yeah. Uh—Fred Allen—Fred—Fred and Gracie—Fred Allen and somebody—I've forgotten . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . what—what her name was. Yeah.

[00:16:53] SL: Um—um—well, I'm just tryin' to—uh—uh—what were the schools like when you were growing up in Chicago and . . .

CS: Well, they—they were—uh—uh—they were—uh—I think, you know, pretty good schools back then. Uh—and—uh—I think the—I think—uh—the—the high schools were certainly a lot better than what I eventually ended up with at Mountain Home.

SL: Uh-huh. Did you—did you have some . . .

CS: Uh—at least that's my impression.

[00:17:31] SL: Uh-huh. Did you have favorite subjects or teachers that influenced you at all early on?

CS: I guess—uh—uh—my favorite—uh—the person who probably helped me most was a lady by the name of Jewell Nelson.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: And she was a English teacher at—uh—at Mountain Home.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: So—uh—I enjoyed the English. She ran the Debate Society, which I liked to be in. And—uh—but I guess—uh—most of the subjects I liked were history—that type of thing.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: Uh—unfortunately—uh—Mountain Home back in those days did not have much in the way of sciences.

SL: Mh-hmm.

CS: You know—um—biology class and—uh—uh—maybe—uh—algebra—fir—first-year algebra, and that was about it.

[00:18:26] SL: Mh-hmm. Um—do you—do you have a—what's your earliest memory of your dad? Do you—can you remember the . . .

CS: Well, my earliest memory was—was that he was gone a lot . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: . . . because he was out on the road selling.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: And so—uh—mostly I remember is—uh—uh—and the Sundays—and this had been before the war—World War II started. Uh—when we still lived in Chicago, he used to like to—to drive out into the country and look at various farms and places. I guess it was his desire to get back to that.

SL: It—it's interesting. He—uh—regretted that he didn't get his education.

CS: Yeah.

SL: But he had in his heart this—uh—land.

CS: He did—uh—and—uh—it's kind of a—well, I guess he thought that—uh—even though he—he'd enjoy the land, the education would've been, you know . . .

SL: Did—um—do you think that those trips out there—I mean, did you enjoy going on those trips?

CS: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, I was always after him to—to find us a place and get out and get away from—uh—the city life, I guess.

SL: Would your mom pack a picnic lunch whenever you'd take those trips or . . .

CS: Well, yeah, sometimes she did, or—or we'd stop at some little place along the way—a diner of some sort . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: . . . and eat.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:02] SL: It sounds like to me that you probably spent more time with your mom growin' up in . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . in Chicago than you . . .

CS: We did.

SL: . . . did your dad.

CS: And . . .

SL: Is there—I would assume that you probably had your share of chores around the house.

CS: Yeah. There wasn't much to do but [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Did you ever help with the dishes or the . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . laundry or . . .

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I really, yeah, got more into chores when we finally ended up in Mountain Home.

SL: Uh-huh.

CS: Because there was lots to do there in the way of milking and gardening and, you know, that little house in Mountain Home—or it's not in Mountain Home—maybe now. It's—Mountain Home has expanded. It was four miles north of Mountain Home. We didn't have electricity. And so we had to, you know, bring in water and firewood, and so that was a, you know, pretty big chore just keeping the cookstove wood . . .

SL: You bet.

CS: . . . chopped. [*Laughs*]

SL: You bet.

CS: And we grew a lot of our own food. We had our own garden—had our own milk cows, chickens, and then the beef and hogs that we raised.

SL: So this would've been in the [19]30s?

CS: Well, no—early [19]40s.

SL: Early [19]40s.

CS: Early [19]40s. Yeah.

[00:21:29] SL: And you were in high school by the time that you got to Mountain Home? Is that . . .

CS: Or the eighth grade, I think, and then went into the ninth grade. The mount—it's hard [*laughs*]—Mountain Home School at that time from the first grade to the twelfth grade was in one building. It's just one big school. You had separate classrooms, of course, and one great big study hall. Didn't have a gymnasium. They had a football team, which they discontinued shortly after Pearl Harbor because of gasoline restrictions and travel restrictions. Had a basketball team but practiced on an outdoor [*laughs*] court. And we went to play some of the other teams, like over at Harrison, on an indoor court. We just couldn't hardly believe how grand that place was. [*Laughs*]

[00:22:30] SL: So you played basketball?

CS: Played basketball and played football that first year. Until they abandoned it.

SL: What position did you play in basketball?

CS: Oh, I was a center. Because I was tall, and most of the kids were a little bit shorter than I was.

SL: So you were—that was probably your first chairman position then.

CS: [*Laughter*] Yeah, chairman of the board.

SL: Yes.

CS: Well, I'm not sure [*laughter*] how much of a chairman of that board but . . .

[00:22:58] SL: Well, now let's talk a little bit about Mountain Home.

CS: All right.

SL: Population maybe a thousand or fifteen hundred people.

CS: Yeah, probably somethin' like twelve hundred, or maybe thirteen hundred. You know, it had a square. The school is about two blocks off the square. I think the only streets that were paved were the square. Had, I think, one bank as I recall—couple drugstores and then retail stores around. And it was a small town. It began to grow in the—you know, shortly after we moved there because they started Norfork Dam. And the Corps of Engineers came in and built a little village right near the

square where they housed all the engineers, and the people came in to work on the dam. And that's when a little bit of growth started there.

SL: Was there any train activity . . .

CS: No.

SL: . . . around Mountain Home?

CS: The nearest train station was Cotter, Arkansas. Which was about ten or twelve miles from Mountain Home at the ti—and it was a pretty busy, little town back then because they had one of those round tables where the . . .

SL: Roundhouse.

CS: Roundhouse, where they'd do the switchin' around down there. So it was a pretty good little railroad town. I mean they had a lot of people there because of the railroad. And it was—I don't think it was as big as Mountain Home, but it was not far behind. And, of course, as the railroad died, why, Cotter died, and Mountain Home has continued to grow. It's a pretty thriving place right now.

SL: I was gonna ask you something else about Mountain Home. Gosh.

[00:25:04] TM: I was curious about—you say you helped build the dam. What was it like for the community with the dam coming

in, and what was it like—what kind of work did you do, and what kind of—tell me about the environment and . . .

CS: Okay.

TM: . . . and the dam . . .

CS: Well, they . . .

TM: . . . and the water filling up.

CS: The—you know, practically everybody that we knew around there got jobs or part-time jobs on one of the dams.

SL: [*Unclear words*].

CS: The [*SL sniffs*] best-paying job in Mountain Home—I got one summer before I got onto the dam was fifty cents an hour. I remember before then, I'd work for a dollar a day.

SL: What were you—what would you do for a dollar a day?

[00:25:51] CS: I worked on our neighbor's farm, haying. They were a fine, old couple. I thought they were old at the time. They probably weren't that old. But I'd work all day long in their hay fields, and I got my lunch, which was a fried chicken. ?And? their name was Walker, and Mrs. Walker would cook a whole chicken—fry up a whole chicken, and they were very frugal people. And they would eat the backs and wings, and I'd eat the rest of the chicken. And she'd bake two chocolate pies, one of which I ate, and they shared the other one. [*Laughs*]

SL: That's a great job.

CS: Yeah. [*Laughter*] Yeah, it was one of the better jobs I've ever had. [*Laughter*] But, you know, when the dams came in, and instead of fifty cents an hour, you were able to get up close to a dollar an hour. I remember one year I worked on the dam as a jackhammer operator. And it was—I'll always remember—it was ninety-seven-and-a-half cents an hour. The—and what we did is we used a—just a regular jackhammer and used a drill bit. And we would drill down into the rock and—I don't know, drill down a foot or so, and then they'd come along and put dynamite into those holes and blast out the rock. But that was pretty hard work because . . .

[00:27:27] SL: You gotta be in pretty good shape to run a jackhammer.

CS: Yeah. Well, you know, that thing weighed about eighty-five pounds. And then it was run by compressed air, and so they had a central compressor station, and you'd have a—seemed to me like a mile of hose to drag along [*laughs*] behind you. So it got to be pretty good work. And then I got the job also later on as a—what they call a rigger's helper. And that was on Bull Shoals Dam. And what they did—they built a railroad trestle from a bluff on one side of the river that they were damming

over to the other side and eventually ran little cars full of cement out over that railroad trestle and just pulled—poured the cement right up over the trestle. But the rigger's help—helpers would help the steelworkers erect that railroad across there. That was pretty interesting work.

SL: That is interesting.

CS: Climbing up, you know, several hundred feet on steel frame—on steel girders with the White River down there below you so . . .

[00:28:41] SL: You know, they say the White River was a lot like the Buffalo . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . as far as bluffs and . . .

CS: It was. It was a beautiful river. The Norfork was a beautiful river. And you know, and it flowed into the White down there in the town of Norfork. But I remember we used to go fishing on the Norfork River, and it was always a clear, blue thing. And the White was similar to the Buffalo. It was a beautiful river.

[00:29:14] SL: But that whole community was entirely supportive of the dams being built.

CS: Oh yeah . . .

SL: I mean there wasn't . . .

CS: . . . because it brought jobs that it did. It did one thing—it—you

know, it covered up most of the really good farmland . . .

SL: Was that . . .

CS: . . . because of—you know, the good farmland was in the river bottoms.

SL: That's right.

CS: But everybody was happy. I mean they got money for their farms—more than they probably ever would have gotten. And then eventually the lakes brought in tourists and that sort of thing. And in fact—after—I guess it was after I got in college, Dad kind of gave up on the farming business and moved into town and got into the real estate business with a fellow by the name of Dave Byrd. And they—you know, they bought and sold stuff around there for sums of money that is hard to believe right now. I mean just [*laughs*]—four hundred dollars for eighty acres is [*laughs*]—you know, that sort of thing.

[00:30:25] SL: Right. Right. How many—how big was the land that y'all had when you were growing up?

CS: We had about a hundred acres. Yeah. And then we had all that open range behind us.

SL: Uh-huh. Did y'all have hogs, too?

CS: Yes.

SL: Did you ever take part in slaughterin' the hog and . . .

CS: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

SL: And y'all used every part of it and . . .

CS: Well, everything except the squeal, I think. [*Laughter*] But, yeah, every fall we'd get with our neighbors—particularly, the Walkers, the people I worked for. And we'd butcher some hogs. They would, you know, have some, and we'd have some. And then we'd save the, you know, the—some of the hams and stuff that—have 'em all year long.

SL: And you'd have, like, a smokehouse that you'd put 'em in or . . .

CS: Yeah, we had a—well, you'd smoke 'em and—but mostly, they were sort of salt cured and—we had a big cellar in which we kept potatoes and the hams and all the stuff. And then my mother would can vegetables. I mean we'd can tomatoes and green beans and stuff—do a lot of that.

TM: Scott, we'll change tapes real quick.

SL: Okay.

[Tape stopped]

[00:31:54] SL: I feel like we need to talk a little bit more about your mom because I feel like that you spent most of your childhood growin' up with your mom and—not only in Chicago . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . but in Mountain Home and . . .

CS: Well . . .

SL: . . . it sounds like you were . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . you know, some of that pioneer stock . . .

CS: Well, in—when we got to Mountain Home, I spent probably more time with my dad than I did with my mother.

SL: Well then, let's—maybe let's talk about—a little bit about Chicago and the time you spent . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . with your mom there.

CS: Well, there's really not a whole lot to say, except I was a small kid and, I guess, got into a normal amount of trouble. [*Laughs*]

SL: A normal amount of trouble. [*Laughter*]

CS: And—but nothing—I can't really think of anything, you know, significant that she might have got into me. I'm sure there's lots of stuff there that I just can't, you know, bring up to the forefront.

[00:32:59] SL: Do you remember ever getting sick at all and her taking care of you?

CS: Well . . .

SL: She taking care of you.

CS: . . . yeah, yeah, I think a time or two I got—I don't know. I can't even remember. I don't think I had any of the childhood diseases, like measles and all that. Oh, I know I did. I may have had the measles but nothing really significant. And, yeah, when I did, why, I remember, you know, keeping my fever down and all that sort of business. But mostly, we—I just—I know I'd go to the Central Park and—not Central Park but Grant Park, I guess it was—and pretended I was the greatest baseball player that ever came down the pike.

[00:33:55] SL: You had a passion for baseball.

CS: I had a passion for play—baseball. In fact, well, one of the things—and [*laughs*] maybe this contributes to my lack of memory, is I remember being in a—I guess, like a Little League thing up there, and I got knocked completely unconscious by a kid swinging a bat and—to the extent that I didn't even recognize my parents when they took me home. And it was, I don't know, some time after that I—before I began to [*laughs*] know who was where and where I was. So I really got to—I really got knocked . . .

SL: Senseless.

CS: . . . senseless. Yeah. Yeah, I was real—I was out, and I didn't know who they were when I woke up and . . .

SL: Did that put a damper on your baseball enthusiasm?

CS: No, it never did. [*SL laughs*] I guess it was I was so young, I didn't have any better sense.

SL: Well, did they have organized teams that you played on, or was it just neighborhood stuff?

CS: It was just neighborhood stuff.

SL: Street ball? Or did y'all have a . . .

CS: No, no . . .

SL: You played at Grant Park?

CS: We played in the park. Yeah. And—no, I just loved baseball, and I loved what little bit of football that—and I liked basketball, but not like I did baseball.

SL: First base?

CS: And Mountain Home, you know, we played baseball all the time. They had a town team that played every Sunday or—and some Saturdays. And—then the high school had a team.

SL: And you did pretty good on the team?

CS: Yeah, I was a—alternated between catching and—'cause I guess I was the only one foolish enough to get behind the [*laughs*]—the batter and playing second base. Well, I played almost everything.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But, yeah, I—yeah, I actually thought that if you could not be a professional baseball player, that, you know, life would not be worth [*laughter*] living. And I think I remember—one of the big things I thought was one of the grandest things my folks ever did for me was they bought me a subscription to the *Sporting News*, which I don't even know if it exists anymore, but it was a newspaper about baseball. It had all the statistics and stuff in it.

[00:36:28] SL: So you collected cards?

CS: Yeah, a few.

SL: Yeah, a few.

CS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SL: I bet you wish you'd held on to those.

CS: [*Laughs*] Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, they'd be worth probably a lot of money now.

[00:36:41] SL: What kind of grades did you make when you were growin' up?

CS: Well, I think I made fairly good grades. As far as I know, they were all—always good grades. I was—in high school, I was valedictorian, so I made fairly decent grades in high school.

[00:37:01] SL: So that was—you think that was your father's watchful eye that kept you focused, or did you just enjoy school?

CS: Well, I enjoyed scho—I enjoyed going to school because I got to

play ball during recess and after school. Probably what helped me more than anything else was that—and maybe this was part of my mother's—the lawyer, who was the husband of my father's sister, had an extensive library, and when he finally passed away or whenever that thing was finally settled, my dad or our family ended up with that library. And I've still got some of it at home. And I need to find a good bookbinder and get 'em redone. But, for instance, I had a twelve-volume set of history people, like Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Nero—all the—some of the Greek historical figures. Books by Mark Twain. A set called *The Wit and the Wisdom of America*, which had all the short stories and a lot of humor—Edgar Allan Poe—a lot of 'em. And I read all that stuff. I like to read, and I think I read every one of those books.

SL: What a great stroke . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . that was for you to . . .

CS: It was. It was. And you know, there wasn't much in the way of math in there. That may be why I went to law school—so I wouldn't have to mess [*laughs*] too much with math. But that—you know, rea—really helped me. You know, there was a book in—one of the books in here was a theory by—you remember the

British—Malthus—you know, the one that predicted the end of mankind because of starvation. And I remember reading that thing and being concerned about we were [*laughs*] all gonna, you know, run out of food and starve. So there was a lot of history—a lot of political science because I guess that's what he had been interested in. And it was very fortunate because, you know, at Mountain Home we didn't have TV. Radio reception was lousy—you could hardy hear anything. So most evenings I—or times I'd spend reading those books because that's what I had to read.

[00:40:16] JE: I have a question. Did Aunt Nancy not have any children? Did you have any cousins?

CS: My sister?

JE: No, your father's sister, Nancy.

CS: No. No, no, no . . .

JE: I thought that's what her name was.

CS: No, that was my sister's name.

JE: Oh. What was your dad's sister's name?

CS: Oh, gosh, what was her name? Lydia, I believe.

JE: Okay.

CS: She did not have any children—no.

JE: So the law library came from your sister's husband?

CS: Uh-huh. Yeah.

JE: Okay.

CS: Yeah, yeah. And it wasn't exactly a law library.

JE: Well, the library of the lawyer. [*Laughter*]

CS: Yeah, the library of the lawyer. Yeah, it . . .

JE: Okay.

CS: It—the only law book that I found in there was a pamphlet about like that—real thin—called *Trial Procedure*, and it had my grandfather's name stamped in it. And I'm sure the procedure is not [*laughs*] up-to-date.

SL: Well, yeah . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . but it's probably still the basic foundation. I mean, the . . .

CS: Yeah, it is.

SL: . . . basic stuff is probably still in place.

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

SL: That's a great story.

CS: Yeah.

SL: The library's a great find.

CS: Well, I'd kind of forgotten about that until somethin' you said—you asked me about that. But that—that's probably where I really got my interest in—even today, you know, historical

novels are some of my favorite recreational reading.

[00:41:46] SL: Okay. So it must've been—I mean, did you love moving to Mountain Home, or was it just so different from Chicago and . . .

CS: Oh, I thought it was a great adventure, you know, and I was all for it. And we—when we got there, and it turned out to be—you know, it was hard work 'cause we raised hay for the cattle. And had a humongous, big garden. I'll bet it was a couple acres.

SL: That's a big garden.

CS: And we had, you know—gosh, we had—oh, apple—couple apple trees and some stuff. And I remember one of my jobs on Sundays was to kill the chicken we were gonna have [*laughs*] and help get it ready. But did a lot of work with my dad. We were out working on fences, and in the hayfields all the time.

[00:42:54] SL: So he kind of taught you to be the ranch hand that he had learned to be.

CS: That's right. Yeah. And we, you know, we had some horses that we'd ride around—chase the cows. And you know, one of the big sports—actually got to be, as everybody turned their cattle loose in that open-range area and their hogs. And the hogs generally lived on acorns until you round 'em up and then feed 'em corn and stuff to fatten 'em up before you—hog. But one of

the big sports back in those days was you wouldn't ever find all the hogs that you'd turned loose. And some of 'em, you know, would grow, and they'd get pretty wild—I mean, really wild. And you'd go wild hog hunting, and you know, that was [*laughs*] a—that was pretty interesting.

SL: Those creatures are to be reckoned with when . . .

CS: Oh yeah . . .

SL: . . . they get that big.

CS: . . . I mean, you know, some of them grow up and get pretty good tusks, and you'd better have a pretty good shot or . . .

SL: Not something you want to wound.

CS: That's right. And—but we used to go with our neighbors, and we'd go hog hunting in the—I guess—I don't know what time of the year. I guess it was primarily in the fall.

SL: Would you use dogs at all in that?

CS: Yes. Yes. We used dogs. Our neighbors had a dog that was very good at [*laughs*] grabbin' one of those wild things by the ear and [*laughs*] still avoiding the tusk and not getting torn to pieces.

SL: Well, where would those hogs live? Were they find a holler and . . .

CS: Oh yeah, they'd just live out in the wild. Yeah. Yeah, yeah,

yeah, they'd just . . .

SL: Would they reproduce out there?

CS: Oh yeah. Yeah. And those, you know, those were really the wild ones because they had never been around any domesticated thing.

[00:44:57] SL: Well, here's a silly question. Did you probably have one of the early, authentic hog calls?

CS: Yeah. [*Laughs*] Well, we knew what a razorback was before they even named 'em, I think. [*Laughs*]

SL: Right.

CS: Yeah. Yeah, I always hated the hogs back then. I mean they'd [*laughs*]—you know, they'd knock you over trying to get to the feed trough. Oh, I didn't hate 'em, but they were . . .

SL: They were a bit to be reckoned with.

CS: Yeah, they weren't your favorite animal. But we raised—yeah, they raised cattle to sell and hogs mostly—oh, you'd sell a few, but most of those were our own consumption. And then the chickens for the eggs and . . .

[00:45:44] SL: Well, when you first got to Mountain Home, did you have electricity at the house?

CS: No. They did not get electricity at that house till after I'd left.

SL: Oh, is that right?

CS: Yeah.

SL: So you'd listen to that radio off a battery or . . .

CS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And as I say, you know, you just couldn't get hardly any reception at all.

SL: And you studied by kerosene lamp?

CS: We had kerosene lamps, and we had woodstoves. And I remember one of the happiest days of my mother's life was when Dad brought in a kerosene cookstove instead of the woodstove because it was so much easier to cook on.

[00:46:29] SL: What about the community of Mountain Home at that time? I would assume that everybody worked pretty hard—they all had their own gardens for the most part and . . .

CS: Yeah, they did.

SL: . . . were self-sufficient.

CS: They—well, everybody was, you know. Of course, everybody knew everybody. It was, you know, a close—fairly close-knit, friendly group. My dad, you know, got right in with everything and then got ele—in fact, he got elected as the war—the Baxter County—dele—not delegate—member of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors back in the [19]40s sometime. And I know I made friends with the, you know, other kids there in Mountain Home. I guess my best friend was a fellow by the name of Paul Martin,

whose father is—his name was Mac Martin, and he was sort of the town lawyer—one of the two or three lawyers in town. And Paul was actually killed on Norfork Dam.

SL: Working on it. Fell.

CS: Working on it. Yeah, he was—well, they were drilling test holes, and the—their rig fell over and cut an electric line, and he got electrocuted. But . . .

[00:48:06] SL: Were there a lot of—there pro—there weren't a lot of deaths in that construction, were there?

CS: Oh, I think each dam took several lives, yeah. People fell, or like Paul, they were down in—it was after the dam at Norfork had been built, and they were down inside, and they were drilling test holes, and it was a lot of water, and when that thing fell over—just . . .

SL: It just got the water . . .

CS: Yeah, it just cut a ordinary, 110-volt light line, but it was enough to . . .

SL: Was enough.

CS: . . . to get him. Get him and the guy who was running the drill rig that he was helping.

[00:48:47] SL: Let's talk a little bit about kid activities in Mountain Home. You mentioned baseball . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and football until the war started and basketball, but what was Halloween like in Mountain Home? What did the kids do for Halloween?

CS: Oh, well, the—generally Halloween night, as far as I was concerned, was spent at the—out at our place, you know. [*Laughs*] We didn't get into town that often. But I think about the only thing that ever happened in Mountain Home was they turned over an outhouse or two, and that [*laughs*] was about it.

SL: Well, the reason why this comes to mind—I—we were talking with . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . J. B. and Johnelle Hunt, and they talked . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . about how the community kinda let the kids just have the town.

CS: Yeah.

SL: You know, they'd even hand out the bars of soap to do the windows, and people'd bring furniture and just set it out on the street and watch their kids kinda . . .

CS: Oh, I don't . . .

SL: . . . just have a big time.

CS: No, I don't reca . . .

SL: You don't remember any of that kind . . .

CS: No, I . . .

SL: . . . of activity out there?

CS: No, the biggest activity I remember were pie suppers.

SL: Okay, tell me about a pie supper.

CS: Well, a pie supper was a method of raisin' money for whatever the project might be—the school, or maybe somebody needed help or something like that. And a pie supper was—generally all the ladies in the community would bake a pie and go to it, and then everybody'd bid on the pie. You know, I guess whoever was the prettiest and the—had the best pies [*laughs*] got the highest buck. And then, you know, all the kids'd be around. We'd wait while all the grownups were having their pie supper and having a good time jokin' around, so we could eat some pie. And I'll always remember that the state representative—a guy by the name of Jack Hornblower—would come to the pie supper, and he'd bring ice cream. And Jack was famous. He was a—and he was quite a character. I remember he was noted for his speech making, and the claim was that he actually got so worked up, he spit out his false teeth [*SL laughs*] and never missed a word. Just kept goin'. [*Laughs*]

SL: Did you ever get to see him talk?

CS: Oh, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Jack had a—he had a saying that I've always thought was a—one of the great political sayings of all time, and I think a lot of politicians are that way. But they passed somethin' called the "squirrel law," which had everybody upset. And I think had to do with the hunting season on squirrels. Ol' Jack got up and made his speech, and he said some of his friends were for that new squirrel law, and some of his friends were again it, and he stood with his friends. [*Laughter*]

SL: That is great. [*Laughter*]

CS: I always remembered that. [*Laughs*]

SL: That is great.

CS: And I think it applies to a lot of 'em. [*Laughs*]

[00:52:03] SL: Well, what was going on? I mean, were you very aware at all of politics at the time when you were growin' up in Mountain Home?

CS: No, not too much. You know, we knew the local representat—representative. I don't know who the state senator was. I have no idea. And—but, you know, in Mountain Home back in those days, the best jobs were in the post office or the State Highway Department—until the dams came along, and you got some, you

know, fairly decent jobs there. But, yeah—you know, Little Rock was—seemed like as far away as China as far as we were concerned.

SL: Well, before the roads got paved and . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . before Faubus, it probably was.

CS: Yeah, I was trying to remember who paved—I think Sid McMath paved . . .

SL: Did he?

CS: . . . the first road out of Baxter County over to Harrison. But, you know, I remember we used to go up to West Plains, Missouri. The big shopping areas were over at Harrison or up to West Plains, Missouri. And if you really wanted to get big-time, why, you went up to Springfield, Missouri.

[00:53:33] SL: So let's talk a little bit about transportation. I guess that was . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: You had one car—what the family used?

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: What kind of car was it? Do you remember?

