

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

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**Arkansas Memories Project**

Juanita McClellan  
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford  
October 26, 2011  
Cane Hill, Arkansas

## Objective

Oral history is a collection of an individual's memories and opinions. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using these interviews should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

The Pryor Center's objective is to collect audio and video recordings of interviews along with scanned images of family photographs and documents. These donated materials are carefully preserved, catalogued, and deposited in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. The transcripts, audio files, video highlight clips, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center website at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu>. The Pryor Center recommends that researchers utilize the audio recordings and highlight clips, in addition to the transcripts, to enhance their connection with the interviewee.

## 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 that interrupt speech;
  - 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**

See the Citation Guide at <http://pryorcenter.uark.edu/about.php>.

**Scott Lunsford interviewed Juanita T. McClellan on October 26, 2011, in Cane Hill, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: I'm Scott Lunsford, and you're Juanita T.

McClellan. We're here at the Presbyterian church in Cane Hill, Arkansas, and the date is the twenty-sixth of October. The year is 2011. And we're gonna be—uh—doing an interview with you, and we're gonna record it in high-definition audio and video, and we're gonna preserve this thing forever. The—um—the process will be that—um—we'll give you the raw footage on a DVD or a couple of DVDs of this whole interview, and we'll give you a transcript—what we call our preliminary transcript. And we transcribe these interviews in what we call a verbatim format, which means it's pretty much exactly the way we talk. And we'll ask you to look at that transcript and the—and the raw footage, and—uh—there may be some questions about some clarity about spellings or places or names of folks—uh—but we wouldn't want you to change any of the grammar or the way that we talk because we think it's an added value to portray the person or the people that are doing the interview the way they are rather than make 'em sound like a textbook. So—uh—when you get that—um—transcript, don't be worried about your grammar.

Don't be [*laughs*] worried about your sentence structure or any of that stuff or—or the dialect or the slang 'cause we wa—we want all that in there. But we will ask for some clarifications, and during our breaks [*vehicle passes*]*—*we usually break about every hour, which is how long a tape lasts, but we can break anytime [*camera clicks*] that you want to take a break. We a—Joy will have some questions for you about what we just—what we just talked about—things that I kind of drop the ball on as far as spellings or wasn't clear. Um—when you are happy—uh—with the transcript and the raw footage—in other words, we—we give you a chance to take things back. [*Vehicle passes*] [00:02:03] If you say somethin' that you wish you hadn't said—uh—we give you the opportunity to take that out because it's your story; it's not ours. And we want it to be—we want you to be happy with it. That's really important to us, that it be the way you want it. Um—when you are happy with it, we will then proceed to what we call our finished DVD, and we'll start puttin' stuff together to post on the web. We'll take some highlights, video highlights, of this interview, and we'll post those highlights on the web. We'll take the entire transcript that's been edited according to the way you want it and filled out with information the way we want it, and we'll put that on the website. And we'll put all of the audio.

It's—it's a little bit too hard to put all the video 'cause it's so long, but we can put all the audio on the web. And we will encourage people to not only look and listen and read that stuff on the web, but we'll encourage them to use it in their research. [00:03:03] If they're students in Arkansas history in the public schools, this stuff will be in the public schools. If it's a documentarian making a documentary film, and they're doin' somethin' about you or your family or Cane Hill or any—anything that we talk about here, we'll encourage them to use it because we think it's the best way for people to learn about Arkansas from the mouths of Arkansans instead of some writers in New York or DC or Hollywood. So if all of that's okay with you, if—if it's good that we're tryin' to get your story, and you've got the rights to redact things that you want to, if—if you're comfortable with all that and comfortable with us putting it on the web for people to—the whole world to see, then we're gonna keep goin'. If you've got any questions or you'd rather back out now, this is the time to—to question, and [*claps*] this is the time to back out. Otherwise, we're—we're gonna keep goin'. Is all that okay with you?

Juanita McClellan: It's okay with me.

[00:04:03] SL: Juanita, it is an honor to be sittin' across from you,

and I am so grateful to—uh—Dr. Adkins—Johnny Adkins—for nominating you—um—uh—for this Pryor Center interview. I . . .

JM: Thank you.

SL: . . . I—I can promise you, you are in good company.

JM: Thank you.

SL: There's lots of great folks. I've got the greatest job in the world. I get to sit across from beautiful people that have done remarkable things with their—uh—gifts of life and—uh—uh—you are certainly in that group. And so—uh—I can't thank you enough for—for agreeing to do this and being here today.

JM: I appreciate it.

[00:04:39] SL: Well, now, Juanita, we usually start with when and where you were born.

JM: I was born in Searcy County, Arkansas—Marshall—about four miles out in the country—December the seventh, 1922. My parents were Homer and Eula Treat. I had two sibling brothers later, but I was the oldest of three children.

SL: And—uh—you say that it was out in the country. Uh . . .

JM: It was not too far from Buffalo River.

[00:05:18] SL: Is that right? Well, that's a beautiful place. Well, so were they—uh—basically farmers? Were your parents . . .

JM: They were fam—farmers. My father had just gotten out of World

War II when my mother and dad were married. They'd lived there—both of them are born in the same area. My mother's name . . .

[00:05:36] SL: Okay, now, wait a minute. I—I'm a little bit confused. Now say—what about World War II again? Who . . .

JM: My father . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: . . . had just gotten out of World War I.

SL: One.

JM: Not II.

SL: Okay.

JM: I'm sorry.

SL: That's all right.

JM: And I—I was born about three years after they were married, and we lived two or three different places, just renting farms.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: Shall I go on to where we went from there?

SL: Well, I wanna talk a little bit about your mom and dad. Um . . .

JM: Okay.

[00:06:10] SL: Uh—you, being the oldest, you probably have a pretty good memory of your mom and dad.

JM: Yes.



SL: Did they live long or . . .

JM: My dad died when he was fifty.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: But we were living in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the time.

SL: Okay.

JM: My mother lived to be eighty-two.

SL: Okay.

JM: And she was in Fayetteville.

SL: Okay, so you had a long relationship with . . .

JM: Mh-hmm.

[00:06:31] SL: . . . your parents, then. Um—what about your—  
um—grandparents? Did you know either set of your  
grandparents?

JM: I met my mother's father a time or two, but my mother's mother  
died four days before my mother was four months old.

SL: Hmm.

JM: So her aunt took her to raise while her father raised her siblings,  
so I never knew any of my grandparents. It—the—her father I  
saw a few times, but not many.

[00:07:06] SL: And what was your mother's maiden name?

JM: My mother's maiden name was Treece, but it was an aunt who  
was a Treadwell who raised her.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: So they—she considered them more her brothers and sisters, and I knew more about them than I did her own siblings.

SL: And your father's name was Treat.

JM: That's right.

SL: So that's one letter difference 'tween . . .

JM: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . Treece and Treat. And Treadwell. That's . . .

JM: Uh-huh. Stayed with the *T*'s.

[00:07:34] SL: Stayed with the *T*'s. The *T-R*'s. So were the Treadwells—were they in the Searcy County . . .

JM: They were all in Searcy County, and some of 'em are still there. I still stay in touch with the one—the children of some of the brothers and sisters that she had there.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: The cousins, really. And I knew most of her own brothers and sisters. There's one I don't think I ever saw and the—her brother I only saw one time, but they moved to California and scattered.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: But a couple of the sisters would come back and spend a month at a time with us, so I knew two of her sisters fairly well.

[00:08:18] SL: Okay, now, let—let's talk about your—your dad's side. Uh—did you know your dad's folks at all?

JM: No, his father died when he was twelve.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: And his mother died before I was born, so I never did know them. But he had a big family, and I knew most of that family. The younger ones I didn't know, but the older ones I knew pretty well.

SL: Uncles and . . .

JM: Cousins.

[00:08:47] SL: . . . and his cousins. Uh-huh. Well, so now—uh—your father was a World War I veteran.

JM: Yes.

SL: Um—uh—did he serve in France?

JM: Yes, he was a medic.

SL: A medic.

JM: Mh-hmm. So I've worked in medicine a lot in my life.

*[Laughter]*

[00:09:08] SL: Well, can you tell me about the—uh—do you member the house that you were born in?

JM: Yes. It was still standing a few years ago when my aunt, by marriage, this lady who was married to my dad's younger

brother, died. She lived in Conway. The service was in Marshall, and they had the community dinner in the old house. They had cleaned it up and put sawhorses out there and put plywood on top and had bountiful food for everybody who would come. And a cousin of mine, the son of this younger brother of my dad's, had built a new home across the road from where the old house stands, and he ran a lumberyard in Marshall.

SL: Okay.

JM: So I got to see a lot of the cousins then that I hadn't seen before.

[00:10:08] SL: So y'all had a big picnic in the yard of the house that you were born in.

JM: That's right.

SL: Well, that sounds like a pretty substantial homestead there.

JM: It was just small.

SL: It was small?

JM: It was just three rooms.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: And course, we didn't have indoor plumbing, and we didn't have—we had a fireplace—burned wood. We didn't have a car.

If we went anyplace, we rode a horse.

[00:10:35] SL: Uh-huh. No electricity.

JM: No electricity.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: And it was just an old rocky farm [*SL laughs*], but we lived through it.

[00:10:42] SL: And so, y'all had a garden.

JM: Uh-huh.

SL: And what about a fruit cellar and—did you have that?

JM: Yes, and we canned.

SL: Canned.

JM: Course, I just lived there in that house, though, until I was two, I think.

SL: Ah, so . . .

JM: And then we moved out—a place that was a little bit bigger, and it was a little closer to the Buffalo River. It was just a little ways down to the river from where I lived until I was four. Then we moved to Colorado.

[00:11:12] SL: Wow! So do you remember the house that you lived in when you were—till four? Do you remember it at all?

JM: Yes. I don't think it's standing. The last time I was down there I couldn't locate it, but it had a grape arbor out in front, from the front steps to the front gate, so we had plenty of grapes to eat.

SL: That's neat. Did it, like, cover the . . .

JM: Covered the . . .

SL: It was like a little tunnel . . .

JM: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

SL: . . . into the house.

JM: And that's where I made playhouses and—when I was playin' in the yard.

[00:11:41] SL: Mh-hmm. Well, was there—um—do you remember much about the river—uh . . .

JM: I know people would come to our house on the weekend, and the women and children would stay up at the house with my mother and with me, and that's where my brother just younger than I am was born. And they would stay up there, and the men would all go down to the river fishing and bring buc—tubs of fish back with 'em. And I can remember one time there was a tub that had an eel on top of it. [*SL laughs*] I didn't like fish from then on. [*Laughter*] That eel didn't look good.

SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, that's—that's interesting. You know—um—uh—people caught fish to live on . . .

JM: We lived on fish.

SL: . . . back in those days. Um—it wasn't just a sport.

JM: No.

SL: It was sustenance.

JM: But with that many families, they'd take the tub so they'd have enough for all the families to share.

[00:12:41] SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, would they—uh—do the fish fry there, or would they—everybody take their stuff home and . . .

JM: Well, we would eat some of them there, but then they would all have some to take home with them, too.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: You didn't have refrigeration, so you had to cook 'em before they'd take 'em home, so we cooked a lot of fish there.

[00:13:00] SL: Did you have a—a good well there? Do you remember the well? [*Vehicle passes*]

JM: We had a cistern, I think . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: . . . there.

SL: Uh-huh. So you didn't really have a cool place to put anything.

JM: No. We did ha—a platform on a rope that we would put milk—butter [*vehicle passes*] on that little square piece of wood and let it down just above the water to keep milk fresh.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: But it wasn't big enough that you could call it a refrigeration service.

[00:13:33] SL: Well, now, how—how much of a drive was it into  
Marshall from . . .

JM: From there it was about seven miles, I think.

SL: Uh-huh. And were y'all still horseback?

JM: Horseback. We bought our first car when we were goin' to  
Colorado.

[00:13:47] SL: You bought that for the ride to Colorado? Do you  
remember what kind of car that was?

JM: It was an old Star.

SL: Old Star? Never even heard of that. [*JM laughs*] Is that—is it  
like a Model T or Model A?

JM: Well, it was two seated, and it had—um—curtains for windows,  
and it—it looked basically like your Ford would, the way I  
remember it—just black. And it drove all right, but my dad had  
never driven, so we got someone else to drive us out there as  
far as Pueblo, and then Daddy drove it from there on into Stone  
City where we lived for the next four years. And he worked in  
the clay mines.

[00:14:36] SL: So—um—as far as—I—I mean, was there any  
income? Did you—did the family sell—um—products from the  
farm or . . .

JM: Not—uh—well, my dad hewed ties, railroad ties . . .



SL: Uh-huh.

JM: . . . and sold them some—uh—time. Now, I can't remember at four years old how many things he sold like that. We were far enough from town that we didn't take things into town to sell produce and things. I think probably he sold a calf or something once in a while, but . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: . . . mostly it was just what we grew for ourselves.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: And what—uh—posts or ties that—wood products that he could sell.

SL: So kind of a . . .

JM: And my—his younger brother had moved to Colorado and had worked in the clay mines there, so he had persuaded my dad to move out there.

[00:15:41] SL: So—um—your parents, they didn't have much formal education—maybe through grade school or even . . .

JM: My dad had only a fourth-grade education.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: But you wouldn't know it. He would sit and practice handwriting when he was just sitting doin' nothing, and he was a pretty good businessman for the time.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: My mother, I think, went through the eighth grade.

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: So I could read before I started to school.

SL: That was important to—to both of them . . .

JM: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . is to . . .

[00:16:18] JM: She started showing me *O*'s and *A*'s and I—if I was—needed to be entertained, that was my entertainment was to go through what paper we had and take a pencil and mark out the *O*'s or the *A*'s or one letter at a time.

[00:16:35] SL: Uh-huh. Um—did your father ever—um—talk to you about—uh—his parents at all or—uh—his grandparents? Did he—I'm always lookin' for the oldest story.

JM: He didn't talk too much about his parents. He said that—uh—when he was twelve years old and his father died, his—he [JM edit: they] had had typhoid fever.

SL: Okay.

JM: So he couldn't go help out in the field. And his mother would take the older boys and go to the field, and they would plant corn or whatever, and they always planted pinto beans with the corn—enough for the winter. And so, my dad did the cookin' for

the family when he was twelve and would have meals fixed when they got to the house. And my Grandmother Treat was married two or three times, but she outlived the other husbands, and I don't know anything about them.

SL: Uh-huh.

JM: The names or anything. But she was gone before I was born, too.

[00:17:46] SL: Did your dad ever relate any World War I stories to you?

JM: Very few. Uh—the gruesome ones, you know, it was just vague when he would say anything about it. He would talk about one or two of the people he knew or some of the other uniformed men, but—uh—I didn't get very much out of World—I have his book on the French language that they gave to each one of the GIs, and I don't think they do that anymore, but I thought that was remarkable that they gave them—uh—a dictionary that would help them to talk to the local people there.

[00:18:36] SL: Uh-huh. I wonder—uh—did he ever—uh—exper—you know, the mustard gas and all that stuff was really prolific in . . .

JM: I don't think so.

SL: . . . France back then.

JM: Uh—he wasn't shot or anything, and of course, he was younger then, and he'd talk about how cold it was and all the discomforts they had and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

JM: . . . and that sort of thing. But—uh—he—and—and he worked then at the Veterans Hospital, so he stayed and was a member of American Legion and the VFW and all those organizations. In fact, he'd take me with him to VFW meetings after I was up teenage.

SL: Yeah. So he—uh—he remained pretty loyal to the . . .

JM: He was pretty loyal . . .

SL: . . . veteran—uh . . .

JM: . . . to the veterans. Mh-hmm.

[00:19:29] SL: . . . groups. Okay. So he had a brother that was working in the clay mines in Colorado. What was the name of the town?

JM: Stone City.

SL: Stone City. Now, where is that in relation . . .

JM: That's twenty-five miles from Pueblo.

SL: North or—or I guess that'd be west.

JM: West.

SL: West of it. Mh-hmm.

JM: And I could see Pikes Peak from our backyard.

[00:19:49] SL: Is that right? I wanna—I wanna talk just a little bit about that road trip. Um—you know—uh—and let's see, this is 1928, [19]29?

JM: Now, well, I was born in [19]22, and when I was four, it was in [19]26. Almost—I was almost five. I started to school when I was five.

SL: So it's [19]26, [19]27 that . . .

JM: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . you guys were makin' this move. So I'm tryin' to think. I guess—had Prohibition started then?

JM: Yes. Yes.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:24] SL: I guess women's rights were still kind of topical . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . back then. Do you remember any of that? I mean, you were . . .

JM: I . . .

SL: . . . awfully young but . . .

JM: I don't remember much of it. When we moved to Stone City—'cause it was a little town, and the mines closed after about four years. They weren't makin' any money. During World War II,

they opened 'em up again because that's the best clay they could use for some of their things they needed in World War II. And I understand now that it is a military base, so I haven't been back there. But it was—I've been in the clay mines. I'd help—on Sunday afternoons sometimes Dad would take us over there, and we would roll dummies for dynamiting and go back in the mines and things, and then they have a donkey that would pull the cart out to bring the clay outside, and they had the railroad that ran up there and picked it up and took it out of town.

[00:21:35] SL: So what did they use the clay for? Do you know?

JM: At that time I don't know what they used the clay for—makin' pottery, makin' all sorts of things, maybe brick or ceramic-type things.

SL: Yeah, I guess maybe insulators or . . .

JM: And . . .

SL: . . . probably electrical . . .

JM: But during World War II, they said it was the best clay they could find, and they used it again. I talked to a fellow who had been stationed there, and he was tellin' me that.

[00:22:09] SL: So Stone City, Colorado, and the clay mines, and it was a small town. Do you kind of—and you were there for how long?

