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Arkansas Democrat Project

Interview with:

Ozell Sutton
Telephone Interview
29 August 2006

Interviewer: Jerry McConnell

Jerry McConnell: This is Jerry McConnell. I'm here in Greenwood, Arkansas, getting ready to conduct a phone interview with Ozell Sutton in Atlanta, Georgia. This is for the Pryor Center for [Arkansas] Oral and Visual History at the University of Arkansas [Fayetteville]. It's on the history of the *Arkansas Democrat* and [Arkansas] *Democrat-Gazette*. The first thing I need to do, Ozell, is ask you if I have your permission to make this interview?

Ozell Sutton: You do, Jerry.

JM: Okay. Thanks very much, Ozell. Give me your full name.

OS: My full name is Ozell. O-Z-E-L-L.

JM: Okay.

OS: I don't have a middle name, so the last name is Sutton. S-U-T-T-O-N.

JM: All right. Very good. Now, I think it's fairly common knowledge in some quarters, Ozell, that you were the first African-American to work for one of the major

daily newspapers in Arkansas. And we can translate that "major" also into all-white, at that time [laughs], daily newspapers. You may have been one of the first in the South.

OS: I was one of the first in the South, if not *the* first. There was a guy who went to the *Nashville Banner* about the same time in 1950 as I came to the *Democrat* in 1950.

JM: Okay.

OS: I don't know which one of us was first, but there was nobody before the two of us.

JM: You don't remember his name offhand, do you?

OS: No, I don't. I used to know it, but I've sort of forgotten it.

JM: Yes. That's okay. I guess now, Ozell, we ought to start out and get you to the *Democrat*. Tell me when and where you were born.

OS: Gould.

JM: Gould, Arkansas.

OS: G-O-U-L-D.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: Gould, Arkansas.

JM: What year was that? When was that?

OS: I was born the thirteenth day of December of 1925 in Gould, Arkansas.

JM: Okay. What were your parents' names?

OS: And I laugh about that. I said I was born the thirteenth day of December, 1925.

The world was blessed with a boy child. [Laughs]

JM: Yes. Okay. [Laughs]

OS: That's funny, isn't it?

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: And they called him Ozell Sutton.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: My mother's name was Lula. L-U-L-A. Belle Sutton.

JM: B-E-L-L-E?

OS: Yes.

JM: Okay. And your father's name?

OS: My father's name was Charlie Sutton.

JM: Okay.

OS: I never knew my father.

JM: Oh, you didn't? Okay.

OS: He died very, very early.

JM: Okay. Did your mother raise you?

OS: My mother was left as a widow with eight children, and we were sharecroppers in Gould, Arkansas.

JM: That's down by where one of the penitentiaries is, isn't it?

OS: Oh, yes, sir.

JM: Yes, I thought so.

OS: Every time they broke out, they came through my yard.

JM: Is that right? [Laughter]

OS: That's down near Varner—below Pine Bluff.

JM: Yes. Right.

OS: Yes, sir. I'm quite familiar with the penitentiary.

JM: Okay. Where did you go to school, Ozell?

OS: I went to school at Gould Colored School there in Gould. Blacks didn't go to school but seven months a year at that time because we had to gather our crops.

JM: Yes.

OS: It's almost time to pick cotton, as you would know.

JM: Yes, I would remember that.

OS: So our school didn't start until November, where the white schools started in September. I recall asking my mother why it was that white kids went to school and we didn't go. This was the beginning of my concern in civil rights. My mother did not at all make any excuse for it. She said, "Boy, it's wrong, and it's got to change." I said, "Well, Mama, I tell you, when I grow up my kids are not gonna stay out of school until November." My mother laughed and said, "What you gonna do, boy?" I said, "I don't know. I'm gonna do somethin', Mother, if I don't do nothin' but throw a stick at the bus." [Laughter] Isn't that funny?

JM: Yes, that's good. Sort of a presage of what was to come, in a way, later on. Did you go all the way through school—twelve grades—at Gould?

OS: Gould didn't have a high school for blacks.

JM: Oh, they didn't? So what did you do for high school?

OS: Gould—eighth grade was the highest that it went in Gould. When I finished the eighth grade—and I was a big shot. I was the valedictorian. [Laughs] When I finished the eighth grade, my mama sent me to Little Rock to go to the great Dunbar High School. The perception of most people in Arkansas [was that] the greatest black school in Arkansas was Dunbar at Little Rock. I went to Little Rock to go to Dunbar High School. When I got to Little Rock—of course, we didn't have the money. Mama told me to get me a job so I could go to high

school. She gave me the greatest advice I've ever had. She said, "Boy, get you a job where you can *eat*, and you can make it." So I got me a job—first place, washing dishes at what you and I remember as Walgreens.

JM: Oh, okay. Yes.

OS: Right on the corner. Remember?

JM: Fifth and Main. Yes. Yes, I do.

OS: [Laughs] I got me a job washing dishes at Walgreens during high school. But when I got to the job, it was in the summer—I had come up. When the fall came, I needed a job where I could work at night instead of day. I had to find a dish-washing job where I could work at night. I went to work as a dishwasher down at a place further down on Main Street—120 Main—called the Post Office Café. I got a job working at night, from 4:00 in the afternoon until 12:00 at night. And that's the job I worked all the way through high school and all the way through college. After I had worked there for a period of time, they made me a cook. I became a cook at the Post Office Café. It was a Greek place. Nick Avalos.

JM: That was on Main Street?

OS: On Main Street. 120 Main.

JM: Yes. Okay. I know about where it was. Yes. Nick Avalos, did you say?

OS: Yes, Nick Avalos.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: He was a good man. I mean, within the context of segregation, as everything was at the time. That's where I labored. I got drafted into the Marines at eighteen. I had not finished high school because when I came up from Gould, two things had happened to me. [In the] first place, in Gould I'd had a terrible accident, and I

missed a grade. I was delayed a grade. I had fallen on the farm and got burned. So I was out of school for a year. That put me a year behind. And when I left Gould and went to Dunbar High School, they considered themselves so advanced that this little boy from Gould was so far behind, and they were pretty well right. I had to repeat the eighth grade when I got back to school at Little Rock. So that put me two years behind. And I got drafted at eighteen in the United States Marines in 1944. So that's the way it was. So that put me behind, as you could understand.

