

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

University of Arkansas  
1 East Center Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
(479) 575-6829

**Arkansas Memories Project**

Hayden McIlroy

Interviewed by Scott Lunsford and Barbara Pryor

April 25, 2011

Fayetteville, 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**

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**Scott Lunsford and Barbara Pryor interviewed Hayden McIlroy  
on April 25, 2011, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Okay, Hayden.

Hayden McIlroy: Yes, sir.

SL: [*Sighs*] We're here at your place on the square in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Today's date is April 25, 2011. I'm Scott Lunsford, and we're—you and I are gonna—you're Hayden McIlroy. Is it W. Hayden McIlroy? Is that William?

HM: William Hayden.

SL: William Hayden III or junior?

HM: Junior.

SL: Junior. Um—we're here with the Pryor Center crew, and we're gonna record audio and video of this whole conversation we're gonna have. Barbara Pryor's gonna join us a little later. Um—we're gonna preserve this stuff forever. It'll—uh—be at the Pryor Center—uh—for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. There'll be a backup copy [*camera clicks*] at the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas, Mullins Library. Um—you will be given all the raw footage to look at. [*Camera clicks*] You'll be given a transcript to read. If there's anything that you're uncomfortable with—uh—preserving, [*camera clicks*] we'll

take it out. Um—once we've done that, we'll process it. We'll give you a finished—uh—DVD—uh—that will contain all the scans that we're doing [*camera clicks*] of your family photo albums. Uh—you'll get a final—uh—transcript, and we'll make as many copies as you—as you need us to make for the family. We'll preserve that stuff forever. Now the killer here is, is that we'll post this stuff on the web as well. So the rest of the world will see this. Uh—kids in—uh—schools in Arkansas will be able to read about your stuff in Arkansas history classes. Researchers will have access to it. Documentarians will—will want to grab some of it. And we'll be good stewards of it. We won't let it be misused as best as we can. But I—I've got to tell you, once it's out there on the web, it's kind of out there. So if you're comfortable with all that, we're gonna keep goin'. And if you're not, we'll stop, and we'll go get some lunch. You good with that?

HM: I'm good with it.

[00:02:03] SL: All right, good. That's a good answer. Okay, Hayden, when and where were you born?

HM: Well, I was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on November the twenty-second, 1939.

SL: And your mom and dad's names were . . .

HM: My mother's name was Corin Kays McIlroy. My dad's name was

William Hayden McIlroy.

SL: And—um—w—let's see. Let's go ahead and talk a little bit about your mom's side of the family. Now where was she from?

HM: New Mexico, I believe, is where she was born. Uh—Clovis, if I'm not wrong.

SL: Is that right?

HM: Uh—if—I don't think I'm wrong, but I could be. And I believe she was one of eight. I think she had—um—hmm—well, maybe—maybe she was the seventh. It's—she either had th—four sisters or three sisters and, I believe, three brothers.

[00:03:13] SL: Did you ever know anybody on her side of the family?

HM: I had—I met every one of 'em at some point. Some of 'em were—um—she actually—her brother Jim worked at the McIlroy Bank for—for years—uh—when I was growin' up, so I—I knew him, obviously. The others were—uh—uh—located somewhere else. One was a—uh—one was a—um—military man. So he was stationed different places, mostly in Europe.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

HM: Uh—then you had—uh—um—I believe one in Little Rock. Um—so I didn't—and—uh—she—her—one of her sisters was—uh—married to Ray Adams. And—uh—she died at a fairly young age

with—uh—cancer.

SL: Mmm. Now your mother's maiden name was what again?

HM: Kays. *K-A-Y-S*.

SL: *K-A-Y-S*. And—um—so you knew—you got to meet her brothers and sisters.

HM: Yes.

SL: What about her mom and dad?

HM: I never did meet her father. I met her mother. Her mother—uh—actually lived with us for a period of time when I was—uh—oh, maybe five, six years old.

SL: Um—do you remember much about her?

HM: Oh yeah, I loved her. She was—uh—she was a typical grandmother. She was—uh—uh—uh—short lady. And—uh—short and round. [*SL laughs*] And—uh—sweet as—uh—sweet as she could be, so—uh—she was—she was one of my favorites.

[00:04:56] SL: Well you know, I'm always lookin' for the oldest story. Um—do you remember—did—did she ever tell you any yarns, any stories about her growin' up and her folks? And—you member any of that?

HM: You know, no, I can't—I can't recall anything. Uh—uh—and I don't know when they left New Mexico. Um—I don't know what happened to my mother's dad, her husband. I don't know if

they were divorced or he died or he ran off or—uh—I never was—uh—never was clear on that. But I got the impression that—uh—uh—her name was Valva. And—uh—uh—I got the impression that—uh—uh—she—she did most of the child raising on that side of the family. And—uh—when they mov—I don't even know when they moved from—uh—New Mexico, but—uh—uh—it was probably in the—it was probably during the Depression, if I had to guess.

[00:05:58] SL: Okay. Um—well, let's—uh—let's talk a little bit about your dad's side of the family. Um—you know, there's lots of—lots of stories out there that—that you can find about—uh—your dad's side of the family, but—um—did you know your—uh—all the—all your dad's side as well?

HM: Well, my great-grandfather was dead when I was born, and my grandfather died the year I was born. So I—I never had any contact with—with them. Um—my dad had two sisters. And—uh—and his mother lived—um—I believe till about 1954.

SL: Mh-hmm.

HM: Um—so she lived—she lived to be eighty-somethin', I think. And—uh—she was originally from out by Lincoln in a place called Rhea's Mill.

SL: Mh-hmm.



HM: And she was a Rhea.

SL: Okay.

HM: And in Prairie Grove there is still the old Rhea's Mill is in the battlefield park out there. They—they—uh—disassembled it and reassembled it and salvaged it. So—um—it's still there.

SL: We oughta spell Rhea.

HM: *R-H-E-A*.

[00:07:22] SL: Yeah. Um—so you knew her then? You got to—to meet her?

HM: I met, yeah, I met—uh—uh—I knew her, and—uh—she and the two—she and—and—uh—one sister, Mertye McIlroy Bagby—uh—who was married to Herman Bagby, who was—uh—one of Arkansas's outstanding athletes in the late [19]20s, early [19]30s, I believe. Uh—actually went to the Olympics. Um—and they were divorced. She had a son named Bill Bagby—William Bagby. They lived at the end of Ozark Street, which is now McIlroy Avenue. But it was Ozark Avenue then. They lived in my grandfather's house. Uh—and I can remember my great-grandfather's house, which is now on the corner of Dickson and—and McIlroy Avenue, or Ozark Avenue at the time. And it was at one time the SAE house. And I can remember—I can remember that. And—uh—right next—and then they lived right

next door to that house, and then we lived at the end, very end of the street, so there were about one, two, three houses in between us and her household. But in those days, everybody walked anywhere. I mean, kids—you know, I walked to the first grade by myself. So—uh—right across—uh—right across [laughs] where the—uh—uh—Ed Stone—uh—architecture building is now. Uh—that was a field. And—uh—so I just walked right straight across it and right up to Leverett School and checked myself in.