JM: About four years.

SL: Bout four years. So you're entering the public schools and startin' to—do you remember the school that you went to there?

JM: Yes. It had two rooms and a cloakroom where you'd hang your coats and things. And I was an isolationist. I didn't like to go out and play on the school ground. I sat and played jacks in the cloakroom. So—but I made three grades the first year, so that put me ahead of my cousins who were in the grade I was in. [*SL laughs*] I made primary, first, and second grade. [*Laughs*]

[00:23:01] SL: So you enjoyed studying and learning.

JM: I read everything I could get my hands on, even at that age.

SL: And did you—in those two rooms, were those grades one through six or one through seven?

JM: We had eight grades there.

SL: Eight grades.

JM: So it musta been one through four. And it was just across the backyard and a vacant lot from where I lived. I would go to school in the morning, and it would snow so deep that my mother would have to walk across this vacant lot to make tracks so I could . . .

SL: Make it.

JM: . . . walk home because my legs weren't long enough to go

through the snow.

SL: So really, the school was kind of in your backyard.

JM: It was in my backyard.

SL: Well, that's awfully convenient.

[00:23:54] JM: The post office was just two doors away, and my mother served as assistant postmaster.

SL: Okay. So your mom was also earning an income while your dad was in the clay mine. [00:24:07] So did the town have electricity?

JM: Yes, we had electricity.

SL: So that was a big . . .

JM: Oh, I thought . . .

SL: . . . difference.

JM: . . . I'd never live on the farm again.

SL: Yeah.

JM: 'Cause we had a—an electric iron, and we had—didn't have a radio and didn't have a television. We had an old hand-cranked Victrola . . .

SL: Uh-huh. Play . . .

JM: A chest-sized one.

SL: So you'd play records.

[00:24:37] JM: So we played records, and we had a lot of the



conveniences, and we had a wringer-type washer. Now, I don't know—I can't remember what kind it was, but I know when we went back to Searcy County, we didn't have any of these conveniences, and we used a rubboard to wash clothes. And then I was gettin' old enough to remember more things, too.

[00:25:10] SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, now, so the mine shut down about four years after you got there. So now we're in the Depression.

JM: Uh-huh. Now we're in the Depression.

SL: The stock market crash has happened.

JM: Yes.

SL: And . . .

[00:25:25] JM: And we went—and we bought a farm.

SL: In . . .

JM: We had saved up enough money while we were in Colorado that we bought a little farm in Searcy County.

SL: Oh, I see. Okay.

JM: And we moved to—and we didn't rent anymore. But it was just this—an old house, and none of the houses were painted. There was one house in the community—we lived in the community of Martin Box.

SL: Okay.

JM: And there was one house in the area that was painted. It was white house—painted white—so everybody knew it as the white house.

SL: Yeah.

[00:26:02] JM: And so, we lived there, and we had a cistern like we'd had to start with just for keepin' milk cold and things. And we used a rubboard for washing and put the tub on the back porch and stood on the ground to wash clothes—hang 'em on the line. We made a big garden. We'd grow turnips.

SL: Yep.

JM: Put straw down in the ground and put turnips on the straw and cover it with dirt, and you'd have turnips for the winter. We had a little closet-like room on the side of the house on the—opened onto the back porch, and we killed hogs and cured the meat, so we had ham, bacon, that sort of thing to last through the winter. And we had some chickens, so we had eggs. So—but we didn't have refrigeration, and we had kerosene lamps to read by. So it was not a good experience because after you've had electricity and then don't have it, it isn't good.

SL: Right.

[00:27:23] JM: So until I came to Cane Hill and saw I had the best of both . . .

SL: Both.

JM: . . . worlds—and I've thoroughly enjoyed farming since then.

[*Laughter*]

[00:27:33] SL: Well, so what about the schools there at—what was it—in Box—what was the name?

JM: Martin Box . . .

SL: Martin Box.

JM: . . . was the name of the community. And [*SL clears throat*] there was a little, one-room schoolhouse, and since I was more advanced than some of the other kids who went to school—they had one teacher for eight grades. So I just about taught the first three grades as part of my education there so she would have time to work with the older kids. She rode a horse and got thirty dollars a month to teach.

[00:28:11] SL: And you walked to school and just got grades for teachin'.

JM: Uh-huh. [*SL laughs*] We walked all—we lived about a quarter of a mile from school, so we walked to school.

SL: Well, that's not too bad.

JM: And that's where my youngest brother was born, and he still lives in Fayetteville.

[00:28:26] SL: So was Martin Box further away from the Buffalo

River than . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . where you had . . .

JM: It was closer to Marshall.

SL: Closer to Marshall. [00:28:34] So did y'all still have the car?

JM: No, we had a Whippet.

SL: Now, what's a Whippet?

JM: That's a new car.

SL: Oh, okay.

JM: We had bought a new car in Colorado before we left there, and so, we had a Whippet. And Daddy traded it for a truck because he could use it on the farm. [00:28:56] Then he cut more ties, and he did more farming, and course, I was old enough to help plant the pinto beans to go with the corn. Somebody else would plant the corn, and I would go behind and plant the beans so the pinto beans could cling to the corn as it grew.

SL: So they used that kind of as a . . .

JM: Stake.

SL: . . . stake. Mh-hmm.

JM: So then we shelled enough beans to last through the winter, so we were well fed, but it was all the canned goods—the huckleberries we'd picked in the woods to eat or to can and

huckleberry pie in the winter. And we had the lard we rendered from the hogs, so it's not a healthy diet, maybe, but I've lived a long time.

[00:29:44] SL: *[Laughs]* Well, now, those hog days—would the neighbors kind of get together on that? Was it a . . .

JM: Usually, there'd be at least one or two neighbors close enough that they'd try to kill—bring their hogs over and kill 'em all at the same time. And you waited until in November, so it'd be cold enough that you could smoke 'em . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . and cure 'em.

SL: And . . .

JM: And it was good. It was better than the hams you buy in town.

[00:30:14] SL: Well, and they—y'all used every part of that hog, right?

JM: Every part. Hog's head cheese and it—we'd keep in a churn, and it would last because we'd set it on in the—on the porch for refrigeration in the winter, so we could have sandwiches—things like that. And Mom canned everything—all fruits and things—tomatoes and green beans. So we had plenty to eat. But that's when the Depression was at its worst, and they came around and killed one cow—I don't know whether there was—they killed

more if you had more cattle or not, but out of our cattle, they killed one cow, and you could not use it for meat or—nobody could use it. But that was supposed to help the economy.

[00:31:05] SL: *[Laughs]* I don't understand what the reasoning was on that—what . . .

JM: Well, you had more feed that you could sell or let somebody else have.

SL: I see.

JM: And by decreasing the herds by one, apparently—I couldn't see the reason behind it then, and I still don't, but apparently that was a theory they had then. But it's—it doesn't sound good to me. I didn't like to see 'em kill the cow.

[00:31:33] SL: Well, so do you remember much about Marshall at that time?

JM: Well, it was just—it had a courthouse in the center of the square. It's still set up like it was. Of course, it's grown some. I haven't been down there in ages. But we didn't go to town very often. And the truck wouldn't run half the time, so we raised tomatoes and sold 'em to the cannin' factory in Marshall. And my dad would take me one time with him when he took a load of tomatoes to Marshall, and he'd take one of my brothers—take my brother just younger than I am—the other brother wasn't

born until just before we moved to Fayetteville. So I could go one time, and my brother'd go the next time to take a load of tomatoes to town. But it was just a little—not paved roads or anything like that, just dirt—dusty square. There was a doctor there and general dry-goods store, a pharmacy, and I can't remember much more about it because most people didn't even have cars then.

[00:32:51] SL: Mh-hmm. On those trips to and from Colorado, do you remember havin' to change tires?

JM: Yes, we changed tires, and we stayed at a motel at night. And I can remember some of the food that we'd buy because it wasn't like what we had at home. And we'd drink Nehis.

SL: Yeah.

JM: So I can remember the Nehi we'd get on the trip. And we went through one town in Kansas where they had brick-paved streets, and I thought that was amazing. It was a development I hadn't read about or didn't know about. And for my age and everything, that was just a vital thing I saw on the way on that trip.

[00:33:34] SL: So I'm tryin' to think—what about churches? Do you remember anything about churches . . .

JM: We . . .

SL: . . . growin' up?

JM: . . . usually had church in the schoolhouse, not at Martin Box, but there was a place called Loafer's Glory. [*SL laughs*] I think they call it something else now but—and my brother and I would walk there to Sunday school. Now, not in the wintertime and not when it was too hot, but when we did go to Sunday school and church, why, that's where we went out there to church.

[00:34:07] SL: And how far away was that walk?

JM: And that was probably close to two miles . . .

SL: Is that right?

JM: . . . further on out.

SL: Walkin' that far. [00:34:14] And did you have Sunday clothes that you wore to church, or was it just . . .

JM: We always . . .

SL: . . . too far?

JM: . . . had one extra set of clothing that we saved for our best if we had company or if we went to town or anything that we didn't wear except for that. It looked just about like the rest of our clothes, but it was kept pressed and hangin' up so that we could—we didn't have closets in the house. You had a wire behind a door from one corner to the other, and you hung your clothes on that in the house.



SL: On the wire. Uh-huh.

JM: And we had two fireplaces, one in each end—at the end of the bedroom on one end and in the living room on the other, so we had fire.

[00:35:08] SL: So how many rooms was the house there in Martin Box?

JM: It was just three rooms.

SL: Three room. Mh-hmm.



JM: And that little smokehouse room on the back porch there where we cured the meat and stored things like that. I still have my mother's churn where she'd set the milk beside the fireplace to stay warm until it was ready to churn and remember sitting there churning. Nearly every household had an older person because we didn't have nursing homes, and that was—any picture we had back then, there'd be a mother or a grandfather sitting beside the fireplace churning or whittling one.

[00:35:48] SL: Uh-huh. So—but y'all didn't have any—did you have any older folks livin' with you?

JM: No.

[00:35:55] SL: No, that—so how long were you there in Martin Box?

JM: Almost three years. We went there when I was eight, and when I was eleven, I was in Fayetteville.

SL: So the Depression . . .

JM: Until the . . .

SL: You—people were still dealing with the Depression when you came to Fayetteville.

[00:36:18] JM: Yes. And the Veterans Hospital had just been built.

And since my dad had been a medic and since we had a doctor there in Marshall who knew him, the doctor helped him to put in an application to work at the VA in Fayetteville, and we moved to Fayetteville so he could work up there. And he got fifty dollars a month.

SL: Pretty big jump.

JM: Big jump. So we rented a house for eight dollars a month that had three bedrooms.

[00:36:49] SL: Is that house still standin'?

JM: Yes. No, it's down where Montgomery Ward used to be.

SL: Ah, down where Evelyn Hills . . .

JM: Uh-huh, where Evelyn Hills is. Uh-huh. So that was close enough to the VA for him . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . to walk there.

[00:37:03] SL: Just down the hill from it. So what did your dad do? Was he a nurse's assistant or . . .

JM: They called 'em orderlies back then.

SL: Orderlies. That's right.

JM: I think they call 'em CNAs now. But he was an orderly, and he—  
out of that fifty dollars, at that time he was required to rent a  
room. All the employees had to live on campus there at the  
Veterans Hospital. And they took ten dollars a month out of his  
check for that room, whether he slept in it or whether he came  
home. And every week they had inspection, and the head  
orderly would come around with white gloves on and even  
reached the tops of the door facing and things to see if there  
was dust in that room. They kept it clean.

SL: So that's kind of like military barracks inspection.

JM: It was based on that.

SL: So . . .

[00:38:03] JM: And they had a nurses' home and the nurses lived in  
the nurses' home.

SL: Well, so—but they wouldn't accommodate a family on the  
grounds.

JM: No.

SL: That's interesting. So he was a—he lost eighteen dollars a  
month just to—a place for the family and a place that they  
required him to stay on campus. But he never stayed there.

JM: No, he didn't stay there.

SL: [*Laughs*] That's so strange that . . .

[00:38:29] JM: And we rented that house, and then we moved down to a house that is still standing, just a little bit further north on College Avenue. And that had a full basement underneath with a place to drive the car, and you could turn the water on and even wash the car under there. And us kids could play and turn the water on and have a shower in the summertime down there. And we had a dumbwaiter, so we could put dishes or clothes if you wanted the washer down there or whatever—in the kitchen—and pull the . . .

SL: Lower it down or . . .

JM: Lower it or . . .

SL: . . . bring it up.

JM: . . . bring it back up.

SL: That's great. [*Laughs*] That must've . . .

JM: So that was the nicest house we'd ever had. It was stucco. And it had three bedrooms, and so, we had more room than we'd ever had. And we lived there, and we paid sixteen dollars a month for that rent. You can't rent it for that now.

SL: No. Well, I was . . .

[00:39:32] JM: And the next house we bought.

SL: Well, now, this—the difference 'tween Martin Box and Fayetteville then was pretty dramatic.

JM: Yes. The sign not far from the house on 71 Highway there said seventy-five hundred population. They didn't count the university students as residents of Fayetteville at that time. So the population has changed considerably since then. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yes, it has. It has. And that's amazing that house is still standing somewhere out there on 71.

JM: Yes.

SL: Is it [*JM coughs*] past Sycamore and—is it further on . . .

JM: No. I don't know what the name of the street is or . . .

[00:40:20] SL: Okay. Is it still stucco?

JM: It's almost across from where McDonald's is.

SL: Yeah. Okay.

JM: It's just past there.

SL: I'll try and drive by and see if I can't see that place.

JM: I don't remember what the name of that street was. [*Unclear words*] we used a number on College Avenue for our address.

[00:40:47] SL: Uh-huh. Well, so you had two siblings now in Fayetteville the—your second sibling was born in Fayetteville and . . .

JM: No, he was born the year we came to Fayetteville . . .

SL: Oh!

JM: . . . so he was just a baby when we came to Fayetteville.

SL: I see.

JM: He's ten years younger than I am, and he still lives in Fayetteville.

[00:41:07] SL: And what about your mom? Did she just become housekeeper or . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . homemaker?

JM: Yeah.

[00:41:15] SL: That's good. And what about—and you had electricity. You had running water. Did they have gas run then—natural gas? Was it already in place or—do you remember how you heated the house?

JM: Oh, we used coal for a while.

SL: Mh-hmm. Yeah.

JM: Now, we had electricity by the time we moved further in town.

SL: So the coal was a boiler kind of thing?

JM: Uh-huh.

[00:41:47] SL: You had radiator heat, which is good. Do you remember who your landlord was? Who owned that house?

JM: It may have been [JM edit: Rolla] Fitch.

SL: Fitch.

JM: And he went on to be a politician.

SL: I'd have to look him up. I kind of remember that . . .

JM: His wife was named Alvera [*SL laughs*], and he had a little girl, but I can't remember what his first name was.

[00:42:34] SL: Now, there's creek that's kind of back in there somewhere. How close were y'all to that creek?

JM: Well, that was in our backyard.

SL: Is that right?

JM: There was an old barn back there, and we could go over there and—well, by then I was up in the eighth grade when I first came up there, and so, I did half a year eighth grade in Fayetteville and then went on to high school.

[00:42:57] SL: And would that have been Hillcrest High School, or was it called Fayetteville or . . .

JM: Fayetteville High.

SL: Fayetteville High. I guess Hillcrest was the . . .

JM: It's where . . .

SL: . . . junior high.

JM: . . . one—South School Street is now—the high-rise apartments.

SL: Yeah. Mh-hmm.

JM: They burned it . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . years ago. Well, that's where I went to high school all four years.

[00:43:16] SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. So that would be—you—what year is that, now, that you graduated from the high school?

JM: Nineteen thirty-nine.

[00:43:24] SL: Do you remember a favorite teacher back then? Did you have any . . .

JM: Well, they were all my favorites, just about.

SL: You just ate it up, didn't you? [*Laughs*]

JM: My homeroom teacher was—course, she was kind of partial to me, I think, because her family had originated in Searcy County.

SL: Okay.

JM: That was Grace Blair. And Miss Warbritton was English teacher. Miss Bell was English teacher. And course, Miss Bell remained a friend up until she died out here at Prairie Grove, and there were several teachers. Miss Covington taught history. Miss Dixon taught algebra. So I liked going to school and—but I was an introvert. I didn't talk like I do now. [*Laughter*] After I got out to workin' for the public, I learned [*laughs*] to talk.

[00:44:23] SL: And [*unclear word*] socialize a little bit. Well, now, I wanna talk about a couple of those teachers—those names. First



of all, Miss Bell is pretty famous.

JM: Yes.

SL: I mean, my older siblings all had her in one way or another. And they all were just crazy about her. She . . .

JM: She was a wonderful person.

[00:44:45] SL: And then you mentioned Grace Blair. Is that any relation to Jim Blair?

SL: His aunt.

JM: Hmm?

SL: His aunt.

JM: They had a little store just across the street and down a little bit on School Street there where kids could run over there and buy paper or pencils or whatever we forgot or ran out of. And she left and went to work in the Pentagon.

SL: Wow.

JM: And then she moved back here, and while I was workin' at Fayetteville Lumber Company, she would come in there once in a while, and I'd get to talk to her. But she died several years ago. But she came back and lived above where the store was for a while before she died.

[00:45:32] SL: Now, the Fayetteville Library at that time was just up the street, wasn't it, from the high school and it—was it . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: Was it upstairs?

JM: Yes, yes. On Mountain Street.

SL: On Mountain Street.

JM: And it was upstairs up there towards City Hall. Used to be a hotel on that corner, and then just before you got to the hotel, why, there was the library up there.