JM: Yes. How long were you in the Marines?

OS: I stayed in the Marines some thirty months.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: Spent some twenty-seven of those months in the South Pacific during World War II.

JM: In the South Pacific?

OS: Yes, sir. I was down in the Solomon Islands and moved from the Solomon Islands up to Tarawa. From Tarawa up to Saipan, and Saipan over to Guam, and from Guam up to Iwo.

I was on Iwo when the war ended.

JM: Yes. Okay. Iwo Jima.

OS: Yes.

JM: What were you doing? What was your role?

OS: Well, as you remember, all services were segregated at that time.

JM: Yes. I remember.

OS: We were labor battalions. I was in what we call a depot company, and they were

handling ammunition, getting the stuff where it's supposed to go to the men who were to do the fighting. That's what I did during that time. When the war ended, I came back to Guam, and from Guam back to the [United] States, then from the States to discharge, and from discharge I came back to Little Rock.

JM: Yes.

OS: I had to go back to high school because I had not finished high school. They set up for me an accelerated program in high school. I was on the fast course now. I finished high school—the eleventh and twelfth grades—between September of 1946 to January of 1947. I finished two grades during that time. And when I finished high school in January of 1947, I started to college. I went to a little ol' college that used to be called Dunbar Junior College. There were two junior colleges in Little Rock at that time. There was Little Rock Junior College, which later turned out to be the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. That was Little Rock Junior College. They had a Little Rock Junior College and a Dunbar Junior College. Little Rock Junior College was located where the administration building of Philander Smith College is. Right next door. Philander Smith College is located at Tenth and Izard, and Little Rock Junior College was located at 13th and Izard.

JM: Yes.

OS: When I finished junior college, I was fortunate enough—I was still on a high roll, now—I finished Dunbar Junior College in three semesters. And cooked downtown at night from 4:00 [p.m.] to 12:00 [a.m.] That was then. And then I started to Philander Smith College.

JM: You were still cooking, did you say?

OS: Yes, sir.

JM: Were you on the GI Bill, too?

OS: Yes, sir.

JM: Yes, okay. Good.

OS: I was on the GI Bill. That was my great fortune. GI Bill was the greatest lift to black higher education during that time.

JM: Yes. It wasn't a bad lift to *all* of education, Ozell. [Laughs] I finished college on the GI Bill, too.

OS: It was really a lift to higher education, wasn't it?

JM: Yes, it was. Yes, it was.

OS: And I still thank God for it. When I finished Philander Smith—even before I finished—I started to work with the *Democrat*. I started to work full-time after I finished, but I started part-time back around February of 1950.

JM: Nineteen-fifty.

OS: Yes.

JM: How did you get a job at the *Democrat*?

OS: You know, it's an interesting thing. [Laughs] It *was* interesting, because the guy at the *Democrat*—now, what did we call him? What was his name?

JM: Well, I'm trying to think. Would he have been the managing editor? Was it Ed[win] Liske?

OS: It was Liske.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: The old man.

JM: Yes. All right.

OS: Liske was the old man, right?

JM: Right. Yes, he was.

OS: It was Liske. Liske made us [a long story?], and invited Philander Smith College to—now, how the *Democrat* decided to hire a black is but a supposition on my part. There were great divisions between the two papers, as you remember.

JM: Oh, yes. I remember.

OS: The *Democrat* was considered by blacks to be the most conservative paper, and the *Gazette* the most liberal.

JM: Right.

OS: The *Democrat*, in order to impact the black circulation without changing its conservative policy, decided to hire a black affairs writer. Now, that's my supposition, and I found it to be pretty well true.

JM: Yes.

OS: So they approached Philander Smith College and asked for a recommendation. The president of Philander Smith College said to Liske that it did not have a school of journalism, so it was not prepared to make a recommendation.

JM: Oh.

OS: So that went first. Then they contacted a very prominent black attorney named Bob Booker. Bob was probably the most prominent black attorney in the state at that time. [They] asked him for recommendations. Bob said, "You know, I can't make you a recommendation of somebody who has training in journalism, but I *can* make you a recommendation of somebody who has some skills in writing and that kind of thing." So Bob recommended me. Bob called and told me he had recommended me, and that I was to become a member of the staff of the *Arkansas Democrat*. Now, you and I know that was completely unheard of.

JM: Yes, I know. [Laughter]

OS: I said, "A staff writer for the *Arkansas Democrat*? [In the] first place, I don't *like* the *Arkansas Democrat*." [Laughter] But Liske called, and I went down and I met the old man. Where were we, up on the third floor somewhere?

JM: Second floor.

OS: Second floor?

JM: Yes.

OS: I went down to meet the old man and he offered me a job. He said, "Now, I know you're not trained in journalism, but Attorney Booker says you *can* write and that you can spell, and that if you bring those two elements to us, we can train you to do journalism." So I was hired on the basis of the fact that I could compose and that I could spell. [Laughter]

JM: Well, I wish they all today could do that. [Laughs]

OS: Right. I know what you mean.

JM: [Laughs]

OS: So I went to work for the *Democrat*. Now, in light of those days, they segregated me. I was—all of you—when did you come here?

JM: I came to the *Democrat* in June of 1951, so I was a little over a year after you.

OS: You were behind?

JM: Yes.

OS: You know how the reporters were in line at the *Democrat*? The city desk was across, and then the reporters were in line from the city desk. Well, they didn't put me, at first, in line, they put me on the other side of the city desk. I was behind Allen Tilden. Do you remember Allen?

JM: Oh, yes. He hired me.

OS: [Laughs] Allen Tilden. I was sitting behind Allen Tilden—on the *other* side of Allen Tilden, and that's where I was *housed*. When I'd come in I would go to my desk—nobody sitting over there but me—and work. You know, for one thing, it was kind of contributing to my development. The reason was that I was not a trained journalist and that I didn't even know how to type at that time. [Laughter] So to be over there by myself, not bothered by anybody, gave me the opportunity to learn the trade. Unhampered and unbothered by anybody—because nobody spoke to me at that time, Jerry. You know the first person who showed me some friendship?

JM: Who was that?

OS: Bob McCord. Is Bob still alive?

JM: Yes, he is. Yes, he's a good friend of mine. I talked to him about three or four days ago.

OS: Well, you tell Bob McCord—Ozell says to thank him for a lifelong friendship.