CS: Yeah, it was a Dodge. Big ol' sedan Dodge. And I remember Dad got a special gasoline allotment because he would transport

my sister and I and a couple of the other neighborhood kids into town to go to school because the school district we were in was not in the Mountain Home School District. It was out in this community. It was called the Walker community. And they just had a grade school. They didn't have a high school. So to go to high school, why, you had to make arrangements to go into Mountain Home, which he did for us. And then we'd just take a couple other kids in. So he got a little bit—we got a little bit extra gasoline during the war for that.

SL: Did you ever get to drive the car yourself?

CS: Yes. Yes.

SL: Once? [*Laughs*] That sounded qualified.

CS: [*Laughs*] Well, the first time I drove it into town by myself, he told me to stop and pick up some gasoline or oil or something at the little, corner filling station, and I sure was a big-shot driving that car, and I wheeled into that gas station and ran smack dab into the pump. [*Laughs*] And it was a long time before I got that car again.

SL: Was it—I mean that . . .

CS: Yeah, I think I [*laughs*] had to join the marines and get back before [*laughter*] I got to use that car again.

SL: Well, I guess we oughta—is there anything else about your time

in Mountain Home before you went into the service that really . . .

CS: Well, I thi—yeah.

[00:59:39] SL: What about your coaches? Tell me about your coaches. Usually . . .

CS: Oh, we didn't have any coaches.

SL: You didn't have any coaches?

CS: Oh, no. No. No. You know, the principal was the coach . . .

SL: Okay.

CS: . . . or whoever might be teaching in the school. He was the coach, and they'd coach the baseball teams and the—well, the—yeah, the high school teams they would coach. Now, the baseball team was just the town people—I mean, the guys who were interested in playing baseball would get together.

SL: Well, would one of the . . .

CS: And I guess there'd be some coaching to the extent that the older guys would tell some of the younger ones, you know, "You need to do this or do that and" . . .

[00:56:22] SL: So one of the dads wouldn't, like, volunteer and kinda . . .

CS: Yeah, well, there was—come to think of it, there was a little bit of that. When the army engineers came in, they formed some

small, you know, leagues, and then they would play. In fact, they built their own baseball diamond to play on, and some of them would coach their kids and others. But, you know, as a—really as coaches as we know it—yeah, we didn't have 'em.

SL: And so . . .

CS: I probably would've been the greatest baseball player in the world if we'd had a coach there to [*laughs*] show me what to do.

SL: Well, you and Frank Broyles. He . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . he was so set on being a pro-baseball player . . .

CS: Yeah. Oh.

SL: . . . until he dislocated his shoulder—his pitching . . .

CS: Well you know, I never [*laughs*] got that far.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But I really did love baseball. And when I—you know, I continued playing it, oh, even when I was in college. I mean, I didn't play in college, but I played back over there during the summers whenever I got off from Bull Shoals.

[00:57:36] SL: Did you get to hear baseball games on your terrible radio or . . .

CS: Occasionally you could pick up the Cardinals games. That's the only one you could ever . . .

SL: Out of St. Louis.

CS: Out of St. Louis, yeah.

SL: I would've thought that you could've maybe heard Chicago.

CS: I . . .

SL: They had a big transmitter.

CS: Yeah. I don't think we—I don't recall ever being able to hear that.

SL: Or Memphis? I would think maybe a Memphis station would—you'd hear that . . .

CS: No. You know, we'd pick up a station out of Springfield, Missouri, or West Plains.

SL: That's interesting.

CS: And they would have the—I don't think Mountain Home even had a radio station.

SL: Probably not.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Probably not.

[00:58:13] CS: They had a newspaper, the *Baxter Bulletin*, which was a good newspaper. And one of my closest friends in high school—his family owned that thing. And then he ran it himself right after he got out of school—a guy by the name of Tom Dearmore.

SL: So the circulation couldn't have been much more than a thousand . . .

CS: I'd . . .

SL: . . . even five hundred or so.

CS: Probably five hundred. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

[00:58:43] SL: And it was probably full of just local goings-on.

CS: Well, it's mostly local news, you know. And they'd have news from each community. They had some of the craziest names for communities, you know. Pilgrim's Creek was a community and Three Sisters and Monkey Run. [*Laughs*] Now, how they got those names I don't know, but they'd be little communities. Ours was Walker community, principally because the Walker family was located there.

SL: It probably gave news of comin's and goin's of . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . visitors and . . .

CS: Yeah, that's . . .

SL: . . . family coming in from out of town.

CS: That's right. Yeah. And I guess Pete Shiras and Tom Dearmore, who ran the *Baxter Bulletin*—they were sort of politically

oriented, and they'd have state news in there.

SL: So even as a student, every—everybody read the paper.

CS: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

SL: See who was doing what.

CS: Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

[00:59:43] SL: Yeah. Well, what about the social life there at Mountain Home High School? What were the—how were the boys and girls—how—did y'all have dances at these pie sales?

CS: Oh . . .

SL: Would those turn into dances or . . .

CS: No, no. They'd have a—oh, you know, they'd—like any high school, they'd have plays or—to get people involved in plays. And I remember one time, they got a new school superintendent who loved to sing. And he was a big fellow—big, ol' baritone voice, and anyway I thought it was quite good, and I guess he was. And he promoted a dance, which the Baptist community got together and ran him out of town.

SL: Is that right?

CS: [*Laughs*] And that was the end of him as superintendent. Yeah. And I tell you something odd about that. It was kinda interesting, I think. But his favorite song that he sang or had the school assembly sing was something called "Bells of St.

Mary." And I've not heard it much anywhere since. And about—oh, they ran him off. And I don't know—it must've been two years later—three years later—I was in a naval hospital in Corona, California, and they brought in some people to entertain us, and here came this big baritone in—looked a little bit like him—singing "The Bells of St. Mary."

SL: That is interesting.

CS: And I tried to work my way up there to see if that was him, but I never could get to the—you know, they did their thing and then packed up and left, and I never did get to get up and see him. But I'd almost bet it was him.

SL: I would say that . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . it would just . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . be a remarkable coincidence.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Big baritone . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . singing the same song.

CS: Yeah.

[01:01:52] SL: Well, that's interesting. So, you know, the Baptists

kind of kept the dancing—socializing down.

CS: Yeah, they did. They did. They just raised enough fuss. You know, the two main churches there—well, there were three. The Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, and the Baptist Church. And I guess the biggest was the Baptist Church. And the last year there in high school, they got a new Baptist preacher. I think this was after they had run the guy off. His name was Stark, and his son was my age. His first name was Dewey, and they'd moved up from Smackover, Arkansas, where Dewey had played with Clyde Scott and all that bunch from Smackover. And so Dewey and I organized football teams, and, you know, we just played amongst ourselves or got a game up with Harrison. I mean it wasn't a high school team. It was just a group got together, and we'd go over there and let Harrison use us as their practicing [*laughs*] dummies.

SL: Yeah. What position did you play in football?

CS: End.

SL: End?

CS: Yeah.

[01:03:18] SL: Well, so what did the kids do for dates? What was a typical date? I mean did you ever have any dates . . .

CS: Oh, yeah.

SL: . . . when you were in high school?

CS: Yeah, the movie house was the principal thing. They had a movie house there on the square, and that's where everybody went for their dates was . . .

SL: And did it have sound, or were they . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. It was, you know, World War II-type movies mostly back then. Yeah.

[01:03:46] SL: Well, so I'm guessing you get out of high school, and you go into the marines.

CS: Yeah. Actually I never did get out of high school.

SL: You didn't?

CS: I—no. I was valedictorian, or they said I was going to be valedictorian that year, and I joined the marines in February and supposed to have graduated in June, so I never did get [*laughs*] to graduate.

SL: So what was the hurry?

CS: Oh, World War II was on, and I thought I had to . . .

SL: Do your duty.

CS: . . . do my duty. And I was only seventeen, and Dad had to agree to it and—which he was kind of reluctant to do, but I

guess I'd badgered him enough that I wanted to do this that he finally agreed to it or did sign the consent papers, and off I went to Parris Island, South Carolina.

SL: And it was probably a much different experience than what you thought you were gettin' into.

[01:04:48] CS: Yeah, I think that was the first night away from home. Well, I guess I spent a night or two in Mountain Home with Paul but first real—being away from home. Yeah, that was a real eye-opening experience.

SL: So you ended up spending six months there.

CS: Parris Island—I think we spent about twelve weeks. Yeah, going through boot camp. And then went up to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for what they called advance combat training. And then I moved from there to Camp Pendleton in California, where we did some more training, and we were put in what they called replacement drafts, which was getting ready to go overseas. And then the Japanese heard I was coming, and so they surrendered.

SL: Ah. That kind of parallels Coach Broyles's career, too.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: So was there anybody from Mountain Home that made all that circuit . . .

CS: No.

SL: . . . with you?

CS: No. No, I was the only one from Mountain Home. I remember, you know, I got on the bus and went to Harrison and changed buses and then went to Little Rock. And that's where I enlisted. And then they put me on a train that went to South Carolina.

SL: Had you ever been to Little Rock before?

CS: No. No, that was my first time in Little Rock.

SL: Did you stray much from the train station or . . .

[01:06:25] CS: No. [*Laughter*] I didn't know where I was. They didn't let us stray. We went down to—I guess it was that federal building. It may be still there. Where the recruiting station was and got swor—well, you know, did all the enlistment thing and then went through the physical, and I was a little bit underweight for the marines. And so the doctor told me to go out and eat bananas and drink milkshakes and come back in a couple hours. [*Laughs*] And I did, and he looked at the scale, and I don't know whether I went up any or not, but he said, "Okay, you passed."

SL: That's interesting.

CS: And then they took us down to the train station, and we left that night for Parris Island, South Carolina.

SL: Had you—you had been on a train before that time or not?

CS: No.

SL: No?

CS: No.

SL: Boy.

CS: No.

SL: So this was a big adventure.

CS: Yeah.

[01:07:25] SL: Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you. You weren't ever involved with the Boy Scouts or . . .

CS: No.

SL: Yeah, you . . .

CS: No, they didn't have any . . .

SL: Yeah, that wasn't really . . .

CS: In fact, I . . .

SL: . . . quite fitting with the kind of pioneer stuff you were . . .

CS: No.

SL: . . . doing anyway.

CS: No.

SL: So never been on a train, never been to Little Rock. I know you'd been to . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . Harrison. And you get to Parris Island.

CS: Yeah.

[01:07:50] SL: And so what did you think you'd gotten yourself into?

CS: I didn't know, but I went to bed that night saying—praying—saying, "Is there any way to get me out of this?" [*Laughs*] "Mommy, where are you? Come get me." [*Laughs*] Yeah. Yeah, that was a—quite a shock.

SL: And the—I'm sure the training was pretty brutal.

CS: The Marine Corps training was pretty tough, yes. You know, the drill instructor let us know right off the bat that our soul may belong to God, but our body belonged to him. And it was a—you know, it was a—it was tough. But you know, it had a purpose. The Marine Corp way of doing things was to break you down and then build you back up. And you know, when you left boot camp, you thought you could whip any other marine that you knew, and any marine could whip anybody else in the world. And you were the toughest, meanest son of a gun that ever came along.

[01:09:01] SL: Did you get—develop any lasting friendships through the service?

CS: Yeah, I had—I made a couple of pretty close friends in boot camp and up at Camp Lejeune. But, you know, those

disappeared after the war . . .

SL: The war ended.

CS: . . . and I got discharged. Everybody went their own way. It was kind of funny—and you know, how things happen. I got to be particularly close friends with a guy by the name of Schultz. He was from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And Schultzie was a big, ol', brawny guy—not the swiftest in the world. But when we got to Camp Pendleton, why—the Marine Corps—we were going to go to Guam and rejoin the 3rd—be part of the 3rd Division, which was rebuilding after Iwo Jima scheduled for one of the home island invasions, and then President Truman, thank goodness, dropped the bomb, and the war ended shortly after that. And so the Marine Corps decided not to send anybody on over, unless they had at least a couple years to serve. [01:10:28] And I had—at my father's insistence, instead of enlisting for a term, had enlisted for just the—in the reserve just for the duration of the war and six months, which is sort of an indefinite time. But anyway the Marine Corps made the decision—unless you were a regular with at least two years to serve, they weren't gonna bother to send you overseas. [*Laughs*] So we got assigned to different duties there at Camp Pendleton, and I ran into Schultz at the PX and asked him what

he was doin'. And he said, "Well, I've reenlisted for four more years." And I said, "Why in the world did you do that?" And he said, "Oh, it was a great deal." And he said, "They told me if I'd reenlist, why, I could name any marine station in the world, and that's where they'd send me." So he said, "I picked the Philadelphia Navy Yard. I'm goin' home." [*Laughs*] About two weeks later, I saw him again. I said, "Schultz, are you headed for Philadelphia?" He said, "No, I'm going to China." [*Laughs*] I said, "China?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Well, I thought they were gonna send you to your base of choice." And he said, "They told me yes, but they didn't say when." [*Laughs*] So [*CS coughs*] . . .

SL: Oh, boy.

CS: For all I know, Schultz is still in China. But [*coughs*] . . .

SL: What . . .

CS: But you know, it was a tough experience, but one—I'm glad I did—glad I went through it. I never want to do it again.

[01:12:02] SL: Well, now, you talked about hearing "The Bells of St. Mary" while you were in a hospital.

CS: Yeah.

SL: What was going on with that?

CS: Oh, I came down with pneumonia and had to spend a couple

weeks in the hospital to get over it.

SL: Did you just get run down or . . .

CS: I don't know what it was. It was just—you know, I was just feeling fine. All of a sudden I really got really down and out and went to sick bay, and they packed me off to this hospital.

[01:12:33] SL: So how long were you actually in the service then?

CS: About two years.

SL: Oh well . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . that's a pretty long time.

CS: Yeah.

SL: So you were out in California for a year and a half or so?

CS: Oh yeah, let's see. I got out to California in—well, just—I think the war ended in August of [19]45. So I was out there until I got discharged in the—October of [19]46. Yeah.

SL: And what they have you doing out there?

CS: Oh, I was with the guard battalion for Camp Pendleton, which is we guarded ammunition dumps, did a little police work—that type of thing. Guarded the brig, which was not a very nice job. And we were sort of the ceremonial group. Every morning, why, we'd troop down with a band to raise the flag and that sort of thing.

SL: Well . . .

CS: And then you—they just continued training, you know. They—'cause, you know—actually the ones that went to China were, you know, being shot at by the Communists and . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . and so, you know, they always—the Marine Corps was strong on training, so you just kept doing the same old thing over and over again.

[01:14:00] SL: Well, let's do a little compare and contrast with Mountain Home and Camp Pendleton in California. There's gotta be a big, cultural difference. I mean, what'd you do for leave? Did you go into San Diego or . . .

CS: Basically, you know, when we got leave, we'd go out to whatever that highway is along the coast there.

SL: Pacific Coast Highway.

CS: Yeah, one-oh-hundred or . . .

SL: One-oh-one.

CS: . . . one-oh-one and hitch a ride up to Los Angeles.

SL: LA.

CS: And my aunt—my mother's sister that I mentioned—she was living out there by then, so I'd go up and visit her and stay with her, you know. And liberty wasn't very much, you know. It

started about noon Saturday, and then you had to be back Sunday night so . . .

SL: How did you stay in touch with home?

CS: Wrote letters.

SL: Wrote letters.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Telephone thing wasn't happening yet or . . .

CS: No, they didn't have a phone out at the house anyway. So, you know, we just—you know, people wrote a lot more letters than they do now. I guess everybody does it e-mail now but . . .

SL: That's right.

CS: Yeah.

[01:15:10] SL: Well, so did you see any of the sights in Southern California? Did you . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: Did you go to the Brown Derby?

CS: I think my aunt took me to the Brown Derby to eat lunch one day and—but I'd go to—on Sunday—was it Saturday nights or Sunday? Maybe it was Sunday nights, and somehow or another, I'd get back to camp in time for morning reveille—to some of the radio shows. I'll always remember Red Skelton. You know, he'd—he was great because about half the crowd in the audience

would be service people. And he'd do his regu—regular radio show, and then he'd spend another half hour or forty-five minutes—maybe an hour—just cracking jokes for the . . .

SL: Stand-up for the servicemen.

CS: . . . for the servicemen there. Yeah. Yeah, he was quite the comedian.

SL: Everything I've always read about him—he was quite a great guy.

CS: Yeah, he must've been to spend all that time as, you know, free, I guess. Nobody was paying him for it. Yeah. But, no, that was a big thing. [01:16:21] And then you'd sightsee around Los Angeles and go down to the beach—Laguna Beach, which was just outside of Camp Pendleton's main gate . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . at Oceanside.

SL: It was much smaller back then, I bet.

CS: Oh yeah. There wasn't hardly anything there. I mean, just a couple stores—there was—and a bar [*laughs*] was about all that was there. And you know, go down and generally sometimes end up in a fight. I mean, you know, we had one guy in the outfit that his sole purpose in life was to go out on [*SL laughs*] weekends and find somebody in the navy and get in a fight with

'em. [*Laughs*] And if you were with him, why, you generally ended up in the fight, too. So . . .

SL: Did that cost you time in the brig ever or . . .

CS: No, no.

[01:17:13] SL: But you had to guard those guys that ended up in the brig, I guess.

CS: Yeah, yeah. That was not very nice. They—because they scared the dickens out of you, you know. They said, "If a guy escapes, why, you serve his term." So [*laughs*] they weren't gonna escape. You're gonna shoot 'em before they did.

SL: Well, I mean, those guys in the brig—they weren't really bad guys, were they? I mean they . . .

CS: No.

SL: . . . they were probably there because they got drunk and got in fights and . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . or because of some kind of back talk to a . . .

CS: Oh, they . . .

SL: . . . superior officer.

CS: Yeah, they got out and got in a fight and got caught or did somethin', yeah. Yeah, I ran into some interesting characters in the Marine Corps. When I was up at Camp Lejeune, the

commanding officer was a guy by the name of "Chesty" Puller, who was—he was the colonel in charge of our training regiment, and he was a fabulous character in the Marine Corps—just fabulous. I think he had four or five Navy Crosses, and he'd just come back from Peleliu, where he'd commanded a regiment and was training. And then he was a—he was the general that was at Chosin Reservoir in Korea. And—was quite a character. I mean he was a tough little cookie—real tough.

SL: Did he tell great stories? I mean . . .

CS: Well, you know . . .

[01:18:56] SL: . . . what was it that you were kind of attracted—or you had kind of admired him, it sounds like.

CS: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

SL: What was it about him that . . .

CS: Well, you know, he just—he was just one of the old-time marines from—you know, he'd fought in Nicaragua and the Banana Wars and all that sort of business. And—but he really looked after his troops. I mean they came first. And he was pretty much loved by all of us—all the men that served under him. But then I remember a character when I was gettin' discharged, I went down to San Diego marine base, where they had a discharge center. Of course, you had to spend a little time

there waiting for all the paperwork to be done. And one of the guys in the same company I was in—the same barracks I was in—waiting on discharge was a guy that had been on Wake Island and been a prisoner of war. And he was crazy. I mean they let him go out on the weekend—he'd steal an airplane [*laughs*] and fly it around. And you know, and they'd catch him and bring him back. But after what he'd gone through, they didn't want to do anything to him. So they'd just lecture him. [*SL laughs*] He'd promise he'd never do it again, and then the next weekend, he'd go out and steal [*laughs*] another airplane.

SL: Boy, those were the days . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . when you could get away with that and . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: And . . .

CS: Now, they wouldn't care what you'd been through. They'd . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . throw you in jail forever, I guess. But not in those days. Oh . . .

[01:20:36] SL: So you survived the Marine Corps, which is . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . not—I mean [*vocalized noise*] . . .

CS: Well, I was . . .

SL: I mean, it—I'm sure it . . .

CS: I was pretty lucky. You know, I—I'm sure Harry Truman saved my life or serious injury if not. But—yeah, got back and went on up to school.

SL: Well you know, it was interesting to hear you say, you know, the technique that the Marine Corps uses of . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . breaking you down . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and building you back up. And I know it's physical, and it's mental . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and it's emotional. My brother was in the Marine Corps.

CS: Oh, was he?

SL: Yeah. And I know that it makes you a stronger person.

CS: Yeah.

[01:21:28] SL: And so you were probably a much different person when you got back to Mountain Home. I'm gonna guess. I . . .

CS: Yeah, I'm sure I was. Yeah.

SL: You probably weighed a little more.

CS: Yeah, I was bigger and stronger. And—yeah, and probably—oh,

I don't know—a different outlook on life probably. Baseball wasn't as important to me anymore. As it was. I think getting an education was even more important.

SL: So . . .

CS: 'Cause I didn't want to be a—I didn't want to be an enlisted man in the next war. So I—you know, I wanted to be . . .

SL: So you don't really regret your going into the service.

CS: Oh no.

SL: But you . . .

CS: No.

SL: . . . would not want to do it again.

[01:22:33] CS: Yeah, I wouldn't want to do it again. I—you know, I—at one stage in there, they called me down, and they interviewed me and wanted to know if I was interested in going to Officer Candidates School. And they would send me to college for a while and then to officer cand—but I would have to agree to a four-year period after the schooling. So they were talkin' maybe about—maybe eight years. And I said, "No, I didn't want to do that." I wanted to . . .

SL: Probably a precursor to ROTC, I would guess—of some kind . . .

CS: Yeah. Well, they had a—the marines had a program where they would send you to college for—and then you'd go to camp—I

mean, to Quantico or one of the camps durin' the summertime. And then after you got out, you—you'd have to spend some—so much time down there gettin' trained and then serve another four years after you got your commission.

SL: So you get back to—I'm assuming you go by train.

CS: Yes.

SL: Is that right? Go by train from . . .

CS: From . . .

SL: Big ride.

CS: Oh yeah, from San Diego to . . .

SL: Albuquerque.

CS: . . . Cotter, Arkansas. And, gosh, we—it seemed like it took forever [*laughs*] goin' through Texas.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And as I said, we got back, and I got off the train, and the first greeting was that the delayed enrollment time at the university—"You need to get over there."

[01:24:06] SL: So under the GI Bill, did they waive the high school diploma requirement to get into school? How'd that happen? I mean, how did you get in if you didn't finish high school?

CS: Had to take a test. They gave me a test. The university gave me a test—said you have to have—and it was primarily English. And I wrote as short and simple a sentences I could possibly write. [*Laughs*] And there was some math in the test as I recall. And—but evidently I did well enough they just let me on in. And so I went to—made a big mistake there in that—back in those days two years of pre-law, and you could go into law school. And most of the people that I was in school with had been in the service longer than I had. They were older, and some of 'em a—already had families. And they were anxious to get through school and get out as quick as possible. And I got kind of caught up in that. And I wish now that I had, you know, gotten an undergraduate degree and then gone on to law school. But I did the quickie—the two years.

SL: But you were able to chin that. You were able to do that.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

[01:25:31] SL: Describe to me—did you come in on the—by train into Fayetteville?

CS: Bus.

SL: By bus.

CS: Bus. The bus went from Mountain Home to Harrison, from Harrison up to Gateway—you know, north of us here.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And then down to Fayetteville. And it was a four- or five-hour ride. It was a long time. And then . . .

SL: So this would've been in—when—in 1940 . . .

CS: Fall of [19]46.

SL: . . . [nineteen forty-]six.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

[01:26:04] SL: Fayetteville couldn't have been more than twelve thousand—ten thousand people, if that.

CS: Yeah, probably ten to fifteen thousand.

SL: I bet it wasn't that big. I . . .

CS: Yeah, it was—you know, the university was—I think there was a little over four thousand at the university even with the influx of veterans. So it was probably around maybe half of that until we all started showing up. Didn't have anyplace to house us. They . . .

SL: I'm trying to think. The bus station was on Dickson Street then, wasn't it? Or where was that? I . . .

CS: No, it was on College Avenue.

SL: Oh, that's right. It was on College Avenue. Yeah.

CS: Not far from the square.

SL: Yeah. I remember now.

CS: Yeah, yeah.

[01:26:51] SL: So a big difference between Fayetteville and Mountain Home, too.

CS: Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, and—you know, and Fayetteville back then had somewhat of a bus system. That's the only way I had to get around. And they—the university—you know where Carlson Terrace is—it was? [*Laughs*]

SL: Yes.

CS: They created a—they called it Camp Leroy Pond. And they created a bunch of—basically a—just like—almost like tents. They were sort of plyboard huts—two to a hut, and then they built central mess halls and bathroom facilities. And they moved all of us—most all the veterans down into that area. And then they had a bus to take us up from there, up to the . . .

SL: Up the hill.

CS: . . . up the hill to campus. In the wintertime the bus never worked, and we'd have to push it up the hill [*laughs*], so everybody finally decided to start walkin'. [*Coughs*] And I stayed there until the spring semester. That would've been the spring of [19]47. And I was able to move into Razorback Hall, which is now called Gibson.

SL: Gibson.

CS: And it was the athletic dorm at the time. So I moved up there with—well, there was a mixture of the athletes and some of the rest of us.

SL: So you had—I guess the men's gym was there at that time. Is that right?

CS: Yeah, they played the basketball games in what—well, the old museum was—it was the men's gym back then. Yeah.

[01:28:40] SL: And the football field was somewhere between Gibson and the men's gym, wasn't it?

CS: No.

SL: No.

CS: No, the football field is where it is now.

SL: Oh, it was already down . . .

CS: Yeah, 'cause that evidently was built in the [19]30s or somethin'.

SL: Okay.

CS: But it was down there. There was just a big field where the Fine Arts Center is.

SL: That's what I—for some reason, I . . .

CS: Yeah, that was sort of the intramural field. That's where we all played baseball or softball and intramural football games—that sort of thing. But the—yeah, the—you know, I gave up sports when I decided to go and go to law school. One of my friends,

who was enrolled at the same time up there and was a—from North Little Rock—he'd been a pretty big football player at North Little Rock. And he went and asked Dean Leflar if he thought he could play football and go to law school. And the dean said, "Well, Wear Schoonover did it in 1927, and it hadn't been done since." So we got the hint [*laughs*] and dropped the football.