[00:46:00] SL: Did you spend any time there?

JM: Yes, I had—especially in the summer, when you didn't have books to read out of the school library. But Miss Bell saw to it that we did our oral themes and our written themes, and we had so many book reports we had to get out in a year. So she saw that we read a lot.

SL: Kept workin' during the summer, even—'cause you had stuff that was gonna be . . .

JM: That we could use later on.

SL: . . . you were responsible for. Yeah. Mh-hmm. That's good.

[00:46:39] JM: Then after she'd moved out here to Prairie Grove, several of us got together, and we'd take 'em out to breakfast. So since I lived out here, I would go by and pick Bunn Bell and Miss Bell up and take 'em to wherever we were gonna have breakfast so that they could be with us for a reunion. So there

were several couples involved there.

[00:47:12] SL: So now, how long were you in Fayetteville fore you moved out here?

JM: Until 1947.

SL: So you were in Fayetteville for about nine—eight or nine years? Is . . .

JM: Yeah.

[00:47:24] SL: . . . that right? So—and you saw the end of the Depression here in Fayetteville. Was there anything about—I—it was probably so much different than anywhere else that you had lived.

JM: Well, actually, we bought a house on the corner of College Avenue and Cleburn, and we paid \$2,500 for it. And that's where I lived when I was married and moved to Cane Hill. And so, prices were reasonable then. But it has changed so much. I knew every street in town then, and now I can get lost up there, almost.

[00:48:10] SL: Yeah, yeah. So let's see, now. What year did y'all buy that house—buy the house?

JM: Let's see, thirty-nine—about 1935.

SL: Okay. So really, you bought kind of early. So you had some time there in that house.

JM: So the house is gone now.

SL: Yeah. Let's see, Cleburn—that's now—there used to be a gas station on that corner and . . .

JM: Land's grocery was across the—catty-cornered across there. And it's just a block south of old Washington Regional.

SL: Mh-hmm. M'kay.

[00:49:05] JM: So I walked from there over to the high-rise apartment to high school. And then during rationing I had this Model A car and I—we got two gallons of gas a week, so I would save that to go someplace at night, church meetings or committee meetings or whatever, and walked to work, and I worked over at the university for five years. But I went to business college in between.

[00:49:36] SL: So I'm tryin' to think now. When did the rationing start? In [19]42 or—the gas rationing—did it start right when we entered the war or . . .

JM: Food rationing was started—it was probably [19]42.

[00:49:57] SL: Yeah. And do you member—I'm assuming that y'all had a radio . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . at the house that you bought. And by that time you had a refrigerator?

JM: Yes.

[00:50:11] SL: Were they still delivering milk and ice . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . then?

JM: When we first moved there.

SL: Uh-huh. So once or twice a week the ice truck would come by  
or . . .

JM: We had a—an icebox at first when we moved over there. Then  
we got the refrigerator.

[00:50:28] SL: Uh-huh. And you still—and the—you were still  
hangin' clothes on the line . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . to dry. But they probably—you probably had the wringer  
washing machine.

JM: Wringer washer.

[00:50:40] SL: Uh-huh. And did the . . .

JM: Mama still had the wringer washer in [19]47 when I left there,  
even.

SL: Mh-hmm. Yeah, I remember my mom had a wringer, and I  
wasn't born till [19]52, so I remember those. And I remember  
hangin' the clothes out on a line and takin' 'em down.

JM: Made 'em smell good.

SL: It did. It was. There was something about the air dry that was neat, and it was . . .

JM: In fact, up until the last two or three years, I have a line in the backyard, and all summer I'd hang my clothes out just because they smell so fresh.

SL: It—there is a difference. Sure is.

[00:51:20] JM: And then we had the slaughterhouse, so we had all sorts of beef and hogs there for years after we moved out here—after—several years after I was out here.

[00:51:29] SL: Well, I wanna still spend some time in Fayetteville here.

JM: All right.

SL: Now you were workin' at the university . . .

JM: In the state seed laboratory.

SL: And is this—this is after you graduate from high . . .

JM: After I graduated from business college.

SL: From business . . .

JM: I worked for a lawyer first.

SL: So Fayetteville High School, you graduate in thirty . . .

JM: Nine.

SL: . . . nine. And were you working while you were in high school?

JM: No.

SL: But after high school you started working . . .

[00:51:57] JM: Then I went to business college in [19]39-[19]40. I finished in seven months—a twelve-months' course, but I finished—went to work for a lawyer to work one day, and I worked fourteen months for him.

[00:52:12] SL: And was that Pearson?

JM: Mh-hmm. Pearson and Pearson.

SL: This would be . . .

JM: The older ones, Tom and H. L. Pearson.

SL: H. L. And was H. L. his brother or . . .

JM: H. L. was his—Tom's father.

SL: Father. Okay.

[00:52:25] JM: Tom came here on the orphan train when he was little, and H. L. and his wife had adopted him. So—and their son, Tommy, was ten years old at the time. So didn't have—we didn't have too many lawyers in Fayetteville. I think there were thirty-five in the whole county at that time. So I . . .

[00:52:50] SL: Do you remember some of those names—some of the lawyers that . . .

JM: Oh yeah.

SL: Was Wade . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . one of 'em?

JM: Wade was one of 'em. And Paul Sullins.

SL: Sullins. I kind of . . .

JM: Perkins.

SL: Perkins.

JM: Rex Perkins.

[00:53:14] SL: Yeah. Now did he—was his office there on the Square? Up . . .

JM: Uh-huh. He and Sullins were together up over First National Bank, I believe it was. It was on that side, anyhow. And I don't remember most of 'em. Course, I'd run to the courthouse every once in a while when they were havin' a trial or something. But we didn't do too much business, but I had to be there. And we—H. L. did mostly abstract exams for the building and loan and things like that, so we had to do a lot of typing for land descriptions and things.

[00:53:52] SL: Was that Fayetteville Savings and Loan?

JM: Fayetteville Savings and Loan, mh-hmm.

SL: The McNair family?

JM: McNair family.

SL: And . . .

JM: Billy Dick McNair graduated from high school when I did.



SL: Is that right?

JM: Mh-hmm.

[00:54:06] SL: I'm tryin' to think, now—there was the Palace  
Theatre . . .

JM: The Palace Theatre.

SL: . . . on the Square.

JM: On the east side of the Square. A Royal Theatre on the south  
side of the Square. Colored people could go there and sit in the  
attic—in the . . .

SL: In the . . .

JM: . . . balcony.

SL: . . . balcony. Uh-huh.

JM: There was a Scott's dime store and a Woolworth's on the—the  
Woolworth's on the north side; Scott was on the east side, and  
Clinehen's Drugstore.

SL: Clinehen's Drugstore. Yeah.

JM: And . . .

[00:54:36] SL: See, what was the name of the—there was a shoe  
store, too. Did Clinehen's . . .

JM: On . . .

SL: . . . also end up havin' a shoe store?

JM: No, Clinehen's . . .

SL: Col . . .

JM: . . . didn't have that. There was a shoe store on the north side of the Square. I've forgotten what the name of it was.

SL: It was . . .

JM: And there was a grocery store on—and Guisinger's was on the corner down there.

[00:55:03] SL: Yep. You could go in—they had little booths that you could listen to records in before you bought 'em. And he also sold band equipment.

JM: Peggy Guisinger graduated from high school when I did.

SL: Who did, now?

JM: Peggy Guisinger.

SL: She did?

JM: Uh-huh.

[00:55:22] SL: And let me see, now. There were some other—I'm tryin' to think what the other businesses were—if there was Campbell-Bell . . .

JM: There was Campbell-Bell's on the west side of the Square.

SL: And the Boston Store, maybe?

JM: And the Boston Store and the Red Cross Drugstore.

SL: McIlroy Bank.

JM: McIlroy Bank and First National Bank. And . . .

SL: Had the Lewises already—the Lewises were already . . .

JM: No.

SL: They had . . .

JM: Hardware store was—Lewis Hardware was there where that Bank of Fayetteville is now. Those were my hangouts.

[00:55:59] SL: And of course, the post office . . .

JM: The post office, yes.

SL: . . . was right there in the center of the Square.

JM: The center of the Square.

SL: The Square was paved . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . when you were there.

JM: The Square was . . .

SL: Had been paved.

JM: . . . already paved.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. And the courthouse was—the old courthouse was—where it is now was . . .

JM: The steps came down to College Avenue. Instead of coming down south, they came down to the west from the courthouse. And we'd go up when—on election night when I was teenager or a little older and wait to hear the results come in. We'd just have a big party up there.

[00:56:35] SL: Uh-huh. [*Laughs*] Now was the Ozark Theatre  
right . . .

JM: Yes, Ozark Theatre was there.

SL: It was there.

JM: That's where we had our graduation ceremonies.

SL: At the Ozark Theatre.

JM: Across the stage there.

SL: Yeah, that—now, originally, that was an opera house.

JM: Yes.

SL: But it got converted to a theatre. It was already a theatre by  
the time you moved there.

[00:56:51] JM: But that's where we had our senior play, and that's  
where we did the—had our graduation ceremonies and . . .

SL: As I remember, there were dressing rooms beneath that stage.  
There was a—and it was a nice theatre.

JM: It was a nice theatre.

SL: There was a balcony, and I can remember the African Americans  
being in that balcony, as well . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . when I grew up.

JM: But at first they couldn't even go there.

SL: Is that right?

[00:57:18] JM: And there was a Plymouth automobile—they sold  
Plymouths right there . . .

SL: Next to . . .

JM: . . . just north of that—there for a long time.

SL: Yeah. Yeah, it kind of became morphed into a parking deck.

[00:57:34] JM: And the Red Bird Cafe . . .

SL: Red Bird Cafe was up by the Square, though, wasn't it? It  
was . . .

JM: It was under my office when I worked for the lawyers.

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

JM: I had to go upstairs to the office to work there.

[00:57:45] SL: Now, was Hunt's Clothing Store . . .

JM: Hunt's Store was there. My younger brother worked there  
half-days when he was in high school one year.

SL: I worked there one year as a freshman . . .

JM: Did you?

SL: . . . in college. Mh-hmm. I still remember . . .

JM: But I knew the Hunts.

SL: I remember him.

[00:58:02] JM: Penney's was on the south side of the Square.

SL: Penney's. I'd forgotten about that. Mh-hmm.

JM: Mh-hmm. So—be nice to have those old stores back again.

SL: It would. It was a great—it was a hub of activity.

JM: Well, everything was on the uprise. We had a little money.

Scott's on Wednesdays would have a dinner. You could have an open-face sandwich that was beef with beef gravy over it and a Coke, and it cost you a dime. So a girl who worked down on Dickson Street would walk up there and meet me, and on Wednesday we always ate at Scott's.

[00:58:45] SL: Let's talk a bit—a little bit about Dickson Street now during that time. Collier's was on Dickson, and they had a soda shop, didn't they, back then?

JM: Collier's wasn't on Dickson then. [JM edit: Collier's was on the Square.]

SL: It wasn't?

JM: University post office was down on the corner, and there was a hotel—Scott Hotel was across . . .

SL: Scott Hotel.

JM: . . . there. And there was a laundromat.

SL: Icehouse.

JM: Yeah, ice—yeah, a locker plant. And . . .

[00:59:17] SL: Campbell's Soup, wasn't it? Was Campbell's Soup . . .

JM: Campbell's Soup was just off there behind where Walton Arts

Center is. A little bit further south there. And it became Swanson. And Jug Wheeler . . .

SL: Drive-in.

JM: . . . Drive-in over there. That's where we—and the bakery, Shipley Baking Company.

SL: Shipley Baking Company.

JM: We didn't have air-conditioning in business college when I was in business college, so they opened the windows and doors in the summer. And they would bake that bread, and it would nearly kill us 'cause we could smell that wonderful odor.

[00:59:53] SL: Now, George's Majestic Lounge . . .

JM: Yes . . .

SL: . . . was there.

JM: . . . it was there. Yes.

SL: And the train station was still operating.

JM: And the train station. The train was still operating. Yes.

[01:00:01] SL: Mh-hmm. Do you remember the troops . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . comin' and goin' on the . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . on the train?

JM: And they had houses built up where the tennis courts are to

house the troops. And they would march past where I was working in Agri building at that time. When war was declared, I was workin' in—for John Casey in the state seed lab.

SL: Now . . .

Trey Marley: Scott, we should probably change tapes.

[Tape stopped]

[01:00:36] SL: Okay, Juanita, we're startin' on our second tape, which means we're in our second hour now. You are—you've reached the threshold of becoming a Pryor Center victim. [*JM laughs*] You've now survived a tape, and you're a veteran now.

JM: [*Laughs*] A veteran.

SL: [*Laughs*] Yeah. As always, you know, when we take a break, why, the—Trey and Kris or Joy will offer some observations about what we've talked about. And I've got a couple from 'em right now. Joy was curious about—now, the name of that car that y'all drove from Marshall to Colorado was—what was the make of that?

JM: An old Star.

SL: Old . . .

JM: Now, I don't know whether "old" was part of the name or whether that's just what we called it, but it was a Star car.

[01:01:27] SL: And it had two seats in it?



JM: Uh-huh.

SL: Now, how—so there's you, your mom, your dad, your little brother.

JM: No, my little brother wasn't . . .

SL: He was born . . .

JM: He was a baby.

SL: He was a baby.

JM: Yeah.

SL: And then—but you also had a driver.

JM: And we had a driver.

[01:01:43] SL: So how many bodies is that in a two-seat car there?

How . . .

JM: Well, my dad and the driver rode in the front, and Mama held the baby.

SL: Yeah.

JM: And my brother and I sat beside her in the backseat.

SL: Oh, so there was a backseat in back. It was a bench, probably a bench seat. Okay. We were just worried . . .

JM: And it . . .

SL: . . . that it was some kind of coupe, and there wasn't a backseat or . . .

JM: No, it wasn't a coupe. It was a sedan.

[01:02:11] SL: Oh, a sedan? So it—did it have four doors? Is that—or . . .

JM: I don't know whether it had four doors. I think it had four doors.

SL: Yeah.

JM: But I can't tell you for sure it did.

SL: Okay. Okay.

JM: But it did—there was room for us all to ride in there. It had a trunk, so we could put suitcases in there. And that's all we took with us.

[01:02:32] SL: Well, you know, everybody that I've ever talked to that had those early cars, they all talk about how many times they had to patch a flat.

JM: Yes. Yes.

SL: And it was often. I guess the tire industry was not quite what it is today. I mean . . .

JM: No. We fixed a lot of flats.

SL: Yeah, and of course, the roads were not what they are today, either.

JM: They weren't paved, most of 'em.

[01:02:57] SL: Uh-huh. Did y'all ever camp out along the way or . . .

JM: No, we've had motels—little individual—they didn't have

high-rises or—like we have now, but they would be tourist courts, five or six little cabins right close together. And we could stay in those.

SL: And they'd have a little kitchen in there and . . .

JM: And—some of 'em did, but most of 'em didn't. It was just a sleeping place.

SL: Oh, it was just a bed. Yeah. Uh-huh.

JM: And there would be a little store nearby where we could buy handheld food. [*SL laughs*] You know, sandwich food and Nehis and that sort of thing. I can remember this place in Kansas that I was amazed at because—and Daddy went over there and bought things for us for our evening meal. He brought Nehis, and he brought a loaf cake that was coconut, and I thought that was the best coconut—it's the first bakery cake I'd ever had. [*Laughter*] But that was the best cake. I still haven't made one like it.

[01:04:08] SL: [*Laughs*] That's good. How long did it take you to get to Stone City from Marshall?

JM: I think it was about four days.

[01:04:19] SL: Four days? That's not too bad. So you—had you ever been out of the hills before then?

JM: No, I hadn't been . . .

SL: So you got out there . . .

JM: . . . further than Marshall.

SL: So you got to see some country.

JM: Yes.

SL: Wheat and . . .

JM: It was a big place.

SL: Big place. And . . .

JM: And I—at four years old, I hadn't studied geography, so it was mind-boggling.

[01:04:42] SL: You'd never seen anything like the Rockies

JM: No.

SL: Yeah.

JM: And all those cedar trees and pine with pinion nuts that you could eat. We'd see snow from our house all year long. At the foot of the—foothills of the mountains in the distance you could see snow.

[01:05:05] SL: I bet it was beautiful. Well, now, Trey also brought up a good question. There was a railroad company there in Marshall. And what was the name of that again?

TM: The MN&A.

SL: MN&A?

TM: Yes, sir.

SL: Do you remember any—I mean, that's awfully young.

TM: Actually, it came through Gilbert and crossed the Buffalo, and then it went across Brush Creek.

JM: I knew there was a railroad line there, but I don't remember seein' it or anything about the railroad there.

[01:05:36] SL: You don't remember hearing the trains come by or . . .

JM: No.

SL: . . . anything like that?

JM: We lived far enough out we didn't hear that. And when I happened to be in town, apparently we didn't . . .

SL: Time it where . . .

JM: . . . time it right.

SL: . . . the train came through. Yeah.

JM: No.

[01:05:50] SL: Well, you know that your dad was working on the railroad ties and stuff like that.

JM: Yes.

SL: We thought maybe . . .

JM: They shipped 'em out. He took—he'd take 'em to Marshall and . . .

SL: They put 'em on the river?

JM: . . . put 'em on the train . . .

SL: On the train. Okay.

JM: . . . to take 'em other places.

SL: Okay. All right. Well, I just wanted to kind of catch up on that.  
Now . . .

[01:06:11] JM: And the railroad in Colorado was when Coolidge was president. I lived there. 'Cause I can remember the buttons they had with Coolidge on it. And I started collectin' those for a while. Every time I'd get a politician's button to wear—but I thought that was a good name.