JM: I'll do it.

OS: Bob McCord was very friendly toward me, and he was the first person that would even come back [to] where I was and say hello. And that was the way it went. I stayed with the *Democrat* seven years, from 1950 to 1957.

JM: Yes. Okay. As I remember, there was a row of desks—what you were talking about along that way—Allen Tilden's desk was. Then there was a news editor's desk and a state editor, and this long row along the south end was a big news-room, and you were behind—you were between them and the back wall, right?

OS: Right.

JM: By yourself.

OS: Facing the wall.

JM: And facing the wall. Okay. If I remember, at some point you got moved around. How did that all transpire?

OS: Well, now, that's funny, too. I came in one day and my desk had been moved from being behind Allen Tilden to beside Allen Tilden. I've always been a person who approached even crazy situations in sort of a crazy way. So when I walked in and my desk had been moved, I walked over to Tilden. I said, "Chief"—we called him Chief. [Laughs] I said, "Chief, where is my desk, or have I been fired?" Now, that's exactly the way I approached him. He said, "Here's your desk right here, Ozell." I said, "Oh, is that so? Am I an editor?" [Laughter] He said, "No, not quite." He said, "But here's your desk." So I sat down there by Allen Tilden. I stayed there about six months and then I came in—my desk had been moved again. I was in line, now. I was moving on up.

JM: You were in line with the other reporters?

OS: Right.

JM: Yes.

OS: My desk—I was next to Shannon? He was one of the editorial writers.

JM: Oh, Karr Shannon.

OS: Karr Shannon.

JM: Yes.

OS: I was next to Karr Shannon. I came in and my desk had been moved again. I walked over and said, "Now, Chief, this is getting to be funny. Where is my desk now?"

JM: Yes. [Laughs]

OS: He said, "There you are over there." I said, "I'm over there *in line*?" [Laughter]

JM: Yes.

OS: He said, "Yes, Ozell, you're *in line*." I said, "You white folk have decided that this black skin of mine won't terminate you or something?" [Laughter] He said, "There's your desk, Ozell." And I went over there and sat down. And that's how I got in line.

JM: Yes. Okay. Now, what stories were you covering at this time?

OS: At first it was whatever I could hustle up in the black community. I had no assignment. I certainly didn't have [a] city desk assignment. I had no city hall assignment or school assignment. I just was sort of a general assignment reporter, working the black community and their affairs. That happened until 1954. Now, you know what happened in 1954?

JM: Yes, I do—the Supreme Court ruling. [Reference to *Brown v. Board of Education*]

OS: Absolutely. When the Supreme Court ruled, I became one of the greatest authorities on what was the most important subject at that time, because at the same time I was the vice president of the Little Rock chapter of the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People]. And I was Daisy Bates's lieutenant.

JM: Was she the president?

OS: She was president of the NAACP.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: And I was always involved in the NAACP—had been involved from the time I

was a youth, and thus, the most knowledgeable person about what the NAACP was doing and going to do, and how it was going to do it, that the *Democrat* had. So I became a little more important at that particular time to the paper. That was how I moved up and became—because the *Democrat* didn't give much of a raise. You all didn't make any money.

JM: No.

OS: And I didn't make [any] money. [Laughter]

JM: Do you remember by chance how much you were making—what they paid you?

OS: I don't, really—\$60 or \$65 a week or something like that, which wasn't much.

JM: Yes. At any rate, in 1954 you were covering NAACP. And as I remember, and I went back—in fact, before this [oral history] project even came up, I had gone back and started looking up some of the stories when I was at the *Democrat* the first time. You were also covering meetings, you know, like at Pine Bluff and groups talking about how they were going to approach desegregation and all that. Is that correct?

OS: Yes, I became sort of statewide in my coverage of the black struggle. And since I was probably the most knowledgeable person in the state about black efforts to desegregate themselves, I started covering those kinds of events—but then I was privileged to begin to cover the middle-class black activities. And as they sought to advance themselves. But, yes, what might be termed the *Ebony*-kind of black movements in Arkansas.

JM: Yes.

OS: *Ebony* magazine?

JM: Yes.

OS: The kind of stuff that they do. I was able to begin to do a lot of that nationally, so I was sort of a writer, depending on what I found to write.

JM: Yes. Okay, let me come back to that in a minute. I don't know what had happened before or after this, but you sort of caused a change in the way that the *Democrat* identified black people. Isn't that correct? And particularly, black women.

OS: Yes, it was. That was funny.

JM: Tell me about that.

OS: The *Democrat* guys never used courtesy titles for black women. The *Gazette* did.

JM: Yes.

OS: But the *Democrat* had a problem because I absolutely refused to write a black woman's name without a courtesy title. Now, that's the atmosphere out of which I grew up. Tilden was always on my case. I'd write a story, and I'd write, "Mrs. So-and-so," and he or his staff would go through this story and scratch "Mrs." But they never could get me to write it that way. I told Tilden. He said, "Now, Ozell, you know we don't use courtesy titles for black women." I said, "Chief, we have a problem." He said, "What's that?" "You don't use courtesy titles for black women, and I don't write black women's names without courtesy titles." [Laughs]

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: Chief and I . . .

JM: Was this Tilden or Liske you were talking to?

OS: No, this was Tilden.

JM: Okay.

OS: Tilden was a good man, followed by—what's his name?

JM: Gene Herrington.

OS: Gene Herrington. Yes.

JM: Yes.

OS: I really didn't have any difficulty out of either one of them; it's just a policy on their part. But what they ran into was a policy on *my* part. I refused to write a black woman's name without a courtesy title. And we came to an impasse. What I started to do, Jerry, was I didn't say, "My wife's name is Joanna." I didn't write, "Mrs. Joanna Sutton," I wrote, "Mrs. Ozell Sutton." Then if you wrote it without a courtesy title, then you're identifying the wrong person.

JM: Yes.

OS: Oh, segregation was a game at that time. And those of us who had to fight the game became pretty clever, and I suddenly became clever. Without aggravation and without even confrontation, I was refusing to yield to the problem. That has been my—still is—my way of doing it. So I started to write "Mrs." and called her husband's name. Now, that makes a problem for Tilden, right?

JM: Right. He takes out the "Mrs." and he's got the person identified as Ozell Sutton.

OS: Absolutely.

JM: Yes.