[01:29:51] SL: Well, before we get to Dean Leflar—and I want to talk about Dean Leflar . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . when we get to him. But was there anybody in that two-year period before law school that kind of ignited your schooling here . . .

CS: Not anybody in particular. I think I had, you know, a number of professors that were really, really helpful. I enrolled in arts and science 'cause somebody told me that's where the pre-law people did. And I took Latin because everybody said, "You oughta have Latin when you go to law school," which was a bunch of nonsense, of course. And if I hadn't broken my hand playing ball, I never would've passed the Latin exam. But I couldn't write, so he gave it to me orally, and I [*laughs*] think he got tired of waiting for me to answer, so he'd give me hints [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Is that right?

CS: . . . and I passed Latin that way. [01:30:51] But I did have enough sense to take accounting, which was a big help. And so I just—you know, I took political science, history, Western civ and all that sort of business. And—but I did enough—well enough on the English part of that exam, they didn't require me to take any English courses, which is surprising to me. But anyway . . .

SL: Tested out.

CS: I didn't have to take any composition or English courses.

SL: I would just guess that you probably . . .

CS: Took economics, political science, history, accounting. Those were the main ones.

SL: I would . . .

CS: Something called Greek and Latin word roots. That was a little over two-hour course and didn't amount to a whole lot.

SL: Greek and Latin . . .

CS: Word roots.

SL: Word roots.

CS: Yeah, yeah.

SL: Who taught that? Do you remember who taught that?

CS: No, I don't. It was a little, ol' fellow. [01:31:53] No, I also took

some—oh, I can't think of his name, but I know he's been around for a long time—sort of a combination geography and geology course. I can't think of the guy's name, but he taught that course, and he stayed there for years and years and years.

SL: I'm tryin' to think of who—so—was Kimpel in the . . .

CS: No. No.

SL: . . . around then?

CS: Well, I think he was around, but that was over in the journalism or wasn't it? Or . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: Or—yeah.

SL: Or—and then what about—was there a—was DeMarco . . .

CS: Yes.

SL: . . . in the Fine Arts building then?

CS: Yes. And that may have been who I took the Greek and Latin word roots from or that Latin cla—no, the Latin class was somebody that wasn't there very long 'cause he went on to someplace else the next year.

[01:32:52] SL: Now, you told me that you had a good debate teacher in high school.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Did you—and [*vocalized noise*]—when I was in high school,

debate and—speech and debate and the theater department were kind of—they were kind of [*vocalized noise*] comingled . . .

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . a little bit. And I—did you have any interest at all in that side of the fine arts? Did you continue with the speech or . . .

CS: Well, when I was in high school, I was on the—you know, the debate thing. And then they had extemporaneous speech contests, which I always got into. But when I got to—into college, I really didn't get into those extracurricular things. I don't know, it was just—you know, it was a time when the university really had this big influx of people, and I don't think they were quite equipped to do it. You know, for instance, I know they came around and gave us a list of Greek names, which were fraternities to see if we had any interest in fraternities. I didn't even know what the list was about, you know. [*Laughs*] I threw it away. And—well, I wouldn't have joined—probably wouldn't have joined a fraternity anyway, but they just—you know, we all showed up, and they—you know, in my case, the only clothes I had to wear were my cast-off uniforms—you know, my khaki uniforms, which—you know, didn't have the insignias or anything on them. Got 'em off.

SL: Was that pretty common, though?

CS: Yeah, yeah. My . . .

SL: With the influx of the GI Bill . . .

CS: Yeah, my heavy coat was my field jacket that I'd brought back with me.

SL: So you saw a lot of khakis . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . walking around the campus.

CS: Yeah, it wasn't that unusual. [01:34:53] And, you know, and they've got sixty-five dollars a month. And room and board at the university was fifty dollars a month, so you had fifteen dollars left over to buy shaving cream and toothpaste and beer.

SL: [*Laughs*] And beer. Where did you drink that beer?

CS: Oh, there was a little place down there on Dickson Street. I can't remember the name of it. I think it was George's or something. [*SL laughs*] But, you know, you—and no car, so unless you could find a bus goin' somewhere or a friend who had a car. And most—in fact, I didn't even have a friend who had a car until I got in law school. Then some rich kid from Nashville, Arkansas, came up, and I got acquainted with him. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

CS: But—you know, and so the social life was—you know, there was, what, four or five guys to every girl or probably even more. So,

you know, there wasn't much of a social life. And most of the social life anyway was fraternities and sororities, so if you weren't part of that, why, you weren't part of it.

SL: Were they—by that time, were the classes . . .

TM: Scott, we've . . .

JE: Scott . . .

TM: . . . we've gotta . . .

SL: We've got to tape—tapes?

[Tape stopped]

[01:36:06] SL: Okay. We'd gotten you back to Fayetteville. We'd gotten you in school. We had talked about some of the classes—mentioned a few professors' names. At this time, it was—John Barnhill was the football coach.

CS: That's correct.

SL: Do you remember—did you go to any football games back then?

CS: Oh yeah, I went . . .

SL: Now . . .

CS: All the ones here in Fayetteville. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

CS: And I don't know when he started playing some of 'em in Little Rock. Along about that time, I guess.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Men's gym had the basketball . . .

CS: Right.

SL: . . . games there. What . . .

CS: We couldn't go but every other game 'cause the men's gym was too small.

SL: Too small.

CS: So I'd have to borrow somebody else's ID card to go to all the games.

SL: How'd they ever keep track of that? I don't see how they could . . .

CS: I don't know.

SL: . . . how they'd know.

CS: I'm not sure they did. [*Laughter*]

[01:37:09] SL: Well, I'm trying to think. Who else would've been on campus at that time? Is there any—did you—surely you developed some friendships while you were . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . in college that stuck with you.

CS: Well, I did. Most of 'em developed once I got into law school, where it's more permanent because we had that big influx of veterans. And a lot of them didn't, you know, stay. A lot of 'em

came for a semester or two, and then they went on. And went on to whatever other careers that they developed. I know I roomed down in Camp Leroy Pond with a guy by the name of Fred Brown, and I really don't know whatever happened to him. And then one of my friends later on was a guy by the name of Joe Stiles, whose father was a superintendent of the rigging crew on Bull Shoals Dam. That's how I [*laughs*] got that job as a rig—rigger's helper. [*Coughs*] And then Joe went on—well, when he got out of college, he moved to some other state. [01:38:39] You know, back in those days, jobs weren't all that plentiful. And not even when I got out of school were they that plentiful, because the big law firms were not very big. And, for instance, I think in my graduating class in law school, one man—one went to a law firm in Little Rock, one went to a law firm in Pine Bluff, and one in Paragould. And the others either went to—back to join their father in the—whatever town they happened to be practicin' in or scrounge around to find some other kind of a job. And I was fortunate in landing where I did. So most of the graduates at the university at that time did—unless they had a family business at home—they did go out of state. And so, you know, kind of lost track of 'em . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . that way.

[01:39:46] SL: Law school back then—wasn't it in the building that is now the old psychology building?

CS: Yes, down between Old Main and what was the old Student Union building. I don't know what they use it for now, but it's that old—oh, WPA-type building. Had a ballroom and a coffee shop and everything in it.

SL: It was a magnificent building.

CS: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

SL: I loved that building.

CS: And the Law School was in that little, two-story-with-a-basement building. It's all white, I believe. It's psychology or something like that.

SL: How many—how big was your law class?

CS: I'll always remember that. The starting class was 130-some-odd people. And of that, thirty-two graduated. It's not like it is now, where if you get in, you're pretty much gonna get through because the entrance requirements are stouter. Back then you only had to have two years undergraduate, and I guess, a C average, and you got in. But Dr. Leflar and his crew weeded 'em out pretty fast.

SL: Well of course, Dr. Leflar was a pretty famous guy.

CS: Yeah.

[01:41:06] SL: But you know, there were a lot of things going on in that law school about the time you were there. I think the integration movement . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . was predating the *Brown v. Board* in [19]57, so in the . . .

CS: Right.

SL: . . . late [19]40s, early [19]50s the University of Arkansas . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . Law School was moving ahead with the integration policy. Do you remember much about that going on?

CS: Yes, a little bit. Silas Hunt was the first person to—African American to enroll in the Law School. But that was before—I think that was the semester before I got to the Law School, and I don't ever remember him—don't—I don't think I ever met him—never saw him. But in my law school class, which graduated in June of [19]51 and started the fall of [19]48—unless you went to summer school and speed things up. [01:42:08] There was a—an African American by the name of Jackie Shropshire, and I think he was the second African American, and he was in our class. I always liked Jackie 'cause he was a heck of a good shortstop. [*Laughter*] And—but he was

a nice guy, and as I recall, they first started out with a little fence around his seat. But somebody didn't like it 'cause it was the best seat in the house. And you know, I think it wasn't a week, and the fence was gone. And he was just sitting with the rest of us.

SL: So I would assume that the Law School students—it was okay that . . .

CS: Yeah, I don't—you know, there are lots of stories around about how some of 'em were treated. I did not see or experience of it. As far as I knew, everything was all right. [01:43:11] I mean—you know, our life was, I guess you'd say, kind of regimented. I know we'd go from the dorm to the Law School, and we'd stay at the Law School until, you know, midnight or however late that we studied. And then we'd be back—go back to the dorms. They did not—none of 'em lived in a dorm as far as I know.

SL: Right.

CS: So I don't know where they lived and so didn't have, you know, much connection. And about the only social life we had back in those days was when they had the Law School Law Day celebration in May, which generally was a, you know, party and dance. But pretty much formed a group of friends, who have remained friends ever since in that freshman—first year of Law

School class. And that's who we studied with and ran around with. And you know, we'd go out some evenings to go down to George's, or if we could find one with a car—venture a little bit further out to some of the more exotic watering holes. But that was about it. And you know, law school was a grind. It was a—at least under Dr. Leflar, it was a grind.

[01:44:44] SL: Well, I was just gonna ask you, you know, it's probably—I don't know if anyone's ever equated it to but the Law School experience under Leflar—what did it compare as far as your boot camp in the marines?

CS: Yeah. Well, it was like the boot camp in the Marine Corps, except you didn't have the physical exercise. But, you know, Dr. Leflar taught torts, which is a first-year, law school class. [01:45:10] And I always remember going over there and looking up on the bulletin board, you know, beforehand, and there it was, saying that you will have studied the first five cases in the book or twenty pages, whichever is the longest. And be, you know, be ready. And I—"Wait a minute. You even gonna say hello to us?" [*Laughs*] And his only greeting was when we came in—he said, "Look at the guy on your left and look at the guy on your right 'cause they won't be here this time next year." And he was right, I mean, 'cause only about a third of that class

really survived. But he was a—Dr. Leflar was the kind of guy that you didn't go to his class unless you were prepared. And you were afraid to miss his class, so you got ready for it. And you know, that kind of rubbed off on all the other—the others weren't quite as intimidating as he was, but it rubbed off. You did—you know, it carried over. You got ready for the others like you did for him.

SL: But you liked him.

CS: Oh, yeah. Yeah. He was—the two best instructors I had all the way through pre-law and law school were Dr. Leflar and another law professor by the name of Wylie Davis. And I don't—I liked them the best. I made my best grades under 'em, so maybe that's the reason I like [*laughs*] 'em the best. I don't know. But Leflar took a keen interest in everybody. He tried to help everybody, and he was, you know, as I'll pro—relate in a little bit, he was very instrumental in a lot of things that—in my life as it went on. But he was a great instructor. [01:47:45] How he did some of the things he did, I don't know. You know, he was a prolific writer, and he taught at New York University part of the time while he was teaching at the U of A—go back and forth to New York and never miss a class . . .

SL: How . . .

CS: . . . in either place. I don't know how he did it.

SL: How did he do that?

CS: Well you know, I don't know. He just—I guess he'd stay up all night traveling. But he'd get it done some way or another.

SL: He'd get on a plane at Drake Field and . . .

CS: Get on—Drake Field and fly to New York or maybe into Tulsa and drive over. I don't know exactly how he did it but . . .

SL: Well, that sh—that—I would think that would've really elevated his status as a dean.

CS: Well, he—yeah, I think . . .

SL: I mean, to be in that kind of . . .

CS: I think nationwide he was recognized as one of the foremost legal educators in the country and certainly in the field of conflicts of law, where he had a—the reputation as the best in the country. And he demanded excellence, and he—I mean, everybody worked very hard, particularly in his classes.

[01:48:22] SL: Well, what was he like outside the class?

CS: Well, he'd liked to go to a party, and I know some of the wives of some of the students—that he had a—he—he'd liked to say [*laughs*]—to greet them. And . . .

SL: He was kind of a flirt.

CS: I guess he was, but everybody—nobody took any objection to it.

I mean, they were—he was very gracious and nice, and everybody just loved him. I mean, all the—all the wives and girlfriends—rather be around him than their husbands or dates. [*SL laughs*] I think they really enjoyed being around him. And you know, he had a keen wit, and he had ways of gettin' your attention in class that would keep you going—keep you alert.

SL: So he'd party with the kids. Is that—with his students?

CS: Well, only on the—the only time I ever saw him party with the kids was some of the Law Review functions and then the big Law Day thing that everybody had. But he was, you know, a—he had a group that—and I was generally with them—that ended up in the basement of the Law School practically every night doing research or writing articles for the Law Review and that sort of thing. And he'd be in his office most every evening that he was in town. And I know professors, like Wylie Davis, would be down there almost every evening. And they had professors back then that set a very good work ethic. I mean, they all were writing books or articles in addition to their classroom work, and they were always there late in the evening working.

[01:50:15] JE: This time frame sounds like about the time George Haley was around. Did you meet him?

CS: Yes, I knew George. He came in—I'm trying to remember when

he came in.

SL: It was after Jack—Jackie.

CS: Yeah, I think it might've been my last year was his first year. Somethin' like that. So he may have come in the fall of 1950 and—or spring of [19]49.

JE: You mentioned the Law Review, and he talked about working in the basement.

CS: Yeah, yeah. That's where everything went on was in the basement, and, of course, the classrooms—well, they had a—maybe had a classroom in the basement, too. But most of the classrooms were upstairs, and then all the library was upstairs. And of course, back then everybody used law books, and so you had to, you know, you had to do a lot of research in the library itself—finding old cases for precedents and study. [01:51:17] But you know, I started out in the Law School rooming with a guy by the name of Steve Matthews, and I think we roomed together one year over at either Razorback Hall or Gregson Hall. And Steve got married. He ended up—he was the one that went to Pine Bluff. And then a fellow by the name of Perry Whitmore moved in with me. And Perry is retired now, but he's been district judge down at Little Rock for a long, long time. And then a guy by the name of John Goodson, who turned out to be a

judge down at Texarkana, and a fellow by the name of Stanley Fast were across the hall from us. And we had sort of a little group of law students that were—roomed fairly close to each other in—I guess it was Gregson Hall by then.

SL: That's a real accomplishment—to be one of thirty-two or so to come through.

CS: Yeah, there was a lot of 'em. I know I had a friend—played baseball with him—by the name of John Stamps. He was from Green Forest. And John wanted to be a lawyer more than anything. But you know, after the—about the second semester, why, he was over in education department. I mean he just wasn't makin' the grades, so he moved out. And, yeah, they did a good job of cutting down—winnowing out of people.

[01:52:54] SL: Is there anything other than the—anything from Dean Leflar that was particular poignant that he ever said to you personally or . . .

CS: Well, you know, I—as far as Dean Leflar is concerned, I thought I was just one in the crowd. And he scared me to death like he did everybody else. But, you know, the last semester, one evening I was in the library reading or doing something, and somebody came by and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Dean Leflar's in his office, and he'd like to see you." [*Laughter*]

So I thought, "Uh-oh," you know. "What did I do wrong?" [*Laughs*] So I went on down there to him, and he said, "Charles, come on in." And he said, "I want to ask you a few questions." And I said, "Yes, sir?" And he said, "Would you have any interest in corporate law?" And he said, "You know, the type of law where you'd be involved in writing contracts and doing research and maybe working with regulatory agencies, probably not any trial work to speak of. You have any interest in something like that?" And I said, "Yeah, as a matter of fact, I would. I think I would prefer that to the trial work." And he said, "Well, I kind of thought so." So, you know, somehow or another he'd kind of fashioned what my interest would be. [01:54:34] He said, "There's a company here in Fayetteville." He said, "I'm not exactly sure if they're a separate company or if they're owned by a larger company in Texas"—because he knew a little bit about the background of the company. But he said, "They are or were a part of a large utility company—a natural gas utility company in Texas called Southern Union Gas Company." And he said, "I understand Southern Union has a rather large legal department in Dallas, but they want—the company up here wants to have a full-time staff attorney." He said, "They had one, and then they lost him, and you'd be the

second. And the fellow that runs it—his name is L. L. Baxter." He said, "I've known him for some time. And I would—if you're interested, I'd be glad to arrange an interview for you down there." And I said, "Well, yes, I'm interested." 'Cause I had no idea what I was gonna do when I got out of law school. You know, if I didn't go—there weren't—as I said, the big firms weren't hiring very many people back in those days, and a lot of the guys were talking about going into the FBI, which required a law degree back in those days, or going into being insurance adjusters or going back home and just trying to set up a shingle. And I knew I had to get a job pretty quick 'cause I didn't have any money. [*SL coughs*] I didn't have bus fare out of town, you know. [01:56:09] [*Laughs*] So I said, "Sure, I'd be interested." And so he arranged the interview. And I—but before I went, he said, "Now," he said, "here's what you ought to do." He said, "You tell 'em that you want to be paid three hundred dollars a month." Which, you know, if you've been living on sixty-five dollars, [*laughs*] seemed like a fabulous amount of money. And I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "That's what you ought to have. That's what you ought to get from 'em." And—but anyway he arranged the interview, and I went down and interviewed with Mr. Baxter. And near the end of the interview, he said, "What

kind of grades did you make?" And before I could answer, he says, "Oh, never mind." He said, "Bob Leflar wouldn't send me somebody down here unless he was good." And he said, "I'd like to hire you." He said, "How much do you want a month?" Well, I didn't [*laughs*] know what to say, but that three hundred dollars popped in my mind, and I said, "Three hundred dollars a month." He said, "Well," he said, "I think we're in the ballpark." He said, "Maybe it'd be a little bit less, maybe a little bit more, but—okay." So I went to work for him. He wanted me to start work right away, and I said, "Well, wait a second. I haven't graduated yet. I got exams to take [*laughs*] and that sort of thing." And he said, "Well, whatever time you have, come on down here 'cause we need to get you started." And so I did. And one of the funny things is, you know, the company was pretty small back then, and he forgot to tell the guy in charge of personnel what my salary was. So the [*laughs*] guy came and said, "Do you have any idea what you're gonna be paid?" And I said, "Well, I think it's three hundred dollars a month." [*Laughs*] And that's what it turned out to be—which turned out to be the highest salary anybody got out of law school that year. [01:57:55] So—but then, you know, then—gosh, it was just a few years after that, I ran into Dr. Leflar on the street. And he

said, "Charles," he said, "you know, I'm—we're gonna build a new law school." And he said, "It's"—he said, "that old building is just terrible. It's about to fall in." He said, "You know, so I don't care about losing a few students, but I'd hate to lose that library. And so I'm gonna—I'm out raising money to build a new law school." And he said, "And your share is ten dollars." [*Laughter*] And you know, I was still so scared of him—I, you know, I [*laughs*] agreed right like that. [*Claps hands*] I don't think I had ten dollars on me. I had to write him a check, and then he, you know, built that first—over there on the corner of Maple and Garland—that first building there. But from time to time, you know, I would run into him. [1:59:05] He—we'll probably get into this a little bit later, but when I was president of the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, oh, back probably, along about—[19]68 or [19]69—1968 or [19]69—we came up with the idea of creating an industrial park and buying and tying it into the university as sort of a research park and, also at the same time, buying some land the university badly needed where the business school now and Kimpel Hall now stand—that area in there. And so we dreamed up this idea, and there was—there is an amendment to the Constitution that allows an ad valorem tax to be levied for that kind of development up to five mills. So we

came up with the idea of getting the five-mill tax. And we—it had to be voted on by the people, and so we got the city council to pass the necessary resolutions and put it for a vote. And then we really didn't think we'd have any opposition, but all of a sudden, oppositions sprang up. And it was led principally by a guy by the name of Don Trumbo, who you may remember who ran the A.G. Ed—Edwards and some other stock brokerage firm before that. And it was financed primarily—the opposition—by Campbell Soup Company, who didn't like the idea of the industrial park [*tapping sound in background*] because they were afraid it would affect their labor force down there at the chicken works or whatever it was. But I remember Dr. Leflar thought it was a grand idea. So he and I appeared on—what was TV back then and radio shows as a sort of a combination, pitchin' the thing. [02:01:20] And of course, the opposition was talking about all the traffic it would create and a bunch of stuff like that. And we—and some of the university people were against it. I remember a fellow by the name of Walter Brown, who was in the history department, was strongly against it. And we got beat. But the—and I think we got the city council to go ahead with the industrial park on a separate way later on and got it in. And then we—I remember I presided at a Chamber of Commerce

dinner where we raised two hundred thousand dollars that we needed to buy the university's land. We did it in one night's time. And Hal Douglas and Ellis Shelton—"Buck" Lewis, down at the First National Bank. We had help from what was the McIlroy Bank at the time. Of course, Hal Douglas and the Fulbright folks and the gas company, and we raised the money in one night to buy that. But one thing I was talking about earlier at lunchtime about Hal Douglas—I'll always remember that the Campbell Soup Company sent, I guess, their executive vice president or senior vice president from Camden, New Jersey, down to meet with the town fathers about it because they were in opposition to it. And they called this special meeting, and they invited Hal Douglas [*SL coughs*] because, you know, the younger people were beginning to—like myself—were beginning to be in the chamber. But they invited Hal Douglas and—who was, you know, one of the real town fathers, and L. L. Baxter and Clint Waldren—a bunch of the really senior folks down, and here I was just a young whippersnapper [*laughs*] they'd put in as president of the chamber. And I thought, "Oh, this is the end of me, you know. [*Laughter*] They're gonna run me out of town." [02:03:24] And we went down there, and we had this meeting, and this guy from New Jersey gets up and says, you know, that

they were concerned that they wouldn't have their good labor force that they have if industry came into that industrial park and took 'em away. And he said, "I just want you to know that if we have trouble getting a labor force, we'll bring blacks"—I think that's the word he used. He may have used a word that wasn't quite so nice—"Blacks and Mexicans in here to do the work if we have to." It was quiet, and ol' Hal Douglas looked up at him and said, "Well, Mr."—whatever his name was—"if you do, I want you to know we'll greet them just as wholeheartedly as we did you when you came." Meeting over. [*Claps hands*] [*Laughter*] Everybody left. Campbell Soup Company felt so bad about what they—they'd done that they gave forty thousand dollars to the Boys & Girls Club to get that building [*laughs*] started down there.

SL: That's good.

CS: But that's the kind of leadership Fayetteville had back in those days—those guys like Hal Douglas, you know, were just really first-class people.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But anyway, I guess I've kind of wandered away from . . .

[02:04:38] SL: No, that's good though. [*Coughs*]

CS: . . . from Dr. Leflar [*SL coughs*]—how he tried to help in that

campaign. And then when my son graduated from law school, he gave me a lecture because Greg, my son, went to work—he's here now, but he went to work for a law firm in Tulsa, and he said I should've made sure that Greg stayed in Arkansas. But Greg was number one in his class and had edited the Law Review, and Dr. Leflar said, "We need to keep, you know, his type here. Why are you letting him go to Tulsa?" [*Laughs*] I said, "Well, Dr. Leflar, you know, he's his own person."

SL: Right.

CS: "I know, but you ought to do something." [*Laughs*] So—and then, of course, I, you know, went to his retirement party and some of the other stuff with him. So through the years, why, we kept running into each other, and he was always very supportive and always very helpful.

SL: Very demonstrative. He could be so . . .

CS: Yes. Oh yes.

[02:05:35] SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah. Yeah, I'll never forget one class we had. You know, you—we studied these cases, and everybody was supposed to have briefed the case with a sort of a little outline on what the case was involved by—about and the decision and the reasoning behind the decision. And you know, as we got a little bit braver

and going through law school, why, we got to dividin' them up. You'd brief five cases and contracts, and I'd be—brief five cases and constitutional law and five cases over here in some other course and five cases there, and then we'd give carbon copies to each other. So we'd do it. Well, Leflar didn't like that. He wanted everybody to do their own work. And we're in [*laughter*] class one day, and I think it was constitutional law or insurance—and it was a warm day, and the windows were open behind us, and he asked one of the students a question. And the guy was having a terrible time answering it to his satisfaction. Finally, he jumped up and said, "Well, I know you've got the answer. It's right there in your brief." And he jumped up and ran down and ran behind the guy. And, of course, he had a carbon copy of one. And he ran his finger up and down that [*laughs*] old carbon copy, you know, and stared at his finger and went back. And, oh, everybody thought, "Oh, you know, he's had it." [*SL laughs*] [02:07:09] And a couple days later, why, same problem. A fellow was having trouble answering the question, and Leflar jumped up and said, "Well, I know you've got the answers. It's right there in your brief." And the kid closed his book. [*Laughter*] Reflex. Leflar just never left the podium—you know, where he was standing.

SL: Yeah.

CS: He just sat back and grinned. [*Laughter*]

SL: Everyone had learned. Yeah.

CS: So, you know, the carbon copies diminished in his class and [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Well, so really in a lot of ways, Dr. Leflar—drill sergeant that he was . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . he became a great—he really pointed you in your career.

CS: Yeah.

SL: He really was a . . .