SL: [*Laughs*] It is. Cool.

JM: I'm not sure he turned out to be a good president or not but . . .

SL: There's some debate about that, yes. [*Laughs*]

[01:06:42] JM: But I can remember that election. That's my first remembrance of politics.

SL: And so, you got a dose of that over the radio and the newspapers.

JM: Yes. And the bulletins they would put up at the—near the railroad station and at the store and things.

SL: You know, we didn't—I also kind of skipped over—I believe you said there was a theatre. Was there a theatre in Stone City?

JM: No.

SL: A movie theatre? There was not.

JM: No, there was a store. One store and the post office. And the clay mines.

SL: Do you remember the . . .

[01:07:20] JM: There was a hotel that had been empty [*SL clears throat*] for a long time, and we would go up and play on the front porch that had a rail around it and steps goin' up to it, and we could go up there and play hopscotch or play jacks in the summer on that porch. But nobody ever lived there.

SL: So it was shady and . . .

JM: It was just a nice, smooth place 'cause we didn't have paved streets or anything and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm. Sidewalks were not . . .

JM: Uh-huh. But that was a good place [*vehicle passes*] to play in the summer.

[01:07:56] SL: Well, do you remember the first movie you saw?

JM: Yes, we went into Pueblo to see it. I can't remember what it was. It was a western. But it was—you had to read what they said.

SL: Silent film?

JM: It was silent movie, and across the bottom of the screen would be what each person was saying. So if you didn't read fast

enough, you missed part of it.

[01:08:23] JM: Could—did they have a piano in there for music for the film?

JM: I don't know whether it was a piano or an organ, but there was something over there. A piano, I imagine.

SL: And was it just an . . .

JM: I can see it . . .

SL: . . . automatic thing that was played by itself, or was someone playin' it? Do you remember that?

JM: There was someone playin' it. At that time that I was there I could remember seein' the back of the person to the—had their back toward the audience.

SL: That's exciting.

JM: But it was a silent movie, and I thought that wasn't worth goin' to see when you—they couldn't talk. [*Laughter*]

SL: But you saw that in Pueblo . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . Colorado.

JM: That was after we bought the Whippet car.

[01:09:10] SL: The Whippet car. I love [*laughs*] that name. Now, was that a car or a truck? That was a . . .

JM: It was a car.



SL: It was a car. Mh-hmm.

JM: It was a tan or cream-color car.

SL: And that would be . . .

JM: Two-seat . . .

SL: . . . a 1932-3 . . .

JM: Probably.

SL: . . . vintage. Uh-huh. Did it—was it a better car than . . .

JM: Oh yeah, that was the best car we'd ever had. It was a lot better than that old Star.

[01:09:43] SL: Did it have roll-up windows instead of curtains for the . . .

JM: Uh-huh. It had roll-up windows. That was remarkable to have a car like that.

SL: Uh-huh. And it'd shift on the column?

JM: No.

SL: No? It was automatic or on the floor?

JM: No, it shift on the floor.

SL: On the—okay. [*Sighs*] Whippet. I love that . . .

JM: A Whippet.

[01:10:04] SL: I love that name. And so, that's the one that you drove back from . . .

JM: That's the one we drove back. Pulled a trailer. Brought our

furniture—part of it, at least. And we bought an old farm down there, and it's rocky in Searcy County and didn't have any of the conveniences that we had, so I decided I didn't ever wanna live on the farm.

[01:10:27] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, so you were probably happy to get off that farm and go to Fayetteville.

JM: Yes.

SL: And . . .

JM: Just for the modern conveniences.

SL: Uh-huh. And probably everyone else was, too.

JM: Yes.

SL: It's hardscrabble stuff out there without the . . .

JM: And a steady income, even if it was fifty dollars a month, was more than you could count on . . .

SL: In Marshall.

JM: . . . on the farm.

SL: Martin Box.

[01:10:53] JM: It—the farm is quite different now, though. There are nice houses out that way, and it's blacktopped, and the last time I went down there—next to the last time, I guess—I met a cousin that I had seen when she was eight years old, but she was in an orphan home over at Jonesboro. Her mother had

died, and within a year or two, her father had died, and he wanted 'em to go to the Masonic Orphans Home so the children could be raised together. So the younger ones all stayed together. And she had written a book, and there was an ad in the paper, so I ordered the book. And with it I put a note and asked them to present it to the publisher to give to the author because I thought she was a cousin of mine. So she wrote back and didn't think she was a cousin of mine. She thought, because of the name, that it was someone else in the family who was married to—into her family. So then I called her and told her no, that she was—her mother and my mother were raised together, and I had a picture of her mother, and she didn't have one and hadn't ever seen a picture of her mother.

SL: Oh-ho!

[01:12:11] JM: So I got to give her that, but then she called me and wanted me to meet her in Marshall. So she and her son came up from Atlanta. Her husband was a pharmacist, and I never did meet him, and we met down there and drove all around and went to a lot of the houses out where Loafer's Glory and out to Buffalo River. And that's when I decided the old house we lived in out there was gone 'cause I couldn't see one just before you went down the hill to the river. And so, we went to see several

cousins then on the—my mother's side of the family. And I have a cousin in California now who is a—the daughter of one of the cousins that my mother was raised with, and I've never seen her, but I knew her three older siblings when I—we lived at Marshall. So she has gotten to where we are good friends. She calls me quite often and has sent me quite a bit of history on the Treadwell family. And her older brother, who is my age, still lives at Marshall, so I talk to him quite often.

SL: That's neat.

[01:13:24] JM: So I get—she's sent me quite a bit of information that I didn't have before, and I haven't organized it yet into keepable form, but I have brought you part of the pictures. And there's one set of the pictures that has all of her family in it, but it was before she's born. So then she has added the little picture of her as the baby. It's stuck down in the corner, so I have a picture of her whole family.

[01:13:55] SL: That's neat. That's really good. Well, I'm tryin' to think, now. Before we took this break, we were in Fayetteville, and we were kind—it seems like I remember we were kind of describing the town—kind of locations . . .

JM: We were down to Dickson Street.

SL: . . . and different—we'd been to Jug Wheeler's and the Majestic

and the Scott Hotel. Now—and you had been working—your first job after business school—now, I assume in business school you learned a little typing, maybe shorthand . . .

JM: Bookkeeping.

SL: . . . bookkeeping. At that time . . .

JM: We did spelling, penmanship, and the whole bit.

SL: The, you know, the roles for women were probably still pretty well defined back then. You were gonna be a secretary or a bookkeeper or maybe a nurse. Is that . . .

JM: I was too young to go to nursing school, or I would've gone to nursing school.

[01:15:03] SL: Now, how old were you when you got through with business school?

JM: When I got through with high school, I was sixteen, and they wouldn't take you in nursing school until you were eighteen, and you had to go to Fort Smith. But my dad had always wanted me to be in nursing since he was in medics. So I chose—he told me I could have a year in university or a year in business college. Fayetteville High did not give typing or shorthand either one, so I thought that would help me more than one year in college would if I went on to nursing school. Well, I kept workin' and never did go to nursing school.

[01:15:35] SL: Mh-hmm. So the first job you had was working for  
H. L. and Tom Pearson Sr.

JM: Mh-hmm. That's right.

SL: And you were earning about a dollar a day or . . .

JM: A dollar a day. When I got a raise to eight dollars a week, I  
bought the Model A car. [SL laughs] A little coupe.

[01:15:57] SL: A little coupe. Now how old was that—what year  
was that car? Do you remember?

JM: It was a [19]31.

SL: [Nineteen] thirty-one. So it was new, kind of, yeah.

JM: Yeah, it was pretty good.

SL: Yeah.

JM: Paid a hundred dollars for it.

[01:16:08] SL: Hundred dollars. Now, did it have a—an electric  
start or . . .

JM: No.

SL: You had to crank it.

JM: No, it had a—you didn't have to crank it. It was electric start,  
but . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . it wasn't one you can just push with your thumb. It was a  
foot starter.

SL: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Yeah. And so, you're probably startin' to get pretty immersed into the Fayetteville . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . society, and you're dealing with the lawyers who, you know, at that time were—those guys were kind of determining what Fayetteville was going to be and how it was growing and its relationship with the university and other business entities at that time. I guess Springdale was a small, little town—maybe three thousand people at that time.

JM: I can't tell you what it was, but it wasn't built up between here and there. You could tell where Fayetteville stopped and Springdale started like it is now. Now it's almost one city all the way up there.

[01:17:22] SL: Was 71 paved between Fayetteville and Springdale then?

JM: Yes, but it was just two-lane.

SL: Mh-hmm. We had the 71 Drive-in Theatre there where Fiesta Square is now, or was that later? I guess the drive-in theatres didn't . . .

JM: No, we didn't have a drive-in theatre for a long time after that.

[01:17:41] SL: Uh-huh. Okay. Well, so you can remember when the drive-ins came in I bet.

JM: Uh-huh. The first one was out there—well, north of Fayetteville where there was a cafe later. I think there's a cafe there now.

SL: Well, that was the 71, I think.

JM: Seventy-one.

SL: Wasn't that the 71 Drive-in. Just down the hill from Herman's. What became . . .

JM: And the Bubble Club was out there.

SL: Yep.

JM: You remember?

SL: Uh-huh.

[01:18:10] JM: This attorney I worked for had been out on Saturday night at—not at home, and they had a bad wreck right there close to the Bubble Club. So the insurance—it involved a bus—a passenger bus and a load of hogs goin' from the stock sale. So he called me—my attorney, Tom Pearson, called me the next morning, Sunday morning, and wanted to know if I could go with them to take statements. We had to catch the people on that bus who might be injured. So we went out to the scene of the accident. We chased down the occupants of that bus. We went up into Missouri. I worked until almost midnight that night because I had to go back and type that up to get all that done because of that accident. And one of the—I don't know whether



it's one of the boys who was driving the hog truck—the hogs were scattered all over the area there—or one of his brothers is still alive. But that took us almost all day just goin' around to take statements, so my shorthand came in handy that day.

[01:19:31] SL: You bet it did. It made you very valuable. Is that about the time you got a raise?

JM: Probably. [*SL laughs*] That's probably when [*laughs*] they gave me the two-dollar-a-week raise.

[01:19:44] SL: Uh-huh. Well, now, okay, so what years are we talking now? We're talkin' bef—just before World War II.

JM: Yes.

SL: The—we oughta—I guess we oughta talk about—a little bit about segregation that was going on at that time. Fayetteville African American population was very small.

JM: We didn't have any colored people in school at all.

SL: Uh-huh. They were going to Fort Smith, weren't they?

JM: Uh-huh. But we had Tin Cup, a section of town where they lived, down southwest [JM edit: southeast] of where the old courthouse is.

[01:20:25] SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. Do you know why they called it Tin Cup?

JM: It had to do with the fact—now, this is what I've heard. I don't

know—that they used tin dishes instead of china dishes like most people had because the tin plates and things were easier to get back then.

SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. I always heard it was actually—there was actually a tin cup there at the spring.

JM: There probably was.

SL: And the community was built around that spring, which still flows through there. [01:21:09] Do you remember much about what was goin' on at the university just before the war?

JM: Well, just before the war, we'd go to everything at the amphitheater. You know, 4-H meetings from over the state and things like that. And we'd go to concerts and things over there. But nearly everything was amphitheater. And one day when I went home from work at the attorney's office, I had a message from the state seed analyst over there, and the man in administration at the university had told him that—he went to my church and—that I might be interested in goin' to work for him in the seed lab. So he wanted me to come over and talk to him. So I walked from my house on College over to his place. He was a gruff, heavy-set individual who smoked cigars. [SL *laughs*] He said, "What took you so long?" First thing he said. And I said, "Well, I walked." And he says, "Couldn't you call a

cab?" I said, "That cost a quarter." So he dictated one letter and told me to come to work Monday. [*SL laughs*] And I said, "I have to give my boss, the attorney, notice. I can't leave without it." He says, "I'll take care of that for you." So Monday morning I went to work at the laboratory at the university, and from then I was connected with the university for five years. I knew all the kids who went by the door and went to the ball games and did all the things that the university students did. So I—even though I wasn't in class—and my best friend turned out to be the girl who worked in the soils lab next to my lab—seed lab. [01:23:08] So that changed my life completely because I knew a different set of people—all those students over there.

SL: And you got immersed into the university culture as far as events go and—so I'm tryin' to think. The men's gym was there.

JM: Yes.

SL: And . . .

JM: The boys' 4-H house, the girls' 4-H house. And . . .

SL: Old Main, of course.

JM: . . . Old Main and . . .

SL: Vol Walker, I guess, the . . .

JM: Vol Walker.

SL: All those WPA buildings that . . .

JM: The WPA buildings. The home ec building. The agri building and the home ec building behind it. The library—I'd go to the library and study while—I'd go to the library and read while the ones I was with were at—up there studying. So I got my education without payin' for it that way. *[Laughter]*

SL: Well, Vol Walker Library was a beautiful, beautiful building.

JM: Yes.

SL: Beautiful library.

[01:24:10] JM: And we'd sit out at noon on the grass, and other students would be goin' by, so we knew all the students. And the student union was the place where we always went for breaks and, as I said, I knew all—just a lot of students at that time. So I've been to some of the—well, I've been to some of the boys' 4-H reunions since then, just as a guest. So I kept up with a few of 'em.

[01:24:41] SL: Now, were you—you were still livin' at home?

JM: Still livin' at home until forty—1947.

SL: So your mom and dad were doing well. They were healthy?

JM: My dad died when he was fifty.

SL: And how old were you then?

JM: Nineteen.

SL: Nineteen. So you had been working a couple years for—he died

while you were workin' for Pearson. And your mom, she was . . .

JM: She was forty-two when Daddy died, I think, and she never married again, and she never went to work. She drew a small pension and then when—I'd bring groceries home and things, and I stayed there. And my younger brother was just eight so, or almost nine, so she stayed home with him. And then he was in service. So she lived to be eighty-two.

[01:25:43] SL: And what about your other brother? You had two brothers, right?

JM: My other brother, he married quite a while after he got out of service, and they had one daughter, but then they had a divorce, and I don't even know where the daughter is. [*Vehicle passes*] But then he married again after he'd had three heart surgeries, and then he died with cancer of the lung.

SL: Golly!

[01:26:10] JM: But—and that was in [19]89, I guess, that he died because he was sixty-four years old then.

SL: Yeah. Hmm. Well, he had a pretty good run of life, I guess, at sixty . . .

JM: He worked thirty-four years for Whitfield Motor Company, so he had—was a fixture there by the time he died.

SL: Was he a salesperson or . . .

JM: No, he was . . .

SL: . . . or was he a mechanic?

JM: Mechanic.

SL: Mechanic.

JM: They sent him to school every year for all the new models and everything. And it was before it became Jones Oldsmobile.

[01:26:50] SL: Right. Yeah, I remember Whitfield's. So I guess—it sounds like to me that you had some pretty good responsibility early on, I mean . . .

JM: I have—Mama said when my brother was—he was twenty months younger than I was, and we lived close to Buffalo River. There was a porch on that house, and it was—'cause none of the houses were painted then, and if you had a porch, why, you sat out there in the cool 'cause it was too hot to be in the house in the afternoon or at night. And my brother would start to crawl, and course, babies then wore long dresses until they were a year old or such. And I would be hold—holding my brother's dress tail to keep him from goin' off the porch and callin' Mama to [*SL laughs*] come get him—that he was about to fall off the porch.

So I've been taking care of people ever since then. [*Laughs*]

[01:27:53] SL: Well, you know, that's—it's pretty remarkable that

your mom and y'all finished raisin' the family after your father passed. And that speaks well of the strength of family, you know.

JM: We've stayed together. My brother in Fayetteville now has four children, and only one of them is married. But one of his daughters is real close to me. When I was in rehab last year, she came at least once a week and brought me things or called me or did whatever I needed done. And then he has an—she has a brother who's the youngest one, and he literally sees to my daughter's—what she needs. If she needs a shelf fixed or a door fixed or anything, well, she calls Michael. So we've stayed pretty close.

[01:28:55] SL: Well, what about your social life out of high school or in high school and on . . .

JM: Well . . .

SL: . . . into business college? What was goin' on with you?



JM: I—we went to the Baptist church and they—our social life was usually connected with the church. After the Depression and everything, and things were still hard to do, and we had the movies. We could go to the Palace movie Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday night. If we had a coupon out of the paper and twenty-five cents, two of us could go to the movies. So we'd go

up. And they changed the windows in the stores on the Square every Wednesday, so my best girlfriend and I would go up and walk around the Square every Wednesday night to see what new had showed up in the windows. And since I had the little Model A car, why, we could drive that at night and save the gas to do things like that.

SL: Right.

JM: And—but the church provided a good part of our social life, so if you had a date, it was usually somebody you met at church. And next semester, why, that person was gone, and maybe you'd meet somebody else, and goin' in the same groups all the time. And it's worked out so that I know a lot of people a lot of places.

[01:30:22] SL: Well, so do you think that the church became more of a active role in your life . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . once you got to Fayetteville?

JM: Yeah.

SL: And . . .

JM: It was closer to church, and there were more people there, and you learned what they wore, what they looked like. The Pearsons went to church there. [*Vehicle passes*] The—it was



just a bigger group and . . .

[01:30:44] SL: This is First Baptist Church right there on College.

JM: First Baptist Church. Uh-huh.

SL: And—mh-hmm.

JM: And it had the round dome on top. It's not the church that's there now. And then we got out a school paper for university students, and we'd get that out every month, and I'd work on that in the office there that was next door to the church and help get it out and doin' things like that that kept us socially active.

[01:31:11] SL: So you were pretty much involved with church all days on Sundays. And did you go to church on Wednesday nights and . . .