[00:09:12] SL: So—uh—you got to spend some time, then, in your grandmother's house on your dad's side. Is that . . .

HM: Yes.

SL: Um—and—uh—but you never got to meet your grandfather, or her hu—her husband?

HM: No.

SL: He was kind of . . .

HM: No.

SL: . . . missin'. Um—I'm just wonderin'—um—how did your mom and dad meet?

HM: You know, I believe that she was—she was a secretary in the bank, and—uh—I—uh—I think that's how—I think that's how they met.

SL: Now—um—you were kind of a—uh—a late crop, I would say, right? Your folks were—were . . .

HM: Very late, yeah.

SL: How—how old were they when—when you were born?

HM: [*Sighs*] My father was fifty . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

HM: . . . I believe. My mother was quite a bit younger. She was probably thirty. And so . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

HM: . . . there was tw—bout twenty years difference, I believe, between—um—between them. And—uh—so, yes, in those days—uh—that—that was pretty late to be havin' children.

[00:10:34] SL: Yeah. Um—okay. Well, let's talk about your mom just a little bit. Um—what—what—what is your earliest memory you have of your mother? And it doesn't have to be anything dramatic. Just, you know, at the sink, at the door, giving you a whippin', [*laughs*] whatever.

HM: Uh—that's . . .

SL: What—what's your earliest memory?

HM: . . . probably givin' me a whipping, but I can't—uh—[*SL laughs*] I'm tryin' to think—uh—um—I wish I'd prepared for that one 'cause I can't—uh . . .

SL: You can take your time . . .

HM: I—um . . .

SL: . . . and we can come back to it.

HM: . . . I've got a—uh—uh—one of my daughters can remember things that she heard when she was six months old.

SL: Oh!

HM: And—uh—I can't remember things I heard yesterday, so [*SL laughs*] [*sighs*] I can't—uh—I remember her—uh—when—and I went to school when I was five, so—um—I remember her probably around four. Four years old I can remember—I remember her in the kitchen, and I don't know why. We had an old—an old stove at that time. It was on—on legs. And we had a dalmatian, and—uh—I was—uh—I was four, and I liked to chase the dog and pull his tail. And he was so gentle he wouldn't ever object or bite me, so—but he hid under the stove. And—uh—I'd try to get under there and get him, and my mother'd—would—uh—scream, "Leave that dog alone! Quit torturin' that dog." [*Laughter*] So I remember that. And that was probably four—somewhere around four or five years old.

[00:12:22] SL: That would have been a—uh—probably an enamel gas stove.

HM: Yeah—uh—yeah, you know, the old—it sat on legs.

SL: Yeah, yeah.

HM: Uh . . .

SL: Um—you remember the dog's name?

HM: Duchess.

[00:12:37] SL: Duchess. So—uh—were you guys kind of inseparable? Did you . . .

HM: Well, I was, you know—uh—he would wait—she, yeah—he would—I don't know why he was named Duchess. I believe it was a male. [*SL laughs*] He would wait for me—uh—uh—when I'd come home from school. And he'd be at—ever—ever day he'd be in—up at the top the driveway and then walk with me down to the—down to the house. Uh—and—uh—there again, in those days, I—I assume that he—uh—as far as I know, he slept outside. And—uh—never did run off. Um—nobody ever stole him—uh—so—uh—but he—he was—uh—he was not the kind that—that strayed very far. And we've had some of those, you know. One that would go down to the Woodruff's Cleaners ever day 'cause it hated the cleanin' truck, you know. But [*SL laughs*] he stayed right there, you know, in the area. And I remember that. And—uh—I member when he died, I—I found—I went to—every Friday—by this time, I'm, you know, probably eight—eight years old, nine years old. Every Friday, we'd go to

the Royal Theater to the Western movies. You know, ten cents, and I'd get a quarter, and that'd take care of the movie and the popcorn, cokes, whatever. And—uh—uh—it was the summertime, and you know, like I say, after the movie, we walked home from the square back over to top of Ozark Street. And this dog followed me home. And—uh—it stayed with us about ten years. So—uh—uh—it was really kind of amazing. I only had probably—uh—growin' up, I probably only had three dogs that I can remember. But they all lived to be a pretty ripe old age.

SL: No—none of 'em got run over and . . .

HM: No, no they didn't. Huh-uh.

SL: I know we lost a lot of dogs on the mountain.

HM: No. No.

[00:14:38] SL: Um—so the Royal Theater—were there two theaters on the square? Was there . . .

HM: Royal and the—Royal and the Palace.

SL: Right.

HM: The Royal was on the—uh—south side, and the Palace was on the east side.

SL: Um—was there a big difference between those two theaters?

HM: Uh—I think—uh—the Palace was a—was, you might say, was a

little more—uh—uh—an upgrade from the Royal.

SL: Uh-huh.

HM: Um—and I can't remember whether, if you'd believe it or not, whether blacks went to the Palace. I know they went to the Royal. But they had to—they had to sit in the balcony. And—uh—I'm not sure about the Palace—whether they could even go to the Palace. But the Palace showed—uh—it didn't show near—nearly as many Westerns as the Royal. I mean, the Royal just—and it had a old serials—old serials of, you know, of Westerns and detective stories and of course, all these cartoons, and—and—uh—as bad as they were, we thought they were great.

SL: Great. [*HM laughs*] Well now, the Ozark was down the street on College, too. So there were, like, three . . .

HM: Yeah, but Ozark came along a lot later.

SL: A lot later.

HM: A lot later than the Royal and the Palace, so . . .

[00:16:05] SL: All right, let's get—let's get back to the house and . . .

HM: And then they had the UARK. And—and . . .

SL: Oh yeah . . .

HM: . . . I'm not sure the UARK didn't come before the Ozark. I'm not . . .

SL: It probably did.

HM: . . . I'm not sure on that, but . . .

SL: Lookin' back on it. Now the Ozark was an old opera house originally.

HM: Yeah, and I can remember goin' to—uh—minstrel shows.

SL: At the Ozark?

HM: Mh-hmm.

SL: Wow.

HM: The Lions Club or—uh—one of the—uh—one of the social clubs—uh—had a minstrel show every year, blackface.

[00:16:35] SL: Do you remember—uh—any of the names of those shows or . . .

HM: No. Huh-uh. I just remember 'em goin' with my parents.

[*Thunder rumbles*]

SL: That's somethin' else. You know—uh—originally . . .

HM: Of course, they were—they were all local guys, you know, doin' it . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . [*laughs*] so . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] Um—well, let's get back to your house and—and your mom. You—you know, you kinda remember the gas stove and her in the kitchen. Did she do the cookin', or did y'all have



someone else that cooked, helped her, or . . .

HM: Well, both. Uh—we—we had—uh—when I was growin' up, we had a—um—a lady I—called Bernice, and I called her "Bun." And her last name was Thomas. She was Maxine's sister. If you know Maxine's . . .

SL: Tap Room.

HM: . . . Tavern.

SL: Yeah.