[02:07:57] CS: He did. And you know, my—actually when I went to work up at the gas company, and you know, I thought, "Well, I"—you know, "I'm not sure this is where I want to stay—what I want to do." It was an awfully small company, and I wasn't sure that I wouldn't—didn't want to get into somethin' bigger. [*Clears throat*] So I thought to myself, "Well, I'll work a few years and then move on." And so, of course, I didn't. [*Laughs*] And I always sort of joked is that the reason I stayed was 'cause Dr. Leflar never told me it was time to leave. [*Laughter*] So—but he—you know, he and Baxter were—I wouldn't say they were close friends, but they were friends and . . .

SL: Obviously . . .

CS: Of course, everybody in town was back in those days.

SL: Yeah, mutual respect, I'm sure.

CS: Yeah. And he did, and as it turned out, we were not a part of that Southern Union Company—we had been and—but we were spun off under the Holding Company Act back in the early [19]40s. And—but they had a good-sized legal department, and Baxter had been brought up by them, and he relied on their legal department for a number of years to give him advice. And that's where I got some of my early training—is that their general counsel down there in Dallas actually helped me and sort of guided me as I—since I was the lone ranger up here . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . trying to get my feet on the ground . . .

SL: Gave you some templates . . .

CS: Know how to do something.

SL: . . . to work off of.

CS: Right. And gave me some guidance.

[02:09:34] SL: Okay, now, before we move any further than this, what we haven't talked about is how you and your wife got together, and where you met, and . . .

CS: Yeah, okay.

SL: . . . when she enters the picture in your life. And I've gotta think that this had some kind of impact on what [*CS laughs*] you were doing with your life. [*Coughs*]

CS: Yeah. My wife was born in Portland, Oregon. And actually she lived in a town called Astoria, which is right on the mouth of the Columbia River where it flows into the Pacific Ocean. But the hospital she was born in was Portland. And she had a younger sister, a younger brother, and then another sister. Somewhere along in there, and primarily because of her brother with health problems, they were told to—they had to get to a drier climate. [02:10:42] So they moved to Caldwell, Idaho, which is just east—I mean—excuse me—just west of Boise, thirty miles or so. And so she went to high school there and went to a couple years to what was called the College of Idaho at the time. It was a—I believe it was a church school. It was actually in Caldwell, where they lived. She didn't graduate. I think she just went a couple years, and then she moved to Portland to get a job and got a job as a secretary with the Federal Reserve Bank there. And then somehow or another, she moved down to the San Diego area in California and got married and had some kids. And then her marriage fell apart. In the meantime, her father came down with cancer. And her mother—you know, they took

him to Mayo—they took him to every place you could think of. And they—finally they heard about a doctor in Corning, Arkansas, that was supposed to have had success with whatever—I think he had bone cancer—whatever it was. And out of sheer desperation, her mother drove her father from Caldwell, Idaho, to Corning, Arkansas. And they came through Fayetteville and stopped. Spent the night here and went on to Corning, and then he died. That's where he died. So her mother took him back to Idaho—to Caldwell and for—to—for interment—burial. [02:12:53] And then she had kind of decided Fayetteville is a—she liked the looks of Fayetteville, and she was a nurse. So she decided Fayetteville would be a place for her to come. She still had the younger brother—Clydene's the—was the oldest. The next oldest was—had gotten down to Dallas and was in nurses' training down there. But she still had to educate the brother and the younger sister—the youngest sister. So she moved back to Fayetteville and enrolled them in the University High School that they had back in those days. [*SL coughs*] And became a medical librarian at the Washington Regional Hospital. And [*clears throat*] then, as I say, Clydene's life had kind of fallen apart in San Diego. So she gathered everything up and the kids up and moved to Fayetteville to be with her mother and

came to work for the gas company. And that's where I met her. And I—oh, she gets mad at me when I tell this story. [*SL laughs*] I say—I said, "She worked for the accounting department, but I borrowed her, you know, to do some secretarial work. And I found out she wasn't gonna be a secretary, so I married her." [*SL laughs*] And, oh, she gets mad when I say that. [*Laughter*] But that's where we met, and I adopted those kids. They were real small, so they've never known any father but me. And then we had a boy and girl of our own.

SL: What was Clydene's maiden name?

CS: Sloop.

SL: Sloop.

CS: *S-L-O-O-P*. Yeah. [02:14:42] And her brother got a physics degree from the University of Arkansas. And then a master's and a doctorate in physics from Washington University and then a medical degree. And he teaches at Washington University now in St. Louis.

SL: In St. Louis.

CS: Yeah.

SL: That's pretty prestigious.

JE: What's his name?

CS: David. David Sloop. And her sister, the Dallas nurse, ended up in Houston with the man she married. He's an engineer, and then he ended up in St. Louis also. So she's got a sister and a brother in St. Louis. And the younger sister came here. She married a fellow from Booneville, Arkansas, who was in school up here. And then he went to f—Colorado State to get his doctorate in engineering, and so they ended up and are still in Fort Collins, Colorado.

SL: You've got quite a brain trust around you.

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: That's pretty brainy stuff.

[02:15:51] CS: Pretty brainy. Well, David is a genius. He—he's made a lot of money. He [*laughs*] developed a friendship with a fellow from India, who was going to school here also in engineering school. And the fellow from India—when he graduated, went to work for a company in Ka—Kansas—Pittsburg, Kansas, that sold coal—coal-mining machinery. And he [*laughs*]—when David was still in med school, he called David and said that he had the darnedest market you've ever seen for equipment that OSHA—the safety people—that dictated all coal-mining machines must have a device on it that would alert the operator if there was a short in the electrical system anywhere.

But there was no such thing. Nobody had developed one. So they kept giving everybody six months extensions on when to do it. And he said, "Man, be—you know, you could sell millions of those things if we could just figure one out." Well, David got intrigued, and he went to work and put together resistors and transistors and came up with some sort of a little device. He called it an Ozmer or Ohzmer or something like that. And he and his friend from India—his name is Vasudevan—submitted it to OSHA. OSHA tested it—said, "This is—will work," and ordered every coal company in the United States to have one. So he was manufacturing them in the basement of his home up there in St. Louis. My youngest son went up there and worked in the summers puttin' 'em together for him. He had his mother working on 'em. In fact, I think even my wife helped assemble some of 'em. And I think that first semester in med school, he made [*laughs*] ninety thousand dollars clear on that. And they made those things—I kept thinking that he would sell out to General Electric or Westinghouse or somebody like that, and he said, "No, they keep telling 'em that they'll figure out what he's done and just, you know, copy it." And I said, "Well, why don't you get a patent on it?" He said, "Well, it won't do any good." He said, "They can just change some of the elements around a

little bit and" . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . "and do it." But they never figured it out. He's [*laughs*] still making 'em . . .

SL: That's great.

CS: . . . as a side business.

SL: That's great. That's a . . .

CS: And has made a lot of money on it.

SL: That's a home-business success story.

[02:18:29] CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And his friend from India moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he formed a consultant engineering business, which has done very well. Yeah, David is a—as I said, borders on the genius side. Now, he's pretty eccentric in a lot of other ways but . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Well . . .

CS: But a nice guy.

SL: . . . that's not uncommon.

CS: Yeah, a nice guy.

[02:18:49] SL: So an office romance. How hard was it to convince Clydene to marry you? I mean, what—how long was the

courtship?

CS: Oh, I guess maybe about a year. Yeah, yeah.

SL: Do you remember where and how you proposed?

CS: I think we were just out to dinner—Mary Maestri's probably.

SL: Mary Maestri's.

CS: Just [*laughs*] said, "You know, we ought to go ahead and get married." She thought a while and finally said, "Oh, okay." So we did.

SL: What a great place . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . Mary Maestri's was back then.

CS: Yeah.

SL: That was good.

CS: Fact, we had a little reunion up there last Friday. January 4 is her birthday. And so all the kids came except Chuck, the oldest son. He was—he lives in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, and he [*clears throat*] couldn't get free from work to come. But they all came, and so we had a little birthday party up there.

SL: Well, did you-all go down to Dickson Street when you were courtin' or . . .

CS: Oh . . .

SL: I guess UARK Theater maybe . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . was still going back then.

CS: Well, they—yeah.

SL: The UARK Bowl and . . .

CS: UARK Bowl and the UARK Theater. One thing that we did a lot, and we did an awful lot of it after the—you know, when the—after we were married with the kids, and that's float the Buffalo River. We really enjoyed that, and we used to spend lots of time over there on that river.

[02:20:35] SL: Did you camp and . . .

CS: Yeah, we'd camp out and float, or we'd get cabins down there. Back in those days you could get cabins down at Buffalo Point, which was a state park back in those days before the government got it and turned it into a [*laughs*]—a plastic place.

SL: Right.

CS: But we enjoyed that type of thing, and it was . . .

TM: What was—oh, I'm sorry. What was special about the Buffalo? What—when you got there and you were floating—I mean, what would you enjoy out of it?

CS: Well, you know, the—what we enjoyed about it was—just fast enough to have a little bit of excitement, but if you tipped over, you could stand up and walk out in most—in every spot. And

you know, the scenery, of course, is just—is gorgeous. And it's just a easy, relaxing time just to be out there. And then back in those days, there weren't a lot of people on the river. I mean it's not like it is now—almost bumper to bumper. But, you know, you could float for a day and not see anybody other than the folks in your party. And you know, and the Stewarts and some of the other people that we knew and ran around with . . .

SL: Shipley.

CS: Yeah—they all liked that sort of thing, so it was sort of a . . .

SL: So you probably knew Dr. . . .

TM: Compton.

SL: . . . Compton.

CS: Compton.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah, I didn't know him very well, but I knew of him. [*SL coughs*] I think I had met him a time or two. But, yeah. Yeah, he—you know, he was the one that really sort of saved the river. And then John Paul Hammerschmidt got the . . .

SL: Designation.

CS: . . . the designation to be sure they never built a dam on it. And it'd been a shame to dam up that river. I mean, it's so unique . . .

SL: Trey's . . .

CS: . . . and pretty.

[02:22:23] SL: . . . deeply involved in a documentary video project . . .

CS: Oh, are you?

SL: . . . on the Buffalo right now.

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: So you probably just made that video, too. [*Laughs*]

CS: Well, we—yeah, we enjoyed it, and most of the time, we—we'd float the lower part of the Buffalo River because Clydene didn't—really didn't like the . . .

SL: Faster water.

CS: . . . the faster water. But then Charlie Stewart and I and a fellow by the name of Herman Napier—we—we'd go put in—when the water was high enough, we'd put in at Ponca or someplace like that and go down through the river.

SL: Okay, so we've got—is there anything else you want to say about your courtship or your . . .

CS: Well, you know, it's—we've been married since 1960, so it's . . .

SL: It's forty-eight years.

CS: . . . forty-eight years.

SL: Congratulations. That's wonderful.

[02:23:32] CS: And you know, all the kids are grown up now and gone. The two oldest girls—I never could keep in school. And then the ones that came after them, I never could get out of school. [*SL laughs*] But Greg, who is the oldest boy, got an undergraduate degree in finance administration here at U of A and then a M.B.A. at Texas. And then came back and went to law school here, like I told you earlier. And Chuck, the—who came after him, got an undergraduate degree in physics at—here at the U of A and a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado. And he works for Sony Ericsson in the Raleigh-Durham area out there in North Carolina.

SL: Is he actually Charles IV?

CS: Yes, he's Charles IV.

SL: Okay.

CS: And then the youngest was Marti, who's got a master's—undergraduate degree and a master's in chemistry from the U of A, and she lives—her husband and her live out on Mount Comfort Road. She works part time as a research assistant up there at the chemistry department. But mainly she's taking care of my granddaughter.

SL: Well, it sounds like you have a wonderful family, and that they've . . .

[02:24:59] CS: Yeah, very, very good family—been very supportive. My wife had a stroke three years ago and is not quite the same person that she was.

SL: Yeah. That's always tough.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Well, it sounds like you had a really strong family unit and . . .

CS: Yeah, they're supportive and we—you know, every family has bad times.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But we had a lot of good times.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And—but they were always supportive of everything I tried to do—civically or through the company or with the company.

[02:25:47] SL: Well, that's great that you guys enjoyed the Buffalo so much 'cause that's . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . that's really something that's unique to this . . .

CS: Oh yeah, it is. Yeah.

SL: . . . part of the woods and . . .

CS: Yeah, well, the more adventuresome—some of us, like Charlie Stewart and myself, got to where we'd go on the Mulberry.

SL: Love the Mulberry.

CS: And that's—that can be pretty exciting times.

SL: And Wolf Pen float.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Yeah. Yeah, my parents met down in Cass and . . .

CS: Oh, did—yeah.

SL: . . . we're actually related to the Turners.

CS: Oh? Yeah. Yeah.

SL: So I'm pretty familiar with that . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . river.

CS: Yeah.

SL: I love that river.

[02:26:20] CS: You know Lonnie Turner?

SL: I do know Lonnie Turner. He's my distant cousin.

CS: Oh, is he? Yeah.

SL: Yeah. In fact, I'll—sometime I'll show you a letter he wrote to the court down in Ozark. I got a—I forget what it was—if it was a—maybe expired license . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . or something on the highway down there . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and it's a big kick. He's funny.

CS: Oh, he is. He always—he's a pretty good friend, you know, and has sued me I don't know how many times.

SL: [*Laughs*] Sounds like him.

CS: But—yeah. But you know, there are minor suits . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . landowner disputes or something, you know. And we always generally got 'em settled or—most of the time. But on any big issue, why, he'd be very supportive.

SL: Yeah.

[02:27:02] CS: [*Coughs*] And he said, "I want to keep your company healthy and strong, so I can keep suin' 'em." [*Laughs*]

SL: I don't know. His letter said something about—you know, how he was pleading some kind of mercy for me or relief.

CS: Yeah.

SL: I'd tried to get the payment in.

CS: Yeah.

SL: I got the payment in maybe a day late or something.

CS: Yeah.

SL: So he was basically asking the judge for forgiveness, and it was based on the—that I was basically a good guy.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Kind of a lot of trouble . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . but he really just didn't want to see me down there again 'cause he'd have to feed me again . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . if I came on down, and so he got me off . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . with the letter.

CS: Yeah.

SL: A good-ol'-boy letter kind of thing.

CS: Well, he would know how to do that. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

SL: He was good. Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, Champ, and I guess it was, was it Flora? Champ Turner there . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . at Turner Bend. I can remember going down . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and spending summers [*tapping sound in background*] down there. It was good.

CS: Yeah. Well . . .

[02:28:06] SL: Okay. So, my gosh, you're in the gas business.

CS: Right. Well, you know, the gas business in Arkansas is—started out around what we call the Arkoma Basin, which is west—eastern Oklahoma, western Arkansas. And just talking about the Arkansas side of it runs basically from the Arkansas-Oklahoma line, maybe getting fairly close to Russellville. It's been—and it—composed Franklin Counties, Sequoyah County, where Fort Smith is, Crawford County, Logan County, Johnson County, little bit of Pope County. That was the old, historic exploration area. Started probably about 1900—a little bit before 1900, when they found gas down near Mansfield.

SL: Okay.

CS: And you know, they didn't know what to do with it, so they piped it into some homes down there.

SL: [*Laughs*] Just right out of the ground?

CS: Out of the—yeah. And it—it's kinda unique in that most gas reservoirs are in connection with oil.

SL: Yeah.

[02:29:32] CS: And so the gas comes out, and it's what we would call wet gas. It has condensates and things in it that—before it is stripped out. You have to strip all that stuff out and put it in the pipeline before it's fit to go—be piped into homes. The gas

in the Arkoma Basin was very dry gas—didn't have any of that in it. And it's probably because of maturation over the millions of years—that all the oil had been baked out, and all that was left was gas. I mean heat made—the heat from compression of the earth. And so it's—dry gas—it's probably almost 98, almost 99 percent pure methane. And so it didn't have any—didn't have to worry about processing it. You know, that's good and bad. You didn't have the expense of setting up the equipment to do it, but it's bad—you didn't get butanes and propanes and gasoline out of it like they do down in Texas and Louisiana and other places. So it was kind of unique. There—there's some other basins in the country like that, but this was one of the larger ones. And it's probably over the history of the—since 1900, probably about 1.8 to two trillion cubic feet of gas in that area has been found and has either been produced or is still in the ground. When I first came with the company, the companies involved in it were ourselves, Stephens Production Company out of Fort Smith, Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company—Exxon was here. Gulf Oil was here. Shell Oil—all the big majors were in the area. It's kind of a—give you a little history of the company and how it got into the exploration business.

[02:31:50] SL: [*Coughs*] Okay.

CS: The company was founded—or the franchises f—to have the gas system in northwest Arkansas were—was taken by three entrepreneurs—I can't remember their names. I know one of their names was C. O. Moore, but where he came from or where they went to, nobody [*laughs*] really knows. But anyway, they came in and got franchises. And then they sold the franchises to Southern Union Gas Company in Dallas, Texas.

[02:32:23] SL: Now, before we go on, what's—a franchise like a lease or [*coughs*] . . .

CS: It's a—an agreement by the city to allow you to use the streets and alleys and byways to put a gas system in.

SL: To put the pipe in?

CS: Yeah.

SL: Okay. All right. Just . . .

CS: And anyway, they got the—and you have to get 'em—I mean, because you can't use the streets or stuff unless you get permission of the city.

SL: Right.

CS: So they got the franchises for Fayetteville, Springdale, Siloam Springs, Rogers, Bentonville, I guess it was. And—but they sold the rights to use it to Southern Union Gas Company, and they formed Arkansas Western Gas Company in 1929. And in 1930

they started building the system. Southern Union was started by some people who were searching for oil—a fellow by the name of "Clint" Murchison, who was a famous old wildcatter down there in Texas. His son later owned the Cowboys.

SL: Okay.

[02:33:35] CS: But the old man and a fellow by the name of Wofford Cain—but they were primarily Texas wildcatters, and they found gas out in New Mexico and west Texas and—'cause they were looking for oil. [*Laughs*] And then they—to get rid of the gas, they formed utility companies out there and started selling it. And Southern Union was rather large. At one time they were headquartered in Dallas, and they owned the gas systems in Port Arthur, Galveston, Beaumont, El Paso—most of west Texas—all of New Mexico—El Paso, for instance—the northern half of Arizona—extremely large company. And they bought in there, and they built the system up here. And they bought all the gas from Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company on a year-to-year contract. Then Congress in 1935 passed somethin' called the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which basically s—was an answer to the Samuel Insull scandals of the holding companies' gimmicks and the stuff they did back in the [19]30s that they were trying to stop. But be—but because the company was not

physically integrated with the rest of the system, they had to dispose of it under the Holding Company Act. So they tried to sell it, and nobody would buy it because it didn't have a gas supply. I mean, what's the use of having a gas system if you don't have a gas supply? Nobody wanted to rely on a year-to-year contract. Fortunately because of their orientation towards exploration, they started accumulating leases in this Arkoma Basin area. And they kept tryin' to sell it to get rid of it, as they were ordered to do by the Security and Exchange Commission, but never could find a buyer. So finally they decided to just—what they call a "spin it off." So if you owned ten shares of Southern Union, they gave you one share of Arkansas Western, and you became a separate company—although for a time being, you'd have the same shareholders. And this was a long legal process. [02:36:10] You know, the act was passed in 1935. It was 1939 before the SEC got around to telling Southern Union they had to get rid of us. And it was 1943 before they finally decided what to do and got the SEC to approve them just spinning it off. Well, that same year—you know, that was the early years of World War II. And ARKLA was needing all the gas they could find for some of the industrial development that was beginning to happen down around Little

Rock. So they just called us up and said, "Your contract runs out in November," or whenever it was, "and we're not gonna renew it." In other words, we had a gas system—no gas. So they spun it off, and they also gave us the leases that they had accumulated up in this area. So L. L. Baxter went out, and you know, they'd had some consulting geologists and drilled a well in the white—in what they call the White Oak Field, just north of Ozark in Franklin County.

SL: Okay.

[02:37:15] CS: As luck would have it, they hit right in the middle of the third-largest gas field in Arkansas, and we had a gas supply. And for years, Baxter was a utility-oriented person, and he never viewed the company as anything but a utility company, and the exploration was just a source of supply for the utility . . .

SL: Okay.

CS: . . . not a separate business like everybody else . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . did it. And if you drilled enough wells, you had enough supply for a few years—why, they'd quit drilling. [*Laughter*] But that was the basis for the start of the company and the exploration end of the business. And when I became chief executive and succeeded Baxter, I wanted to grow the company,

but it was obvious I couldn't grow the utility part, except for the internal growth of the area because we were too small to buy anybody else. And then there weren't any for sale, and we couldn't go over and buy Oklahoma Natural.

SL: Right.

CS: You know, we eventually did buy the system over in northeast Arkansas, but that was years later.

TM: Excuse me. We're gonna need to change tapes.

CS: Okay.

SL: Okay.

[Tape stopped]

[02:38:29] SL: I don't know where we left off but . . .

CS: Well, I think we left off that we'd just drilled this well into—well—at that time was the third-largest field in Arkansas. And you asked me a little bit about Baxter and some of the things that happened. Well, I can tell you one instance that he did that really turned out to be very beneficial to northwest Arkansas and to the company itself. And that is back in the—oh, it was after I joined the company. I guess it was in the [19]50s. A company called Athletic Mining & Smelting Company, which was out of f—Fort Smith, primarily was a zinc smelter, but they used lots of gas, and so they'd gone exploring for their own gas. And they

found a field just south of Ozark, across the river, which is called the Aetna Field, that became, I guess, the largest field in Arkansas, and it was developed by this Athletic Mining & Smelting, Continental Oil Company, and Exxon.

SL: Okay.

CS: Humongous, big field. They drilled their first well or maybe first couple of wells, and of course, they needed the money, so they wanted to sell the gas as quick as possible. And ARKLA and the Fort Smith Gas Company would not buy their gas. And the reason was they were mad at a fellow by the name of Raymond Orr, who owned the smelting company, because they said, you know, "He's not supposed to be in the gas business. He's a smelter. [*Laughs*] He's supposed to be a customer. He's not supposed to be in the gas business."

[02:40.41] SL: Right.

CS: And they wouldn't buy his gas. And we had some small towns just south of the river—Charleston, Paris, Subiaco—so Raymond Orr, who owned that company, called L. L. Baxter and said—knew him and said, "Bax, I—you know, I've got to get some of this gas sold." He said, "Now Exxon and Continental—they can outwait ARKLA and this other company until we can get a market for the gas. But I can't outwait 'em. I—you know, I've got to

get paid. Is there any way you could help me? Could you buy some of this gas?" So Baxter said, "Well, yeah, we got those three little towns south of the river." He said, "They don't use a lot of gas, but you know, we'll take what we can." So we built a pipeline down there. [02:41:32] Then Baxter goes down to Witt Stephens, who controlled ARKLA by this time and the Fort Smith Gas Company, and told him—we said, "Witt, you're just being silly. Your people won't hook up the gas down there, and if you don't do it, Humble"—I mean, or Exxon was known as Humble back then—"Exxon, Continental—they'll get an interstate pipeline and come in here, and they'll take that gas out to the East or somewhere else, and we'll lose it for Arkansas. You're just being silly." And Stephens, I think, was a little bit mad at him 'cause he'd gone ahead and run a pipeline down to those first wells and was taking gas and giving 'em some money. But, you know, he got to thinking about it, and he said, "Well, Bax, you're right." [*SL laughs*] You know. So he agreed to buy their gas from 'em. But we ended up [*laughs*] with rights to 25 percent of it at a price of sixteen cents for the life of the field.

SL: Oh! [*Laughs*]

[02:42:37] CS: So we had a lot of gas for a long time at a very low price. And you know, that was the kind of thing that he was

good at. I mean he would do something to—primarily to help a friend, but it would [*laughs*] turn out to be very advantageous for the company.

SL: Right.

CS: And it was very advantageous for Arkansas because ARKLA—you know, as they grew and began to need more and more gas, and they drilled—now, the thing that I think where he made a mistake—I—well, I'm not sure it was a mistake—probably couldn't have done it anyway. But when Mr. Orr died and they sold his rights there, I know I went to Mr. Baxter and said, "Why don't we bid on those things from the estate?" And he said, "Oh no, no. We've got plenty of gas. We don't—you know, we don't need any more. And besides, you know, we don't want to get the Stephenses all mad," and so he wouldn't do it.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And it ended up the Stephens interest bought it, and half of it ended up in ARKLA Gas, and half of it in Stephens Production Company. But you know, Witt Stephens was a—you know, he—ARKLA Gas Company rose out of the old Cities Service Oil Company properties, and they had to get rid of ARKLA Gas under the same holding company act that Southern Union had to get rid of us, and Witt Stephens acquired it—or he didn't—he

acquired enough of it that he controlled—he didn't own all of it. Probably never did own over 10 or 12 percent of it but controlled it. But you know, we had companies like Shell and Exxon in there, and I remember one time a group out of Little Rock, who in order to protect the innocent I'm not gonna name [*laughs*] because there's some rather well-known names in it.

[02:44:49] SL: Right. That's okay.

CS: But it's past history, so I'm not—but anyway they came along, and they applied to the secretary of the interior for oil and gas leases on all the producing properties in Arkansas—or not all of 'em, but most all of 'em. And what had happened was that back in the 1800s, the government owned the land, and the railroad—the Missouri Pacific Railroad was being built along the Arkansas River.

SL: Okay.

CS: And the way that the railroad was financed was for every mile or so that—of railroad that they would build, the government would give them every other section of land—six miles on each side of that road.

SL: Golly.

CS: Every other section of land. And then they would sell that land and use the proceeds to build some more railroad.

SL: Okay.

CS: And that's the way the railroad was built. Well, the railroad—when they sold off the land to the farmers, and everybody that ended up owning it reserved the coal and other minerals. [02:46:00] So the issue became, "Is natural gas another mir—another" . . .