JM: No, on Sunday night, but . . .

SL: Sunday night?

JM: . . . not usually on Wednesday night.

SL: Okay.

JM: That was our night to go around the Square. [*Laughter*]

[01:31:25] SL: Well, so you've got the Palace Theatre now, and you're goin' to movies whenever you can. Is that . . .

JM: The Palace Theatre—but we'd go to the—on the coupon, and a lot of times we'd go walk around the Square and then go on that coupon and a quarter. And then it was a little higher-priced,

maybe forty cents, to go down to the Ozark. And then UARK came along, and we'd go over there on a Sunday afternoon a lot of times to the movies.

SL: So this is late [19]30s, early [19]40s that you're . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: And . . .

JM: Especially during the war.

[01:32:10] SL: Yeah. Now, and it was still predominantly westerns, right?

JM: And comedies. Bob Hope, Bing Crosby—we saw all of those every time they came to town. John Wayne, of course. And they had serials, and we could do that in the afternoon, and it cost us a dime.

[01:32:32] SL: Now, what were some of the serials?

JM: Oh, I don't remember. They were usually comedies. Popeye or—with his spinach, you know, and that sort of thing. And sometimes they'd be westerns.

[01:32:50] SL: Uh-huh. Now, you also were getting newsreels, right?

JM: Yes.

SL: And the newsreels became very prolific during the war, right?

JM: Yes.

SL: That's how we got—kind of got the visual news of the war.

JM: Uh-huh, and you'd always watch to see if you could recognize anybody in those movies or in those newsreels.

[01:33:17] SL: So did your brother serve in World War II?

JM: Yes. And then my younger brother served after that. He was in Germany. But my older brother—the one just younger than I am—was in Japan. Hiroshima and all those things. He was in the air force.

SL: Wow.

JM: And the other brother was in the in—well, he drove a tank. He thinks that's caused him not to hear now because of that.

SL: Yeah.

JM: So I can't talk to him on the phone now because he can't hear.

SL: He can't hear anything from the cannon on the tank. And the tank itself was loud, too.

JM: Mh-hmm. It was loud.

[01:34:08] SL: So he was in the armored division.

JM: He was in the armored division.

SL: And your older brother was in the air force.

JM: Air corps. Mh-hmm.

SL: And does that mean that he was a . . .

JM: He was a gunner.

SL: He was a gunner. Was he operating off aircraft carriers or . . .

JM: I couldn't tell you.

SL: I mean, they went to great pains in the Pacific Theater to—I mean, any place—any island that could hold an airstrip . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . was something to prize and . . .

[01:34:42] JM: Yes. But he was a gunner, and sometimes we wouldn't hear from him for days and days. This cousin of mine that I was tellin' you I still talk to occasionally that's my age was in World War II, and he was left for dead with a stack of bodies that they had just piled up. And he—when they got him off the field, they found he was still alive, so he has lived a long life. But he has, I guess, senility now, and he doesn't remember a lot of things so he—and the oldest boy was killed. Buster Treadwell was killed in World War I, the brother of—not—get this back—the uncle of this boy was killed. He was killed in the Civil War, I guess—Buster was.

[01:35:55] SL: So I guess the—we started sendin' men to war when you were working at the university. Is that . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: And I know that they trained some troops—they brought troops in and trained them there on the campus as . . .

JM: Even seventeen-year-olds there at the last.

[01:36:19] SL: So were you at the university through the length of the war?

JM: Uh-huh.

SL: So you saw a lot of soldiers come and go, then.

JM: Yes. I dated a few of 'em.

SL: Dated a few of 'em? [*Laughter*] Well, I guess we . . .

[01:36:35] JM: We had—USO had dances for 'em over the UARK Theatre. And I worked at the USO, and I would check 'em in. You had to check in and check out a place like that. So I would help do that. And I had developed a theory goin' to USO on Sunday afternoon that I read palms [*SL laughs*] because I read that if you could get someone to talk about themselves, why, you made a point. And that talkin' and gettin' a soldier to talk was helpful to his morale. So I found—read an article on palm reading and all that history and, of course, it's all make up anyhow, but I could tell—read their palms and tell—they'd go out and get their buddies on the street and bring 'em in for me to read their palms. So I had quite a thing goin' there for a while.

[01:37:31] SL: Well, you didn't charge for it, did you?

JM: No, no, no. That was . . .

SL: No, that was just . . .

JM: . . . entertainment.

SL: It was a morale . . .

JM: And we would—if we didn't have anything else, we would make toast and coffee for those boys on Saturday night at the USO. And so, I met a lot of people from a lot of different places and got to spend a little time with a lot of the troops back then.

[01:37:51] SL: So when you say at the USO, are you talkin' about the room above the UARK . . .

JM: No, that was just where they had the dances. We had the Armory building down by the old courthouse. And that's where the USO itself was. And our main purpose was to find places for the boys to stay from—come up here from Fort Smith, Camp Chaffee, or from up at Neosho, Missouri—the camp up there. And they would come down here and they wouldn't have money or wouldn't have room at the hotel space we had at that time. So we had older ladies who would be down there, and they'd man the telephones and things tryin' to find rooms where they'd let the boys spend the night. And so, we would try to have coffee and at least make toast in the kitchen there for those boys to come in there. So it was just sort of a gathering place out of the cold and where they could spend some time away from camp.

[01:38:58] SL: One thing about that place there on Dickson—there was a bowling alley . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . beneath that floor where the dance floor was . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . at—UARK Bowl.

JM: Yes.

[01:39:09] SL: And do you—did you ever get to go bowling there?

JM: Yes, I bowled there. There was another bowling alley down on Dickson Street further down on the north side of the street, and they had smaller balls.

SL: Huh.

JM: And I've never seen a bowling alley that had those. But they would be bigger than grapefruit, but not as big as the regular bowlin' ball.

[01:39:30] SL: I never saw that place. Huh. Now, I do remember the bottling company.

JM: Yeah, there was a bottling . . .

SL: Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

JM: Coca-Cola Bottling Company was there.

[01:39:39] SL: Now Fulbright Products were around then.

JM: Yes.

SL: And the Fulbrights had the newspaper, right?

JM: Yes, Roberta Fulbright.

SL: Roberta was the editor there—or she owned it, and . . .

JM: She would . . .

SL: . . . Gearhart was the editor . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . as I remember.

JM: She would come to our school convocation and make speeches every once in a while, so I knew her from that.

[01:40:02] SL: Was she a good speechifier?

JM: Yeah, we listened. 'Cause it was all at the age, you know, where the war and everything was so huge. So she was good. She raised Bill to be a good person. [*Coughs*] He was a good . . .

SL: Good family.

JM: . . . representative for us. [*Vehicle passes*]

[01:40:28] SL: Mh-hmm. Okay. So you dated some of the servicemen.

JM: A few times.

SL: A few times. But you were part of the Baptist church. So you couldn't really reconcile the dancing, and there wasn't any . . .

JM: They didn't criticize us bein' at USO.

SL: They didn't. They kind of lifted that restriction.



JM: They didn't criticize a lotta things.

[01:40:53] SL: Uh-huh. And so, did you ever do any of the clubs  
that were around town at all . . .

JM: No.

SL: . . . growin' up?

JM: No.

SL: You stayed out of those.

JM: Yeah.

[01:41:06] SL: Restaurants, I guess . . .

JM: All the restaurants. We knew that.

SL: There was Heinie's and . . .

JM: Didn't have many Chinese. It was mostly just hamburger joints  
then.

SL: Yeah, but there was Heinie's in Springdale, right?

JM: Yes, there was . . .

SL: Steak house.

JM: . . . Heinie's in Springdale. And there was a little old railroad car  
or something right across from the courthouse on the corner  
there, and it would be packed at noon.

SL: The courthouse here in Fayetteville?

JM: Uh-huh, the old courthouse is—it was right across the—not  
where Ward's was but on down on Mountain Street there.

SL: Huh. I can't—I'm not sure I can remember . . .

JM: It's been gone so many years.

SL: Yeah.

[01:41:53] JM: I don't remember what it was called, even, but you couldn't get a stool in there to sit on because it was just a counter the length of that, and they'd fix the hamburgers behind there, and you could sit on those stools. And those—they were full all the time. [*Clears throat*]

SL: You know, I—for some reason, that rings a bell to me. I—but I'd forgotten all about that. I wonder . . .

[01:42:17] JM: And of course, Jug Wheeler's is where we went after a movie or after anything 'cause they all congregated, and it was always full.

SL: Yeah. Yeah, it was kind of a precursor to drive-in . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . stuff. You could actually park your car there and—where they—and you could order—they—would girls come out and take your order or . . .

JM: No, usually we went in.

[01:42:41] SL: Went in? Kay. Well, I guess what I'm tryin' to get around to is how you met your husband.

JM: Well, after I worked at the university, somebody told me there

was gonna be an opening down at Farm Service Co-op on West Street.

SL: Okay.

JM: There was an old icehouse down there. And this was next door to it.

SL: Okay.

JM: So I went by there and talked to the man who was in charge at that time, and they hired me at twice the amount of money I was makin' at the university. I . . .

[01:43:17] SL: And how much was that?

JM: Well, I was makin' fifteen dollars a week at the university. And Dr. Bartholomew had told my boss that I couldn't have any more raises because I was getting more than the department secretaries were that worked for the university. And I was working for the state, but my check didn't come through the university. So I knew I wasn't goin' any further there. So they hired me [*SL sniffs*] in 1946. I worked down there. And one day—well, we gave back dividends every year to the people who traded there . . .

SL: The co-op.

JM: . . . since it was a co-op.

SL: Yeah. Mh-hmm.

JM: And I was helpin' the bookkeeper, and I was makin' tickets, and you had to get—remember the names of all the customers and put it on every ticket and everything so they could divide it evenly. [01:44:12] So this fellow came in with another fellow, and it was the fellow I later married. And when I put his name on the ticket, he said, "That's all but the telephone number." And I said, "You want me to put your telephone number there?" You know, being very naive. And he says, "No, yours." [*SL laughs*] And I said, "Well, it's in the telephone book." But that was when I . . .

SL: The beginning.

JM: . . . that was when I met him.

[01:44:50] SL: And his name . . .

JM: His name was Charles McClellan. Charles Getty McClellan.

SL: And had he come in from out here at Cane Hill or . . .

JM: Yes, he brought one of his neighbors in who lived just across the road here to the dentist. And they came by to get feed while they were there. So that was close to Halloween 'cause I think our first date was on Halloween.

SL: So he looked your number up in the book.

JM: Well, actually, he found out I knew some of his relatives from out here. His uncle by marriage, Lon Moore, as I told you the

other day, used to be county clerk for Fayetteville, and so, through some of them, he found my name, and so, he called me. And his dad had just died, and his mother lived by—just—he had just come home from service in September before that, and his dad had died in Novem—no, before October.

[01:45:57] SL: And this—what year is this?

JM: That was in [19]46.

SL: [Nineteen] forty-six. Okay.

JM: We only dated three months. [*SL laughs*] So—well, he had to get a babysitter for his mother every time he came up there. She didn't stay by herself, and so, he'd get—did you know Dr. Fount Richardson?

SL: No.

JM: He was university doctor for a while. But he was a doctor in Fayetteville. But his mother lived out here, and so, he would go get Mrs. Richardson to come over and stay with my mother-in-law if we even went to a movie or anything.

[01:46:30] SL: Now, I knew a J. O. Richardson. Is that his son or—ended up being a chemistry professor up there.

JM: Don't know whether . . .

SL: Okay.

JM: Now, Dr. Fount's brother taught math down at Clarksville.

SL: Yeah. Hmm. Different Richardson, I think.

JM: And so, I knew that bunch of Richardsons, but there are Richardsons in Prairie Grove and all around, so, that are not related. But—so then I decided the farm was better than I thought it was because my mother-in-law had—still had a wringer washer, but they had a refrigerator, and they had a—didn't have a television yet but had the radio and everything. And they had a two-party party line, so there was a phone out here and everything. And so, that was kind of the better of two worlds. And so, we moved into the big house.

[01:47:31] SL: So three months after your first date, you guys get married.

JM: Yeah.

SL: And do you get married there at First Baptist . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: . . . in Fayetteville?

JM: Yeah.

[01:47:43] SL: Do you remember the preacher's name?

JM: Gibson.

SL: Gibson.

JM: He later went to Stillwater, Oklahoma.

SL: Kay. And was there any kind of honeymoon at all? Did y'all . . .

JM: No, we came straight out here. [*SL laughs*] Had to take care of cattle. He said when he was in service he would never get past Parks Corner, which is the first corner after you leave the blacktop on 62 up—45 joins it. But he'd never get past that if he ever got home. So he didn't like to get past that. He'd go down fishing, and I decided if we were gonna spend any time together I had to learn to fish. Or he'd go fox hunting. Well, I went one time, but that was my first and last time to go fox hunting.

SL: What? You didn't like it?

JM: Just walked around and hear those dogs howl. I didn't like that. [*SL laughs*] But the fishing is good. So then my daughter was born prematurely. She weighed two pounds and fourteen ounces.

SL: My gosh!

JM: So I started my nursing career there, I think.

SL: Mh-hmm. No kidding.

[01:48:48] JM: So—and then [*vehicle passes*] I got drafted to go to work for—well, in the meantime, I bought a store in Lincoln, and I could half-sole shoes. I repaired shoes and sold shoes and all this. [*Clears throat*] I went to pick up a pair of shoes my husband had had half-soled, and there was a sign. Shop was for sale, and I said, "Does that include the building?" Well, the

owner of the building walked in about that time, so I ended up with the building and the shop. And I learned to half-sole shoes and do all the things like that. I liked all of it except workin' on combine canvas. I didn't like that part—until I paid for it. I paid for the building and everything. In the meantime, I had worked at Farm Bureau for five years with Wilbur Watson.

[01:49:36] SL: Wilbur Watson, the guy that founded the Fayetteville Farmers' Market.

JM: Yes, and he asked me to run the cannery at one time where they had a community cannery. Came by where I was workin' at the lumberyard then. I've worked several places.

SL: Now, the . . .

JM: Jack of all trades.

SL: Now, the lumberyard, was that . . .

JM: Where . . .

SL: . . . City Lumber or . . .

JM: Fayetteville Lumber.

SL: Fayetteville Lumber.

JM: Where Walton Arts Center is now. And where the bear used to be in the window.

SL: Yeah.

JM: The big, white polar bear. [01:50:05] Well, I worked there for



five years. And that was because I had worked for Dr. Baggett for five years in Prairie Grove, and he retired, and he owned a big part of Fayetteville Lumber, and his brother ran it, so I went to work up there. And worked five years at the lumberyard.

[01:50:24] SL: Now, was there a—another lumberyard down off Dickson Street that time, or was that the only one?

JM: That was the only lumberyard on Dickson Street.

SL: And what year is that, now?

JM: It was in the [19]70s.

SL: Oh, okay.

JM: We sold it, sold the lumberyard, and then Walton Arts bought that whole corner and area in there.

SL: Okay.

JM: City Lumber was on South College [JM edit: Highway 71].

SL: Yeah.

JM: Used to be a skating rink down there.

SL: Now, for some reason I imagined those bears out there on College, but they were on Dickson Street.

JM: They were on Dickson Street.

SL: I remember the bears. And my f . . .

JM: And inside we had wolves and wild hogs and all sorts of things—taxidermy display, and they're all over in Oklahoma now.

[01:51:15] SL: Now, was there also a Dykes Lumber Company?

JM: Yeah, that was on Dickson Street.

SL: Okay. Now, that's where my father worked, was on . . .

JM: Uh-huh. Dykes Lumber Company.

SL: At Dykes. Okay.

JM: Mh-hmm. But it went out before Fayetteville Lumber did.

[01:51:30] SL: Yeah. Mh-hmm. So, okay, I'm gettin' a little bit jumbled up here.

JM: Yes, I've got my time . . .

SL: So you get married, and you move to Prairie Grove, and you're livin' in . . .

JM: No, I didn't move to Prairie Grove.

SL: Oh, you didn't?

JM: I—no.

SL: Or Cane Hill.

JM: Cane Hill. I was livin' in the big house. [01:51:51] And after my son was born three years later, Johnnie, then I went back to work and went to work for Farm Bureau because somebody told me they needed a—somebody there. When I called, why, he thought it was—there was another Nieta McClellan, and he thought that's who he's talkin' to. But anyhow, he hired me.

[*SL laughs*] So I worked for him to—for five years and my

mother-in-law had cancer, and I had to quit work and take care of her. That was my next nursing job. So I took care of her 24/7 for two years. And then's when I bought the shoe store in Lincoln because we'd gotten someone to take care of her. She made her son promise never to put her in a nursing home, so he didn't. But Dr. Baggett found this lady who would take somebody into her own home, so we put her over there for a while. And so, I bought my shoe store then, and I worked there until I paid for it. In the meantime, I was doin' income tax because they had sent me to tax school while I was Farm Bureau, so I was doin' a lot of income tax for neighbors [*vehicle passes*] and anybody who wanted me to do it.

[01:53:08] SL: And Dr. Baggett was a local doctor in . . .

JM: In Prairie Grove.

SL: In Prairie Grove.

JM: So then I went to work in the courthouse in the assessor's office because a friend of mine had worked there, and she knew they needed somebody.

SL: Washington County Courthouse?

JM: Uh-huh.

SL: Okay.