OS: That's when old man Liske came in. He called me into his office. And that was back in the days when you called blacks "Doctor." Liske always called me Doctor. That was in lieu of calling me "Mr." They didn't call any of the rest of you "Doctor." He called me Dr. Sutton. And he told me the policy of the paper. I said, "I know." [He said], "Now, Doctor," and then I called him "Doctor." I said, "I cannot do that, so if you want me fired, you have to do that right away."

So he said, "Well, you go on. We'll talk about it later." Then he received a call from Dr. M. Lafayette Harris, who was president of Philander Smith.

JM: Yes.

OS: Dr. Harris asked for a meeting with Liske, and Liske didn't know what the call was all about. So he called me into his office wanting to know if I knew what Dr. Harris wanted. I said, "I can assure you *nobody* knows what Dr. Harris wants but Dr. Harris."

JM: [Laughs]

OS: When Dr. Harris came down, it was to his shock that that wasn't what Dr. Harris was talking about at all. Dr. Harris wanted to talk about UNCF, United Negro College Fund. [Laughs] The old man was so glad that he wasn't talking about that segregated subject that he gave Philander Smith College some money for the United Negro College Fund. But that was funny. Then Liske called me in and said, "Dr. Sutton—" And I said, "Now, Mr. Liske, you hired me right out of Philander Smith College, and you know that I don't have a doctorate. So I don't know why you continue to call me Dr. Sutton." [Laughs] He laughed. He said, "It's an honor." I said, "Okay, I'll take it." And we went on from there. He said, "This whole subject of courtesy titles—we seem to be going around the horn on that one. You win." I said, "I win? What do I win?" He said, "The *Democrat* has decided to start using courtesy titles for blacks."

JM: Yes.

OS: "So you win." I said, "Mr. Liske, we *all* win. Anytime you pay due tribute to any human being, you win." I said, "But I do want to thank you, sir. It really does lift my spirit," and I turned around and walked out. And that's the way the *Democrat*

started to use courtesy titles.

JM: That's great. You don't remember what year that was, do you?

OS: It had to be in the mid-1950s, but I don't remember the exact year.

JM: Yes. Okay. All right. After the Supreme Court ruling—tell me a little bit about some of the stories you were covering in that period of time.

OS: I was covering a lot of things as they related to what the NAACP planned to do, because that was my knowledge above everybody else, because I was one of Daisy Bates's lieutenants. So I knew exactly what the NAACP planned to do. I went to all of its meetings. I went to its national meetings, and I wrote stories about that.

JM: Yes.

OS: But, you know, that story progressively changed. Those were changing times. And it wasn't always what the NAACP was going to do. When the freedom rides came into town—when the sit-ins came into the town. The one person who knew most about what the black community planned to do in that struggle was Ozell. And that's the way I came along.

JM: Yes. So you covered some of those situations, then?

OS: Well, I covered the situation, but not only that—by the time the freedom ride actually came to town, and by the time the sit-ins actually came to town, I had left the *Democrat*. I had left the *Democrat*, and I was working as the associate director of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations [ACHR]. So I led the sit-ins.

JM: Yes. Okay. Before I get to that, what period of time in 1957 did you leave the *Democrat*?

OS: I left the *Democrat* in March—I believe it was March—in 1957.

JM: Okay.

OS: And I went to work for Win[throp] Rockefeller up on top of Petit Jean Mountain. By then, I was totally and wholly disillusioned about my own career. I was going nowhere, the *Democrat* was not giving me any raise—well, they gave you about a \$5- or \$10-a-week raise sometimes.

JM: \$5. [Laughter]

OS: I knew you'd know, Jerry.

JM: Yes. [Laughs]

OS: So I wasn't getting promoted. They weren't about to make me an editor. They were not about to make me *anything*. I got that \$five-a-week raise, and that's all. I had a wife and two children at that time. I needed to do better. So I got a job working for Win Rockefeller—not professional—folks don't realize that I was Winthrop's butler for two years.

JM: Oh, is that right?

OS: Yes. I left there and went up to WinRock [Farms] and became the butler for Win Rockefeller. He had the best butler you ever seen in your *life*. [Laughter] And that's what I did from 1957 until 1959, was to serve as a butler to Win Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller was a good man. I was able at that time to be more than just a butler. Because, you remember, Win had all these big affairs up there, and I was in charge of special events. He took advantage of what little knowledge I had, and my ability, and made me in charge of special events. When he'd have those big cattle sales up there and those rich people coming in from all over the world, who was in charge of events? Ozell. And that was 1957 to 1959.

JM: Yes.

OS: I left there and came back down to Little Rock and became director of—no, I went with the Little Rock Housing Authority as a relocation supervisor. There was a guy down there named B. Finley Vinson, and B. Finley was with Little Rock Housing Authority and later became a banker.

JM: Yes, he eventually became president of First National Bank.

OS: Now you've got it. And I became—during that period of time—the relocation supervisor. That was when urban renewal was big. Urban renewal in Little Rock. I stayed there from 1959 until 1961, and then I became the associate director of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations.

JM: Yes. How did you get that job? That's not a government job then?

OS: No, it's not a government job. The Arkansas Council on Human Relations was a private organization working in the area of desegregation and human relations.

JM: Yes.

OS: I got it easily because I was one of the founders of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations. I've always stuck my nose into everything. And we organized a council on human relations. There was a state council on human relations in each one of the southern states. We got our funds from the Southern Regional Council, which was located here in Atlanta. And they got their funds from major foundations, including the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and—you know, the major foundations—in human relations. That's where I worked for that particular time. And after the sit-ins started—if I remember correctly, the sit-ins started in 1960—when did the sit-ins start? Nineteen sixty-one, I believe. And the kids—I say kids—the young people over at Philander Smith College decided that they wanted to join the worldwide movement of sit-ins.

JM: Yes.

OS: The sit-ins—after they had occurred down in Greensboro, North Carolina, the young people at Philander decided *they* wanted to sit-in. So they came and asked me to give them the leadership and sit-in in Little Rock, and I did at Woolworth and McClellan's. I led the sit-ins, in that sense. It was an interesting time, because with me, I'd take the first seat at Woolworth, then the young people would line up on me and sit-in.

JM: Yes.