SL: Another mineral.

CS: . . . "another mineral?" The courts generally held that the word "other minerals" would include whatever was the common and commercial knowledge or use at the time. And it sort of got to an unofficial date of January 1 of 1900. Anything before that—you know, when they found gas at Mansfield . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . people didn't know about natural gas, so it couldn't have been included in other minerals.

SL: I see.

CS: Anything after that, people knew about natural gas, so it probably was included in the term "other minerals."

SL: Okay. That kind of makes sense.

CS: Yeah. And in fact, we had a—an area down there—the Altus-Denning area, where we had under a lease from the private landowners—we did—and Exxon had all the railroad leases.

Well, rather than litigate each one as to it, why, we just pooled the leases together and went fifty-fifty on the thing and developed it, which made a lot of sense.

SL: Yeah.

[02:47:09] CS: But anyway, this group out of Little Rock gets together, and it turns out that the patents—you know, that's when the government sold land, they issued something they called a patent. That's the first instrument. It's the—where the title passes from the federal government to whoever they sold it to or giving it to.

SL: Conveyance tool.

CS: Conveyance tool. It's called a patent. The patents had never been issued on all those lands, and we'd been drilling on 'em, Shell had been drilling on 'em, and this group that came in to the secretary of the interior and demanded that the leases be issued to them. So they were the first applicants. They were entitled to it.

SL: Oh!

[02:47:53] CS: So we formed a special legal committee, and I remember I was on the committee with general counsel for Exxon and general counsel for Shell Oil. ARKLA had their lawyer in it, and we got together. And of course, we argued [*SL*

coughs] that the issuance of the patent was just an administrative act that they—that the railroads had complied with everything. They had actually built the lines. They'd done everything they should to earn the things and so on and so on. And so we had hearings and all that, and the secretary of the interior held for us, and then the group in Little Rock dropped it. But—and—but we found out the reason that the patents had never been issued—because as long as the patents weren't issued, it appeared like the title was still in the federal government, and so the railroad didn't have to pay ad valorem taxes. And they were [*laughs*] trying to save all their ad valorem taxes. And of course, you know, that all happened back in the 1800s . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . early 1900s. And this is in the 1950s and [19]60s, so you know, they [*laughs*] . . .

SL: That's smart.

CS: Smart—and how that bunch in Little Rock figured out that the patents hadn't been issued—I don't know what—some lawyer, I guess, stumbled across it when he was doing a title examination of some sort. And—but anyway we got that thing done. But then through the years, the big companies like Exxon Mobil and

Shell, except for some minor holdings that they already had, left the area because it just wasn't productive enough . . .

SL: Well . . .

CS: . . . for them.

[02:49:40] SL: I was gonna ask you—how do you know how big a field is when you hit it? I mean—and what is the—what does that mean? You know . . .

CS: Well . . .

SL: . . . if it was the third-largest field in—on that first well, what—how long does that last? I mean, what—I mean . . .

CS: Well . . .

SL: . . . I know the demand increases each year.

CS: Yeah. Well, it varies all over. It just varies. And it depends on the geologic structure. And you can—once you get enough wells drilled, you know, the engineers do what they call a hypa—hyperbolic curve, and you can tell by the decline in pressures. Eventually how much gas is in there, was in there, and how much of the—you can expect in the future.

SL: So you put one well down and then you—and you put another well . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and you measure what—how much this decreases over

here?

CS: Yeah. And it's done—you've got volumes coming out, and you've got pressure. So you know, it starts out the first well goes in. It starts out maybe producing a million cubic feet a day at two hundred pounds of pressure. And then every day that it's produced, the volume goes down, and the pressure goes down until you finally get out to nothing. And like gulf wells in the Gulf of Mexico will come in tremendous volumes—very high pressures, and be gone in a few years' time. In the Arkoma Basin, because of the type of basin it is and the sands it is, it'll come in at a high pressure, it'll fall off fairly fast, and then it'll level out and just stay even for twenty, thirty years. And the engineers can calculate that using the pressure decline and the production and eventually come out. And if there's enough wells drilled, well, you know the thickness of the reservoir.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And all the parameters to do their calculation.

[02:51:43] SL: So—all right. So not only are you—do you have to find the stuff, but you've got to somehow—you've got to have a distribution network. You've gotta lay pipe everywhere it's gonna go.

CS: Yep.

SL: And in some cases, some kind of refinery . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . that refines and makes it, you know, palatable for the system. But . . .

[02:52:02] CS: Yeah. Well—you know, for instance, here—if you turn on gas in this building, there's one continuous pipe that goes all the way down to Franklin County—ends up at a—hooked to a well down there . . .

SL: Down in a hole.

CS: . . . or actually to a whole bunch of wells down there. So it's a . . .

SL: That's amazing technology.

CS: Yeah. And it goes all the way from Texas and Oklahoma to New York City—one continuous piece of pipe.

SL: Well, out of the Arkoma Basin . . .

CS: And they transport it from there up to New York cheaper than a first-class postage stamp.

SL: By the pipe?

CS: Yeah.

SL: Is it all pipe or . . .

CS: All pipe.

SL: Man!

CS: And of course, you know, the natural gas business really didn't get started until, oh, the 1940s, when they began to develop high—you know, steel pipe that could stand very, very high pressures.

SL: So . . .

CS: 'Cause you gotta have a lot of pressure at this end to get it way over to that end. [Points to the right and then points to the left]

[02:53:08] SL: So how far does the Arkoma Basin distribution system go—from where to where? I mean, in its greatest width, what . . .

CS: Well you know, we have a system that pretty much blankets Franklin, Crawford, Johnson counties and pipes it up to northwest Arkansas over as far as Harrison—no, over as far as Mountain Home. Excuse me. And then we have another system over around Blytheville in northeast Arkansas that uses a ARKLA pipeline that goes across the state to get gas from here over to there, and then we connect in there. For a long time, ARKLA would not transport gas for anybody. And that was one of the problems that we ran into in the early years is that we couldn't buy gas from Texas or Oklahoma because ARKLA would not transport it for us. And the reason they wouldn't transport it had to do with regulatory issues. They didn't want to be regulated

by the federal government—they just wanted state regulation.

SL: So once it crossed lines . . .

CS: So if it crossed state line, it had to be regulated by the federal, so they never would transport for anybody. And it wasn't until the late 1970s when they passed the new energy act in [19]78 that they were forced by the government to transport for others. So you know, we either had to find gas ourselves, or we didn't have natural gas in this part of the state.

[02:54:54] SL: Well, there's gotta be—I mean, I guess you get—you distill gas. I mean, it—not all the gas is gonna be as dry as it is in . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . the Arkoma Basin, so when you-all are out looking for more gas, you're gonna first go to the places where you think it'll be the most economical to distill. But there's gotta be technologies happening that are improving that process where . . .

CS: Well, yeah. Well, one of the things that's happening in the industry is that oil is found at shallower depths than natural gas. The deeper you drill, the more likely it is to be natural gas.

SL: Okay.

[02:55:40] CS: And so most of the country has been drilled up, and all the oil's been basically found. And as they've drilled deeper

trying to find new sources, it turns out to be natural gas. Now, a lot of that gas does have what we call a condensate in it. You know, propane, butane—that sort of thing. Which needs to be stripped out. But you go where you think the gas is, and then you ge—if you find what you think may be a potential reservoir, then you look to see—"Okay, where can I market it?" And assuming that you can see a market for the amount of re—reserves you hope to find, then you go ahead and drill. And if it turns out to be there in the quantities that you think are there, why, then you can get a pipeline to come in and get it. For instance, in the Fayetteville Shale area—if we find as much as we think there's there, it's gonna be five times what's already in Arkansas. [*SL vocalized noise*] So we're gonna have to pipe it out somewhere else. And there's a company called Boardwalk, which owns Texas Gas. It's a big, interstate pipeline. And they're gonna build a pipeline from just north of Conway to Alabama . . .

SL: Golly!

CS: . . . where it'll tie into a pipeline going to New York and Boston to take gas from the Fayetteville Shale.

SL: From the Fayetteville Shale.

CS: If we find . . .

SL: What you think is there.

CS: . . . what we think is there. Yeah.

[02:57:38] SL: How does demand increase? What's the average rate of increase and demand on a—on the gas?

CS: Well, it's—I think nation—nationwide it's been increasing about 1 or 2 percent a year.

SL: Okay.

CS: What's happened is conservation. As the price has gone up, people use less.

SL: You bet.

CS: Our average residential use when I first joined the company, and we were buying that sixteen-cent gas . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . was about 125 Mcf per year, per customer. Right now it's about sixty-five. So people have found a way to conserve. And several things have happened. People insulate their homes better than they used to. The gas cookstove uses a fraction of what it used to as do the water heaters and dryers, and all the appliances are much more efficient than they were. And people—you know, people insulate their—the roofs of their home, which is the single, one thing you can do to be—conserve more than anything else. And you know, the best load builder

that a gas company has is the fireplace because all the heat goes up the chimney.

SL: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

CS: But now, people use [*laughs*] gas logs . . .

SL: Reflect—that's right.

CS: . . . don't have a chimney going up.

SL: That's right. That's right.

CS: Except for a fake one. So it does. [02:59:31] But you know, industrial use—what—what's happened and what's built the load for gas recently is electric generation because you can build a gas generating plant for a fraction of the cost and a fraction of the time that you can build a coal or generating plant—or a nuclear generating plant. For instance, SWEPCO is gonna build a—trying to build that coal generating plant down at . . .

SL: Texarkana.

CS: . . . Texarkana. They're talkin' about five years to get it built.

SL: And they're gonna do that.

CS: Yeah. But they're building a plant out here at Tontitown to use natural gas that started last year, and it's already in service. That's how much quicker you can do it.

[03:00:16] SL: Well, and then they're—aren't there regulations now coming in where they've got to recapture some of that stuff that

comes up? I mean the . . .

CS: Oh, the coal emissions?

SL: Yeah, the coal emissions.

CS: Yeah, that makes the plant more expensive. Yeah. Yeah. But, you know, I don't think there's any question. If we're gonna meet the energy needs of this country, we'll have to have more coal and nuclear plants somewhere down the line.

SL: My son tells me that nuclear plants are the safest and least expensive in the long run.

CS: Well, they have not been the least expensive. I mean, they . . .

SL: The waste is a problem.

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Well, they—you know, they've still got the problem of what to do with the spent fuel. It never—the country hasn't figured out what to do with it yet.

SL: You know, I . . .

[03:01:02] CS: But, you know, the—I remember when they started the SEFOR plant out here, you know.

SL: Yes.

CS: And everybody said, "Why do you want to stay in the gas business? Electricity's gonna be so cheap from nuclear that, you know, they won't even bother to meter it." Well you know, it hasn't turned out that way. The nuclear plants, because of all

the costs, have turned out to be [*tapping sound in background*] terribly, terribly expensive. Now, true, they don't have any fuel costs except for the little uranium stuff, but amortizing that cost of the plant itself over the years . . .

SL: Right.

CS: Because the electric companies would rather build a coal plant or a nuclear plant than they had a gas plant because a utility does not earn a rate of return or any markup on the fuel that they use. So if they have a gas generating plant, they receive no markup on the gas.

SL: Right.

CS: All they recover is a return on investment in the generating plant itself. Well, the gas plant is—doesn't cost a fraction of what the others do, so they don't have anything to earn much on. That's why they'd rather have a coal plant at a couple billion dollars than a couple-hundred-million gas plant.

SL: Right.

CS: 'Cause they'll earn on that investment for a long time. But just the need for the fuel is—I mean there's no question they're gonna need those coal plants and nuclear plants.

SL: It's just amazing to me that there's so much pipe laid. I mean . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

[03:02:41] SL: . . . what—I mean, what about maintenance and—I mean, once those pipes are in, do you just never have to mess with them at all?

CS: Oh no. No. You've got to maintain 'em. Most pipes now are cathodically protected. They have a wrapping around 'em, protect them for erosion. And then they have electronic stuff on it.

SL: Sensors.

CS: Yeah, to keep it from doing it. And then periodically we run what we call a "smart pig" through the pipeline.

SL: I've heard of those.

CS: It's a device that you just run through the lines, and it has all sorts of sensors in it that tell you if there's a hole in the pipe, or it's beginning to get corroded or pitted. But the steel pipes will last forever if they're properly protected.

SL: Yeah.

CS: I mean, they're just not gonna deteriorate. The biggest danger is some idiot contractor doesn't bother to check and find out . . .

SL: Where they buried.

CS: . . . where they are, and he puts a backhoe into 'em. And that's generally when the accidents happen. But, you know, it's

probably about as safe a thing as there is.

[03:03:49] SL: So do y'all as a company, do y'all ever investigate alternative means? I mean, you've got so much tied up in your pipe, you kind of want to be sending stuff down the pipe, whatever it is and so . . .

CS: Yeah, yeah. Well yeah, we think we'll be sending natural gas for a long, long time.

SL: You do?

CS: Yeah. And you know, then the—one of the fuels of the future may be hydrogen. And the best way to transport it would be . . .

SL: Just down the pipe.

CS: . . . down the pipes. Now, I think hydrogen is a long ways off because it's not a natural occurring energy. I mean you gotta make hydrogen.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And what do you make it with? Energy.

SL: Yeah.

CS: So . . .

[03:04:36] SL: It's kind of a catch-22.

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I think the biggest fraud ever perpetrated on the American people is ethanol. I mean it just takes so much

to . . .

SL: This is out of the corn?

CS: Out of the corn. Now, if they ever get it out of s—grasses or some sort, it might make more sense. But we're paying a terrible price right now for these people to use ethanol. It doesn't improve a thing. It doesn't improve the emissions. It doesn't improve a darn thing. But, you know, Iowa grows a lot of corn, and that's where everybody goes to get the first . . .

SL: Well, and . . .

CS: . . . electoral votes.

SL: . . . don't they get a subsidy to grow the corn anyway?

CS: Yeah, yeah.

SL: I mean, that's the most heavily subsidized . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . agricultural product in the world, isn't it?

CS: Yeah. But you know, if we went to completely ethanol in this country, we'd have to have the entire United States—every foot of it growing corn.

SL: Yeah, I don't think that's gonna work.

CS: And I don't think that's gonna work.

SL: That's not gonna work. The hydrogen thing . . .

CS: In addition to which, you know, it's so ridiculous—there's a fifty-

four-cent-a-gallon import fee to bring ethanol in from Brazil. Gotta protect those corn farmers.

SL: Yeah, that's right.

CS: Yeah.

SL: That's—oh boy.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Don't get me started on corn. [*Laughter*]

CS: Yeah. Well, when they take it and make ethanol instead of corn whiskey out of it, it's a complete waste [*laughter*] of natural resources.

[03:06:07] SL: That's right. That's right. Okay, so we've got a pretty good overview of the business.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Now let's talk some personality . . .

CS: Okay.

SL: . . . and some politics . . .

CS: All right.

SL: . . . and how this machine works. How is it that you-all can do—be in the business and—I know that you've got a long history with all the governors really . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . that have come along since you've been in this business.

And . . .

CS: Well . . .

[03:06:38] SL: . . . how do they—how does a governor relate to y'all?

CS: Well, you know, a governor—through, you know, the state policies, of course, affect the business. The utility company is regulated by the state Public Service Commission. All of our rules of service—all of our rates have to be approved by them. The actual production of the natural gas is regulated by the Oil and Gas Commission, so you know—got to do that. And the governor appoints those commissioners. And of course, the governor has influence on legislation, which might affect us.

One of the most controversial pieces of legislation ever passed in this state and one of the most maligned pieces of legislation is somethin' we call the fair-field price law.

SL: Okay.

CS: The utility companies, when they produced gas—explored for and produced gas under the old utility rate base method, would recover a return on their investment on those costs. Well, if you were extraordinarily lucky, and you drilled ten wells, and all of them were producers [*tapping sound in background*] under the rate-base, utility-type regulation, you would get very little

param—let's say those ten wells cost you ten mill—a million dollars each—ten million dollars.

SL: Okay.

CS: And you got ten billion cubic feet of gas out of 'em.

SL: Okay.

CS: So you'd only recover one dollar per Mcf of gas that you sold. Well, let's say you were extraordinarily unlucky, and out of those ten wells, only one produced gas, and it only produced a tenth of what all the others did. You'd be paying ten dollars for that thousand cubic feet of gas. And depending on your success in any one year, your rates could go up and down like this. [Indicates fluctuation with his hand]

SL: Okay.

[03:09:14] CS: So we came up with the idea of—let—that—as—and ask the Public Service Commission to approve it and say, "Look, this is crazy because it not treating the people fairly. It depends on—entirely on the skill or—and/or luck of the producing company, and it could make the rates z—skyrocket one day—and one year and drop the next year. It just doesn't make sense. Let the utilities have the market value of their gas but exclude from their utility earning base all the investment in exploration and production." And it got the nickname the fair-

field price . . .

SL: Okay.

CS: . . . law. The commission said, "You know, this makes sense," and so they adopted it, and they gave it to us. We're the first company to get it. And the second company right in behind us was ARKLA Gas.

SL: Okay.

CS: And they applied for it, and they gave it to them, but they—I don't know whether we had better customer relations or what—we didn't have anybody intervene or oppose it. But they had the large industrials, like Reynolds Metal and International Paper Company fight it. And it went to the courts, and the supreme court said that the commission could not do that without enabling legislation. So this was in 1957. Faubus was the governor.

SL: Okay.

CS: And so we [*SL laughs*] got legislation introduced to give 'em the authority to do that, and it was quite a fight. And, of course, Witt Stephens and ARKLA and ourselves all lined up on the same side.

SL: Yep.

CS: And we had to convince the governor to go along, and we were

able to do that. And despite, you know, a pretty hard fight, well, we got that law passed. But you know, it protects the consumer as much as a—as anybody, because if you have a bunch of dry holes, they're not gonna pay for it.

SL: That's right.

[03:11:29] CS: But you know, and from time to time it has come up, and it has been a contentious thing, and most of the editorial writers still don't understand it. I mean, they just don't. But I think it's been a boon for Arkansas in the sense that it's protected the consumer from somebody if we'd come in and had terribly bad luck—and there were years we did. I mean there'd be years that it seemed to me like anything—everything we drilled was a dry hole. And then there's been years—it seems to go in streaks—it's been years when we seem like we just, you know, couldn't miss. But our rates have remained relatively low and stable all these years because of that. And it's enabled us to generate enough money, since it was based on market value, to compete with the Shells and the Exxons and buying leases and in drilling. But that was a hard fight, and I must say, Mr. Witt Stephens was a great ally in that . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . in that fight. I mean they know how to play the politics, and

they did a very good job. But we got it passed, and then we lived under that law for a long time until the 1970s. And it was in the 1970s—about [19]75 or [197]6—when we had the other energy shortage. And I'll give you an interesting story about President Clinton here.

[03:13:04] SL: Okay.

CS: We had the other—the first energy shortage. You remember back when the Saudis would not sell us oil because of our support for Israel?

SL: Yep.

CS: And we had the—it was during—I guess Jimmy Carter's . . .

SL: Carter. Yeah.

CS: . . . yeah—administration. [*SL clears throat*] And they had—they closed the filling stations on weekends, and they had the long lines waiting to get gas, and everybody was mad and everything else. And gas got up to a dollar a gallon or something.

SL: That's right. [*Laughs*]

[03:13:37] CS: Terrible price. [*Laughter*] We—I—along the lines I had mentioned earlier, I was wanting to expand our exploration program, and I wanted to explore in Oklahoma and other places, 'cause frankly we had about decided the Arkoma Basin was on

its last legs and was gone. There wasn't much left to find there, and we had to go elsewhere. So I decided the best way to do it would be to form a holding company and let the holding company be the parent to the public company, and then a wholly owned subsidiary would be Arkansas Western Gas Company, the utility company, and then we'd have separate exploration and production companies.

SL: Okay.

CS: And so we got that done and got the commission to agree to it. They thought that it was probably the right thing to do. They didn't want us exploring in Oklahoma and having those costs ever attributed to Arkansas Western ratepayers, and . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . of course, we didn't either. So we got that through and got it passed, and Congress came along with something called the Natural Gas Policy Act, which raised prices and did a lot of things. [03:14:55] But it was during that time—I think it was [19]74—that I first met Clinton. I didn't know him. He was a university law professor. Didn't know him from Adam's off ox. And one Sunday morning during that crisis time, I was going to the office for some reason or other, and I stopped at what was the Holiday Inn at the time.

SL: Up in Springdale?

CS: No, here in Fayetteville.

SL: Oh, here in Fayetteville.

CS: It's Days Inn or somethin' now.

SL: Okay. All right.

CS: And they had sort of a—you know, coffee shop, roundtable thing where all the sages of the town met to have coffee and, you know, discuss why the football coach ought to be fired and that sort of thing.

SL: Right.

CS: But I decided I needed some coffee, so I stopped in there that morning and went into get some coffee and joined the people at the table. [*SL laughs*] And E. J. Ball was there.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And E. J. and I were close friends, and in fact, he served on the company board at the time. And so we went over to a booth away from the others to talk about something, and in came Clinton, and he knew E. J. So he came over, and E. J. introduced us, and he sat down [*laughter*] and had a cup of coffee. And he bega—he was running against John Paul Hammerschmidt . . .

SL: That's right.

CS: . . . for Congress . . .

SL: That's right.

[03:16:22] CS: . . . and he was bemoaning the fact that he was the—that day—that Sunday he was to make his initial, maiden speech for his campaign in Hot Springs . . .

SL: Yep.

CS: . . . but he did not have any gasoline. The filling stations were closed. He'd forgotten to get anything. He said his car was running on empty. [*SL laughs*] He had no way, and he didn't know what to do. He didn't know—he said, "You know, my campaign's over before I ever start. I'm not even able to get to Hot Springs." Well, I felt sorry for him, and I probably would've done it for anybody, but I took him out to our company warehouse and filled him up with gasoline . . .

SL: [*Unclear words*].

CS: . . . and sent him on his way.

SL: Boy.

[03:16:39] CS: And you know, it's in his book, and he says in there [*laughs*] that "Charles Scharlau single-handedly saved my campaign." [*Laughs*] And you know, the guy has never forgotten that.

SL: No, he's got a great . . .

CS: Never has forgotten that.

SL: He's got a great mind.

CS: Yeah.

SL: He remembers everything.

CS: Yeah, he's never forgotten that. And, in fact, one of the things she's—what do you call it?

SL: Scanning.

CS: Scanning in there is—letter . . .

SL: A letter.

CS: . . . that he sent me when he retired and—or when I retired, and it's sort of a form-written letter. But in his handwriting at the bottom he says, "I still remember the day in 1974 when you saved me." [03:17:41] And in fact, there's another picture in there of all of our board and all of the seven governors put together. It was a money-raiser for the Mansion.

SL: That's right.

CS: And somebody hit up my successor, Harold Korell, to give money for it. And he said, well, he would, but he said, "We're actually having a board meeting down in Little Rock that day." He said, "Could I bring my entire board to the thing?" But the only one that was gonna get his picture taken with him was Harold. And Harold said, "Well, I'll—you know, I'll spring for it, but I want my

entire board there." So they said, "Okay," so we're all in there. [*SL laughs*] And one of our directors is a fellow by the name of "Bob" Howard. He's from Texas, and I put him on the board because he was a retired vice president of Shell. And I wanted his expertise in exploration and production to help us. But he's—you know, he's a conservative . . .

SL: A Republican.

CS: . . . a strong Republican.

SL: Right.

CS: And he didn't think much of Clinton and [*SL laughs*]—but anyway, we were out at the mansion waiting to get our picture taken, and the crowd is assembling, and here comes Clinton in, you know, and we're all sort of standing there together and [*unclear words*]. [03:18:54] Clinton spots me and runs over and—sort of introduce him around. He puts his arm on my shoulder and turns over to Bob Howard—now, why he picked Bob, I don't know. He said, "If it wasn't for this guy, I wouldn't be president of the United States." [*Laughter*] I thought Bob was gonna faint. [*Laughter*]

SL: That's good.

CS: So—but yeah . . .

SL: Well, there's some truth to that. I mean he owes that to a lot of

people but . . .

CS: Yeah. Oh yeah.

SL: That you pulled him out—I mean that's a classic . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . example of where the rubber meets the road—what it takes to get elected and what it takes . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . to get out and do, and that's the kind . . .

CS: Well you know, it's a funny thing. You know, he was kind of antiutility when he ran. But he'd ask my advice on potential appointees to—on the gas commission. I don't think he ever—I ever dictated to him who it was. But he'd ask for my opinion on the abilities of people like that. [03:19:50] And, of course, I've had lots of experiences with him. I remember I went down to tell him about a pipeline we were building from the Arkoma Basin over to Blytheville.

SL: This while he was governor?

CS: While he was governor.

SL: Okay.

CS: And went in there and told him about it, and he thanked me and said, "Well," he said, "you know how Arkansas is." He said, "Anything that happens, they call the governor's office to find

out what's going on, so I appreciate you letting me know what you're doing." And this was Friday. And he said, "Oh, by the way, I think I'll—I'm gonna be in Fayetteville tomorrow." And we were playing Texas the next—that next day.

SL: Okay.

CS: And I said, "Oh." He said, "Yeah, I'm gonna dedicate a building at the university." I said, "Well, are you gonna go to the ball game?" And he said, "Oh, I don't know." He said, "I haven't been to one this year." He said, "I might." And I said, "Well," I said, "if you want to," I said, "we always have a small group over at the house for lunch before the ball game. You know, we'd love to have you come by and have lunch with us if you'd like to do it." He said, "Oh, well, I'm not sure whether I'm gonna go or not." He said, "I might." [*SL laughs*] And you know, we broke up and left. Well, I figured that was it. He . . .

SL: Right.