[00:17:25] HM: And she had another sister named Helen. Um—and—uh—they lived on a farm, I believe, outside of Prairie Grove or Farmington, somewhere. Um—I was—she would take me—on the weekends, she'd take me out there to the farm, and it was really—feather beds and milk the cow and—uh—uh—uh—gather the eggs and—and grew their own vegetables, and—um—it was—there was—and I—I remember goin' down the stream, and you could pick up as many Indian arrowheads as you wanted to pick up. I mean—uh—you could fill sacks of 'em. And [*sighs*] so I had lot of fond memories of her. And she—she lived with us while her husband was in World War II.

SL: Kay.

HM: And—uh—then when he came back, well, she—she moved out, and by then I was, you know, I was a little bit older. I was

probably in the third or fourth grade. But durin' that initial—  
durin' that initial period before preschool and probably through  
the second grade or—or third grade, she—she was there.

[00:18:40] SL: Help—and she did help with cookin' and the  
housework and . . .

HM: She did, and then we—uh—uh—uh—we always had somebody—  
we always had somebody else and—and—uh—but my mother did  
most of the cookin'. Actually, she did a heck of a lot of the  
cleanin'. She was—she was a worker. And—uh—so it was—uh—  
usually a combination of—of whatever—of whoever as far as the  
cooking went. I mean, she—um—uh—um—she had dishes she  
liked, and generally they were off on the weekends, and I know,  
you know, one of the dishes I tell my kids about it. We always  
had tongue on Sunday.

SL: Tongue?

HM: Boiled tongue, calf's tongue. [*SL laughs*] And it looks pretty  
gross in the pot.

SL: Yeah. [*Laughter*]

HM: And so they can't believe it. You don't see anybody eatin' it  
anymore.

SL: No.

HM: But we had it ever day—ever week. So . . .

SL: Well—uh—so she'd put vegetables and . . .

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . herbs and stuff in with it . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . and . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And Bun would wring a chicken's neck. She'd—they'd buy live chickens, and she'd take it out in the yard and wring that chicken's neck. Course, it would run without a head on it for half a mile, probably.

SL: [*Laughs*] I did not know that.

HM: And I was fascinated with that.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:05] SL: So that's interesting. What about the refrigerator early on? Was it a real refrigerator, or was it an icebox?

HM: I can't remember us havin' an icebox. We probably had an icebox originally. But—in fact, my family owned the icehouse for a period of time, I believe. And—but by 1939, 19—early [19]40s, I think we probably had a refrigerator.

SL: Do you remember them delivering milk?

HM: I do that. They did deliver the milk.

SL: Had a little box on the front porch?

HM: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: I can remember that.

HM: Glass bottles.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Return the bottles, put the empties out, and you got new ones.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Yeah.

[00:21:00] SL: Well now, how—when you were growin' up, how big was the McIlroy house area? I mean, I know it started out as a farm, and we can talk about that later and the university and all that stuff. But was it just a good-size, one-acre yard, maybe, or half acre or . . .

HM: Where I lived?

SL: Uh-huh.

HM: No, I think it was probably at least two acres. I don't know. I think my dad sold off some of the property as you go down towards Razorback Road where some of the fraternity houses are now. I think originally it probably went on as far as down there and all the way down to Duncan Street, so—and Center Street.

SL: Pretty good chunk.

HM: So it was probably, at one time, somewhere between one and five acres.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And like I say, he sold. When—if the university needed it, he'd sell some to the university, and so it—they encroached on the original tract, I would imagine. When—time I was growing up, it was—seemed like it was huge. But it was probably two acres.

[*Coughs*] Excuse me. I'm gettin' a little dry. I'm gonna have to get some water here.

SL: You wanna take break? You need . . .

HM: No, go ahead. Let me . . .

[00:22:28] SL: Okay, so back at the house, your mom does most of the cookin'. She's got some help, and maybe another person would come in and help with the house stuff. And you felt like she did most of the cleanin', too, most of the laundry and . . .

HM: Well, she would—she was a real stickler. I mean, she would polish silver at night or somethin' like that. I think it was just as much therapy and something to do, you know, as it was anything else. But she always made sure it was spick-and-span. I mean, there wasn't any dust. There wasn't any, you know, there wasn't any dirt. There wasn't any stains on anything. She was very meticulous.

SL: Were you given any chores early on? What were you responsible . . .

HM: I mowed the yard.

SL: Mowed the yard.

HM: And picked up limbs. Did—helped with the yard work. That was my chore, weekly allowance. And then when I got older, I actually—we had a warehouse down on Dickson Street, which is now where the condos are that Brandon Barber built.

SL: Yeah. The Legacy or whatever it is.

[00:23:59] HM: That was a warehouse and very active. When—time I was in junior high and high school—and I worked down there in—on the summers unloadin' boxcars that would bring in cardboard boxes for the canning industry, which there were a ton of canning companies in Northwest Arkansas. And then they would also—the canners we would also warehouse, give them warehouse receipts for their product, and the train would—we'd reload 'em, and they'd be shipped back to whoever bought 'em. And then the side note is that I remember when Mr. McBride started McBride Distributing Company and was a Budweiser distributor. And he leased a little [*thunder rumbles*] area, which we fenced off for security [*SL laughs*] in this warehouse space. And he received his beer by rail from St. Louis, so I would

unload the Budweiser as another job. And that, when I got older—got a little older in high school, that one was the best job I had because I could probably get a tip, you know. Couple of cans of beer or somethin'.

SL: You bet. So that would be Bob McBride's dad.

HM: Yes.

[00:25:43] SL: And these warehouses, were they called Watson Street Warehouses?

HM: That was it. Watson Street.

SL: And so there was an actual spur there?

HM: Spur ran right up to it. Right behind it.

SL: Ran right up to 'em.

HM: Dead-ended there, I believe.

SL: Yeah. Well, I can remember—kinda remember the warehouses being there, but . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . I think I'm makin' up that I can remember the tracks being there.

HM: Yeah.

SL: But that makes sense. So—well, what about—did you have to make your own bed every mornin', or did someone else . . .

HM: No, I didn't make my own bed. I was lucky to get up and get to

school on time. [*SL laughs*] That would have been—that would have been too much to ask if [*laughs*—I wouldn't have never made it. I would time it down to where I'd literally run the whole way to get there before cl—you know, fore the bell rang.

[00:26:40] SL: Now is this at—what school was that?

HM: That was Leverett.

SL: Leverett.

HM: Mh-hmm.

SL: And did you go through all the grades at Leverett or . . .

HM: I went through the fourth grade.

SL: Uh-huh. That's a pretty good little jaunt. That's across the top of . . .

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . the hill.

HM: Yeah.

SL: Yeah. [*Unclear words*].

HM: But it was nothin' in those days.

SL: Yeah.

HM: [*Laughs*] It'd be Mount Ever . . .

SL: So . . .

HM: . . . be Mount Everest now for me. [*SL laughs*] But . . .

SL: Yeah.



HM: . . . in those days, shoot, I could run—I could probably run half a day, you know.

[00:27:14] SL: Yeah. So what about—did you ever help with dishes or anything else, or was that pretty much, you know, the mom's work and whatever . . .

HM: Yeah, no . . .

SL: . . . help she had.

HM: . . . I never did. We always had somebody, generally, that did that.

SL: So you're tellin' me that you got up—it was a miracle for you to get to school on time. I'm assuming that you didn't have, like, a sit-down, must-attend breakfast every morning getting up. Is that . . .