OS: And there was a gentleman who—I say gentleman—that's a kind word—who was going to do something to me *every* day in the sit-ins. The first time he put some ice down my back, and I got up and pulled my shirt tail out and let it fall on the floor. Still sat-in. The second day he poured some hot coffee on my leg. And I tell you, Jerry, that coffee was *hot*. He didn't dash it on, he just stood there and slowly poured it on my leg. I was sitting there trying to be a nonviolent soldier. [Laughter] That was the second day. The third day was the ultimate insult. He spat in my face. He was a tobacco chewer. He hit me right between the eyes with that wad of tobacco, and it ran all down in my eyes. It took me and the students ten minutes to get my eyes so I could see. That was the third day. The fourth day when I came in, and we sat down as usual, he was standing over there. I knew he was going to do something. I shocked him. I got up from the seat where I was and walked up and said, "Mr." He said, "Yes?" I said, "You are making a mistake." He said, "Mistake?" I said, "Yes, you're getting me mixed up with Dr. King." [Reference to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.] He said, "I know you're not Dr. King." I said, "But what you don't know is that I'm not nonviolent like Dr.

King, either." [Laughter] He looked off. "Not nonviolent?" I said, "Sir, you are looking at a Marine raider." You know, I had been in the service by this time.

"You're looking at a Marine raider. And if you bother me today, instead of seeing a nonviolent soldier, you're going to have to deal with a Marine raider. I can whip you before you can bat your eye, and that's what I'm going to do today if you bother me." [Laughter] He didn't bother me that day.

JM: Where was this? At Woolworth?

OS: Yes.

JM: Was he working in there?

OS: No, he had nothing to do with Woolworth.

JM: Oh, okay. He just showed up to hassle you? Yes.

OS: That's the way it was in those days. He just showed up and showed his own personal prejudices.

JM: Yes.

[End of Tape 1, Side 1]

[Beginning of Tape 1, Side 2]

OS: After [President] Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964—and, by the way, I had the honor of being at the White House two or three weeks ago for the resigning of the bill. But after he had signed, at that time I was directing a statewide voter registration campaign with monies that the Arkansas Council had solicited from foundations.

JM: Yes.

OS: I went down to the state capitol to get some maps and various things I needed to plot and plan my drive. I went to the state capitol, and I really was not testing. I

got down there and it was about 1:00 in the afternoon, and I was hungry. I said,
"The Civil Rights Act . . ."

JM: Now, this was at the state capitol?

OS: At the state capitol.

JM: Yes. Okay. Right.

OS: See, I led the sit-ins at the state capitol. I said, "I'm hungry. I might as well eat
now. It's the law."

JM: Yes.

OS: I went into the little ol' dining room downstairs, and I got in line. I got to pick up
a tray and I picked up some silver[ware], and by the time I had gotten to the salad,
this little lady who was owner of the dining room downstairs came up to me, and
she said, "Sir—" and she did say sir—"I am sorry that we don't serve Negroes in
here." And she said, "Negroes." And, again, here I go, being funny, just like I
was at the *Democrat*. I said, "That's all right, madam. I don't eat them, either."
[Laughter] "So I don't want any Negroes, I want some *roast beef*." Now, that's
the way I approached life. And she said, "Well, what I mean is you can't eat in
here." Now, that's getting to the nitty-gritty, right? I said, "Madam, did you know
that Mr. Johnson has signed into law the Civil Rights Act?" And she said, "Yes,
we do." I said, "Well, how can you tell me, then, that I cannot eat in here?" She
said, "Until we get the Supreme Court ruling, those of us who own places have
decided that we are not going to *comply*." I said, "Now, Madam, you white folk
taught me all that I know about civil rights and justice and freedom," and here I
went on a speech, right?

JM: Yes.

OS: "All of you taught me that. And also you taught me that the bill is in operation now, not when the Supreme Court moves." By that time, two big white police officers in plain clothes walked up and said, "The lady said you can't eat in here, so why don't you go on out?" I said, "Sir, who are you?" And they said, "We are—we don't have to tell you that. All we want you to do is leave." I said, "Well, I'm not about to leave." So they caught me under my arm on each side and each leg, and carried me to the door, and they pitched me out on my sacroiliac and [laughs] tore up the pants on one of my suits. They pitched me out. You ought to look that up in the *Democrat*.

JM: I'll do that. I have some recollection of it anyway, but go ahead.

OS: They threw me out of there and it became a big issue at that time, their throwing me out of the capitol. Because the religious leaders, black and white, came *storming* to the capitol, led by a Bishop Brown of the Episcopalian church. So Bishop Brown and the bishop of the AME [African Methodist Episcopal] church, the bishop of the United Methodist Church, the priest of the Catholic church. I mean, that level of religious leaders came to the capitol in integrated form, started a sit-in.

JM: Yes.

OS: And, of course, the U.S. attorney went to the court and got an injunction, and that's how the restaurant in the state capitol was desegregated.

JM: Was desegregated. Yes.

OS: See, they were through with me. They didn't need me anymore when they threw me out. [Laughs]

JM: Yes. [Laughs]

OS: And that was at your state capitol. You had a reporter—we had a reporter. Do you remember Douthit?

JM: George Douthit?

OS: Yes. George Douthit. I believe it was George who covered the story about that situation, and that issue was dead, of course, as far as they were concerned, until later on when I came to the state capitol as special assistant to [Governor] Win Rockefeller. And they [Rockefeller's people] came forth with a great, big banner saying, "Ozell returns," like I was [General Douglas] MacArthur or something. [Laughter] Ozell returns to the capitol.

JM: Yes.

OS: They insisted that I go downstairs. They wanted to make some pictures of my eating in the restaurant downstairs. I said, "Well, I'm not here to make any show. I'm going to eat in the restaurant because it's downstairs. But I'm not here to make any show out of it. So you're talking about 'Ozell Returns.'" So I went downstairs, and I ate after I came down with Win Rockefeller. And when I went downstairs, I said, "If I had known the food was this bad, I wouldn't have come in the first place." [Laughter] As somebody who had come through the dishwashing and the cooking stage, I knew how to cook.

JM: Yes, you knew good food.

OS: I knew good food. So we laughed about it and went on.

JM: Do you remember what year this was that you went to work out at the capitol for Rockefeller?

OS: Nineteen sixty-eight.

JM: Nineteen sixty-eight. Okay.

OS: See, I was in Memphis [Tennessee] when Martin [Luther King, Jr.] was killed.