[03:21:13] CS: . . . wasn't gonna come. So I went home. I didn't say a word to my wife—didn't even mention it. [*SL laughs*] So we were having lunch, you know, [*laughs*] and not doing—and here come a couple state police cars [*laughs*], and out he peels. He's got Hillary with him, Dale Bumpers, and a whole entourage. You know, here they come in to have lunch and [*laughter*]—he

came in, and Clydene's in a panic.

SL: Well, of course she is. My gosh.

CS: [*Laughter*] And Hillary said, "Well, what do you"—she said something about, "I don't know if we've got enough food." And Hillary said, "Well, what are you serving everybody?" And she said, "Well, we're having, like, a brunch. We're having scrambled eggs and stuff." She said, "Well, we'll just add milk and flour to the eggs. They'll never know the difference." [*Laughs*]

SL: That's probably what you did.

CS: Yeah, and she actually kinda helped Clydene get things organized . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . and went on. And I'll always remember—we got ready to leave and go to the ball game, and Bumpers didn't have a ticket. So I took one away from my daughter and gave it to him, and he turned to the governor and said, "I sure am glad to know somebody's got some influence." [*Laughter*] And actually it was a ticket—an extra ticket I had right beside my daughter. And I said how she'd enjoyed sitting with Senator Bumpers. And she says, "Well, he never did sit in the seat. She said, "He'd come for a few minutes, and then he'd get up and go wander [*laughs*]

around then he'd come back, and then he'd leave." But yeah, I had that experience. [03:22:47] And then, you know, when Bumpers was governor, he came in about the time of that energy crisis or shortly after it. Let's see—no, he was—I'm trying to remember . . .

SL: He would've been senator after . . .

CS: He was senator . . .

SL: . . . while . . .

CS: Yeah, that was . . .

SL: . . . while Bill was governor.

CS: Yeah. Well, it was before that . . .

SL: Okay.

[03:23:11] CS: . . . when we had another little flare-up of some sort. And he created a energy commission, and he made Otto Zinke, out there at the university, chairman.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And then I was on—he put me on it. And we educated Zinke—educated him so much that Bumpers finally fired him because he—he'd advocate the wrong things. [*Laughter*] And then he—and then after he left the governorship and Pryor became governor. Followed him. And then Pryor—they had the same energy commission. Then Pryor appointed me chairman of the—of that

energy commission, and that was interesting work to—studying the energy situation for Arkansas and making recommendations to the governor and the legislature. But you know, Bumpers was a funny guy. We argued constantly over the need to deregulate natural gas. And he said—you know, he always asked me, "Well, do you think we ought to deregulate the price of gasoline?" Which was also regulated back in those days. And I said, "Heck, yes." And, "Well, it'd go up, and then it'd just ruin the people, you know." Well you know, Reagan came in and deregulated it, and the price went down. But finally, you know, he got to where he just said, "Charles, don't write me or call me anymore." He said, "I'm just not gonna agree to deregulate natural gas. And you just might as well forget about it. We'll just—you know, let's be honest." But we argued about that for years. And, of course, you know, back when—natural gas had not been regulated by the federal government up until 1954 when somethin' called the Phillips decision was made by the Supreme Court. And they said, "Yes, the Natural Gas Act does cover the producer end—not only the pipeline end but the producer end." And started regulating it. And that's when we got into shortages because of the—you know, the faulty regulation. And—but . . .

[03:25:35] SL: It was shortage because it wouldn't . . .

CS: Well . . .

SL: . . . it wouldn't cover the cost of exploration.

CS: Yeah, and . . .

SL: You couldn't justify . . .

CS: Well, not only that, but it was not regulated at the state level, but it was at the federal level. So if you produced gas in Texas . . .

SL: And kept it in Texas . . .

CS: . . . why would you sell it to a pipeline taking it to New York when you could sell it to a petrol chemical plant in Texas for two or three times the amount of money?

SL: Right.

CS: And that's what created the national shortages that happened even before the Arabs turned us off. But I never could convince Bumpers that a guy was better off paying more for natural gas than he was paying and replacing his butane tank at half the price even though he was paying more for natural gas. And I never could convince him of that until, oh, the early 1980s. And he finally . . .

SL: Swung.

[03:26:28] CS: . . . called me one day and said—but he and I—we

got along very well. I mean, he called—well, I was—what I was gonna say is actually before nin—in 1954, Senator Fulbright and Oren Harris from Arkansas introduced legislation in Congress that it would—undone that decision and saved us all the turmoil we went through for all these years in the natural gas business, and it was passed. But some idiot up in Colorado bribed a congressman to vote for it and . . .

SL: Oh.

CS: . . . and Eisenhow—I mean, it came out, and Eisenhower, who was president at the time, said, you know, "Politics has got to be cleaner than a houndstooth." And he vetoed the Fulbright-Harris Bill that would've gotten us out of it.

SL: Oren Harris.

[03:27:19] CS: And of course, being here in Fayetteville, I knew Senator Fulbright and considered him a close friend. But I'll never forget Bumpers called me one time and said—followin' a football game in Fayetteville, would I have a money-raiser for him at my house. A sitting US senator—you don't say, "No, I [*laughs*] don't want to bother with you." [*Laughter*] So I said, "Well, sure." [*Laughter*] And we . . .

SL: We'll have eggs.

CS: Yeah. And we did. [*SL coughs*] We arranged it, and it was

pretty easy. I mean, his staff arranged for the food and everything like that, and all I had to do was be the gracious host and welcome people to the house. And, of course, sent out invitations to everybody in the county to come by . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . after the ball game. And I—so we sent out the announcements, and I get a call from Senator Fulbright, and I said, "Oh my gosh. He's gonna be mad at me because, you know" . . .

SL: Bumpers was running against him.

CS: . . . "Bumpers had beat him."

SL: Had beaten him. Okay.

[03:28:20] CS: And so the senator starts out—he says, "Charles, I understand you're havin' a money-raiser for Dale." And I said, "Yes, sir, I am." And he said, "You know," he says, "it's time we let bygones be bygones." He said, "Would you mind listing me as cosponsor of that luncheon?" I said, "Well, of course not." And so one of the grandest nights of my life was having both Fulbright and Bumpers there in the house. I think that's the first time I really impressed my youngest daughter—was when Senator Fulbright showed up. And it was a really nice, nice evening.

SL: That's a wonderful thing.

CS: And—yeah—and they—good night. Lee Williams, who was Senator Fulbright's administrative aide for so many years, had been a close friend ever since law school, so I knew him well. But I'll tell you another experience with ol' Bumpers. [03:29:20] [*Laughter*] There was a company that got in there—they're—I mean, they—they were good operators. Texas Oil & Gas Company was their name. But, boy, I mean you'd better watch your pocketbook when you dealt with them. But they came in, and somehow or another found a provision in the Coal Leasing Act of some year that said military reservations could be leased for oil and gas.

SL: Okay.

CS: Now, I gotta give 'em credit. They found that provision in some new act affecting coal. So they applied for leases on Fort Chaffee.

SL: Of course, they would.

CS: And they were gonna get the whole fort for a million dollars, I think. Seventy-five thousand acres—somethin' like that—for a little over a dollar an acre. And maybe it wasn't a million dollars. Maybe it was a hundred thousand dollars. I think it was ridiculously low priced. And Witt Stephens kept calling me. He

said, "Charles" [*SL laughs*]—he said, "I don't understand Texas Oil & Gas is getting Fort Chaffee's lease." And I said, "Nah, they're not gonna do that." He said, "Yeah, that's what I understand." And I said, "Well, Witt, under the law, they've got—it's got to be competitively bid. They can't get it." Well, it turned out there was a provision in the law that if the geolog—US Geological Survey said it was not in a known geologic area, it's not competitively bid, and whoever applies for the lease can get it. And they'd gone over to Tulsa and got the local office of the US Geological Survey—it was not in a known geological area. Well, how in the world they can make that decision, I don't know, because the . . .

SL: It's right in the middle of the field.

CS: . . . field was surrounded by gas fields.

SL: Right.

[03:31:25] CS: I mean, the only thing that didn't have a gas well on it was the military reservation, where they aren't allowed to drill. And [*SL laughs*], of course, I began to pick up the same vibes that Witt was—I'd heard things. So I called Senator Bumpers, and I said, "Senator, you know, all of a sudden this has happened, and it's just not right if that's what it is." He said, "Oh, Charles, that's just coffee talk." He said, "That'd have to be

competitively bid." I said, "That's what I think, but I understand the leases have been issued." So he checked into it, and sure enough, they had. And so I—he called me back and said, "Well, you're right, they have." But he said, "I've called the secretary of the interior and told him to cancel those leases, to hold 'em up." And the secretary of the interior did, and Bumpers—I guess he put a hold on it. And then ARKLA sued to stop it, and since they sued, why, we didn't. We stayed out of it. And it eventually wound its way through the courts, and the courts eventually held up the secretary of the interior decision, you know.

SL: Well, of course, they did.

CS: Said, "You know, you're right to hold this up. It is within a known geological area and has to be competitively bid." And so they set up procedure to competitively bid it. And the—there was an auction-type bidding, and it had to be done, and it was scheduled to be in Little Rock. It was one January. So my crew and I flew down there the night before or drove down, I guess. And stayed in the hotel, and we were there havin' it in what's now the Peabody Hotel. [03:33:10] I don't know what they called it back then—to do the bidding. And that morning, it was so foggy nobody could fly in.

SL: Oh.

CS: And gosh, you know, I could see Exxon Mobil and all those people coming in to bid, and I knew the Stephens people from—and ARKLA folks would be in there bidding like mad. We were the small duck on the pond. I mean, we knew it. And what we did is we brought down one of our accountants who nobody had ever seen before and sat him off in the other side of the room and told him exactly how high to bid on each tract. And he wasn't to bid until it looked like it was getting down near the end. We'd bid. Somebody else would bid. We'd raise, and they'd raise. And it looked like the end—then he'd come in a little bit higher. But nobody knew who he was. [*Laughter*] So we got in there, and it was supposed to start at eight o'clock or eight thirty—whenever it was—and they kept delaying and delaying starting, and I wanted to get started 'cause I knew—Stephens, for instance—I knew had—was gonna fly down from Fort Smith, and they hadn't been able to fly out. So they were driving. Well, I guess they were breaking every speed limit in the country trying to get there, and I knew some of the major oil companies had probably not been able to get in.

SL: Socked out, too, yeah.

[03:34:28] CS: So I—you know, I go up to the guy conducting the

thing. Finally, I said, "Well, why—you know, you're past the time to start this. Let's—why don't you get started?" He said, "Well, we're waiting on Senator Bumpers." I said, "On Senator Bumpers?" He said, "Yeah, he wants to make some remarks before we start." So I said, "Okay," and I walked out. [*SL laughs*] Walked around and got in a line, and I spotted ol' Bumpers in the lobby [*laughs*], you know. And I went and got him by the arm. I said, "They're holding up the whole thing on account of you. You gotta get up there and make a speech." "Oh, oh! Okay." You know. [*Laughter*] And so I drug him up there and got him up in front, and then he went up and made some remarks and told a little story about me calling him and [*unclear words*] and how glad he was that it finally got started.

SL: Yeah.

[03:35:09] CS: And we opened up the bidding. And we won the majority of those leases—seventeen million dollars instead of a hundred thousand to the federal government.

SL: Well, yeah.

CS: And [*laughs*] then ol' "Bill" Walker representing the Stephens Company was down there, and the bidding was over and—well, he didn't know we'd won. You know, he came over to me and he said, "Well, I guess we both lost out." Said, "Who's that guy

over there that has won all the bids?" And he said, "I'm gonna go over there and introduce myself to him." So he went over and stuck out his hand, and he said, "I'm Billy Walker with Stephens Production." And this guy looks at him and says, "I'm Joe Martin with Southwestern Energy Company." [*Laughter*] And Billy wheeled around and walked out of there. He was—his face was so red. He was so mad he could hardly see. And after he cooled off, he told me later—he said, "I was convinced that guy was from Exxon."

SL: And he was just gonna go as high . . .

CS: And he said—you know, "Why continue bidding? If he wanted it, he was gonna outbid us all, so I'd, you know, go to where I thought we probably ought to quit and just quit." [*Laughs*] And so we got it all.

SL: That's a great, great, great story.

[03:36:35] CS: But then we had all sorts of problems drilling on Fort Chaffee. I mean the army didn't want us there.

SL: Oh my gosh.

CS: And . . .

SL: They have all kinds of fees to let you on and . . .

CS: Well yeah. You know, and I went up to Washington. Bumpers got me in to see somebody, and actually Pryor got me in to see

the secretary of the army. And I go in and tell him, you know, that we'd got these leases, and they said, "Well, that's good. We want it leased. We want—you know, drill." And I said, "But the local camp commander won't let us get in, and we're having all these problems. He doesn't want us in there [*unclear word*] his—I mean, interfering with his" . . .

SL: Training.

CS: . . . "operations."

SL: That's right.

CS: And I said, "And as a matter of fact, you know, if you're gonna be fighting over in Saudi Arabia or someplace one of these days, you might want some experience fightin' around gas wells." And he said, "That's right. We want it. Don't worry. Go on back home. We'll get it done." Well, I found out that the camp commander—the colonel—is God. Doesn't make any difference what the secretary of the army says. [*Laughs*] It doesn't make any difference what anybody says. That guy calls the shots. And—but you know, eventually we finally got it and got in there. But we had to bury the well sites so deep in the ground they looked like intercontinental missile . . .

SL: Silos.

[03:37:55] CS: . . . silos. That's where we'd buried them. Had to

bury them—put a shield over the top that an eighty-ton tank could run over without crushing in. [*Laughter*] We had—we found an endangered species—the Arkansas burrowing beetle. It's a little bug that pushes cow dung or horse dung around. And that seemed to be their popular spot, so we finally resolved that by agreeing to gather 'em all up, segregate 'em by sex—now, how the hell you tell [*laughs*] the sex of a beetle, I don't know—and then relocate 'em somewhere else. So we did that. We had to hire an entomologist or a bug specialist to do all that.

[03:38:43] SL: Find any sacred burial grounds while you were down there?

CS: If we did [*laughter*], we kicked the bones away. And we finally got—you know, and then I'll never forget one morning the superintendent of our operations called me—said, "Mr. Scharlau, I've got bad news." I said, "What is it?" He said, "Well, they found a dead body in our mud pit." You know, where we'd store—dig a big pit—where you store the drilling fluids and mud until . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . you were through with it. And I thought, "Oh my gosh. If some soldier got drunk and wandered in there and drowned, why, you know, we'd never be in there again."

SL: Right.

CS: But it turned out it was some young kid that—some nut had been kidnapping and killing and dumping . . .

SL: Oh.

CS: . . . in ponds, and they finally caught him and executed him over in Oklahoma. But we hit some tremendous wells there.

SL: There you go.

CS: Yeah, and did. But, man, it was a—those are some of the [*laughs*] experiences . . .

SL: Well, I mean, that's the kind of . . .

CS: . . . you have in the business.

SL: Yeah, that's the kind of stuff.

TM: We need to change tapes.

[Tape stopped]

[03:39:49] SL: Okay. We're gonna talk about somethin' controversial.

CS: Okay. Earlier I had mentioned about the major oil companies being in the Arkansas—Arkoma Basin.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And that they had left. And they left principally because they thought the basin had matured, and there wasn't much more to be found. One of the things that's been in contention over the

years, and, in fact, I was always at loggerheads with Governor [*laughs*] Clinton over it—was the severance tax on natural gas, which is admittedly very, very low. And the reason I think the severance tax was properly left at its low level and why maybe it ought to be continued at its low level is this. Those other companies left because there were bigger fish to be caught in Texas and Louisiana—Oklahoma—wherever they might go. [03:41:03] And even though the severance taxes in those states are substantially higher, it didn't make that much difference to 'em because what they would find would more than offset the high taxes that they had to pay. Whereas we'd find a well that maybe would have a Bcf of reserves, they would find ten, twelve, fifteen Bcf wells. So they could afford to pay more. Not only that, those wells would generally have condensate—propanes, butanes—to strip out, so there was additional revenue for 'em that did not exist in Arkansas. The only companies that stayed were the ones that were kind of homegrown. That was ourselves, Stephens Production Company, and what was the old ARKLA system. It was tied to their utility system. So they stayed. And if the severance tax had been raised any at all, even the three of us would've had to leave—just wasn't economic. And I know that in many of my talks to the legislative

committees about it, I—this is the point I would make. Actually those states—like Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma—80 percent of their production was going to other states. So they—the people in those other states were really paying the taxes.

SL: Right.

[03:42:38] CS: And then, in turn, they would exempt from the sales tax the use in their state. Well, we don't in this state. We're paying sales tax here. So in effect I thought our folks were already paying the tax except at a different end, and we shouldn't have to do it, and that by keeping the tax low and keeping at least some activity going in the state, there was hope that we'd find somethin' different or new that we hadn't found before. And lo and behold, we did—the Fayetteville Shale—because if we'd left the state, the Fayetteville Shale never would've been discovered. And the Fayetteville Shale is gonna be a tremendous boon to this state. The University Economic Research Division has estimated nine thousand jobs be created in five years, 5.5 billion dollars worth of economic impact, close to a billion dollars in additional taxes, not even considering the severance tax. So it's a tremendous boon for the state, and it just seems almost crazy to me that this state is willing to spend four or five hundred million dollars to get an auto plant to locate

here to create maybe a couple thousand jobs, when you've got a homegrown deal that's creating nine thousand jobs. And I realize that, you know, the state needs money. But Texas, for instance, does not have an income tax, so the oil companies down there aren't paying any income tax. They pay a heavier severance tax. In addition to which, a lot of the people don't realize is that the severance tax in Louisiana, which is one of the high-tax states, has special status for low-producing wells, like these—all of Arkansas wells are. And the severance tax in Louisiana for a well making less than three hundred thousand a day is the same as Arkansas's severance tax. So this is becoming a more controversial issue all the time. I know all the newspaper editorials are coming out saying they ought to pay a severance tax the same as everybody else does. [03:44:56] But what they don't understand is that what little production we had in Arkansas would never—would've disappeared a long time ago except for the low severance tax, and the Fayetteville Shale probably never would've been found if everybody had said, "Well, this is enough, and we're gone." But it's kept us active in the state. And now, of course, the shale is bringing everybody else into the state, too. So I think keeping it low has been beneficial, and I would hope that cooler heads would prevail, and

we would not levy a severance tax like some of the other states have.

[03:45:36] SL: And so is that what's up right now—they're talking about increasing . . .

CS: Well, they're talking about it. The governor's been talking about it, and you know, I think we've—you know, every year, every legislative session for I don't know how many years—twenty years—I've gone down there and testified and pled with the legislative committees to keep it where it is, and every year they agreed. And 'cause we—you know, we made a good case that we needed to keep somethin' alive in this state, but the success of the Fayetteville Shale—I don't know—I guess has weakened that argument to a certain extent. It has to the extent that they used to argue that while those other states exported to other states, Arkansas was an importing state. And so we weren't shipping our gas out of state to others. Well, as the Fayetteville Shale progresses, that will change. So you know that line of reasoning, probably it doesn't apply anymore. But still I think keeping it down low enough to encourage the exploration and drilling, in addition to which, you know, if gas should ever sink back down to some of those old, historic prices, if there's much of a tax on it, the shale is gonna go away—I mean, exploration

will go away.

SL: Right.

CS: And people don't understand. It's—if it's 5 percent or 7 percent or whatever it is, that's off your gross revenues. It's not an income tax. It's off your total revenues. And then like our company, our revenues from the shale last year were about three hundred million, and we spent a billion. And we will spend a lot more over the next four, five, six years than we'll get out of it. Now eventually, you know, our expenditures are goin' up like this [uses hands to indicate expenditures], and they'll level off as we develop it, and as we get more production, you know, it'll come on up.

SL: It'll catch up.

[03:47:53] CS: And eventually it'll cross, and we'll start making some money. But right now, we're not making any money, and so every dollar we take off in severance tax is a dollar less that the landowner's gonna get—in addition to which, the landowner has to pay whatever of—his royalty is an eighth [*coughs*]—then he pays an eighth of that tax.

SL: So . . .

CS: So it's not just the big oil companies or gas companies that get hit by it, it's the farmers out here also.

[03:48:24] SL: What does a landowner typically get? I mean, is there—do they have any real negotiation capability or . . .

CS: Oh yes. Yes.

SL: . . . is it pretty much standard?

CS: Well, it sort of depends on when you start. You know, when you first start in an area, it's pretty much standard. And then as others come in and want to lease . . .

SL: It goes up.

CS: . . . the competition brings it up. The standard lease is—you know, it has what they call a bonus. You come in and say, "Okay, if you'll lease to me, I'll give you a hundred dollars an acre, and then I'll give you one-eighth of the proceeds from [*unclear words*]."

SL: Now, is this a hundred dollars an acre a year or . . .

CS: No. No.

SL: . . . is that just one-time thing.

CS: One time paid.

SL: Okay.

CS: General lease says, "I'll give you a hundred dollars an acre, and I'll pay you an eighth of the proceeds. And for every year that I don't drill, I'll pay you another dollar per acre." And you try to get as long a lease as they'll give you. But most of 'em are, say,

five years. So at the end of five years, if you haven't drilled, the lease expires, and then you can negotiate for a new bonus payment.

SL: Now, is the one-eighth percentage—is that after cost, or is that . . .

CS: No. No.

SL: . . . total . . .

CS: That's total.

SL: . . . gross comin' off that well.

CS: That's right. If you sell it—if you sell the gas—a thousand cubic feet of gas for eight dollars, he gets a buck. And you get seven bucks, and you pay for everything.

[03:49:54] SL: And typically, what's an average output on a well? I mean, what could a guy get an acre?

CS: Well you know, it varies all over the thing depending on the wells. But I think the average well is probably gonna level off at three hundred thousand a day.

SL: Wow.

CS: So that's three hundred Mcf a day. Let's say you get six dollars for it. That's, what, eighteen hundred dollars, and he gets an eighth of that.

TM: How much of your costs are involved in refining it after you get it

out of the ground to make it usable?

CS: You've got to dehydrate it—take the water out of it. You gotta compress it to get it into the pipeline, so you can move it. And all those costs are borne by the producer, and you know, they can vary from a few cents up to maybe a dollar or so an Mcf, dependin' on just what you happen to run into and how far you've gotta transport it. You know, you're gonna—you—the compression costs are pretty substantial because you use a lot of gas itself in running the engines to compress the gas. But you know, the most efficient way, of course, is to get it out by pipeline. There's no—actually, well, there is no other way. I mean, you could—you can liquefy it, but we don't have enough gas in Arkansas to justify that.

[03:51:32] TM: So do you have these facilities all over? I mean, it seems like . . .

CS: Well, every well that's drilled will have a line running from it to a more central area where you're bringing in several wells, and then you'll have a compressor there. And then that compressor will raise the pressure on the pipe—on the gas—so it'll flow from that point to maybe a—what we call a trunk line. And then you'll have to compress it into that line. And then that trunk line will run to a main line—one of the big lines. And then you compress

it again to get it in that line. Because, see, to get the gas to move from one point to another, it's pressure which does it. So if you start out at point A with a thousand-pound pressure is—when you take it out at point B, it may be down to two hundred pounds of pressure. And of course, when it goes into your house, it's down into ounces. But it's the compression that you have to have, and then you—and then all those pipelines have to be protected. They have to be marked and inspected, and you have to, you know, do all the safety measures for all of 'em. So it's a really extensive footprint, which is largely unseen because it's underground.

SL: Right.

CS: And people—most people don't even know there's anything there.

[03:53:04] SL: How big is a main pipeline?

CS: The biggest one coming from the fields down there in Franklin County up here is sixteen inch. Now, the pipeline that's going across country and probably the ones taking gas out of the shale area when they're eventually built will be maybe thirty-six inches.

SL: So are we talking about a higher production than what came out of Arkoma . . .

CS: Yes.

SL: . . . on the shale . . .

CS: Yes.

SL: . . . Fayetteville Shale deal?

CS: Yes. Eventually. I mean, if it's—all is productive. You know, there's still a lot of ifs in the Fayetteville Shale 'cause we've only been drilling in it for, what, a year—two years now. And you know, there'll be areas in it that probably won't be productive—or they won't be as good as some of the areas because it'll vary all over the spot. But there'll be areas in it that we've got leased that I'm confident we'll hit dry holes in. I mean, that's just the nature of the beast.

SL: Well, so should I lease you a quarter acre in my backyard in Fayetteville, Arkansas?

[03:54:16] CS: Nope. [*SL laughs*] But if you wanted to see the Fayetteville Shale—do you know where the old Panda Restaurant is—used to be?

SL: I do.

CS: Well, it's exposed right behind that restaurant. And the reason—because it's exposed, that's why you won't get anything in Fayetteville for it because whatever's there has . . .

SL: Evaporated.

CS: . . . a million years ago has . . .

SL: Gone.

CS: . . . gone out to the—been absorbed into the atmosphere. So anywhere it's been buried deeper that—and the further south you go, why, the deeper it is.

[03:54:45] SL: How—and does that depth compare to Arka—Arkoma? Is it much shallower than . . .

CS: It ranges, depending on where it is, from fifteen hundred feet to six thousand feet deep. And . . .

SL: And the Arkoma Basin?

CS: In the Arkoma Basin. Yeah.

SL: And then what about this Fayetteville Shale? Will you have to drill that deep, too?

CS: Yeah. I'd say in some areas it's only fifteen hundred feet. Some areas, as you get farther south, down near the ar—near Conway and that area, it's maybe as deep as six thousand feet.

SL: So this is a big field?

CS: Oh yeah. It's a big field, and it'll be—as I say, you know, I think—we've given estimates out that if it's all productive, which we don't know—but if it was all productive, we think there might be as much as ten trillion cubic feet, which is a nice . . .

SL: Nice size.