HM: No. If I got anything, it was maybe oatmeal, and I don't remember, you know, any full breakfast like eggs or bacon or anything like that. I probably got some oatmeal and toast or cereal or something if I, you know, even had time. But, no.

SL: Where—did you bring your own lunch or . . .

HM: I brought my lunch, yeah.

SL: So they'd have that ready for you?

HM: It was—it had been made the night before, so . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: But it's the same old thing ever day, you know, peanut butter and jelly . . .

SL: Jelly.

HM: . . . sandwich. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yep. Yep.

HM: An apple and a banana.

[00:28:18] SL: Or banana. [*HM laughs*] Yeah, yeah, yeah. So what about dinner, then? Was dinner—were you . . .

HM: Dinner was formal.

SL: Okay.

HM: Dinner was formal.

SL: So everybody came to dinner?

HM: Everybody came to dinner, and everybody . . .

SL: Who would be sitting around the table at dinner?

HM: Just my mother and dad and myself, generally.

SL: And did you all—did anyone ever say grace at the table at dinner?

HM: Yes. My mother would say—usually say grace. And we actually didn't—we had a dining room. We had what they called the breakfast room, and we had all our meals, you know, which, whatever it was, in the breakfast room. And the dining room was only used on special occasions, you know, Thanksgiving,

Christmas, or some other occasion where there's usually guests. We had a big dining room table that'd seat probably twelve or fourteen.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Something like that, so that room was just, you know, for show 90 percent of the time. And so the breakfast room was right off the kitchen, so that worked.

[00:29:31] SL: Well, I wanna get back to your—we're gonna keep bouncin' back and forth a little bit here . . .

HM: Sure.

SL: . . . between mom and dad, but we haven't really said anything about your dad yet. And so he was a junior. He was William . . .

HM: He was . . .

SL: . . . Hayden McIlroy Jr. Is that right?

HM: No, he was senior.

SL: He was a senior. Okay. For some reason I thought you were a third, but you were a junior. Okay.


HM: I'm a junior.

SL: So he was fifty or so when you were born.

HM: Yes.

SL: What is your earliest memory of him?

HM: Bout the same time. I can remember, you know, I can remember goin' in for dinners at night, particularly, you know. He would be gone all durin' the day, and I'd generally be gone durin' the day, so I would leave before he would. And we would get home about the same time—well no, I would get home before he would. He wouldn't get home until, you know, five o'clock or somethin' like that. So really, the contact with your father was generally the, you know, the evening meal. And I can remember those clearly. I can't remember anything in—special. [00:31:01] But I can—well, I can remember conver—I can remember their—remember I'm first, second grade—I can remember their—some of their political discussions, so—



McCarthyism was goin' on, and I can remember discussions. That was a little bit later than this time period, but I can—that was more like when I was up in junior high or high school, I guess. But I can clearly remember those. I can remember discussion of whether we're gonna build a bomb shelter or not, you know, because of everybody was afraid of a . . .

SL: Nuclear bomb.

HM: . . . atomic bomb bein' dropped on us. And Communists were everywhere, you know. They were behind the trees and in the bushes, and just couldn't trust anybody, so I can remember

those kind of discussions. And I—my father was very quiet, you know, and with—you know, kind of withdrawn. I didn't—I was kinda, I guess you might say in awe—more in awe of him than—you know, I mean, I—we didn't have—because he was so much older that he wasn't participating in a lot of functions that I might have. It was always my mother was there. You know, if I was playin' baseball or if I was goin' to Brownies. I mean, not Brownies but [*laughs*] Boy Scouts.

SL: Cub Scouts. Boy—yeah. Uh-huh.

HM: Cub Scouts. I probably went to the Brownies.

SL: You probably did. [*Laughs*]

[00:32:54] HM: Yeah. She was more involved with my social life than he was. He was—he had health problems. He had trouble walking and had been in a somewhat serious car wreck, which is funny. They were workin' on our driveway, which you've been over there, and you probably know it's got a very steep, curvy driveway that circled the entire property. And they were working on it or somethin', and he parked the car in the yard. And it either came out of gear, or the emergency brake fell, or somethin' like that. But he ran and tried to open the door and get in to stop it, and he just got the door halfway open when it went off the cliff, and it just smashed one leg that, [*SL sighs*]

just broke it I don't know how many times and how many places. And from that time on, he was in not only pain—he just had trouble walking and always had to have a cane. I don't think he ever walked again without a cane.

SL: Do you remember that happening?

HM: Yeah, I can remember that, yeah. I wasn't there, but . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . it happened—I guess I was at school or something. It happened before I got home.

SL: Yeah.

HM: But . . .

[00:34:45] SL: So do you remember him ever talkin' about, you know, the local politics around town or what the—what was goin' on with Fayetteville or any of the things that he was facing at the bank or any of the other fathers of the town? Do you remember—he was quiet, I guess.

HM: Yeah, and I can't remember any specific—the one I remember was I remember they were—he was talkin' about the advisability of investing in bringin' cable television to Fayetteville. And I thought—I just—boy, I was all for it. I just said, "You just—you gotta do that." I said, "You know, good grief, we can't get any TV around here, you know, because all the stations"—you

couldn't get any Arkansas stations, and all you could get if you put up a high antenna was Tulsa and Joplin.

SL: That's right.

[00:35:56] HM: And so I believe it was 1949 that Fayetteville was one of the first cities in the United States to have cable television. And I know—I don't know who all the investors—I know the Fulbrights and my dad, and I don't know who else put the money in to bring cable television to Fayetteville. But I remember in 1949 we had a, you know—we had one of the few television sets in—probably in town.

SL: Black and white.

HM: Black and white. Big—great big box, you know.

SL: Yep.

HM: Looked like a, you know, looked like a chest and dresser drawers, and the screen about [*SL laughs*] twelve inches . . .

SL: Yep. Yep.

HM: . . . in diameter. And turn it on, and it'd take it forever to warm up. But . . .

SL: That would have been . . .

HM: That was quite a—you know, I mean, you didn't know any different, so I can remember some of the—watchin'—people comin' over and watchin' Joe Louis fight and . . .

SL: Well yeah, before that, you could listen to a fight. I mean,  
radio . . .

HM: That was all.

SL: . . . broadcasts were . . .

HM: Yeah. We used to listen to the radio. We used to listen to the  
radio ever night, you know, before TV 'cause you, you know,  
listen to *The Green Hornet* and . . .

SL: *The Shadow*.

HM: Yeah. *Shadow*. And *Lone Ranger*.

SL: Yeah. And weekends, [*thunder rumbles*] *Amos 'n Andy*, maybe.

HM: *Amos 'n Andy*. *Lum and Abner*.

[00:37:37] SL: Yep. So radio—did you have any—what about the  
music side of stuff comin' over the radio? Do you remember  
what kind of music y'all listened to?

HM: Lawrence Welk.

SL: Yep.

HM: *Hit Parade* was my big favorite. And then I can't remember—on  
the radio, I know the *Hit Parade*, and I don't think Ed Sullivan  
was on the radio. I believe he was TV.

SL: Right.