JM: And then's when I got drafted to work for Dr. Baggett. He kept

callin' me and insistin' I go to work for him, and that was when Medicare came about. And the girl who was workin' for him said she wasn't gonna fill out Medicare papers, and so, she wasn't gonna work. So he kept makin' it—sayin' I'd be off Thursday afternoon, and I'd be off Saturday afternoon and everything. Well, the rest of 'em were, but I went ahead and worked six days a week, usually, there. But they paid me more money than they paid the girl who had worked the front desk before, but then I did insurance, and I did—took in the money and I did all the other things. I wrote all the checks and did things she didn't do. So I worked there until he retired, and then I went to work at the lumber company because the Baggetts ran the lumber company. [01:54:20] So I worked there five years until they sold it.

SL: Doin' their books?

JM: And waiting on customers and general—whatever.

SL: Yeah.

JM: I even gave the bear a bath after we sold everything.

[01:54:33] SL: [*Laughs*] Now, this—let's describe this. This was a big bear that's standing up on his hind legs.

JM: Yes. I had to get a . . .

SL: And it—was there only one bear?

JM: No, there was the brown bear, too.

SL: Yeah.

JM: But the brown bear was on all four legs, and the polar bear was on his hind legs standing upright, and I had to have a stepladder to get up there. But we had a cabinet shop in the back and all that sawdust and everything. And I thought—well, I had to stay there to take in money that was still comin' in and people still pickin' up material and things, so I had to stay there two or three weeks after the sale. So I decided I'd give the bear a little bath. So I'd get a pan of water and climb up on the ladder and just do one arm at a time or—and Jones—Mr. Jones from Jones . . .

SL: Trucking and . . .

JM: . . . Trucking Company in Springdale, he and his wife and secretary came down because Doc—John Baggett had talked to him about taking these animals. He had to get out of the building since we'd sold everything, and they were putting 'em in that museum over at—is it at Grove, Oklahoma?

SL: I don't know.

[01:55:47] JM: Anyhow, it's over in Oklahoma. They have this museum, and it's a beautiful place. I've been over there. And we had a rattlesnake that Dr. Baggett had killed and—I went to

work when I was workin' for him one day, and I found the rattlesnake skin stretched across my desk [*SL laughs*] and a note saying he and his family had gone to Hawaii and would I package that skin and send it to the taxidermist, and it had the name of the taxidermist there. So I put table paper from the exam tables across my desk, put that snakeskin across there and rolled it up, put it in a three-pound coffee can, and the snakeskin stood two or three inches higher than the . . .

SL: Oh! That's a big . . .

JM: . . . coffee can.

SL: . . . snake.

JM: That was a big snake. It was a rattlesnake. The taxidermist did a wonderful job. When we got it back, he'd fixed it—looked like a limestone rock that it was on, all coiled up, and the rattles showing and everything. It was ready to strike. So I got to put that in my car and carry it around for several days. [*SL laughs*] Took it down to the bank to leave it a day or two. I took it to the school because Dr. Baggett wanted them to see that snake.

SL: Sure.

JM: So it went with the other animals over to Oklahoma when we got rid of the bears.

[01:57:12] SL: Now, were those bears bears that Dr. Baggett had

shot?

JM: Yes.

SL: So he . . .

JM: And up until recently, I had a picture of him with the bear on the ground when he'd shot it, but I gave it to my nephew because Dr. Baggett had given me the magazine that—it showed up in *Hunters* magazine. And—but they went to Alaska hunting every year.

[01:57:40] SL: I remember those bears. I remember that window.

JM: People brought kids by just to see . . .

SL: Sure.

JM: . . . the bears.

[01:57:45] SL: It was impressive. It seems like—you know, so you're now livin' out here in Cane Hill, but you're still kind of commuting . . .

JM: Yes, for years.

SL: . . . to Fayetteville for years. Let's talk a little bit about your husband's family and Cane Hill because it's my understanding that the college out here was the first college west of the Mississippi. Is that true?

JM: That's what they told me when I first got here.

[01:58:17] SL: Now, was—did—was it originally a women's seminary

or . . .

JM: Women's seminary was down at Clyde.

SL: Was at Clyde.

JM: Mh-hmm.

SL: Which is down the road just a few miles from . . .

JM: Just a mile.

SL: Just a mile from this church.

[01:58:27] JM: And—but the women's—this was strictly men in this college here, and it was burned during the Civil War. This is not the original building. And they rebuilt it, and a lot of famous people have gone to school there and gone on—be army generals, and Blount and all those Civil War notables that they've studied in history, a lot of 'em went to school here.

[01:59:01] SL: Well, you know, I was—you and I were up there the other day lookin' around, and I noticed that the—there were actually names of folks in the sidewalk. Now . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . I've always heard that, you know, the University of Arkansas was the only school that did that. But it . . .

JM: This was after it was a high school.

SL: Ah, I see. Okay, so . . .

JM: This is not—was not the . . .



SL: Not the college.

JM: . . . college. Uh-uh.

SL: It was as a high school.

[01:59:26] JM: But when it became a high school, the names on the sidewalk are the people who graduated from high school there.

SL: Okay.

JM: And after I came down here, they didn't have but four grades there. My daughter went to school there through the fourth grade, and then they condemned the building, and we consolidated with Lincoln.

[01:59:47] SL: Well, now, when was that college established? Do you know? I mean, it's pre-Civil War? Is it . . .

JM: It was pre-Civil War, but I can't tell you exactly when. There is a book up there on the table that tells that.

[02:00:06] SL: Okay. So that's pretty unusual that—I mean, why Cane Hill? Why . . .

JM: Well, that was a Presbyterian-supported school.

SL: Okay.

JM: And when the university was established, it was a state-supported school, and the monetary cost to run the church-supported school plus the volume of students detracted from this school when they established the University of

Arkansas. So all the records went to Clarksville, and the College of the Ozarks was established. But all the history came from Cane Hill.

[02:00:50] SL: Cane Hill. You know, Cane Hill is kind of an unusual name. What—why is this place called Cane Hill?

JM: When the fir—early settlers came here, they found cane growing on top of hills, and cane usually doesn't grow on top of hills. It grows in lower ground. Needs more water and things. So they—and it was called Boonsboro there for a while because Daniel Boone supposedly visited here.

SL: Boonsboro.

JM: Uh-huh. And so, it has been changed back to Cane Hill later, but it was Boonsboro for a while.

[02:01:25] SL: Well, now, was Clyde—did it used to be called Newtown or . . .

JM: Newtown.

SL: Newtown.

JM: And Clyde is named for Clyde Irwin, who was my husband's uncle, and he lived right across the street from where the store and the post office was at Clyde.

[02:01:45] SL: So, now the McClellan family, though, when did they get here? When did they come?

JM: They were some of the early settlers, but not the first ones.  
And—oh, they were here back in the early 1800s. I think the earliest date I've found in the cemetery is 1843.

SL: For the McClellans?

JM: For the McClellans.

[02:02:13] SL: Now, it seems like there were some—is it Welch that . . .

JM: Dr. Welch.

SL: Is really early. And that family was here very early. [02:02:23]  
You know, at this point in time, I'd like to say somethin'. You gave me some stuff to look at before our interview, and it was material—there was a book on the McClellan family that was put together by a Bobbie McLane? Is that right?

JM: Mh-hmm.

SL: And she was out of Pine Bluff?

JM: I think she was out of Pine Bluff.

SL: And this thing was published—this book was published by the Washington County Historic Society . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . in 1962. And I just wanna go on record as saying it is a wonderful source of information, especially genealogy. But there were also pictures in it and the narratives. There are stories in

that book that are just thrilling to read about, and . . .

JM: Thank you.

SL: . . . I can't tell you what a great gift it was to study that here the past couple of days. And then you also gave me a treatment on the Irwin family, as well, that dealt with settlement in Clyde. And between those two there were so many names and families that are familiar to me. I mean, it, personally, it meant a great deal to me that . . .

JM: I appreciate that.

SL: . . . to get all that history in one place. And I—I'm so proud of the Historic Society for publishing it. And I don't know how Bobbie McLane out of Pine Bluff was brought into the picture, but it's such a great resource that was provided.

[02:03:47] JM: She was in a branch of the McClellans who settled in Alabama.

SL: Okay.

JM: And so, she did—there's a lot of—more that she did that—for the Alabama side, too. But there's a little bit in there toward the end of the book about her family, so they were all interrelated but not close. And Senator John McClellan spelled his name the same way we do. Most McClellans have a *D* on their name . . .

SL: That's right.

JM: . . . or spell it *C-L-E-L-A-N* or something. [02:04:26] But I personally have talked to Dr. John several times—Senator John. And he said he thought we were all related somewhere along the line, but we never did figure it out which John he was.

SL: Well, now, he . . .

TM: Excuse me, Scott. We need to change tapes.

SL: Oh! [*Claps hands*] Okay, we're done with the second hour, and we're just now really startin' to get [*claps*] to here. [*Laughter*]

[Tape stopped]

[02:04:54] SL: Juanita, we're startin' our third hour here. We had a big ol' lunch from Las Palmas over in Lincoln and had so much you're gonna have dinner out of your portion tonight.

JM: A lot of dinner.

SL: And I have to say you've brought us a very good, nice cake . . .

JM: Thank you.

SL: . . . that you made for us, and it's so moist and so excellent.

JM: Thank you.

[02:05:20] SL: It's very nice of you. Well, thank you. You know, we'd start—we'd kind of gotten you here to Cane Hill, and we were startin' to talk about the McClellans, but I wanna go back just a little bit, and there's no real rules here. We don't have to—if you think of somethin' that—you know, back to your

earliest memory or somethin' about your mom or dad or [*TM clears throat*] anything, you can just start talkin' about it. We don't have to bury anything. We can go back and forth and [*claps*] all of that. But you know, the—at one point in time, we were talkin' about Tom Pearson Sr. comin' to Fayetteville on the orphan train. And I remember something about the orphan train, but Trey had never heard about the orphan train. Do you know much about that orphan train stuff?

JM: I just knew the two or three people that I had met who were on it, and I know that the families couldn't keep 'em because of lack of finances when the Depression hit, and people jumped out of windows and killed themselves and all sorts of things. And so, they would give up children to be adopted and brought 'em down where they had food, at least. So Algie Braly was one who lived here in Cane Hill not far from where I live. [02:06:52] And his son still lives between here and Lincoln. And then Tom Pearson—I think there was a—it must've been more than one time they brought 'em here because the Pearsons had taken a daughter the first time, and they had lost their daughter. She had died. And after they tried the adoption for the girl, Mrs. Pearson couldn't—it replaced her own daughter too much. So they decided they wanted a son, and they took Tom. So

apparently, it was on the next train that came in. But they were from up in the Northeast, and as I understood it, they came from New York.

[02:07:46] SL: So those—the orphan train was really a way to—they sent the orphans—they really had been given up for adoption.

JM: They were given up.

SL: It wasn't like they didn't have parents.

JM: No, they had parents, but they couldn't support 'em and couldn't feed 'em, and it was probably from large families. And they had the soup kitchens, you know, in Roosevelt's day. And this was back in the early part before the soup kitchens. And they were just literally starving, so they gave up a child for adoption.

[02:08:27] SL: And they sent the children south . . .

JM: They sent 'em south . . .

SL: . . . or out into the world . . .

JM: . . . where we had gardens and farms, and even though we weren't wealthy people in this area, they could afford to feed a child. And so, people who didn't have a child or could take one or two of 'em—I think sometimes they took two of 'em.

SL: Boy, you just don't think that could—somethin' like that could ever happen today, could it?

JM: No, but our economy today is bad, but it's not that bad.

[02:09:03] SL: Yeah. Okay, well, let's get back here to Cane Hill.

And we were—I—it seems like I remember we were talkin' about why they named it Cane Hill.

JM: Because cane grew on top of a hill, and ordinarily cane doesn't grow on top of a hill.

SL: 'Cause it usually requires some kind of water, doesn't it?

JM: It norm . . .

SL: Or some kind of source of . . .

JM: It's lower level. Usually it's more moist land.

[02:09:33] SL: Uh-huh. Well, isn't there a—an abnormally large amount of springs in this area?

JM: My mother-in-law used to tell me the story—what—we had 212 springs in the radius of a mile around here, and I have 3 on my farm.

SL: And they're good springs. I mean, they're . . .

JM: Two of 'em are pretty good springs.

SL: Yeah.

JM: Enough that we had water to several houses from them before we had rural water. One of 'em isn't that much, but it's enough to keep a pond fed.

[02:10:07] SL: Uh-huh. Well, so, now, your husband—that was—Char—Gary?



JM: Charles.

SL: Charles. Charles. Now, his family settled here fairly early. Is that . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . that right? And they—I know, we were talkin' about some of the relations, McClellan relations. And they're related to the Confederate general that was pretty famous in the Civil War. Is that . . .

JM: Yes.

[02:10:40] SL: And was that John McClellan?

JM: No, John McClellan was a senator.

SL: And who—well, in our time, but what was . . .

JM: Uh-huh, but this was before that.

SL: . . . what was the Civil War general's first name?

JM: I can't tell you his name right now.

SL: Well, it doesn't—it—we can look that up. But—I know. We were startin' to talk about this genealogy because of the wonderful book that had been published—compiled by Bobbie McLane and . . .

JM: Bobbie McLane.

SL: . . . published by the Washington County Historic Society in . . .

[02:11:15] JM: And some of the McClellans were from the North.

They fought with . . .

SL: The North.

JM: . . . the North.

[02:11:25] SL: Well, now, once you got out here, were there—it seems like I remember you tellin' me some stories about some Civil War characters. Were there Civil War survivors or Civil War . . .



JM: Booth McClellan—Booth McClellan—Booth Campbell is a distant relative of the McClellans, and he lived here, and he had his Civil War uniform. And he would walk—I don't think he ever drove a car. If he did, I never did know it. But he lives up on the hill just—not far from here is where he lived. And he would walk down the road wearing his Civil War uniform and carryin' his banjo. And he would come up to our house and sit on the front porch and sing and play that pian—banjo. You could always tell where Booth had been because if there was a little fire alongside the road, he'd found brush along there, and he kept it burned. So you knew Booth had been on his way.

[02:12:37] SL: Well, now, did he fight here at Cane Hill or . . .

JM: I don't think he fought here at Cane Hill. I don't know where he fought, but I know he's in the archives up at the university and has some video up there in the . . .

SL: Special Collections.

JM: . . . Special Collections thing.

SL: Of him speaking?

JM: Of—well, of some history. Somebody interviewed him, I think, and things like that. And the story of Booth's life was up there. His wife was a nurse and had worked for Dr. Mock over in Prairie Grove. [02:13:18] And Dr. Mock was before Dr. Baggett was there so—and Booth's son was a graduate of the University of Arkansas, and he worked in agriculture and went to Alaska and lived up there for quite a while. And then he retired and lived here at Cane Hill and just died two or three years ago, and his wife had died two or three years before that. His daughter died just this—three months ago. But they're all in the cemetery up there on the McClellan farm.

[02:14:00] SL: Well, we went up there and visited that cemetery and took a lot of photographs of that, and there's a—in that same—I believe it was the same publication. If it wasn't, it was in the Irwin paper, but there's a listing of all the folks that are—at the time that were buried in that cemetery with the dates, and I gotta tell you that some of those burial sites are quite fascinating. They're . . .

[02:14:28] JM: They—we need a lot of work done up there, but the

man who was gonna do it had a stroke and died, and we haven't found another one who would come up there and rebuild those crypts that are native rock.

SL: Mh-hmm. Yeah, lots of native rock up there. So . . .

[02:14:47] JM: I used to mow that cemetery myself until the last few years—just a push mower. You can't use a riding mower in there. There are too many low rocks.

SL: Yeah.

JM: There's one or two just rocks for a stone, for tombstones.

[02:15:01] SL: Yeah, we saw those. I—I've always assumed that those little unnamed tombstones were children.

JM: Probably.

SL: Infants and . . .

JM: And some of 'em are just footstones.

SL: Footstones. And that's just to mark the end of the . . .


JM: End of that grave.

[02:15:18] SL: . . . that site. Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. Well, did you ever have any conversations with Booth McClellan yourself?


JM: Oh yeah. When he'd come up and sit on our porch, why, we'd— but we didn't talk about the Civil War. He was always talkin' about something that happened around here or didn't happen. He had false teeth, but he wouldn't wear 'em, so he said he

could gum a steak. [*SL laughs*] So he was an eccentric.

[02:15:47] SL: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, were there any other Civil War veterans that were from around here?

 JM: Not after I came here. Several people who lived here had relatives who fought, and there was a battle here at Cane Hill. And girls livin' across on the east side of sixty—of 45 Highway would go to the top of the hill there and see part of the battle—see the flares up toward White Church, which was between here and the 62 junction where the main part of the fighting was, about two miles up the road.

[02:16:41] SL: So was that sometime around the Battle of Prairie Grove? Was it kind of a . . .

 JM: In the—close to the same time. They burned houses around here. And the story is told—I think I probably told you this before about the piano that's here in the—at the church. They were gonna burn the house, the McClellan house. And a young lady in the house—I think her name was Annie. At any rate, she begged 'em not to burn the piano. Would they—she would play a song for 'em if they would not burn the piano. So they moved the piano out—I think these were the bushwhackers—and they moved the piano out, and she played "Dixie." [*SL laughs*] So that piano is still here in the church.

[02:17:40] SL: That's great stories. Now, bushwhackers, were they . . .

JM: That was after the Civil War when everything was still torn up and . . .

SL: . . . were they Southern sympathizers or neither one? They were just kind of outlaws?

JM: Probably just outlaws, but they had probably been in service, and they were just takin' what they could get because nobody had anything. We had a bank here, and it was robbed one time—people on horseback—and they locked the teller in the vault, and I knew the teller. When—after I came here, she still lived here. And the horses went back over the hill, over toward Bush Valley Road. I don't know whether they were ever caught or not. Jesse James used to come through here and camped down toward Clyde. A cousin, Jim Burns Trewhitt, had memorabilia that the James group had given him because he lived down in that vicinity. And he had a—something that's over at Prairie Grove, I believe, at the museum over there now that he gave to them. But it came from the James boys.