JM: Okay.

OS: I was with—by that time, I had gone from the Arkansas Council on Human Relations to a field representative for the Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice. So I was working the Memphis situation with the Department of Justice at that time. When Martin was killed, he was in [room] 306 of the Lorraine Hotel, and I was located in 308 of the Lorraine Hotel. That's where I was when Martin was killed. I had a call from Win Rockefeller.

JM: Were you in your room? Where were you when the actual shooting happened?

OS: I was in my room.

JM: Okay.

OS: I was in my room. I heard that shot. At first I didn't pay any attention to it because it was not unusual to hear a shot. The running battles between militant young blacks in Memphis and the police were ongoing. When I heard the shot, I didn't pay any attention at first, but then I heard some tramping in the courtyard. Now, the courtyard of the Lorraine at that time was gravel. So you could hear the running of feet. And I said, "Let me get out here and see what has occurred." So I came out of my room and I looked down on the ground floor, and I was trying to see what had occurred. I found out that while I was looking on the ground floor, what had occurred had happened up there by me. So I was just about to go downstairs to try to investigate—well, not investigate because I couldn't investigate—to take a look, and people started running upstairs. And when they started running upstairs, now, then, I looked around and about twenty feet from me was Martin's body back against the wall. That's the way it occurred. And when that

occurred, black leadership in Arkansas zeroed in on the governor. They had this big "We Shall Overcome" rally at the state capitol. They had Winthrop Rockefeller singing, "We Shall Overcome." [Laughs] But I was not there. I was in Memphis. When he [Rockefeller] sat down with them, they demanded that there be a greater black presence in the state capitol. They asked the governor for the position of special assistant in the governor's office. Winthrop Rockefeller agreed, and when he agreed and asked them who did they want to be the special assistant, they told him they wanted Ozell Sutton.

That was the black leadership statewide in Arkansas. I was still in Memphis.

JM: Yes.

OS: Mr. Rockefeller called me in Memphis in the middle of the night because Mr. Rockefeller didn't ever go to bed before 12:00 [a.m.] or 1:00 [a.m.]—he didn't get up until the next day at 10:00 [a.m.] or 11:00 [a.m.] either, but that's neither there or here. [Laughter] So he called me in Memphis. "Ozell?" I said, "Yes, sir?" "This is Win Rockefeller." I said, "Oh? Win? W. R.?" [Laughs] He said, "Yes." I said, "What causes Win Rockefeller to call me?" Because he was in Palm Springs [California]. It's funny how you rich folk always want to run to Palm Springs. [Laughter] You know I'm being funny. He called me and asked me to join his staff. He said that the black leadership across the state had had a meeting, and they recommended that I join his staff. He was inviting me to join his staff. I said, "Mr. Rockefeller, I am in Memphis. I am in an important assignment with the Department of Justice with the Community Relations Service, and I don't see how I could possibly leave." What I was looking at is the governor was in his second term already. [Laughs]

JM: Yes.

OS: He said, "Well, when are you coming home?" I said, "I'll be home on the weekend." He said, "Why don't you come over to the [governor's] mansion and let's talk about it." I went to the mansion, and I thought about it *real* hard. I went to the mansion, and I went to the mansion with two propositions. I said, "Governor, I'll join your staff under two conditions. Number one is that you go to Washington [DC] and obtain for me a leave of absence from the present job I have. I will not quit my present job and join your staff, but I *will* come on leave if you obtain it. I cannot ask for it. You have to ask for it." So, sure enough, Win Rockefeller got in the big WR [reference to Rockefeller's private plane]—you remember that?

JM: Yes.

OS: And flew to Washington. He went to meet with the attorney general at that time, Ramsey Clark. He met with Ramsey, and he asked Ramsey for my leave. Now, as he prepared to do that, I was getting situated in his office in my mind.

JM: Yes.

OS: And I said, "Now, I will only be answerable to you—nobody else. I will have to go through nobody to see you, and I have to have the idea that you will listen." And he gave me that, and I became answerable only to Winthrop Rockefeller as special assistant. Actually, I had the third-best office in the governor's suite. The first was the governor, the second was the lieutenant governor, and the third was Ozell. This caused me a few problems inside the governor's office, as you would guess, but nothing extravagant. So that's how I got into Win Rockefeller's office in 1968.

JM: Okay. So you stayed there until . . . ?

OS: Until 1970.

JM: Until he went out of office?

OS: Yes.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: He was going out.

JM: Yes. Going to go out. Yes.

OS: Yes. And I stayed there until then.

JM: So what did you do then?

OS: When I left there, I went back to the Community Relations Service. Remember, I was on leave.

JM: Yes.

OS: I came back to the Community Relations Service as a staff member. By that time, as state director for Arkansas, and then when I left as state director, I came down here in Atlanta in 1972 as regional director for the southeast region of the Community Relations Service, United States Department of Justice, where I served until 2002.

JM: Okay.

OS: I served thirty years.

JM: Okay. So you retired in 2002, then?

OS: Right.

JM: Yes. Okay. Quite a career.

OS: I have had, Jerry, one of the most meaningful lives of struggle that anybody could imagine. It has allowed me to do what I had committed myself to do, and what I had trained myself to do, and what I was willing to do. And I still am on that

case.

JM: [Laughs]

OS: I'm retired now. I go across the country and speak. And I laugh with them. I said, "I've been everywhere. I've done everything. Now I am going to come and tell you about it." [Laughs]

JM: Yes. Okay. Ozell, let's go back now. That's great. I wanted to get all that information. Such a great career. Let's go back to the *Democrat* days for a little while. After you were moved in line with the other reporters, how did that situation go? Did you get along pretty well with the other reporters at that time?

OS: You know, I got along with the reporters in the sense that you all didn't bother me, and I didn't bother you. That was sort of [laughs] an unspoken kind of relationship. [Bob?] was a good man, but he went about doing what he wanted to do. And the staff started to be more—well, more friendly toward me.

JM: Yes.

OS: Nobody really gave me a hard time when I was at the *Democrat*. And I thank all of you for it in that sense. As I said, the first person was my friend, Bob. With my friend, Bob—and I've forgotten what year it occurred—there were tornados that skipped all over Arkansas.

JM: I can tell you. That was 1952.