HM: But he was, you know, he was a big show in those days. I  
mean, it was—I can almost name them. Let's see. It'd be Ed



Sullivan . . .

SL: Lawrence Welk?

HM: Lawrence Welk. That wasn't one of my favorites, but . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] "The Champagne Hour?"

HM: *Death Valley Days*—was that the one that Reagan was the M—or the host?

SL: Which one, now?

HM: *Death Valley Days*.

SL: *Death Valley Days*. I do remember that, yeah.

HM: Yeah. I think Ronald Reagan was . . .

SL: There was *Howdy Doody*.

HM: Oh yeah. *Howdy Doody*. And *Super Chicken*.

SL: Super . . .

HM: *George of the Jungle*. [*SL laughs*]

SL: George. [*Laughter*] Yeah, we were going to the same thing.

HM: I would make my dad . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . I'd make my dad watch those with me. He'd come home, and I'd have 'em—I'd be home from school, and I'd have 'em on in my bedroom. By this time, you know, we'd gotten multiple TV sets.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And so I had them in—had one, little one, in my bedroom. I'd make him come in there and watch *Super Chicken* and *George of the Jungle*.

SL: Well, that's good, though, that he would do that.

HM: And *Three Stooges*.

SL: He probably enjoyed it.

HM: He—I don't know how much he [*laughs*] enjoyed it, but he played like he did. "Oh yeah, that's real good."

[00:39:40] SL: I bet he did. I bet he did. You know, that was cutting-edge technology back then. That . . .

HM: Oh yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . whole programming thing was . . .

HM: *Three Stooges* was always one of my favorites.

SL: Yep. Pretty violent . . .

HM: And the . . .

SL: . . . lookin' back on it now.

HM: . . . they—goin' all the way back to the movie theaters, you know, they would always—they could—I was really excited when they were the com—you know, the comedy show for the movie, you know.

SL: Sure. *Abbott and Costello*.

HM: Yep. *Abbott and Costello*, and Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis

came along.

[00:40:12] SL: Yep. Well, okay, let's go—I wanna go back to the house. How—were there any musical instruments in the house?

HM: No.

SL: None.

HM: Nobody in the family played a musical instrument.

SL: What about art, artwork?

HM: No.

SL: None.

HM: I mean, there were some decorative pieces, but there wasn't any what I would call . . .

SL: Modern art or . . .

HM: . . . real art. It was a lot of prints. Old, dark prints, you know, that I think I've still got some of 'em somewhere. But they were—I mean, they don't do much for me. They're kind of depressing.

SL: Yeah. Yeah.

HM: Anyway, our house very formal. And these were big ol' heavy frames, and they were kinda, you know, a gothic look, I think it'd be, probably.

SL: Maybe some family portraiture?

HM: Yeah. Had some of those. My mother and I did a portrait, which

I hated, by an artist from Eureka Springs. I think his name was Friend. But he did our portrait, and I remember I had to sit for days [*SL laughs*] from four o'clock till five thirty or somethin', when everybody—all the other kids were out playin' . . .

SL: Kids were out playin'.

HM: . . . I'm sittin' there. And it shows up in the picture. I mean, you can tell I'm just miserable. [*SL laughs*] And there's a picture of it in there. I'll show you.

SL: [*Laughs*] Okay.

HM: It's just miserable.

[00:42:04] SL: Well, okay, so what about church and religion in the household? What church—did y'all go to church?

HM: Oh yeah. My great-grandfather helped establish the Episcopal church.

SL: Okay.

HM: Cornerstone has got his name on it if you—it's hard to see. You have to go down there, and actually, if you're goin' up to the front of it, it's on your very left. There used to be bushes growin' in front of it. You didn't even know it was there.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And probably many people don't know it was there. But that church was built, I believe, in the same year as the bank and Old

Main by the same contractor.

SL: Wow. So now there was an Episcopal church that was burned . . .

HM: That was the . . .

SL: . . . durin' the Civil War.

HM: . . . predecessor. Yeah, that was the predecessor. And then that was the one that was burned down, and then this one was built in 1871, I believe.

SL: Same spot? Or did . . .

HM: I don't know.

SL: I don't—yeah, I don't know that either.

HM: I don't know.

[00:43:19] SL: So y'all—you grew up Episcopalian?

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: Did you have—do you member havin' a Bible in the house?

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: And . . .

HM: Prayer book. Had my own prayer book with my name in it.

SL: So you attended just on Sundays? Or were you involved with the church durin' the week at all?

HM: No, just on Sunday. I don't know. There was probably some Sunday school class projects that I coulda been involved in,

but . . .

SL: Youth group projects?

HM: I was in there with a pretty rough crew, and we would go through Sunday school teachers like, you know . . .

SL: Uh-oh.

HM: . . . like water through a sieve. So . . .

SL: [*Laughter*] You wanna name any of the culprits there?

HM: Well, there was John Lewis and myself and a guy named Mike Shirley, which lived across the street from you.

SL: Yep. Just down the street a little bit, yeah.

HM: And Frank Sharp. I don't know if he was in my—I think he was one ahead of me. I think maybe his sister was in our Sunday school class. But anyway, we would—we were kinda hard to guard. We were fidgety and disruptive . . .

[00:44:51] SL: Well . . .

HM: . . . to say the least.

SL: . . . well, tell me a little about the prayer book. What did you have to do with that?

HM: Well, my mother gave me one. And you know, we—I took it to church. I mean, I used it instead of the prayer book in church, and she made sure I would read it every once in a while. And so she was on top of it. Pretty much. She was a very churchgoing

person. Now my dad—I can't remember him bein' there very often. You know, he would make the big events, you know, Christmas and Easter and—but she was there on Sunday mornings all morning long. I mean, she'd go at seven thirty and leave at noon. So . . .

SL: Uh-huh. Did she ever have the preacher up for dinner?

HM: Oh yeah. Yeah, I remember havin' the Episcopal minister over there, which was Dr. Lindloff. You probably know Damaris.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And we would even travel with him. You know, I remember goin' to Arizona, I think, but we went through Las Vegas, I believe. I was just a little tyke. And I remember he was in the group. And he would be always at every Thanksgiving dinner, and I don't know if he came for Christmas or not. But possibly came for Christmas dinner, too. But we were—the families were real close.

[00:46:52] SL: So at home, was there—your mom was kind of the driving force as far as the church and religion went?

HM: Yes.

SL: Was there ever any Bible study at home or time set aside at home where . . .

HM: No.

SL: None of that?

HM: No. I mean, she would—you know, the only things I can remember probably were, like, durin' Lent she would make sure that, you know, I read a prayer and gave up something for Lent.

SL: For Lent. Yeah.

HM: And—so I was always glad when that was over.

SL: Yeah, [*unclear words*]. [*Laughter*]

[00:47:48] HM: You seem to know all this. Why am I telling you about it?

SL: Well you know, I have to—we have to kinda pretend like I don't know anything . . .

HM: Yeah. Well . . .

SL: . . . and—'cause it's not fair to the folks that are gonna be readin' this . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . and lookin' at it. We have to kinda be careful about that. So you had—what about the heat in the home? What—was it—did you have radiator heat, did you have a boiler, or was it just . . .