[02:19:12] SL: Well, now, the—Jesse James was not unpopular among folks.

JM: No.

SL: I mean, he—lots of people hid and accommodated that gang, as I have been told.

JM: Well, he used to have—camp down there at a spring.

[02:19:32] SL: Mh-hmm. This town has always been full of characters, hasn't it?



JM: Yes, it has. In fact, it was a big town. We had three doctors at one time. We had three churches at one time before I came here all this—they had a milliner's shop, a blacksmith shop, grocery store, and the college. And they—I was told—I don't know whether history shows this anywhere or not—that it was considered—at one time they thought they would make the county seat here, but then they decided on Fayetteville instead. But this was—this town was bigger than Lincoln. Mainly, the town went down when the university was built in Fayetteville because a church-supported school could not compete with a state-supported school, so the records here were sent to Clyde—Clarksville—became College of the Ozarks, now University of—at Clarksville. And I don't know what year that was, but anyhow, that's why Cane Hill went down. But also the railroad wanted to go through Cane Hill. The people here did not want the cinders or the hoboes who rode on trains and the noise. So the train went through Lincoln. So Lincoln grew and Cane Hill . . .

SL: Declined.

JM: . . . decreased in size.

[02:21:18] SL: Weren't you tellin' me about a blind gentleman that used to live here?



JM: Uncle John McClellan was a blind lawyer. He was blinded during the Civil War. And he raised horses. He had so many horses they couldn't all eat in the barn at the same time, so they were trained. The first bunch went in to eat. The others waited patiently in the lot until the first ones came out, and then they went in to eat. He had an old horse that told him when there was someone nearby, and the boys in town would—if they met him on the road—it was a dirt road—and they would hide in the bushes beside the road to see if he would speak to 'em when they came by. And they would be perfectly still, and when the horse got even with them, somehow the horse told him there was somebody there. He would tip his hat and speak to 'em. [SL laughs] So, in fact, that's why we named our son John was because he was instrumental in leaving the house to my husband. When he died he wanted my husband to—he was—my husband was five years old when he died, but he wanted him to have an interest in it, so my husband's parents paid for part of the house, but he left them—left it to my husband.



[02:22:50] SL: So you married into a, really, a Cane Hill family, didn't you?

JM: Yes.

SL: And there's lots of McClellans here and . . .

JM: Lots of McClellans.

SL: . . . and there were other families—the Irwin family . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . and—now, you mentioned one of the other— orphan train . . .

JM: Braly.

[02:23:10] SL: Braly. Now are they also in that cemetery?

JM: No.

SL: They're not?

JM: No, they're up at the Cane Hill Cemetery.

SL: Cane Hill Cemetery. And then it seems like I saw Welch.

JM: Yes, Dr. Welch. He came here later and was a close friend of the McClellans. And he is related—but I'll have to look up—it's—his wife may have been the one who was related to the McClellans. I'm not sure how he was related. But he is buried in our cemetery.

[02:23:40] SL: Okay, so you and your husband move out here to Cane Hill. You kind of see his mother through the last couple of

years of her life, and you end up owning a business in Lincoln for a while. And you say you worked at that till you got it paid for—the building paid for. Did you sell the building and the business then?

JM: Mh-hmm, and trained the man who took it. [*Laughs*]

[02:24:10] SL: And tell me again what that business was. It was a . . .

JM: Shoe repair . . .

SL: . . . shoe repair . . .

JM: . . . and shoe sales.

SL: . . . and shoe sales. And so, did you take that money and invest in the farm or . . .

JM: I think I bought a car with that money because I was goin' to work in Fayetteville by . . .

[02:24:30] SL: And so, let's see, you were working at City Lumber. Is that . . .

JM: No, Fayetteville Lumber.

SL: Fayetteville Lumber. And you'd also—you had already worked for the Farm Bureau. Is that after Fayetteville Lumber or . . .

JM: No, that was . . .

SL: Before?

JM: . . . before.

[02:24:49] SL: Fayetteville Lumber. And then where did you work after Fayetteville Lumber?

JM: I went to work for Johnny Adkins.

SL: Now, did Johnny Adkins start out here in Prairie Grove?

JM: Yes, he did. And John Baggett was manager of the lumberyard. And Dr. Baggett owned a big interest in it, and Dr. Baggett had talked to Johnny Adkins about hiring me because I would be available, and I'd worked for him for five years. So Johnny contacted me when he was up here at—before he went out on his own and came over to the lumberyard to talk to me. So that was the first time I had seen Johnny Adkins. And then I worked for him for over twenty years.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well . . .

JM: Until I was eighty-three.

SL: So you must've enjoyed that.

JM: I enjoyed—I've been with medicine so long, I carried my PDR around [*laughs*] so I could look up things.

[02:26:04] SL: Uh-huh. Well, now, let's talk a little bit about your children. You had—now, how many children did you have?

JM: Two.

SL: Two children, a son and a daughter. And now, you lost your son . . .

JM: When he was twenty-two.

SL: . . . when he was twenty-two. And that was a automobile accident?

JM: Automobile accident. His wife was two months pregnant, so he never saw his granddaughter—saw his daughter—my granddaughter. And she's a teacher in Texas now and has four children of her own.

[02:26:42] SL: So y'all still stay in touch and . . .

JM: Yes. She lived in Van Buren up until two years ago, so I saw—I didn't see her as she grew up because she married and lived in California for a while. But after they moved back to Van Buren, we saw her—the last ten years, we've seen her several times a year until she moved to Houston.

[02:27:02] SL: You know, I just thought of somethin' we didn't really talk—spend too much time about and that was your brothers and their service. So your older of the two brothers was in World War II. Is that . . .

JM: Yes.

SL: . . . is that right? And where did he serve in World War II?

JM: He served in Japan.

SL: In Japan. And do you know what his—was he—he was infantry?

JM: No, he was in air corps.

SL: That's right. He was in the air force. And . . .

JM: Mh-hmm. He was a gunner.

SL: A gunner. So is that—was he in a bomber, I guess, maybe,  
or . . .

JM: I suppose it was.

[02:27:43] SL: Mh-hmm. Did he ever talk much about his World  
War II experience?

JM: No. I was married and not at home as much and didn't see him  
as often, and I didn't—course, he worked at the garage there in  
Fayetteville for so many years. And they'd come down and eat  
supper and leave and—or I'd see 'em when I was at Mama's or  
something, but I didn't hear much about—he'd talk about what  
they wore or the kimonos and things that he saw in Japan but  
not much about the war itself.

SL: Well, it's not unusual for veterans not to talk much about their  
war experiences.

JM: That's right.

[02:28:25] SL: It's most of the time not very pleasant. And then  
the younger of the two brothers . . .

JM: He was in Germany. But now, he was ten years younger. And  
that was after the war, but he was still drafted. The draft was  
still goin'. And he was over there for quite a while. But he didn't

do any fighting. He was—operated a tank but he didn't do any big battles like World War II. But he was there for a long time.

[02:29:06] SL: And then he got out of the service after Germany.

JM: And he worked at Standard Register and retired from Standard Register.

SL: Uh-huh. In Fayetteville. [02:29:18] Okay, well, I just wanted—I didn't wanna shortchange a couple of veterans in the family. I just . . .

JM: No.

SL: . . . wanted to make sure that we had a chance to hear from them.

JM: Well, they were both in service.

[02:29:31] SL: Uh-huh. Okay. Well, let's get back to you and your husband out here. You also—when did the slaughterhouse come about? What—how did that come about?

JM: The county agent in Fayetteville, Carl Rose, was a friend of ours, and a reporter for, I guess, *Tulsa World*—for some paper in Tulsa, I think, came over and wanted to do an article on home-cured meat. So the county agent knew that we cured our own hams and things, and so, he brought this reporter out to do an interview. The article came out in the paper, and the next week we received fifty-some-odd cards and letters wanting to

know if we had home-cured meat to sell. I answered every one of 'em and told 'em we didn't have anything now, but we planned to have some by the next year. Next year I started getting more cards and letters, but we had—we hadn't built the slaughterhouse then, but we were killing six or eight hogs instead of two or three. So we had a few hams and things to sell because my husband thought that would blow over and people would forget it. Well, they could say they could just smell that ham cookin' when they read the article, so they kept writing. So we built the slaughterhouse according to health department and all the stipulations. The drains had to be certain places and all this, and so, we built the house down closer to the road. We sold that big house we lived in and moved down there and built the slaughterhouse. And we did a rushing business for several years then, butchering hogs for other people, butchering cattle, dressing deers, and stayed busy most of the time and had hired help, even. And then my husband died in [19]71. My son was running it by then. He was just out of high school. [02:31:56] Two years later, he was killed in a car accident.

SL: Oh!

JM: So that left me to run it [*SL clears throat*] for the rest of the year, so I was starting to take another job with the school in

Lincoln. Had to give that up to do the slaughterhouse. So I dressed chickens and processed chickens for people in the whole area. They'd bring 'em from Oklahoma and from Madison County and every place. And I'd do five hundred a day or more, a lot of days. Well, that was some of the hardest work I ever did and the dirtiest work.

SL: Yeah.

[02:32:31] JM: But it kept the bills paid. So then I got a chance to sell the house and the slaughterhouse. It was a member of the family that had worked for my husband ever since we built the slaughterhouse. His brothers and his mother and dad had both worked there for us. But this brother decided he wanted it, and I sold the house and slaughterhouse. Paid off my mortgage and everything and built me a smaller house, which I shouldn't have built, but I built it so I wouldn't owe any money. So I have a two-bedroom, one-bath house, and I wish it were a bigger [JM edit: house] but it—I don't owe anybody, so that's all right. So that's how we got into the slaughterhouse business, and now it's sitting empty, and nobody runs it.

[02:33:18] SL: Is that—was there a—I guess it became—that kind of processing became more corporate and commercial and . . .

JM: No, the man who bought it let his two sons run it because he



was in bad health. So the man who bought it from me died. One of the sons developed—well, walkin' on concrete floor all the time didn't help, but he'd developed a heart condition, I think, and his health was bad. The other one decided not to run it, of course, so they leased it out for one year with option to buy. But they didn't renew it, and so, it's been empty ever since. But there's still a demand for somebody to butcher beef. You have to take one to Rudy or to Pea Ridge or Siloam Springs to get custom work done now. We sold sausage through IGA in Fayetteville as Shade Tree Packing Company. You saw the label . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . that we put on our sausage because we made—well, there was another store in Fayetteville handled a lot of our sausage back early, too. But we had health inspectors come by, and they checked our water and everything. So it was all . . .

SL: Good stuff.

JM: . . . legitimate.

SL: Yeah.

JM: Had to figure sales tax every month.

SL: Well, so . . .

[02:34:53] JM: Governor Cherry came by and bought stuff from us,

and different people from other places that would hear about it and come down 45 Highway.

SL: So did you kind of become a political destination point for anyone running for office or . . .

JM: I've always been politically inclined. My dad would take me to hear political speakers when he was alive. We got credit for it in school . . .

SL: Oh!

JM: . . . in history class if we went to somethin' like that. So I—and we'd go to the courthouse where the old courthouse steps came down to the street at the end of every election. When Bruce Crider was elected sheriff, why, we were all yellin' for Bruce. He was a friend of ours, too. So I've always been sort of—in fact, I was inclined to run for office a time or two, except I didn't want to be away from home at night away from my kids, or I would have. County clerk. Something like that. I talked about it a time or two.

[02:36:06] SL: You just decided it was just gonna be too much?

JM: I decided living this far out and with them in school and with my mother-in-law living with us . . .

SL: Ah.

JM: . . . and then she had cancer, and I couldn't leave. And then

after she was gone, I would've been leavin' my children at home, and they were still young enough. I just didn't think I needed to get involved that much where I'd be gone at night 'cause you gotta go to a lot of picnics and a lot of meetings if you're gonna run for office.

SL: Yeah.

[02:36:35] JM: But havin' worked at Farm Bureau, I knew nearly every farmer in the county.

SL: You probably would've won if you'd run.

JM: I—at the time, some of the county chairmen and things told me they'd back me if I'd run and . . .

SL: It just wasn't the right time.

JM: I just didn't think I ought to give it up. So I've got too full a life to do that anyhow, I decided. But I did work in the assessor's office a little while but—and course, that—I enjoyed that.

[02:37:08] SL: Yeah. You've never been afraid of work, have you? I mean, you're just . . .

JM: That's all I know. That's my entertainment. [*SL laughs*] That's why it's so hard to sit down now since I have a broken shoulder. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah. Well, I'm tryin' to think if there's any more that you can tell us about Cane Hill. Is there . . .

[02:37:33] JM: You have to say one more thing. My favorite toy is that tractor. I've got a Massey Ferguson tractor that I wouldn't trade for anybody's tractor. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, now, but you don't still drive that now . . .

JM: I don't get . . .

SL: . . . 'cause of your shoulder.

JM: . . . up and down on the tractor because I don't have enough strength in that arm to shift gears. But last year I was feeding cattle, brush-hoggin', haulin' hay. I was makin' money on the farm. This year I'm payin' it out.

[02:38:02] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, so what it is about the tractor that you're so enamored about? I mean . . .

JM: I don't like to keep house.

SL: Uh-huh. You'd rather be out in the field.

JM: I want the weeds cut and the fence built and the cattle coming in and—my farm has changed completely. It's, I think, one of the prettiest farms in the country, for a small farm . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . and for me to run it by myself. But I have a very good person to help me feed the cattle and things now, except he's too busy.

[02:38:40] SL: You know, you were talkin' about how when you first

got here this church, this Presbyterian church, was full. And now it's down to a dozen folks or so, and in general, is there any—I don't know . . .

JM: Any hope that it'll get bigger?

SL: Any hope that the community will ever bounce back, or do you think it's . . .

JM: Not in the foreseeable future. Now, we have two or three new houses. But the people who have lived in 'em do not go to church, or if they do, they go into town to church or something. [02:39:22] And, well, we have one man, a Mr. Green, and his son is—there are two new houses up there, and then there's another house just up the road here that is for sale. It was rented with option to buy at the end of the year, and they didn't take it up. So—a brick house just up the road is a pretty nice house. It's a good-lookin' on the outside, anyhow. But there's not much building goin' on here. Nobody wants to sell the land.

SL: So they just kind of hold onto it, but they don't—they're not active in the community. Is that . . .

JM: No, that's—it's all new people in here. Very few of the new people have come to church or—well, if they've got children—we don't have children here, so they go someplace where there are children. And we don't have very many people around here.

Most of 'em are—well, I'm the oldest one around, but most of 'em are not able to have the Sunday dinners and do the things that we used to do that attract people to come 'cause you gotta have a social life in church to have a church . . .

SL: Right.

[02:40:32] JM: . . . grow. So it doesn't look good for the future.

It's too pretty a building to . . .

SL: Abandon..

JM: . . . not be used.

SL: Mh-hmm. It is beautiful. All the glass is wonderful.

JM: It's been well kept through the years.

[02:40:53] SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. So your current family, you've got a—your daughter lives here nearby.

JM: She lives near me.

SL: Uh-huh. And you . . .

JM: And . . .

SL: . . . have a nephew that . . .

JM: I have two nephews in Fayetteville and two nieces. Well, one niece lives out toward Elkins, and the other niece lives between Fayetteville and Elkins. And I have a granddaughter with two grandsons lives up in Missouri. We're goin' up there week after next. And then I have the granddaughter in Houston who's a

teacher, and she has four children, my great-grandchildren, so I have six great-grandchildren. And the oldest one just graduated from high school this year and plans to go to the Air Force Academy. And the youngest one is probably in the third grade now. The only great-granddaughter I have. But I don't get to see them very often.

[02:42:17] SL: Well, you've got—sounds like you've got a great family.

JM: Well, as long as they lived in Van Buren, we got to see all that family quite often. But we don't see them often enough, and I don't see all the ones in Fayetteville. But the youngest grand—niece in Fayetteville was very attentive when I was in rehab so long and when—has called me just every week or two and—but she works full time at—for Tyson's.

[02:42:47] SL: Is there any area that we haven't talked about yet that we need to talk about? I feel like we're missing a bunch of stuff here. Is there anymore family—McClellan family relatives you wanna talk about or . . .

JM: I don't know of any that are—oh, if my husband were here—he was a stand-up comic.

SL: He was? [*Laughs*]

JM: A stand-up comic. He could've been a stand-up comic. But he

was always the jokester on his aunts and cousins and things, you know. And he'd take up collection at church, and he'd have a water gun in his hand, and this cousin would be there, and he'd have it out to shoot him with the water gun when he's takin' up church and [*SL laughs*]*—*collection in church, even, and doin' off things like that. But—so there was—the preacher wrote a great long article in the paper when he died about how Charles would be missed. But he had emphysema, and he had problems that—he wouldn't quit smokin'.

SL: Yeah.

[02:45:56] JM: Things like that. So he died when he was fifty-six.

SL: That's too young.

JM: So I think we've covered just about all I know about Cane Hill.

Now, if you'd ask me somethin' else, I'd probably tell you a long story, but I can't think of anything [*laughs*] right now.

[02:44:23] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, I—did we talk about—maybe your mom—do you remember—now, when did she—she grew to be eighty . . .

JM: Eighty-two.

SL: Eighty-two. And did she end up livin' with you at all or . . .

JM: No.

SL: No?



JM: No.

SL: She's . . .

JM: My brother was divorced and lived with her until she died, and then we sold her house, and he built a little house out Wedington Woods—out in that area. And then he married again. And he had three heart surgeries, but then lung cancer killed him. That was smokin', too.