OS: Was it 1952? Well, that's when Bob and I were assigned together on tornados. We went on tornados, and I learned something on tornados, Bob and I—we went all around, and I've forgotten what the little town's name was—you can ask Bob that—that we had to go to together. We got there that morning before [day-break]—I believe it was on a Saturday night. Now, Saturday evening in that town

[isn't] a good place. And Bob and I were assigned together on this little town up in north Arkansas. And when we were there, we went all around collecting all our materials.

JM: [Laughs]

OS: By daybreak, we were hungry. Starved. Bob said, "I'm hungry, Ozell. Are you?" I said, "Yes, but we've got problems." He said, "What's that?" I said, "That we've got nowhere to eat." He said, "Nowhere to eat?" He had not experienced and been confronted with segregation in just that way.

JM: Yes.

OS: Anyway, he said, "Well, we can stop at any of these restaurants." I said, "No, we cannot." He said, "You've got to be kidding." I said, "No, [Bob], I'm not kidding." So we started to try to find us somewhere we could eat, and none of the restaurants would let us come in and eat. Boy, this was a *shocker* for Bob, and a changing moment for Bob. We went from restaurant to restaurant and couldn't eat. And Bob at least refused to go ahead and eat without me. You know, the great human reaction. After all, he was with his coworker. We finally had to go in and get some food and bring it out and eat it in the car. That was the experience that I had with Bob McCord. So Bob and I became lifelong friends with that experience. Bob left the *Democrat* and started editing a paper in North Little Rock.

JM: Yes, he did.

OS: Yes.

JM: Now, as we approach the [1957 Little Rock] Central High [School desegregation] situation, you were still Daisy Bates's assistant until not too long before all that

happened, correct?

OS: Yes, I was. I was at Central High when the kids were entering Central High.

JM: Okay.

OS: The young people—well, the mob anticipated that the young people were coming to the front because me and another young black man were posted up on the steps of Central High as decoys. There was a young man then—he's dead now, bless his heart—named Earl Davie, who was . . .

JM: Named what?

OS: Earl Davie.

JM: D-A-V-I-E or D-A-V-Y or . . . ?

OS: D-A-V-I-E.

JM: All right.

OS: Earl was Daisy Bates's photographer for the *State Press*. [Reference to the newspaper published by L. C. and Daisy Bates].

JM: Okay.

OS: And he was on one step—you know how Central High is located.

JM: yes.

OS: And I was on the other.

JM: Yes.

OS: So at first the mob thought that that's the way the young people were coming in. But then they found out that the young people had gone in the side door over on Pine Street, I believe, over there—and they took exception to our presence, so they took off after me and Earl. At first, I had outrun them because I was gone.

In the Civil Rights Movement, I knew when to run, when to hold and when to turn

loose. And it was a good turning loose time. So I started to run and Earl started to run, but they caught Earl and knocked him down and they took his camera. I looked back and they had caught Earl, and I went back to help Earl get up, and that's when they beat the hell out of both of us on that day. That was at Central High School.

JM: Now, before you left the *Democrat*—that was several months before the Central High crisis—but I assume that—had you been reporting any of the stuff—what the planning was leading up to the integration of Central High and stuff like that?

OS: You know, there is not any great record of my reporting, although I left the *Democrat* in March of 1957. And that which happened at Central High was in September.

JM: Yes.

OS: But there was not a body of reports. There still was not at the *Democrat* the willingness to sort of turn me loose and let me do those kind of assignments.

JM: Yes. What was your impression when the Central High crisis started? What was your impression of the coverage by—and you were no longer there—by the two newspapers of the Central High Crisis?

OS: Well, of course, the *Democrat* was what it had been all times. There was no question about its attitude about the whole question. The *Gazette* lived up to what we expected it to do. [Harry] Ashmore was in place and going according to the way Ashmore reported.

JM: Yes.

OS: What I have *not* said is I tried my best before I left the *Democrat* to switch from the *Democrat* to the *Gazette*. But they wouldn't hire me. The great Ashmore—

and I am not blaming him . . .

JM: Yes. Did you go over there and apply for a job?

OS: Oh, yes.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: Oh, yes. But, you see, getting back to our original concept—he didn't need a black. You get what I mean?

JM: Yes. Yes. [Laughs]

OS: It didn't enhance his position or status. So Ashmore would say, "Well, Ozell." And the bad part of it, we were—well, I say bad—it wasn't bad—we were active together in other endeavors in the state and in the city.

JM: Yes.

OS: I'm writing a book. There's a chapter in my book on "Nobody to second the motion." And that entire chapter is dealing with the times in Little Rock.

JM: Yes.

OS: I was a member of the board of the United Way. The Urban League got kicked out of the United Way.

JM: Who did?

OS: The Urban League.

JM: Oh, Urban League. Okay. Yes. All right. Okay.

OS: Got kicked out of it because of the desegregation fight. Every board meeting, I would make a motion that we reinstate the Urban League. And nobody would ever second the motion. We had a lot of fun with it one time. I moved reinstatement of the Urban League, and then I second my own motion. [Laughter] Being funny again, and yet not so funny. Dealing with how ridiculous it was. So there

is a chapter in the book called "Nobody to second the motion."

JM: Oh.

OS: Isn't that funny, now? Nobody would stop and deal with that but me.

JM: Yes. Let me go back just a second. I hadn't heard this before, that you had gone to the *Gazette* and applied. And you talked to Ashmore himself?

OS: Yes.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: Well, you know, in other activities in the city, I was actually with Ashmore in what we called the Advanced Community Relations. So I knew Harry very well, and had a great deal of respect for him. But when I went to see him about that, he said, "Well, let us think about that." And his thinking never came to any conclusion that I could join the staff.

JM: Yes. Okay. Okay. That was something new that you told me that I didn't know. That's interesting. There was a long time, actually, I think, before the *Gazette* did hire a black.

OS: Oh, it was a *long* time.

JM: Yes. Well, actually, I helped hire the first black reporter.

OS: Oh, you did?

JM: Wadie Moore. I was working for the *Gazette* in the sports department then.

OS: Ah.

JM: Orville Henry and I hired Wadie Moore. Do you know Wadie?

OS: I knew of him. Yes.

JM: Yes. He worked at the *Gazette* . . .

OS: He came to the *Gazette* in, oh, about 1960.

JM: It was 1969. But we did, and I think we hired him right out of Horace Mann High School. Anyway, he stayed there until the *Gazette* went out of business.