HM: We had an old Bessemer boiler. [*Thunder rumbles*] Huge. And no radiators. I guess we had ductwork, which was unusual. We had no air-conditioning. But we did have . . .



SL: Ductwork.

HM: . . . we did have this big boiler down there that heated the house  
and . . .

SL: So—but it wasn't radiators? It was ductwork.

HM: Yeah.

SL: That is unusual.

HM: Oh, it was.

SL: I wonder how—and was—I guess it—was it gas-fired?

HM: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: I wonder if it had been converted or if they just put in a new . . .

HM: I don't know.

[00:49:03] SL: I know when we bought our house, it was a  
converted coal-burning thing. There was no coal chute. And  
you don't . . .

HM: No, because that house wasn't built until—I mean, I don't think  
that house was that old when I was born. I don't know exactly  
when that house was built. Maybe [19]33 or [193]4 when it was  
finished. And I came along in [19]39. So it might have been  
built late enough that they had already, you know, that they  
didn't have to convert anything. They had somethin' on the  
market that worked. But I know it was a huge piece of  
equipment. And so the bad thing was we didn't have air-

conditioning. And I, you know, I guess I didn't miss it till it came along.

SL: And you got it, yeah.

HM: And—but the old house had such thick walls that it really is surprising it maintained [*thunder rumbles*] kind of a even temperature by itself 'cause the walls must have been twenty-four inches thick or so.

SL: And these were rock . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . walls. So it's almost like a cave as far as insulation . . .

HM: Right.

SL: . . . goes.

HM: Right.

[00:50:36] SL: Well, let's talk a little bit about your time at Leverett School, then. Did you have a favorite teacher?

HM: Yes, and I can't think of her name right now. But you know, I hadn't seen her since I was in the second grade, I think, and I was at Beaver Lake one day at one of the marinas. And I pulled in there to get some gas or somethin' like that, and this lady was standing on the dock. And she said, "Hayden?" And I said, "Yeah." [*SL laughs*] She said, "Well, you probably don't remember me. I'm Miss So-and-so, your second-ye—second-

grade teacher." So that was a surprise, and a pleasant one. But she . . .

SL: What was it about her that made her your favorite?

HM: She just had a sweet disposition, you know. I think that's it. I mean, some of 'em were old, burned-out, and probably [*laughs*] hated the job. And I think she was—at the time, she was kinda younger and sweet and didn't seem as, maybe, intimidating and mean as some of the others.

[00:52:04] SL: [*Laughs*] You weren't as afraid of her as the others.

HM: No, I wasn't, you know, I wasn't. But I also didn't—I didn't act up that much. I think if I'd [*thunder rumbles*—if I caused any problems, it was actually more with the other teachers that were more stern than her, so anyway, that—Leverett School was an experience. You know, you'd—I guess you'd have a fistfight ever day durin' recess. Ronnie Hawkins—I could pretty well handle everybody from the first grade to the fifth grade. And Ronnie Hawkins was in the fifth, and I couldn't handle him. And so he likes to tell the story about comin' down Ozark Street, and one of my cohorts and friends that I grew up with was Jim Tatum. And his dad had the Buick agency here in town, and they lived on Ozark Street. And we guarded Ozark Street, and if Hawkins came on there, we would have—we had places, various

places, along the street where we stockpiled rocks. And so we could run behind one tree and grab a handful of rocks and rock him, and then he'd start after us, and we'd get down to the next tree, we'd rock him some more. And he'll still talk about that. He said, "Those boys on Ozark Street can throw a rock harder than anybody I ever saw." [*Laughter*] So—but I'm just glad we never did hurt anybody seriously. But it's a wonder because we were throwin' firecrackers. In those days, firecrackers were like small . . .

SL: Sticks of dynamite.

HM: [*Unclear words*] sticks of dynamite.

SL: Yeah.

HM: I mean, you know, you could take one of those things and light it and, I know, flush it down a toilet, and it'd blow the toilet off the wall. So I mean, it wasn't any deal. It could hurt—really hurt you. And we'd throw those things at people, and those cherry bombs that you threw at 'em. But knock on wood, thank God, nobody got seriously injured. It was fun.

[00:54:38] SL: You know, it is interesting. Your generation—fighting was just kind of a thing that . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . happened. I mean, people just liked to fight.

HM: Yeah.

SL: I mean, even—I mean, you could be in a fight, and when you're done, you're still friends, right?

HM: Oh yeah. We'd get into fights playin' basketball, and then when it was all over, we'd have our arm around each other goin' home, you know. So, yeah, it is probably different than it is now. I think about that. You know, if we had—if you and I disagreed, we wouldn't sit there and argue. One of us would jump on the other one, and then we'd tussle it out, and whoever won, then they were right. [*Laughter*] It was easy. But I don't think it hurt anybody. That's just the way it was. [*Thunder rumbles*]

[00:55:43] SL: Who were some of your other—you member any of your other Leverett School classmates?

HM: Well, yes. I think Mary Jo Shultz, and I think maybe Marsha Strickland. [*Thunder claps*]

SL: Wow.

HM: Boy, I must've said somethin' wrong.

SL: Yeah, Marsha is not [*laughs*] . . .

HM: Gosh, I don't know. I had the scrapbook out. Paul Young.

SL: Paul Young. PY3.

HM: PY3.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Jim Tatum. [*Telephone rings*]

SL: Oh. You wanna . . .

HM: Is that Barbara? [*Beeping noise*]

SL: It could be. You wanna—why don't we go ahead and stop?

[Tape stopped]

[00:56:41] SL: Okay, Hayden. This is our second tape today.

HM: All right.

SL: We were talkin' kinda loosely around Leverett School and some of the shenanigans that went on early, and recess is always somebody fightin'. I think you told us a story about rock stashes all along Ozark Avenue for when Ronnie Hawkins came walkin' through. So fighting was just part of the culture back then, wasn't it?

HM: Yeah, I'm—you know, that wasn't a full-time job, but it was [*SL laughs*] a part-time job. And I remember we used to get out of school. As soon as the bell rang at the end of the day, well, Jimmie Tatum and myself would run down—about halfway down Leverett Street, there was a bridge there. And we'd hide under the bridge. And then when the girls came along, we'd jump out and chase 'em, and they'd always have to stop at the corner of Maple and Leverett to check for traffic, and that's where we'd



catch 'em and smooch on 'em or do whatever we were doin' to them. [*Laughter*] And that went on for weeks, and you know, they never walked on the other side of the sidewalk—of the road.

SL: They liked it.

HM: And so then somebody reported it, and in those days was it old Mrs. Caudle . . .

Barbara Pryor: Oh.

HM: . . . or Prayther or—see, there were two of 'em. And I can't remember the principal. Anyway, she was a sizeable lady with a ping-pong paddle with a hole in it.

SL: Oh.

HM: So, yeah, stop the wind friction. You know, get some real power behind it. [*BP laughs*] So I was pretty used to that.

[00:58:40] SL: Yeah, corporal punishment . . .

HM: No.

SL: . . . wasn't an issue at all . . .

HM: No.

SL: . . . back then.

HM: No.

SL: And teachers had anything at their disposal.

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: Whatever it took.