[02:45:08] SL: Mh-hmm. So your mom, was she active at all in her later years? Did she . . .

JM: She kept house for him and did the laundry and did all the housework and everything. She didn't work out. But she . . .

SL: So she . . .

JM: . . . did all . . .

SL: . . . she sold the house in Fayetteville and . . .

JM: Uh-huh. She sold the house where we lived when my dad died up there on the corner of College and Cleburn. And bought another house down on Sixth—Fifth Street. And that's where she lived when she died. But she had her flowers, and she crocheted, and we'd go up—I'd take my kids up there on Saturday when I worked Saturday mornings so they could stay with her on Saturday morning. And then I'd go take her to the grocery store on Saturday afternoon when I was off on Saturday

noon. That was when I worked for Wilbur Watson. So we got together at least once a week.

[02:46:20] SL: What was it that you did for Wilbur?

JM: I worked as a secretary, and I was a licensed Farm Bureau insurance agent there for a year or two after I quit there. And—but I was just the office secretary.

[02:46:37] SL: So he was with Farm Bureau? Is that . . .

JM: He was with Farm Bureau. He was the Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

SL: And . . .

JM: Now, he's out of the office—if somebody came in and wanted insurance, I wrote it, and he signed it. [*SL laughs*] We had the adjuster in our office. I started to bring that letter I found when I was goin' through those pictures. It was a letter where they'd given me a Christmas present and tellin' me what a good job I'd done. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

[02:47:02] JM: But Clyde Malone was our insurance adjuster, and he had an office there. And I could take depositions, and he didn't know it. So we had had a wreck out east of Fayetteville sometime, and every time he'd go out there, the lady wasn't home. And if she came in the office, he wasn't there, so it

happened about the second time she came in, and he wasn't there, so I sat down and took the statement. He found out I could do it, so he'd make it [*laughs*] a point to be gone sometimes. But I'd worked for a lawyer, so I had taken statements before.

SL: Well, sure. Yeah.

JM: So I could take the statement, and if window glass was broken, why, I could write the order to have it fixed and things. So I'd kind of take over the office when I worked and do what they expect me to do. I always say, "I'm not the secretary. I'm the flunkie." [*SL laughs*] Just whatever needs to be done's what you do.

SL: Well, we're all kind of flunkies in that way, I guess.

[02:48:00] JM: When I worked for Dr. Baggett, I folded four-by-fours 'cause we didn't get 'em all made up in individual little packets like we do now. I folded four-by-fours. I've washed radiation pellets that we used to take skin cancers off. I've cleaned those up after we've used those all day on a patient. I've done all sorts of things. I've helped sew up somebody if the nurse was busy. I've helped do X-rays or whatever, plus workin' the front desk and takin' the money and makin' appointments. So—and when people come in, if you know 'em by name—and

Wilbur Watson said—came where I was workin' at the lumberyard one day, and he told my boss there that I had the best memory of anybody he'd ever known—that somebody'd come in and say they traded cars, and I'd say, "Did you trade the truck or the car, or did you trade the Chevy or the Ford" or something like that.

SL: [*Laughs*] You knew what they had.

JM: I knew what they had. [02:48:57] But you call 'em by name when they come in, and that girl at the front desk can get more information than the doctor can back in the office sometimes. So when Dr. Adkins started work, he didn't know people out here, and I knew everybody that came in because I'd worked in the same office for Dr. Baggett.

[02:49:16] SL: Now, how did Johnny end up out here? I mean . . .

JM: Well, somethin' about his student loans in med school. He had to agree to work in a rural area in Arkansas for so many years after he got out of school in order to get certain grants. And so, he went through AHEC up here. And from that, they knew that—Dr. Patrick knew that we needed a doctor out here and everything. So that's how we—and Dr. Adkins's mother and dad came up, and Johnny was there, and Susan was there, and we cleaned up the building that had been sittin' empty before it

opened up. And every time anybody'd stick their head in the door, I'd say hi to whoever it was. And Dr. Adkins has called me at home several times that first year or two and say, "Did you know that lady who was in here with a little girl today? She sat over by the window. She had hair about the color of yours." And I'd tell him who it was. He'd want to call to see how that child was gettin' along that night. Called me one night—said, "Who's that lady—I think her husband's older than she is, and I think he is a mechanic or somethin' out there past you." Lightning had struck her while she was—had struck the telephone while she was usin' it, and he wanted to call and check on her.

SL: Wow!

[02:50:46] JM: He'd make a house call clear out on the mountain out here. So I'd go drive in front of him to show him where to go. So we worked—helped get him started there in Prairie Grove. So we were there ten years in that office. Then we moved to City Hospital for ten years. Then we moved to old Washington Regional. And I was just workin' part-time. Two of his girls quit at the same time there.

SL: Oh my gosh.

JM: They called me back, and I worked steady for about six weeks

again. So I'd just fall in where they need me.

[02:51:24] SL: It's good to hear that Johnny makes those—wanted to make house calls and . . .

JM: He did . . .

SL: . . . keep in touch.

JM: . . . quite a bit of that when he first came up here. Course, I don't think he has there in Fayetteville so much, but he's just . . .

SL: Very conscientious.

JM: . . . one in a million.

SL: Yeah, he is. He is. He's a good one. Keeper.

[02:51:43] JM: And Susan is, too.

SL: Susan.

JM: But his dad and mother were just equally as nice. His dad was laid back like Kevin, slow-talkin' and visiting and everything. Just as nice as he could be. And his mother's like Johnny, on the go all the time.

[02:52:00] SL: Yep. [*SL laughs*] Well, he makes beautiful . . .

JM: Wood carvings.

SL: . . . wood carvings.

JM: I told him he was gonna cut his hand off someday. [*SL laughs*] His in-laws will come up for a ball game. They'll go to the ball

game, and he'll have two hours to himself to woodwork.

SL: Yeah.

JM: And he's always wantin' you to come up and see all that woodwork at the shop. He built a four-car garage, but the cars can't go in it.

SL: Of course not. [*Laughs*]

JM: That's all his wood. And he's got it all over his office.

SL: Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I like seeing him. Even if I'm not feeling well, I still feel better just seein' him, hangin' out with him. He's a good one.

JM: He's just a good guy.

[02:52:53] SL: Well, I'm wondering what else we should talk about.

I feel like that we're—haven't covered everything that . . .

JM: Well, we still have a fall festival every year up at the schoolhouse. We serve breakfast two days, Saturday and Sunday. This year the second days was a pancake breakfast, but it's always been just a regular all-you-can-eat breakfast. The eggs, the potatoes, gravy, biscuits, sausage, bacon, orange juice, coffee—the whole bit. They make molasses up there, and there's a molasses pan up there where—a fellow down at Clyde raises the cane, and they make molasses every year. They make homemade apple butter and sell it. And every two years

we have a school reunion. And though I didn't go to school here, since I know everybody who did just about, I always get an invitation to that. So every other year—but they're gettin' fewer to attend because they're too old to travel . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . when they don't live here.

[02:54:06] SL: Well, now, when is the breakfast? Has it already happened this year?

JM: Yes, it was in September.

SL: In September?

JM: Twenty-third of September . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . I believe.

SL: And then the reunion for the school . . .

JM: Will be next year.

SL: Next year. [02:54:20] Well, you'll need to call me and let me know when that's about—do you know—have a date already for it?

JM: I don't know.

SL: Okay.

JM: Wanda Irwin usually gets out the notices, and it's usually a catered meal at noon, and they do the usual things, you know.



Recognize the people who are deceased through the year and look at the sidewalks, see all the names and . . .

SL: Now, this is James Irwin's wife?

JM: Yeah.

SL: And that would be Clark Irwin's . . .

JM: Clark's mother.

SL: . . . mother. Mh-hmm. Go ahead.

[02:54:54] JM: As I told you, she called me and is referring to me for information about history. And then I had this woman from Texas call me, and I don't know—Wanda had told her—I don't know how they got in touch, but I never heard of the one in Texas. But she said that she talked to somebody here who said I knew all about the McClellans and the Irwins. So I'm gettin' calls about genealogy, and some of 'em I can't [*laughs*] answer. But I could that one because the McClellan she's lookin' for had a *D* on their name, so that wasn't—may have been someone of ours back when they forgot to put a *D* on. I don't know. But there are McClellands around Fayetteville that have a *D* on their name, and they're not related that we know of.

SL: Yeah.

JM: But I think I married into a good family, and I've become a McClellan. I know more about them than I do my own family.

[02:55:51] SL: *[Laughs]* Well, is there anything else that we should talk about? I mean, I don't wanna shortchange you here, but you know, we're only—we're in our third hour, and you've done really, really well. Is there anything that you wanna have to say to your family, to your kids or your grandkids or . . .

JM: I just hope they live as happy a life as I have, even with all its problems. You make the most of what you've got, and you learn to like what you have, not what you want. And you can get by.

[02:56:35] SL: That's good advice. That's good advice. You know, there's one thing that we like to do. We're asking everybody we interview now to—you know, I was talkin' earlier how Barbara and David felt like it was time for the people of Arkansas to tell their own stories, and what we do is we have you look just right at the camera, right down the center of the camera, and you say your name—I, you know, "I'm Juanita McClellan, and I'm proud to be from Arkansas." Or "I'm proud to be an Arkansan." However you wanna say it. But you need to ignore me . . .

JM: Okay.

SL: . . . and look at the camera and say that. And when you get through sayin' it, if you'll count to yourself a couple of counts, just looking at the camera, that lets us kind of dissolve and do some editing . . .

JM: Okay.

SL: . . . with it. So—and Trey will tell you when to go.

TM: At anytime. [*Clears throat*]

[02:57:30] JM: I'm Juanita McClellan, and I'm proud to be from  
Arkansas, especially from Cane Hill. [*SL laughs*]

TM: Let's do it one more time, and just keep lookin' at the camera—  
just—that's perfect—the Cane Hill part.

SL: Okay.

[02:57:45] JM: I'm Juanita McClellan, and I'm proud to be from  
Arkansas, especially from Cane Hill.

SL: Okay. [*Claps*] That's good. Well, now, if there's not anything  
else, I think we're done. If you feel—if—unless you wanna keep  
goin'—if there's somethin' that we haven't . . .

JM: I don't think of anything else. If you . . .

SL: Well, why don't we . . .

JM: If you can't think of the questions, I can't think of the answers.

[*Laughs*]

SL: Well, I mean, we've covered so much, Juanita, and . . .

[03:59:15] TM: Scott, did you ask her about music growin' up or  
instruments?

SL: You know, I didn't really—I assumed that you didn't have any  
musical instruments in your—is Joy still rollin'?

JE: Yeah.

SL: I assumed that you didn't have any musical instruments in your house, or at least until you got to Fayetteville. Is that . . .

JM: No, we didn't have musical instruments. Everybody in my dad's family played stringed instruments—anything they could pick up—except my dad. [*SL laughs*] And he had a big family. He had three sisters and six brothers who lived to adulthood, and they all played—in fact, one of 'em, Jim and his wife, had a program out of Springfield, Missouri, of country music for several years. And—but my dad couldn't play anything.

[02:59:07] SL: Well, whenever—I mean, were there family gatherings, and they'd . . .

JM: Oh, we always . . .

SL: . . . break out all their . . .

JM: Yeah.

SL: And was that in Marshall that those happened?

JM: Uh-huh. And, well, the—Uncle Troy lived there in Colorado, too.

And we moved back to Arkansas before he did. And when they came by our house comin' in, they stopped at our house first before they went on out toward Loafer's Glory. And the first thing they did, Dad told 'em get their banjos out [*SL laughs*], and they went out and had 'em—on the outside of the trailer

they were haulin' their furniture and things in—had 'em where they could reach 'em. And they came and sat on our porch and started playin' for him. So anytime they got together, why—and then my Aunt Eula—that was my dad's sister as well as my mother's name, but my Aunt Eula and Uncle Jack had two daughters that I know sang. They did church singin', mostly, I think. But they sang duets for things, and I can remember them standin' by a woodstove at their house and singin'. And they had two boys, but I don't know whether they sang or not.

[03:00:23] SL: So did you ever think about learnin' to play somethin' yourself or . . .

JM: Oh, we had a piano. My daughter has it now and—but I never did take lessons or anything. "Dropped My Dolly in the Dirt"—somethin' like that's all I could do. [*Laughs*]

SL: [*Laughs*] Yeah.

JM: I never had time.

[03:00:42] SL: Yeah. Yeah, you were workin' early on. Well, what—you know, and didn't ask you about when you—when was the first time you had a TV?

JM: After I started to work for Farm Bureau, and my mother-in-law was there by herself, and this was before she had cancer. And there was some McClellan land in McKinney, Texas, and the

person who owned it had died, and it was gonna be sold for his taxes, I suppose. So a cousin who worked in Tulsa went down there and looked it up and got it set up so they could sell it, and Charles's part of it was sixty-four dollars, I believe, or somethin' like that. And he said he was gonna buy a TV for his mother since I had gone to work, and the kids were in school, and she was there by herself. So he bought the first TV back in the [19]50s. [03:01:46] And it was downstairs, and we were living upstairs because my daughter was premature. She weighed two pounds and fourteen ounces when she was three—five days old, and I didn't see her till she was five days old. And we had sort of established a small kitchen upstairs so I could keep her because they didn't want a lot of people comin' in like came in downstairs to . . .

SL: Sure.

JM: . . . visit Henry.

SL: You had to be careful about . . .

JM: And because she would be more susceptible . . .

SL: Susceptible.

JM: . . . to pick up things. And I fed her every two hours with a medicine dropper. I took her home when she weighed three pounds and a half-ounce, and you're not supposed to get to do

that, but they let me do it. My doctor did. And she got to be eight pounds, and she had a high infection. Her fever went to 105, and her doctor was out of town, so I took her—had Dr. Baggett come out here to the house. He gave her some medicine, and she was better. The next day her fever was back up again, so I took her over there. There was a clinic in Prairie Grove then and—there where the office is on Main Street. And her fever came up over there. It's the only time I ever got upset with a nurse 'cause I always liked the people in the hospital, and you get along with 'em better if you like 'em or if you . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . act decent to 'em. But that one—that—I called that nurse and asked her if she would take her temperature, and she says, "We take temperatures twice a day here." And I said, "Well, her temperature is up, and if you don't take it, I'm gonna take her and take her someplace else," because they'd fixed the delivery room where they had maternity patients. None of 'em were in there, and I didn't want to put her in a room with other patients 'cause she was just eight pounds then. [03:03:49] Well, I was givin' her double the ration of milk to the amount of water. Givin' her powdered milk. And she had developed an intestinal infection because it was too rich. She was . . .

SL: Yeah.

JM: . . . takin' too much by then. But I didn't know enough to know that at that time. So I told that nurse I was gonna take her out, so she flounced out and got someone to come in to take her temperature, and it was a 105.

SL: Oh!

[03:04:16] JM: And she wanted to take her out of my hands. I says, "No, just get me a pan of lukewarm water, and I'll take care of it." So she did what I wanted done, and we got her temperature down. Well, when Dr. Baggett—I finally—he said, "Well, what are you feedin' her?" And so, I told him. "Well," he says, "that's what it is." So we got her taken care of. But she had chicken pox and three-day measles before she was a year old.

SL: Oh my gosh.

JM: So that's more of my nursing experience, you see. So I may not have gone to nursing school but . . .

SL: You're experienced.

JM: I could handle sick people pretty good.

[03:04:54] SL: Do you remember . . .

TM: Scott, we've got two minutes left on this tape.

SL: Okay. Well, I was just gonna ask real quick if early in those TV days if you had a favorite program that you got to watch or—you



probably just didn't get much TV time, did you?

JM: I didn't. Of course . . .

SL: 'Cause you were too busy with a child and . . .

JM: It was—I didn't go back to work until Johnnie was three, so she was up in school by then. But—so I didn't have a television upstairs until after that. And by the time I got home and did the ironing 'cause you didn't have perma-press then, and you washed one night, and you ironed the next night.

SL: Yep.

JM: And all those ruffles that she had and all the things—it took time.

SL: Sure.

JM: So the next night I was probably washin' again, and I didn't watch much television until—well, very little of the things I let them watch, you know, on Saturday and things like that.

SL: Cartoons and stuff.

JM: Cartoons and things.

SL: Yeah.

JM: But we watched some westerns at night and things like that. *Gunsmoke* and all those were favorites back then.

SL: They're great. They were great. Miss Kitty and . . .

JM: So—Miss Kitty . . .

SL: . . . Marshal Dillon and . . .

JM: Yeah. They're all gone now.

SL: . . . Chester. Yeah.

JM: It's better than reality shows.

[03:06:08] SL: Oh! Much better. Well, look, we're at the end of this tape, so I'm gonna close us up here and—while we're gettin' up and takin' our break, if you think of anything we should talk about, we'll sit back down. But I think we're pretty close to bein' done.

JM: I think so.

SL: Okay. Well, I'm gonna thank you formally. Right now I'm gonna shake your hand and tell you what a great time I've had.

JM: Thank you. I've had a good time.

SL: Well, we're gonna—you'll be gettin' some stuff from us.

JM: Oh, I hope it serves its purpose.

SL: It will more than serve its purpose.

JM: It'll be a different story about Cane Hill in history, even though it's in history books already—a lot of 'em. So I hope it works.

SL: It'll work. It'll be fine. Thank you.

[03:06:55] JM: I'm glad David and Barbara started this project.

SL: I don't know anybody that isn't. It's a good thing.

JM: So—and I'm glad to have met you.

SL: Well, thank you. [*Laughs*] Well, we're gonna be seeing each other some more.

JM: Good.

SL: Okay.

[End of interview 03:07:12]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]