OS: I understand that the old man died recently—Patterson was his name.

JM: Yes, he did. Yes, he died—Hugh Patterson. He died six months ago, or something like that, and I went to his funeral, in fact. Yes.

OS: Yes. Somebody called and told me that he had passed.

JM: Yes.

OS: You know, I made so many good friends in Little Rock—and a few enemies, of course—but mostly good friends. One of the things I'm blessed with [is] people who were even enemies in the struggle have long passed those days and, thus, have become friends. But when I come to Little Rock—and, by the way, I'll be in Little Rock for Bill Clinton's signing of his book. That's on September 7, I believe. Bill Clinton will be signing his—there's a new book out on Bill Clinton.

JM: Is there? Okay.

OS: Yes. Written by a young woman who used to own the *State Press* after Daisy sold it, [President Clinton's diarist] Janis Kearney.

JM: Yes, and later worked for Clinton at the White House.

OS: What?

JM: And later worked at the White House.

OS: Yes.

JM: Yes.

OS: Janis and I have so much in common. We both come from Gould.

JM: Oh, really?

OS: Yes.

JM: Yes. I didn't know that.

OS: Yes, she came from Gould. The Kearney family is that distinguished family of twelve or thirteen children, reared primarily by a single black man—all of whom went to college, half of whom went to Harvard [University]—and it's a very distinguished family. They've got two or three judges in the state of Arkansas. But Janis used to bring me into Little Rock when she was editor of the *State Press*.

She later went to the White House with Bill Clinton. She wrote a book called—from—what's the name of the town Bill comes from? Hope.

JM: Hope. Yes.

OS: *From Hope to Harlem*. That's the name of it.

JM: Yes. I've heard that she was doing a book, but that's interesting.

OS: *From Hope to Harlem*.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: I will be there on the seventh of . . .

JM: Well, I'm not sure that I will be there, but I hope to one of these days when you're going to be there, that we can get together and visit.

OS: I would love to buy you lunch sometime.

JM: Well, either way. I can buy you lunch or you can buy my lunch. But we will do it. So I'll stay in touch, and I'll be sending you some stuff. Let me ask you one other question just as a matter of curiosity, and it doesn't have anything to do with the *Democrat*—but did you remain—and I'm sure you did—remain friends with Daisy Bates the rest of her life?

OS: All of her life.

JM: Yes. Okay.

OS: All of her life.

JM: What did you think of Daisy?

OS: I practically worshiped her. I still do.

JM: Yes.

OS: Six or seven years ago they had a tribute here—a tribute to Ozell Sutton, the civil rights legend, and Daisy came. What surprised everybody in Atlanta was the level of black leadership that came.

JM: Yes.

OS: Daisy Bates came. The president of Philander Smith College came. The head of the national Urban League came. The head of the NAACP came. All. But, most of all, Daisy came. I was so pleased that she would come because she was ill at that time. In that last four or five years she was really ill, as you know.

JM: Yes.

OS: But Daisy Bates—the record will go down—as one of the great legends in the civil rights struggle, and in the human rights struggle. Our deal was more than *civil rights*—*human rights*, as such. That was my friend.

JM: That's great. That's great. Ozell, anything else that you can think of that we haven't touched on that we missed that you might want to talk about?

OS: I've talked about everything.

JM: Yes. Okay. Well, we've covered a lot.

OS: If anything comes up that you don't know and want to know, give me a call.

JM: I'll do it. We've covered a lot of ground, and as I say, this will come back to you and you can add to it and subtract or anything else. But I really appreciate your cooperation on this interview.

OS: Let me get back to one thing.

JM: Okay.

OS: What is this project?

JM: What is this project?

OS: Yes.

JM: It's an oral history on the *Arkansas Democrat* newspaper and the later succession, the [Arkansas] *Democrat-Gazette*. It is oral history, so it involves interviews with a lot of people who worked at the *Democrat*, and a few that didn't who were from the outside but were looking in pretty closely. So this gets posted on the Internet at the University. They have an oral history project under Tom Dillard now, who you may know. But at any rate, they type up these interviews and give me and you both a chance to make corrections. You get the last shot, and then they will post it on the Internet.

OS: That's interesting. I spoke at the university up at Fayetteville, you're talking about—that part of the University [of Arkansas], right?

JM: Yes, at Fayetteville.

OS: I spoke at the university four years ago. Roy Reed at one time was head of the department of journalism up there.

JM: Yes.

OS: And he informed the present person who headed the book-publishing part of the university, and he told the guy that—Roy called him and told him that I was coming. Roy had, by this time, left the university. I don't know where Roy is now.

JM: He lives just outside of Fayetteville.

OS: What?

JM: He still lives up there.

OS: Oh, he does?

JM: Yes.

OS: Roy told him that I was coming up and that he would do well to come and hear me. So I did have the opportunity to speak, and this guy was there. He said, "Do you remember Roy Reed?" I said, "Yes." He said, "You ought to go and hear Ozell Sutton," and the guy came. He said, "Do you remember Roy Reed?" I said, "Yes, I do." "Roy said I should come and hear you." Here I go, being funny again. I said, "*Everybody* ought to come and hear me." [Laughter] And he did.

JM: Yes.

OS: He said, "You are *everything* that Roy Reed said you are. You're a storyteller. You speak without notes, and you have a great memory of your involvement." He said, "Ozell, I heard two books outlined up there, and if you will write them, the university will publish them."

JM: Oh.

OS: But, you see, I haven't found anybody who's willing to pay the bills. You don't just start writing by yourself to get anything done. I haven't found anybody who's willing to pay the bill of the stenographer and all of that. But I am writing a book.

JM: You are working on one? Okay.

OS: Oh, yes. I go back to Gould, Arkansas, sir.

JM: Yes. Well, that's great. I will look forward to reading that book.

OS: Well, when you send me the information, we will do like you said.

JM: Okay. I really appreciate this interview, and I'm sure we'll have much more to say, but I want to thank you very much.

OS: Well, you know, it's good to be in conversation with somebody who goes as far back with me as you do.

JM: Yes, just almost all the way. [Laughs]

OS: And the life experiences we've had.

JM: Well, Ozell, thanks very much.

OS: You're welcome.

[End of interview]

[Transcribed by Cheri Pearce]

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