HM: Oh yeah. Favorite—her favorite instrument was that ping-pong paddle. [*Laughter*]

SL: Well, so you were at Leverett until fourth grade, is that right? Or through fourth grade?

HM: Through the fourth grade.

[00:59:09] SL: Through the fourth grade. And then what happened? What—where . . .



HM: Well, I went to—one year, my dad decided that the up-and-coming place was Arizona. And we went out there. I can remember that trip we had an old Lincoln, I believe. And we went out there, no air-conditionin', around the twenty-fifth of August. [*SL sighs*] And you would stop and buy blocks of ice, and you had towels, and then you'd hang the towel, the windows'd roll down, and you'd hang the towels up against the window like that and blow the water in, and it'd take that towel about a half a second to dry. And the ice would melt. I don't know if it was ever worth the stop or not. It was some relief for about ten minutes before we ran out of ice, and it was miserable again. But we got to Scottsdale, Arizona, and I'll bet there wasn't eight hundred people in Scottsdale, Arizona. And the only thing that they had, really, was a drugstore, a post office, a



filling station, grocery store. And—but halfway between there and Phoenix, there was a school called Judson. It's still there today. I think I see ads in magazines for Judson School. And so I went to Judson for one year. And after that year, my dad decided it wasn't the place for him. So we came back to Fayetteville, and I actually enrolled in St. Joseph Catholic School for two years.

SL: Father Maloy?

HM: Sixth grade and—Father Maloy—sixth grade and seventh grade. And in the eighth grade, I went to junior high.

[01:01:21] SL: Now so the whole family moved out to Arizona. Is that . . .

HM: Yes.

SL: And what was it that your dad thought he wanted to do out there?

HM: He thought that the dry weather was better for your health and make him feel better, that it was going to be a, you know, it was gonna be a growin' area. He actually bought about five thousand acres out there for a dollar an acre, if you can believe that.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Middle of Scottsdale. Included Camelback Mountain, I think.

BP: Hmm. That's interesting.

SL: Is this after he had his accident with the car and his leg?

HM: Yeah, yeah, it was after that. And so we lived in a little motel that—remember the motels that had little cottages for rooms? And we lived in a couple of those cottages, and I boarded at school. And there was only about eight or ten of 'em. And I remember the excitement I had when Mr. Schwinn came out there and brought some of his bicycles with him. And so while he was there, I rode his bicycles.

[01:02:48] SL: So you actually got to meet to Mr. Schwinn?

HM: I met Mr. Schwinn. And there wasn't anything to do. I mean, there wasn't a neighbor. There wasn't any—there weren't any other kids. There was just stinging scorpions and snakes.

SL: Tarantulas.

HM: Tarantulas.

SL: Tarantulas out there.

HM: Yeah, tarantulas. You always had to check your shoes in the morning and make sure there wasn't a stinging scorpion in the bottom of 'em. And . . .

SL: Now this is on the old Route 66, isn't it?

HM: Yeah. Yep. And there's a two-lane road between Scottsdale and Phoenix. And I know that it had great big what I call a gully,

you know, gullies in the road that you'd go through. And when it was—when they'd have rains, which was very seldom, they'd have flash floods. And you literally could drown in one of those gullies.

SL: Yeah, I always read that more people drown in the desert than die of thirst.

HM: That's probably true.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Yeah.

SL: So that lasted a year?

HM: That was a year.

SL: And did he sell out, or did he just pull up stakes and come . . .

HM: Just pulled up and stakes, and we came back here, and then, like I say, I went to St. Joseph's, and things were back to normal.

[01:04:17] SL: [*Laughs*] Well, kinda. I mean, that's not—it's not Leverett School. It's a Catholic church now.

HM: Oh yeah. Yeah.

SL: Catholic school.

HM: Yeah, that was an experience.

SL: You had nuns for teachers.

HM: Oh yeah. Well . . .

SL: And . . .

HM: They would hit you . . .

SL: . . . the weapon of choice was a ruler there, wasn't it?

HM: Yes, correct. You're exactly right. And in the area where your knuckles, not your rear end.

SL: Uh-huh.

HM: Yeah, and . . .

SL: Well, did you have a favorite teacher—favorite nun?

HM: I don't think I liked any of 'em. [*BP laughs*]

SL: What . . .

HM: I'll just be honest with you. It was just [*SL laughs*]*—they were all the same to me. [Laughter]*

SL: But y'all continued to go the Episcopal church.

HM: Right.

[01:05:03] SL: So you didn't really get a chance to spend much time with Father Maloy. I've always heard he was great.

HM: Well, years later I got to know him a lot better than I did, you know, there as a student. I think he got there maybe about the same time I did. I'm not sure about that. But gosh, years later, after I'd graduated from college and was married, I had Father Maloy and Ed Salmon, Father Salmon, from the Episcopal church, over for dinner one night. And I ran out of scotch before

we ever got to the food. [*Laughter*] I had to sneak out the kitchen door and go get another bottle. But that was a—they were two great priests.

SL: Yeah.

HM: They were.

SL: Yeah, by all accounts.

HM: Yeah.

SL: Everyone I've ever talked to about either one. Ask Joy if I—if it would help if I moved the mic.

[Tape stopped]

[01:06:13] SL: Okay, so now exactly where were we when we stopped tape? Do you member?

BP: [*Unclear words*].

HM: Father Salmon and . . .

SL: Oh yeah. That's right. We were talkin' bout the priests.

HM: . . . Maloy.

SL: Okay, so y'all get back to Fayetteville. Do you just move back in . . .

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . to the same house?

HM: Mh-hmm.

SL: And this was the castle house, is that right?

BP: I thought it was the castle, but . . .

HM: House on Ozark. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Well, y'all were just kinda describing that house. Why don't you talk a little bit more about that house?

BP: Well, I certainly thought it was the biggest house that I'd ever been in. The living room was just expansive, I thought. And everything about it was beautiful. I think it was before the era of Fay Jones, or it may have been in that time frame, but how—it was the most unique house I remember being in when we were growing up and going to your house.

[01:07:16] HM: Well, that whole street, you know, we were talking earlier, that whole street was one of the prettiest streets in town, you know.

BP: It was.

HM: That and Washington Avenue and Park Street to me were always . . .

BP: Yes.

HM: . . . maybe the three most attractive streets . . .

BP: Very gracious homes.

HM: . . . in town.

BP: Yes.

HM: And the university—why—I never did figure out why they put

Ozark Street into the master plan for expansion of the university when they could've gone east on the other side of Maple Street, which is a blighted area, in my [*laughs*] opinion. But see, they had my great-grandfather's house on the corner, my grandfather's house next—both of 'em, huge, big, white Southern homes. Then there was a smaller brick home that was in between. That was where the Tatums lived. And then they had a big colonial house that was the [*thunder rumbles*] president of the university's home.

BP: That's right. I remember it.

HM: And the street was just—and the trees were kinda, you know, had grown up and matured, and they were . . .

BP: Beautiful.

HM: . . . you know, kind of a canopy over the street. It was . . .

BP: And was the old SAE house your grandfather's house or . . .

HM: Great-grandfather's.

BP: Yeah, your great-grandfather's house, which was a gorgeous place. That's actually where David pledged, in that house.