CS: . . . nice size.

[03:55:46] SL: So Exxon's coming back in and all those [*unclear words*] . . .

CS: Well, they haven't come back in. There's the largest producer of natural gas in the country—independent, other than the majors—is a company called Chesapeake out of Oklahoma City. And they're in the area pretty heavy. And some others. Now, we've heard that Shell has got about sixty thousand acres somewhere—we're not sure where—in the area. You know, whether one of those majors would come in or not, I don't know. Probably most of it is—been leased up now, so they came in, and what they'd probably do would be buy somebody and come in that way. Which they're all capable of doing if . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . if they desired. But, you know, they're primarily oil companies. They—they're . . .

SL: Right.

CS: They don't—natural gas is sort of a second . . .

SL: Cousin.

CS: . . . cousin to them 'cause they've got all these filling stations they want to use. So they—they're more interested in finding oil than they are natural gas. Although, you know, as it becomes

more and more difficult for them to find places to drill, they may change their minds. [03:57:00] But those companies are so big it takes them forever to make a decision. I mean, if some guy in the local office says to you, "Well, we ought to get in the Fayetteville Shale," it may be three years before or four years before it works up to the . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . chairman who makes the decision . . .

SL: The action's made.

CS: . . . where to go. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

JE: Just to clarify, you said the Shale was fifteen to six thousand. How deep is the gas? How deep are those wells—your natural gas wells in the Arkoma Basin?

CS: They vary again from fifteen hundred feet to eight thousand—nine thousand feet.

JE: So it's about the same.

CS: Yeah.

SL: A little deep—a little deeper in places.

CS: A little bit deeper. Yeah. Yeah, we'll go through some of the same sands that we're producing in the old Arkoma Basin and the Fayetteville Shale area, but for some reason or other, they

haven't—for the most part, have not gotten any—none of the gas has migrated up there to them yet. Now, there's some that we've found that—surprisingly enough—that there is. But it's a—you know, we still have a lot of work to do. We're laying lots of pipeline. [03:58:21] We're laying a lot of pipelines for water—to get water to frack those wells, rather than try to truck it in, to pipe it in is generally better. And we're creatin'—we're making a lot of farmers very happy because we're creatin' beautiful ponds on their land to catch the surface water and use it rather than take it out of streams or wells. Actually I don't think our company is taking any out of streams or wells. We're doing it all by impoundments and surface water.

SL: Sounds like good fishin' to me.

CS: It is, I mean [*SL laughs*]—you know, the fish grow in those things, and the—and actually, you know, we've been doing some experimenting, and I'm not sure it's ready to [*unclear word*] yet, but we've been taking—the water that we take out, you know, has some chemicals still in it. And when we recover that water out of the well that we've used. But we've been spreading it on some pastures, and the guys are telling me that—some of the farmers are saying, "That pasture's lookin' better than it ever has." So I don't know whether the—it's helping it or not but . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . it's—it doesn't appear to be hurting it any. [04:59:34] And you get all sorts of funny public reactions, you know. There's been some complaint about the noise from the compressor stations, and they were having some public hearings in the quorum court about the noise, and this one ol' boy showed up, and he said, "Well, I got a compressor right outside my house." And he said, "That thing keeps me awake all night." And he says, "I'm awake all night 'cause I'm scared to death it'll go off, and if it goes off, I know my royalty check is not comin'." [*Laughter*] So he was quite happy to . . .

SL: He likes the sound.

CS: He liked—quite liked to hear that sound.

SL: He's attracted to that sound.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, that sounds like money to him.

CS: Yeah. And you know, there's a lot of new pickup trucks and a lot of refurbished homes over in that area that—it's been a very poor area.

SL: Yeah.

CS: I mean, you know, Van Buren County and Cleburne County. Except for Greers Ferry Lake, I don't know of anything over

there. But this has really helped, and the bankers are telling me, and they—they're just as happy as they can be 'cause . . .

SL: It's exciting.

CS: . . . those farmers are putting money in their bank.

SL: That's exciting. [04:00:50] You know, we talked about Clinton and Bumpers.

CS: Yeah.

SL: And some times you've had with them. Are there any other politico stories that . . .

CS: Well, I don't know if I've got any politico stories. You know, as I mentioned, Governor Pryor had me on his Energy Commission. I actually got appointed by Faubus to somethin' called the Economic Expansion Study Commission back in—gosh, when was that? Early [19]60s, I would guess. In fact, I think one of the things I gave for the scanner was a copy of that report that we made. I don't know how I got on the thing. I really didn't know Governor Faubus—at least back then, that well at all. I suspect that they were asking the local chambers or somebody to recommend somebody, and that's how I got on it. It was an interesting commission. Had a fellow by the name of Frank Whitbeck on it. Frank founded a li—a life insurance company down there in Little Rock, and a couple guys from Murphy Oil

and some legislators. And primarily, you know, we looked at some things. I know a lot of the recommendations that we made that never were followed up on. Except we did—well, we—I think we were the first ones to ask 'em to increase the cigarette tax to [*laughs*] cut down on smoking and to get some revenue for the state. But it examined the state. It was an interesting work. A fellow by the name of Bart Westerland, who ran the university's division of research and extension down at Little Rock, was our staff guy and, of course, did most of the work.

[04:02:53] SL: Well, did you ever have any exchange with Governor Faubus at all or . . .

CS: No, I just on the periphery when—on the fair-field price law when Stephens and them were trying to convince him that that was something that he ought to sign when it was passed.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And so that's about the only connection I had with him. And being on that expansion study commission, which once he appointed—you know, we made a report, and it was one of those . . .

SL: And it was over.

CS: Yeah, one of those things . . .

SL: Yeah, it was over.

CS: He said, "Well, that's a great job" and put it on the shelf and then kind of forgot about it.

SL: Right.

[04:03:25] CS: But you know, he was a—I had more of a relationship with a guy by the name of "Pete" Raney, who was one of his big supporters, and he had appointed Pete as chairman of the board of trustees—or trustees—and he was chairman for a good number of years. In fact, I think Pete was chairman of the board of trustees when we raised that money for the business school land that we bought that I was telling you about earlier.

SL: Two—the overnight two hundred thousand dollar . . .

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . deal.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: So you know, and the people of Fayetteville really pitched in for that thing because we had, you know, some of the smaller merchants and stores giving a thousand dollars—two thousand dollars toward it. And, yeah, I think the people of Fayetteville have always been very supportive of it. But let me—before we

have to break up, let me tell you my John White stories.

[04:04:34] SL: Let's hear some John White stories.

CS: Sort of like Clinton, if it hadn't been for my gasoline, he might not have ever been president. [*SL laughs*] Hadn't been for me, John White would probably never have been chancellor of the university.

SL: All right. How'd this happen?

CS: When Dan Ferritor quit, I'd been chairman of his National Development Council.

SL: Okay.

CS: And worked with Bud Edwards, and we raised 170 million dollars or whatever in round figures for—so they formed a search committee, mainly of university professors and some staff members, and then they put me on there as representative of the National Development Council. So I was on the search committee for John. And we did all the proper things. You know, advertising in the . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . *Chronicle* for things. And we got a . . .

SL: Did—went by state law.

CS: . . . stack of applications.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah, got a stack of applications this high, and there wasn't any of 'em worth a hoot.

SL: Yeah.

CS: I mean, the truth of the matter is, anybody that's really good has already got a good job. And he's not gonna apply . . .

SL: That's right.

CS: . . . 'cause he doesn't want to jeopardize where he is—doesn't want those people mad at him. And, you know, and the press, bless 'em, are gonna insist on knowing who's applied and all that sort of news. But Alan Sugg had spotted John, and we went through the procedure. And actually we did interview a number of those who applied, and actually selected one as one of the finalists. I think he was provost at Iowa or Iowa State—I've forgotten where. I mean I've forgotten which. But anyway when it came down to it, right at the last and when nobody liked any of 'em that we had, Alan suggested John White. And he said he wouldn't apply, but if we would go recruit him, you know, maybe we'd get him. So we said, "Well"—you know, and he told us all about him. So we said, "Well, let's see if we can get him."

SL: Okay.

CS: So we did. So as a member of that committee, I got to vote for John White, which I did. Shortly after that, I got appointed to

the board of trustees, and the first act that I remember—significant act I remember on the board of trustees was we had to vote on this new chancellor, John White.

SL: Yeah

CS: So I voted twice [*laughter*] to get John here.

SL: That's good.

CS: And so that's how I got started with John White.

SL: That's good.

CS: And then, of course, served my ten years, and then John—I guess John found out I wasn't on the board anymore, so he decided to leave.

SL: Leave.

CS: Yeah.

[04:07:19] SL: Well, you have been awfully loyal to the University of Arkansas.

CS: Well, it's meant a lot to me. You know, it's—as I tell you—told you earlier about my—the help I got and the guidance I got from . . .

SL: Dr. Leflar.

CS: . . . Dr. Leflar. And then one of my closest friends in later years was Wylie Davis. I can tell you a good story about Wylie.

[04:07:44] SL: Let's hear about Wylie.

CS: Well, Wylie was kind of a wild man back in his youth. I mean he partied a lot. And—but [*unclear word*] he's a brilliant guy. Brilliant guy. I understand that he answered at his Harvard law exams in rhyme. [*SL vocalized noise*] The guy had the best command of the English language of anybody I've ever met—probably the best since William Shakespeare. I mean, he was—and he taught English at Harvard before he—while—I guess, while he was in law school up there. And he was a old navy veteran during World War II—came back—got his law—finished up and got his law degree. Dr. Leflar brought him down here from Harvard to teach. And as I say, I enjoyed his classes. He was a tremendous professor—hard worker, and gosh, he'd go out and drink beer with the guys and was a real fellow. He left here and went up to the University of Illinois and taught there for a while. And then he came back and decided he wanted to be dean of the law school.

SL: Okay.

[04:08:49] CS: And he decided that he needed to get in the mainstream of the community more than he was if he was gonna be a dean. So he called me up one day and said, "Chuck," which was my nickname back in those days. He says, "Chuck." Said, "Can you get me into Rotary Club here in Fayetteville?" And I

was a member, and I said, "Well, sure. I'm sure I can get you in."

SL: Yeah.

CS: So I went to work, and we got him in. And gosh, if he didn't take to it like a duck to water, you know. I never got very far in Rotary because I couldn't ke—couldn't or didn't keep up my attendance like I should, you know. Rotary had a rule that if you weren't there 60 percent of the time, why, you . . .

SL: Fell off.

CS: . . . out or something.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And you were supposed to be able to make it up by going to other clubs and stuff, but I struggled to keep that 60 percent. And—but anyway he took to it like a duck to water, and he rose up through the ranks to become president of Fayetteville Rotary Club. And I'll never forget. My attendance was lousy. [*Laughs*] I'll never forget. He called me up one day and said, "Chuck," he said, "I hate to do this, but if you don't improve your attendance, I'm gonna have to kick you out of Rotary Club." [*Laughter*]

SL: And you got him in.

CS: And I got him in. So I said, "Well, Wylie, I—maybe I better just

resign." And he said, "Oh no, no, no. Don't do that. Don't do that. You just"—I said, "Well, I'll try to do better." "Okay. Okay." [*Laughter*] And another couple years later I got so busy I just couldn't make it, so I did resign.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But I'll never forget that. "I'm gonna kick you out if you don't"—[*laughs*] but—and he—you know, I guess he was a close friend of E. J.'s—E. J. Ball's. And the three of us—E. J., he, and I and Charlie Stewart were, I guess, the closest friends here in Fayetteville through the years.

[04:10:54] SL: E. J. Ball—he made a—he certainly is one that made a difference in Fayetteville, didn't he?

CS: Oh yeah, he did, you know. And he did so much for the university, you know. He's the one that came up with the concept of the foundations and creating them, and I think created the Razorback Foundation. And then the—I guess he was instrumental in the forming of the U of A Foundation, too.

SL: Well you know, the—that design has been copied by nearly . . .

CS: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . all the athletic departments across the country.

[04:11:28] CS: It has. It has. You know, E. J. and Harold Dulan, who was a professor of finance at the university, came up with

the concept of the variable annuity insurance thing, which is, you know, a very popular product now, and they formed a little insurance company to sell that stuff, and then Aetna or one of the big ones finally . . .

SL: Bought 'em out.

CS: . . . bought it out. But they were very . . .

SL: Creative.

CS: . . . creative persons. He was very creative, and course, Dr. Dulan was.

SL: He was also very generous—E. J. was. I mean . . .

CS: Yes.

SL: I remember at his memorial service, Jim Lindsey was talking about . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . how he helped him . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and never charged—billed him for all the stuff that he did for . . .

CS: Oh yeah. Well, you know, he did lots of work for me and never would bill me. And you know, Jim—the only way Jim could ever repay him back was he let him in on some of his land deals. And so E. J. made some money that way. But E. J. was funny that

way. If you were a friend, why, he'd do anything in the world for you. I mean, even though it was—that's the way he made money. But he wouldn't charge you. But he—you know, and he was very close to all the people out at the law school. He was close to Dr. Leflar and then Ralph Barnhart, who took Dr. Leflar's place as dean. They were particularly close. And of course, he and Wylie were very close. Yeah, you know, there's—that was sort of a regular dinner crowd—was the Davises and us and E. J. and his wife.

[04:13:16] SL: What about Charlie Stewart? Can you tell me anything about Charlie Stewart? You got a Charlie Stewart story?

CS: Yeah, yeah, Charlie Stewart and I were in the same class in law school and graduated at the same time.

SL: Oh, see—he was a survivor.

CS: Yes, he was a survivor also. And he—about the time he got out of law school, his father died. And so rather than try to practice law, he went into that . . .

SL: Steel business.

CS: . . . steel business to—to run that because he—I guess he had his younger brother and a couple younger sisters yet to get educated and on. So he went into that. And, in fact, I

remember one time we were down—I think we were in George's having a libation, and [*SL laughs*] Charlie was particularly mad because some legislator had proposed a tax on bachelors. [*Laughter*] And neither one of us were married at the time, and Charlie was very indignant about this legislation on—pass a tax on bachelors. [04:14:38] So I said to him—I said, "Well, if you're so mad about it, why don't you run for the legislature?" And by golly, he did.

SL: That's right.

CS: And then he served for I don't know how many years.

SL: Oh . . .

CS: Thirty or forty years.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And . . .

SL: Yes.

CS: . . . you know, I think rose up to a pretty prominent position. He was chairman of the Revenue and Tax Committee for a long time and—but Charlie is a wonderful person. He never took a contribution in all those years from anybody—always spent his own money and very little of his own money. [04:15:15] In fact, I don't know if it was the first or second time he ran—he asked me to go with him up to the Rodeo of the Ozarks at

Springdale. That's when the district was countywide. And he had printed up flyers—you know, little, cheap paper flyers. I bet you could buy a hundred sheets for a tenth of a penny.

SL: Right.

CS: Oh, cheap stuff. And he had his picture on 'em, and he was running for state representative. So I was helping him, and while the rodeo was going on, we were going from car to car putting those things in there. And back in those days, the license plate would tell what county you were from. Dependin' on the number of people in the county—the population. I think ours was five, so it'd be five dash . . .

SL: That's right.

CS: . . . whatever the number was. And he came up to me, and he just jumped all over me and started chewing me out and said—cussed me out and said, "You're throwin' my money away!" [*SL laughs*] I said, "What in the hell are you talkin' about?" And he said, "Check the license plate! That guy's from Madison County. He can't vote for me!" [*Laughter*] So to say Charlie was close with a taxpayer's dollar is a—is an understatement. [*Laughter*] But yeah, he's been a lifelong friend, and he—he's served this area—community very well. And you know, Charlie was very conservative and came from a liberal—of course, he was a

Democrat.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But he came from a very liberal Democratic constituency. But everybody knew he was good as his word and honest as the day was long, so he—most of the time, he never even had an opponent, you know. He just . . .

[04:16:45] SL: You know, I know we've tal—in an earlier interview we talked a little bit about Bob Lamb. Is there anything else—is there anything you want to say about Bob Lamb today that . . .

CS: Well, you know, Bob still is one of the most astute persons on the political situation in the state that—that's around. He understands how the process works and the people. So he's—you know, he's still very attuned to what's goin' on and would be a valuable person for anybody to have to help 'em through the political waters. And you know, there's always something going on—some of it good and some of it not so good.

SL: Right.

CS: So—but Bob is unique, and I don't know of anybody that's better liked than Bob. I've never run into anybody that really dislikes him or even people that he's been on the other side of generally seem to like him and not disparage him in any way. I know he had some terrific battles back when he was—with the state

chamber—with the labor unions. You know, we had a big fight over the right-to-work law and that sort of thing. But—which brings up to my mind another Clinton story. [*Laughs*]

[04:18:25] SL: Let's hear it. Let's hear it.

CS: An outfit called Nucor Steel Company joined forces with a Japanese company called Yamato, and they were looking to build a new steel plant. And one of the spots that they picked to look at was the Blytheville area. And they were also looking at a plant—possibly a plant down in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri. It turned out the chairman of the board of Nucor Steel Company was a fellow by the name of "Ken" Iverson, and he and I were on the board of directors of a company that was headquartered in Florida called C.H. Heist Company. And Clinton was governor. Clinton was courtin' 'em to come, and Clinton was looking around at Iverson's background, and he saw that he served on this other company's board, and he looked and saw the other members of that board [*laughs*], and there was my name. So all of a sudden, Clinton is calling me. "What can we do to get Ken Iverson to put his plant in Arkansas?" And so every time I'd see Clinton, he'd want to know what the status was. You know, whether we'd get it. And they finally did locate at Blytheville, and so Clinton always—and everybody in Arkansas

always thought that it was their strong pitch and salesmanship and everything that got 'em to locate in Arkansas, but that wasn't it at all. [*Laughter*] [04:20:20] Ken told me the reason that he located in Arkansas. The reason they located in Arkansas was that he wanted to have that plant as near to the mouth of the Ohio River—where the Ohio River came to the Mississippi . . .

SL: Mississippi.

CS: . . . if they could possibly get because they would ship . . .

SL: Out of Ohio.

CS: They'd bring in scrap from the Midwest, and then they'd ship the finished steel back up. But they also wanted to be in a right-to-work state. And . . .

SL: So they just fit—we just fit the criteria.

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, if they'd been over the line in Missouri, they'd had unions to deal with. But they wanted to be in a right-to-work state. They were non-union, and they wanted stay that way, so I never did tell [*laughs*] President Clinton that it wasn't [*laughter*] his salesmanship that got 'em—it was that old Arkansas right-to-work law.

SL: Yeah, well, there you go. There you have it.

CS: Yeah.

[04:21:10] SL: And that's kind of a Bob Lamb connection actually.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Isn't it?

CS: And Bob worked on trying to locate 'em there and . . .

SL: Well, and Bob . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . kind of fell on the side of right-to-work, too.

CS: Yes. Yeah, he helped preserve that law.

SL: Faced Bill Becker.

CS: Yeah, but that's—you know, and they created a lot of great jobs over there. But that's how they did it. Iverson was a unique individual. He was a—sort of like a Sam Walton of the steel business.

SL: Yeah.

CS: He paid people well and—but boy, they had to work. And . . .

[04:21:51] SL: You know, it's time—it's kind of a political time of the season. You got any Hillary stories?

CS: Oh no, the only one I got I told you. [*Laughs*]

SL: Okay. "Just add the flour and the milk, and they'll never know the difference."

CS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I didn't know very—well, you know, I met her a time or two when he was around, but that's about the only

connection I've had with her.

[04:22:20] SL: What about—did you ever have to have any conversations with Mike Huckabee?

CS: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

SL: Well, tell me about that. Anything . . .

CS: Well, I had a group of friends that tried to get me appointed to the board of trustees. And they asked Jim Guy Tucker to do it because this area appointment was comin' up. And I guess it came down between me and Gary George.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And he picked Gary. And actually I think they'd been fraternity brothers or something. And anyway there was a connection there. So—but you know, they had all these letters from everybody and all of the stuff you go through to try to—you know, tell the—have the governor think that everybody in the world wants you to be that position. And so they were all down there. And then right after Gary, the next appointment was to take the place of H. L. Hembree, who was in Fort Smith but was in this district. And so Bob said, "I'm going to go by and see the governor and his chief of staff," a lady by the name of Brenda Turner, who he'd known from somewhere, "and see if we can't get that thing started again." And he did. And I think the

governor—you know, Jim Guy Tucker had to resign and all that.

SL: Yeah.

[04:23:58] CS: I think he'd only been in office maybe a month or so, and my appointment came up, and I think they just [*laughs*] hadn't had time to look at anybody else, and there was all my paperwork right there on top of the pile. And so he appointed me—called me up and asked if I would do it. And I said, "Of course. I'd be honored to do it." And so, you know, then, of course, I would have meetings and occasions with him—kind of got a little bit on the outs with him over the stadium issue.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And—but I think that, you know, as far as he was concerned, it washed over. Not so sure some of our friends in Little Rock are still . . .

[04:24:43] SL: That is amazing how . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . divisive and how that still has polarized the . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: There's still deep wounds there.

CS: Well, there are—I think unjustifiably so. To me it was so obvious that it had to be done. The university is the only university—one of the few—maybe one or two others in the country—that don't

have a athletic fee as part of the tuition fees, and it takes no state money whatsoever for the athletic program. And it pays not only football—it not only pays for football, but it pays for—well, basketball helps, too. But all the other sports are nonrevenue—not nonrevenue producing, but not enough.

[04:25:34] SL: Well yeah, supports all the women's athletics.

CS: Yeah, and all the women's athletics. So they're paying for all of that, and he—they're either gonna have to—they're running up—they're just—didn't—to compete in the SEC or anywhere else, as far as that's concerned—that's one reason Frank changed from the Southwest Conference to the Southeast Conference because he couldn't get in the Big 12 at the time, or Big Eight, I guess it was, then. And Vanderbilt, who ended up last in the SEC, took more home—more money than we did as champions of the Southwest Conference because of the TV and everything else. So we—he's looking for more money 'cause he—to keep the program goin' and to—and the women's program keeps growing and has to keep growing—to pay for all that. So then he began—looked around, you know, to get even more money, and then he came up with the idea of expanding the stadium up here. And—but it's no sense expanding the stadium up here if you're playing games in Little Rock. It costs about three million

dollars for every game that we lose—for every game we play down there. I mean, not lose but . . .

SL: The revenue lost.

CS: Lost revenue. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And so when he approached us about it, you know, it just made all the sense in the world to me to go ahead and expand the stadium up here and move as many games as we could get up here. I was in favor of moving 'em all. And I think that's what we should've done and just bitten the bullet and gone ahead and—you know, what's the old saying? "You gonna call your wife now?" "No." "Why?" "Because she's as mad as she can get now anyway." So, you know, which . . .

SL: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

[04:27:23] CS: So we—but that was a tremendous battle, and it was pretty evenly divided. And we ended up with that compromise that we ended up with where we moved one game and play two down there for—whatever it was—fifteen years. So there's only about four years left on that contract.

SL: Right.

CS: And so the battle's gonna come up again. And . . .

SL: Well, I know . . .

CS: . . . they need to move 'em, because if they don't move another game up here, they'll eventually have to institute a student fee if they're gonna continue with the athletic program. The women's—you know, because football takes so many people—takes eighty-five—that's the limit on scholarships—then you've got, you know, to have equal between the genders—why, then you've got to have that many women. Well, we don't have that many women, but the NCAA lets you get by with it as long as you're building the women's program . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . and adding the women's program. You know, I wouldn't be at all surprised if they don't—well, they're gonna have to add another women's program here next year probably. I think it's gonna be equestrian program from what I've heard. But it's just—if you're—you know, if you're gonna be in that—play that game, it's either play that game or be like Arkansas Tech and play in that kind of a league.

SL: Yeah.

CS: There's not much in between . . .

SL: I've heard . . .

CS: . . . that makes any money.

[04:29:05] SL: I've always heard that of all the controversial and

tough things that the board of trustees for the . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . University of Arkansas ever has to consider, it seems to always roll around to the athletics program—that it seems to be the most . . .

CS: Well, that's where you . . .

SL: . . . attention getting and . . .

CS: Yeah, that's where . . .

SL: . . . the most pressure and . . .

CS: . . . most of the people put the . . .

SL: Relate.

[04:29:25] CS: . . . put the pressure on, you know. And the—there's other things. You always get complaints about tuition increases. And the other—one of the other more contentious issues when John first came on board was raising the . . .

SL: Stan . . .

CS: . . . admission standards. But, you know, we got that through pretty easily. There's a couple of the guys that voted against it who later said they made a mistake, you know. They thought it would hurt the attendance up here, but instead of that, it helped. But the athletics does raise a lot of things. A lot of those people who have raised so much cain [*coughs*] have never

attended the university. A lot of them have never been to a ball game . . .

SL: Just the idea . . .

CS: . . . and never contributed anything. And, of course, the Little Rock people want it for the economic impact on the thing. But it's a—it's just the thing that needs to be done. Every other state that had the divided games has done it. I mean Mississippi divided their games between Oxford and Jackson, and now, they're all in Oxford. Alabama divided theirs between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. Now, they're all in Tuscaloosa. And I don't know if anything—in fact, I was hoping the SEC or NCAA would pass a rule saying that [*coughs*] all home games had to be played on campus. Which makes sense to me. I mean, if it's part of the university, that's where it ought to be.

SL: Right.

CS: But it was a tough battle, and it was pretty evenly divided—almost five to five on the board of trustees, and so we were gonna . . .

[04:31:16] SL: So do you think it was won that day of the meeting? Were the votes already in before the show in Little Rock—the board meeting in Little Rock that was . . .

CS: Oh, it . . .

SL: . . . broadcast all over the state right way.

CS: Yeah.

SL: That [*unclear word*] . . .

CS: Yeah, it was decided before.

SL: It was?

CS: Yeah, shortly before then. I—well, I say it was decided. We knew how the vote was gonna go. And, yeah, I mean it was almost—I mean, it was ridiculous to have [*laughs*] televised hearings like we were some congressional committee . . .

SL: Well . . .

CS: . . . deciding on whether to go to war with Russia or something, you know.

SL: I know. I know. I was right in the thick of that.

CS: Yeah, it's . . .

[04:32:00] SL: I remember Warren brought in the veterans.

CS: Oh yeah, the veterans. Yeah. Yeah, that was silly. Yeah, Warren—I don't know why he took such a personal interest in it, but he did—got pretty mad about it. If Witt had been still alive, he'd have told them all to calm down and not do it.

SL: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

CS: And Jack was pretty much out of it by then, too. But Warren for some reason took personal affront that we were moving it. You

know, I always kind of thought the designation of the stadium down there as War Memorial Stadium was a bunch of nonsense. I mean I don't know what kind of a memorial that was for veterans or anybody else. I mean . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: They—and I—Bob Lamb said all those guys down at the VFW [*laughs*] down there don't have anything to do but sit around and tell stories anyway, so . . .

SL: Right. Right.

CS: . . . they decided [*laughs*] to come on down and be presented at the thing. But it was a—it was an interesting go round. And, you know, it's funny some of the stands some people took. [04:33:19] Ol' Joe Hargroves, who was a doctor down there—he thought the minorities would have—wouldn't get to see as many games if we move 'em up here.

SL: The travel.

CS: Yeah. Yeah, and I—yeah, I don't think that many of 'em went to the games down there as far as that was concerned. But plenty of 'em go to games up here. So I think it's mostly economic that the—yeah . . .

SL: I've thought it was entirely ec—economics.

CS: Yeah.

[04:33:52] SL: Well, I'm trying to think of any other board issues that . . .

CS: That came up during that time?

SL: Yeah. You know, the—saving the Inn at Carnall Hall was kind of an emotional thing up here.

CS: Yeah.

SL: I don't know . . .

CS: Yeah, it was. There were some on the board who thought that it was a hopeless thing—that it could never be made. And they might as well just tear it down and get rid of it. Yeah. You know, there's a vis—visions of making that a nice part of the front campus. You know, one of those firms they hired to do planning had come up with the idea of a building on the front lawn of Old Main over on the other side.

SL: Right.

CS: And the board shot that down real quick saying, "No, no, we're not gonna" . . .

SL: Yeah, that . . .

CS: . . . "disturb that front lawn."

SL: . . . that acreage is pretty sacred.

CS: Yeah. And so there was ideas of doin' it. And, of course, the preservationists wanted it. I think the one thing about it—I

guess I finally voted for it, although I was very doubtful of it coming. But we needed a nice hotel to put people in. And we don't have one in Fayetteville—still don't have one. That one downtown is a dump. [04:35:12] And this has turned out to be very nice inside. I think it—I think it's not fulfilled its promise. I would love to take people there for dinner. I think the atmosphere would be just grand. But the food is very high priced and not . . .

SL: Not up to . . .

CS: . . . in my opinion, not good.

SL: . . . up to snuff. Yeah.

CS: Not up to snuff. So . . .

SL: Well, was that another decision that was pretty much settled before the actual public meeting, or were you kind of surprised by that vote?

[04:35:47] CS: No. You know, we don't—you don't really get together and decide things ahead of time. In fact, you can't under the law.

SL: Right.

CS: It has to be done in an open meeting. But you can almost get a sense of how people are feeling by just the questions they ask and maybe the little comments they make as you're walking out

or something, you know. They'll say, "Oh, that guy that wants to tear down Carnall Hall is crazy." You know.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Those—you can sort of pick up a sense of how people are intending, so generally I'm not surprised by how it goes. Have been at times surprised by somebody who I thought would be all for a tuition increase, and then all of a sudden he's dead set against it. And then I have seen trustees who start out arguing this line, and before you know it, they've made a U-turn and come back the other way. But you know, it's a—I think one of the—I think this Freedom of Information Act—I agree that any decision has to be made, but to not to give boards the opportunity to have a little one-on-one or one-on-two conversation is just—to throw out ideas, you know. You hate to throw out an idea that you have at a board meeting because all the interest groups who are affected immediately jump on it.

SL: Right.

CS: And maybe, you know, this—it's just an idea and nobody really . . .

SL: It's hard to explore an idea . . .

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . when it's attacked . . .

CS: . . . 'cause everybody jumps on it.

SL: . . . immediately.

CS: So nobody brings up anything. And I think it really hurts the ideas, and a lot of times the boards don't get really informed because the university has an idea that they would like to present and do. But rather than have an opportunity to feel out the board to see if it, you know, has any viability at all, they're afraid to do it 'cause the press is immediately on it and then . . .

SL: Right.

CS: . . . every interest group in it. And you're amazed at some of the interest groups that jump up, you know. [04:38:10] The—John tried to close the university press 'cause they were losing money like mad.

SL: Right.

CS: And actually this was before my time on the board, but I think the board at one time had told the chancellor and the president to get rid of it. So they—he was just basically doing what he was told.

SL: Right.

CS: Well of course, all the librarians and people that had an interest in that just came out and raised cain on it.

SL: Right.

CS: And you know, and then maybe something could've been worked out in the way of a compromise—they'd been able to explore ideas without either doin' that. Well, yeah, that was a—yeah, I—of course, I got most of the mail on the . . .

SL: Stadium.

CS: . . . on the stadium. And then tuition increases always got a little somethin'. And . . .

SL: Standards.

CS: The standards—yeah, yeah. [04:39:19] But those were the main things. And well, Carlson Terrace—you know, you've got some—you know, we had that lady—what's her name?

SL: Paula.

CS: Paula Marinoni came down there and on and on and on. [*SL laughs*] You know, just—I almost fell asleep—[*SL laughs*]—with her arguments about the thing. But, you know, the—I think the university has done a good job of preserving some of the old historical things. They did Carnall Hall and certainly Old Main. And I think the Carlson Terrace area is gonna be much nicer—those buildings were such terrible shape. And it would've cost un—they shouldn't have even had people in there. I mean, just for health reasons they should not have people in there. Asbestos leaking out of the walls—everything, you know. And so

it would've cost a real fortune to . . .

SL: . . . to renovate.

CS: . . . to renovate 'em.

SL: Remodel.

[04:40:27] CS: Yeah. Much better spending that money up there in the Northwest Quad area. Building those nice, nice places up there.

SL: Well, you gotta say the university certainly blossomed . . .

TM: We need to change tapes real quick.

SL: Okay.

[Tape stopped]

[04:40:43] SL: We're gonna talk a little bit about the changing gas industry . . .

CS: Yeah.

JE: Yes.

SL: . . . and maybe some of the key figures that you've been involved with in the gas industry.

CS: Yeah, well . . .

SL: I'm just gonna let you kinda run with it.

CS: Well, yeah, the gas industry is—in Arkansas—is basically three companies. The largest company in the state was Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company, and it has four hundred thousand

customers in Arkansas and, I guess, well, it's grown into millions of customers because they also have Houston and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and most of—a good part of Oklahoma and east Texas and actually a little bit over into Mississippi.

SL: And Louisiana. Ar . . .

CS: ARKLA. Yeah.

SL: ARKLA. Yeah.

CS: The—but ARKLA was the dominant oil and gas exploration company in the state. They arose out of the old Cities Service Oil Company and under the Holding Company Act that I referred to about our company—Cities Service had to get rid of 'em, and they did, similar to what we did. They just spun it off to the shareholders, and Witt Stephens accumulated enough shares that he became the dominant shareholder and became chairman of the board. And Witt ran it out of Little Rock although the operations people were in Shreveport. And they were good operators. They had a lot of really good young engineers that knew what they were doing. Witt had also bought the Fort Smith Gas Company even before he got involved with ARKLA. And so the Fort Smith company is—was wholly owned by the Stephens family. But they did a lot of exploration in Arkansas, and between the two of them, they had the dominant production

areas in Arkansas. They—with the coming of the Natural Gas Act, ARKLA merged with the companies that had Houston Industries, which was the electric company down there. [04:43:15] And they decided to get rid of their exploration company. And they sold it to a company called Seagull, and then Seagull sold it to a company called XTO. And XTO is one of the larger oil and gas exploration companies, so they're one of the other companies in Arkansas exploring for gas and also beginning to get involved in the Fayetteville Shale. Now, Stephens Production Company is, of course, privately owned, so it's a little bit hard to know exactly what they have, except I suspect they have substantial gas reserves. And—but theirs is primarily in eastern Oklahoma and Sequoyah—Franklin counties—Arkansas. But you know, there's—Witt Stephens was a fascinating character. He started the Stephens Company. I think he was about twenty years older than Jack, his brother, who came in. And Witt and I got to be pretty good friends. We worked on a lot of things together, but we also competed pretty strong, because his company was trying to get leases and drill, and we were trying to get leases and drill. So we would compete on those areas, but then we would work together on legislative or political things that would affect the industry

overall. [04:44:53] And I found him to be a grand gentleman. One of the things I always enjoyed was that he liked to have a luncheon almost every day. He had a private dining room in his offices there in Little Rock, and he would have the most fascinating characters in almost every day. Judge Henry Woods was one of his regulars. He'd have whoever was governor at the time quite often [*coughs*]—some of the senators and all sorts of interesting people. And he was always kind enough that if I was in town, he would invite me to come and have lunch with him, and so I'd sit in and listen to 'em. They'd talk politics and economics and [*SL laughs*] that sort of thing. [04:45:45] But my favorite story about Witt involves he and I. And he called me one day and asked me if I was gonna be in Little Rock anytime soon, and I told him—well, as a matter of fact, I was gonna be down—I don't know—several days. He said, "Well, can you come by and see me?" And I said, "Well, sure." So I did. Walked in and visited a little while, and he looked at me, and he said, "Charles, I want to buy your company." And I said, "Oh, you do?" [*Laughs*] And he said, "Yep." And he said, you know, "And I'd make a good deal for you," and what he told me—it was a very nice deal. And—but he said, "I think I'd like to fit it in with my Fort Smith operation. I think it'd, you know, work well

together." And I said, "Well, Witt, you know, it's not my decision to make. I've got an independent board of directors. I'll have to get their approval, and we'd probably have to get shareholder approval." But I said, "I'll go talk to the board of directors about it." And he said, "Well yeah, you do that. But you can sell it if you just will. You can sell it. You need to do that." So I said, "Okay." And I got ready to leave, and as I left, I turned to him and said, "Witt," I said, "I'll get back to you just as soon as I've talked to the board," but I said, "you know, it's worth more than you're offering." And he said, "Hell, yes! That's why I want to buy it." [*Laughter*] And so I went back and talked to the board about it, and they thought it was worth more than he was offering, so I had to call him and tell him that our answer was no. And he said, "Well, I think you're making a mistake—particularly, you personally, I think, are making a mistake." But he said, "If that's the way y'all want it, that's fine." He said, "I won't do anything hostile. We'll still be friends." And that's the way it turned out—worked out.

[04:47:46] SL: Yeah.

CS: But I'll never forget—I don't know if it was before then or after then, but it was before we went on the New York Stock Exchange, and our company was traded in what they call the

over-the-counter market. So generally the way the stock was traded in the over-the-counter market was brokerage houses would make a market on the stock. They would buy or sell or find buyers and sellers. And one of the people who made a market on the stock was Stephens Investment Company—in those days. In fact, Witt didn't like it when I went in the New York Stock Exchange 'cause that cut out [*laughs*] them from this kind of business. But anyway, I was sittin' in my office one day and a fellow I knew in New York with one of the investment firms up there called me, and he said, "What's going on down there?" I said, "What do you mean, what's going on? I don't know of anything that's going on." [*Laughs*] And he said, "Well, your stock's jumped twenty-five or thirty cents a share," which was an extraordinary jump for us in those days. Now, it bounces up a couple dollars up or down. And I said, "It has? Well, I don't know of any reason why." He said, "Well." He said, "Now, Charles, tell me the truth." He said, "Tell me the truth." He said, "You know, under the securities laws [*coughs*] and the SEC regulations, anybody that has inside knowledge, they gotta quit making a market in your stock." And I said, "Well, yeah, I understand." [04:49:21] He said, "Stephens is not makin' a market in your stock anymore. They won't do it today." Says,

"Something's going on with Stephens." And I said, "Well, if it is, they haven't bothered to tell me." So we talked a little while and hung up, and then I get a call from somebody else that says, "You're stock's up fifty cents a share. What's going on?" "Well, I don't know." [*Unclear words*]. And then I get a call from a stockbroker living in Omaha, Nebraska, who I'd known for some time. He said, "Charles, what's going on with your stock? [*SL laughs*] It's up a dollar and a quarter a share." I says, "It is?" And he says, "Yeah, and Stephens is not making a market in the stock anymore. What the hell is going on?" I said—well, I said—I've forgotten what his name—"Doug," I said, "I—gosh, I don't know. If Stephens is fixin' to buy us or make an offer or do something, you know, they haven't bothered to tell me." So I hung up. And I'm sitting here debating, "What in the hell should I do?" [*SL laughs*] And the phone rings, and it's one of my directors—a guy by the name of Norman Hirschfield. And I said, "Norman, I'm glad you called. I need some advice and counsel." And I said, "The stock's been going up like mad." He says, "Yeah, isn't it great?" [*Laughter*] And I said, "Yeah, it's going up like mad, but I don't know, you know, I don't know why." And then I told him the story about Stephens. [04:51:02] "Oh," he said, "I know what's happened." He said, "I noticed the

stock was going up, so I called Freddie Fox," who was another stockbroker up there, "and I said—asked him if he knew what was going on. He said, 'Oh,' he said, 'I think people are just crazy.' And he said, 'What about Stephens not making a market in the stock?' He said, 'Oh, I asked them why they weren't making a market in the stock.' He says, 'Their machine is broken, and they've got to wait for some New York—guy from New York to come down and fix it.'" [*Laughter*] So by this time, the SEC is calling and saying, "You've got to put out a press release that you don't know of any reason why the stock is moving like this." So we were preparing a press release and putting it out. So I called my friend in New York, John Wallace, and I said, "John, I don't know what's going on, but Stephens not doing anything. The reason they're not making a market is because their machine is broke." He says, "You're kidding me." I said, "No." [*Laughter*] And so he said, "Well, let me check." He says, "They make a market in Tyson stock." So he checks and comes back and says, "Well, they're not making a market in Tyson either. I guess that's it." And then people all of a sudden realize what was going on, and stock [*laughs*], of course, starts right back down.

SL: Yeah.

CS: So you know, for about thirty minutes there I was rich [*laughter*], and then I was poor again.

SL: Poor again.

[04:52:19] CS: But—and that's how people react on silly things. I mean the stock was shooting up like mad. I'm trying to decide what to do. The SEC is calling me and telling me I've got to say something. I don't know what to say, and it's all because . . .

SL: Maybe facing prison time for all you knew.

CS: Yeah. [*Laughter*] And all because somebody's machine broke down. I think that helped decide that I oughta get on the New York Stock Exchange where . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . the machines don't break down, and they have quotes every day.

SL: Right.

[04:52:46] CS: So—but those are some of the interesting things you have that happen when you're a public company. But, you know, the—when Stephens left ARKLA, it sort of started downhill from then, and they, you know, they finally had to merge with that Houston company to—or the Houston company acquired them really. And they don't have any exploration or production now. They're just a distribution company. And the whole

industry is changing. As a matter of fact, we're selling our utility company to a outfit out of Denver, and quite frankly, the reason we're selling it is twofold. One, the Fayetteville Shale is—and the primary reason is the Fayetteville Shale is consuming so much capital—we had to raise money. We're also trying to sell some of our production in New Mexico and in the Gulf Coast in order to raise money to drill in Arkansas.

[04:54:01] SL: So you're puttin' all your eggs in the Fayetteville Shale.

CS: Yeah, we are right now. And—well, we've got some other areas that we're lookin' at to drill in. And so we're gonna try to diversify some, and I think we will. But some of the old mature areas, we're trying to get—raise capital. And the second reason, you know, is that we're not getting a very good rate of return from the Arkansas regulators on the utilities, so with our need for capital, why, we decided we got a good offer from this other company, which is owned by GE and some private equity firm, to buy the utilities—in addition to which, the utility companies—some of the technology that's coming along to—in the way of automatic meter reading, remote meter reading—all this stuff. It requires a lot of capital and spreading those costs over 150,000 customers makes the costs pretty high on the

customers, whereas if you're with a company that's got a half a million or more customers, why, then they can spread those costs around more.

SL: Right.

CS: So it's probably gonna be better for the customers up here that we are joining a little larger company. You know, I have—I was raised up with Arkansas Western, so I have some—a little personal feelings. I kinda hate to see it, but I know it's the best thing.

SL: The remote monitoring—that's part of a digital age.

CS: Oh yeah, yeah. It's—everything's so automated and digital now. But, you know, this has been a great area of the state to grow in. Back when Witt Stephens made that offer to me, I think we were about forty thousand customers, and his operation in Fort Smith was about the same. And so this area has grown—we're now 150,000 customers, and they're—I think they're about sixty thousand. So, you know . . .

SL: Another group.

CS: . . . and I think, you know, this other group that's coming in is attracted to this area because of the growth here. And the growth has offset the con—conservationists, so our gas load has been about the same over the years. [04:56:35] But you know,

I think we're actually keeping these buildings in Southwestern Energy Company because of the Fayetteville Shale and our need for space up here. And then we built an office building in Conway for all the people down there, so we're gonna have a large presence in the state. Well, anytime you spend a billion dollars, you're gonna have a large presence in the state.

SL: You bet. You bet.

[04:56:59] CS: But I think—you know, assuming the regulatory agencies approve, why, then Arkansas Western will sure operate under its same old name, but it'll be owned by somebody else.

SL: Will we still pay our bill through the drive-through up here?

CS: I'm sure you will.

SL: Okay.

CS: I'm sure you will.

SL: That's good.

CS: Unless we cut off your meter for nonpayment. [*SL laughs*] In which case, I will personally come out there and use the wrench. [*Laughter*]

SL: Well, I'll have you in for a cup of coffee when you get done.

CS: Well, if you cook on gas [*laughter*] . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: . . . you won't be able to. But I hope you do. But, no, I don't

think you'll have any problems. Even—probably won't even notice the difference.

SL: Well, that Fayetteville Shale deal sounds pretty exciting, and I . . .

CS: It is exciting.

SL: And I . . .

CS: And it could, you know, it could mean a lot to the state and a lot to our company. [*Tapping sound in background*] And we just hope it keeps its promise and keeps on going.

[04:57:55] SL: Well, you know, we're gonna try and have an interview with the governor next month. Is there anything you want me to lobby for you?

CS: Tell him to leave the severance tax alone until we get the . . .

SL: Leave it where it is.

CS: . . . till we get this thing really going.

SL: Okay.

CS: And then if we need some more taxes, why . . .

SL: That'll catch him off guard, wouldn't it—hear that coming from me?

CS: Yeah, and then [*SL laughs*], you know, eventually we'll be paying so much income tax that—once we catch up with it. I mean, once the revenues and the production catch up with the

capital expenditures.

SL: So how many years do you think it'll take for that to happen?

CS: Well of course, a lot depends on the price of natural gas.

SL: Yeah.

CS: But I think it's gonna take another four or five years . . .

SL: Wow.

CS: . . . of expenditures. You know, the amount we're spending over what we're getting ought to keep narrowing. But I think it'll be about that long before we finally reach that break-over point where the revenues are greater than the expenditures. The reason I had to go sign some papers is that we're selling some debt to the public to raise money for next year's drilling program, and that's seven hundred million.

SL: Wow.

CS: And the two hundred we're getting for the gas company gives us right close to the billion . . .

SL: What you need to make your amount [CS edit: budget]?

CS: Yeah, that we need for . . .

SL: Yeah.

CS: So . . .

SL: That's exciting.

[04:59:27] CS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, we—you know, we'll just keep

plugging away at it. I plan to, you know, keep active on the university foundation board for a little while longer. You know, at my age, I always worry that maybe I should quit before I realize I should. But . . .

SL: Well, you seem to be really just doing just fine, Charles.

CS: Well, I . . .

SL: You certainly don't look your age, and you don't talk your age or act your age so . . .

CS: Well, I've had good health. As I said, I hope it's—I take after [*laughs*] my aunt who . . .

SL: Well, I think you are.

CS: . . . who still didn't wear glasses and whose handwriting was much more legible than mine when she was ninety-six.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, I can't read my own handwriting now.

CS: And she'd probably still be alive if she hadn't fallen and broken her hip, you know.

SL: That's . . .

CS: And then caught pneumonia in the hospital.

SL: Yep. Yep.

CS: That just seems to be what gets everybody.

[05:00:28] SL: Yep. Let me think now. Oh, you'll—do you think you'll stay on the advisory board for the . . .

CS: I think so, for a while. Yeah.

SL: Yeah. I'm assuming that will continue to live.

CS: Oh, I assume. Of course, the new chancellor may have different ideas.

SL: Yeah.

CS: He may want something else.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And probably change the name, if nothing else.

SL: Right.

CS: We'll have to see. And I don't know what they're gonna do—if they're gonna form a search committee like they did last time or just try to pick somebody.

SL: I—I'm not sure what they're gonna do.

CS: Yeah.

SL: I don't know. I'm not in that—you know, I'm in the library now. [*CS coughs*] I don't—I'm not in that . . .

CS: Well, I don't know . . .

SL: . . . public relations loop much anymore.

CS: Yeah, I haven't talked to Alan in a while, so I don't know what he plans. But ultimately it'll come down to him. I mean he'll make the recommendation.

SL: Yeah.

CS: And that's what—but, you know, the university faces some leadership problems because . . .

SL: Well, Alan's got . . .

[05:01:23] CS: . . . Alan is seventy-two, I think. So, you know, I don't know how much longer he'll want to work. And Dodd Wilson down at the med school has already announced that he's gonna retire next year [*tapping sound in background*] and . . .

SL: New era.

CS: It is.

SL: It's a new era for Arkansas.

CS: Yeah. But that's a marvelous facility down there.

SL: Oh, UAMS?

CS: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah, I'm a little bit intimidated—getting ready to go down to talk to Harry Ward and—you know . . .

CS: Well, you don't need to worry about that. Harry's a very, very nice guy—very accommodating.

SL: Okay.

[05:02:00] CS: You know, he's the one that started it all with building new facilities and attracting some of these really first-class people in there. You know, the head of the neurosurgery department was voted the neurosurgeon of the century by the

International Society of Neurosurgeons.

SL: Wow.

CS: Not just of the country, but of the whole world—of the century. And the b—the doctor that's in charge of the multiple myeloma program at the Cancer Institute is world-renowned. It's the best place in the world to go if you—if you've got that particular type of cancer. And I can personally testify they do a great job down there. I—it was the summer [05:02:42] before last, I guess—summer of [20]05—I had a little bump come up on my forearm, and I had the dermatologist, you know, take a biopsy of it. And he called me and told me it was melanoma. And then he told me, you know, what I was facing, which scared me half to death.

SL: You bet.

CS: And so he told me—he said, "You know, the best thing for this is surgery," and he said, "I don't do it. I don't know anybody around here that does it." He said, "I'm gonna call down to the med school and see if I can get you in there." So, you know, he hung up. So I called Dodd Wilson [*laughter*]—told him what I was facing, and that afternoon Kent Westbrook, who's cha—charge of oncology surgery down there, called me and talked to me about it, and he said—this was on Wednesday. He said, "Can you be here Friday?"

SL: They got right on it.

CS: Yeah. I said, "Yes, sir, I'll be there." And, of course, I told my wife and my kids. And my daughter, Marti, had gone on the Internet, and she'd looked up all—everything about it, and she drove down with me, and she had a list of questions that long [uses hands to suggest length] that she was gonna ask the doctor. So we got down there and walked in and sat down in Dr. Westbrook's office, and he looked at me and said, "Mr. Scharlau, I just want you to know that I've already looked at the biopsies." Looked at it. He said, "I'm pretty sure it's just isolated in that one spot." "But," he said, "we're gonna, you know, operate and make sure." And he told me the kind of operation they had. He said, "I want you to know that I've done three thousand of these cases. [*SL laughs*] Eighty percent of 'em are still walkin' around." And then he started telling us everything, and you know, we spent, I don't know, a half hour, forty-five minutes with him and got the schedules all arranged and went out. [05:04:46] And on the way out, I said, "Marti, you didn't ask him a question—not one question. You told me all these questions you had." She said, "Dad, he answered every question I had." [*SL laughs*] I mean this guy just rolled it off.

SL: That's amazing.

CS: And yeah, he's an amazing guy. And I went down the next week, and they did CAT scans and everything else.

SL: Everything's good.

CS: And the next Friday, why, he operated and sent me home that afternoon.

SL: That's a good story.

[05:05:12] CS: Yeah, and you know, I was lucky. Everything—that's—he said it just isolated there. So I go see him every six months and he . . .

SL: We've been going to Children's Hospital down there twice a year . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . for the past twenty years with my daughter . . .

CS: Yeah.

SL: . . . and we're thrilled.

CS: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

CS: Yeah. Well, I think the med school doctors work over there. Yeah, that's a good place.

SL: Well . . .

CS: Well . . .

SL: . . . anything else you want to say?

CS: No, I've about run down.

SL: Do you think I've whooped you pretty good? [*Laughter*]

CS: You've whooped me to a frazzle. [*Laughter*]

SL: Well . . .

CS: And it's almost five o'clock.

SL: All right. Well, listen . . .

CS: I'll go home and take my wife out to eat.

SL: All right, well . . .

CS: See, I'm—see, these university people wore me down. I'm just not fit to cook tonight.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, thank you so much.

CS: Okay. Well, thank you.

[05:05:56 End of interview]

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