[01:08:45] HM: And next—right next to it was my grandfather's house. So when David pledged, I guess my aunt was still—she still lived there.

BP: Mmm. But you all gave the land for the university, didn't you?

HM: Well, it's, you know, it's a question about we gave it or, I mean—they—I'll put it this way. I got the impression that they sold it for x amount, which was way, probably, below market. But then my grandfather was—you know, had to raise, as an incentive for the university—they had to have the land, and then they had to have x amount. So I don't know how much of the money that he got he turned around and gave to the pot, so to speak, to put in the pot for the university as an incentive to come up here. But . . .

BP: Mh-hmm. 'Cause it is a land-grant college or school.

[01:09:41] HM: Yeah, it was a two—it was a—he was involved on both ends, I think. Raising the money to get 'em up here, politicking—doin' the politics to get 'em up here and then providin' the land, so . . .

BP: And . . .

HM: But yeah, it was a hundred and sixty-somethin' acres, I believe, that included his house. And I assume that he kept his house out of it. Maybe he had a life estate or somethin'. But—and course, we—my grandfather's house and our house was, you know, was exempt. So I—maybe the property didn't go on the other side of Dickson Street, originally.

SL: Yeah.



BP: Yeah.

SL: Well now, your house became what is now U of A Press. That's where . . .

HM: Right.

SL: . . . where they're located. You know, back in those days, it was not uncommon that all these magnificent homes were just demolished to put up modern stuff or to make room for businesses or . . .

BP: And we still remember when College Avenue was beautiful.

HM: Oh yeah, College. That was another one. I mean, I should have included that in, you know . . .

BP: That was another one that was just criminal the way they . . .

HM: Oh yeah. That was . . .

BP: Oh man. Yeah. Commercialized it.

[01:11:11] HM: I mean, the old pictures of College Avenue, I mean, the—truly the trees did come and . . .

BP: They did.

HM: . . . form a canopy down through the whole street there, four or five blocks. So . . .

SL: But the culture was, "They're old. Let's do somethin' new," or "We need more business here," or "We need a wider street. Or we need" . . .

BP: I don't know what happened. I guess people didn't think it through.

HM: Well, I guess 71 probably changed some of it. I mean, I don't know when they widened 71. That . . .

BP: Pretty much . . .

HM: . . . that probably affected some of 'em. And then because 71 became such a thoroughfare, it was just natural they go into . . .

BP: To put service stations . . .

HM: . . . turn into a commercial area. But I agree. I mean, it looks— if they'd've just taken two blocks of it or somethin' and preserved it. But people didn't . . .

BP: They weren't thinking . . .

HM: Huh-huh. They weren't.

BP: . . . I don't think.

HM: No. You've gotta think that back then they . . .

BP: No telling.

HM: . . . were desperate for growth and commerce. And that, you know, that was the logical place, really, for businesses to go 'cause of the traffic count.

[01:12:34] SL: You wanna—I think it might be fun to hear you tell some McIlroy stories, old-time stories about your great-grandfather and your grandfather. I mean, some of the things

I've read are pretty—almost mythical in some of their endeavors. There was—I guess was it your great-great-grandfather was a shoemaker, is that right? From North Carolina or . . .

HM: You got me on that one.

SL: Okay.

HM: So yeah, it could have been.

[01:13:13] SL: Could have been. But your grand—your . . .

HM: Great . . .

SL: . . . your great-grandfather came from Chattanooga. Is that right? From Tennessee?

HM: Well, somewhere in North Carolina or Tennessee. And I'm just—I don't know if he—he was a merchant. So I don't know if he came with the—when they were marchin' the Indians out of Tennessee and the Carolinas to Oklahoma. That's about the time, I think—I really don't know much about him till about eighteen—late 1830s.

SL: Right.

HM: Or somewhere in the 1830s. And he originally settled over at the old Lunsford hangout down there at . . .

SL: Mulberry.

HM: Mulberry.

SL: Cass.

HM: Cass [*BP laughs*] and over in there. So Barbara and I are probably [*laughter*] . . .

SL: Out of the same woodpile.

BP: Cousins.

HM: Yeah, could be.

BP: Could be.

HM: So . . .

BP: I hope so. [*Laughter*] I'll claim you.

HM: But . . .

[01:14:22] SL: Well now, one brother was in Cass, and the other one was somewhere in Madison County. Weren't there two brothers that came together or . . .



HM: Well, my grand—my great-grandfathers—they had a brother that stayed over Cass, I believe. Because, you know, it was—I don't know if it's a true story about the gold or not, but supposedly when the Union soldiers were invading, imminently invading Fayetteville, then he loaded up a buckboard with \$30,000 worth of gold, taking it to his brother's farm to hide. And the buckboard broke down along the way. And he had to abandon it and walk for two days or a day and a half or whatever it was to his brother's farm and get a team of horses and some tools, I

assume, or somethin' to fix the wagon or wheel. And so there was a period of time, and they were gone two or three days, I guess. And they came back, and it was still there. Nobody had touched it.

BP: Hmm. That's interesting.

HM: So it wasn't a very well-traveled road. [*Laughter*]

[01:15:36] SL: You know, but wasn't it Confederate—was it Union or Confederate soldiers that came around and burned stuff here at the town? I get that confused. I thought . . .

HM: Well, I got it confused, too. I don't—it was durin' the war. I don't know. I assumed it was the Union army because did they not have the Headquarters House over at . . .

SL: Well, both—I think both armies occupied . . .

HM: Both sides operated the head—yeah, that's right.

SL: Head—yeah, and . . .

HM: Head—occupied it.

SL: . . . it seems like whatever group burned Fayetteville had their comeuppance over at Pea Ridge. They didn't—got beat over at Pea Ridge, so . . .

HM: Right.

BP: Our great-grandmother, though, used to say that they were Yankees, but I think they were renegade probably from Missouri,

you know, some of those raiders that came down and burnt—they would burn the barns, and they would kill the chickens and take the hogs off, and my grandmother hated Yankees. She always thought that they were the ones that had burned, you know, burned 'em out, and would rob 'em and come in and maraud and all of that.

HM: Yeah, that's a—well, if it's somethin' bad, you know, is gonna happen, I would automatically say it was probably the Yankees.

[01:17:00] SL: Yeah, [*laughter*] I think the history books say it was a group out of Los Ang—or out of L—Louisiana that came up and did that. But who knows? They may be wrong. The—but wasn't—one of your relatives had a—was a partner with a dry goods store here on the square, weren't they?

HM: That was my great-grandfather.

SL: Your great-grandfather. And . . .

HM: He was a dry goods merchant by trade. Got into the banking business because of—was it Dalton Stark or Dayton Stark?

SL: Denton.

HM: Denton Stark had started a bank and was a Yankee.

Carpetbagger. And absconded in the middle of the night with all the deposits. And he was the largest or one of the largest. And in order to save the bank, they had to run a bluff, and through, I

think, the help of a doctor named David Walker and Ed Stone's father, they said their—you know, "Put the money in," that everybody's money was safe, and stopped a run on the bank. And he ended up working in the, you know, working in the bank from that day on, I think.

SL: Yeah, I think Mr. Stark ran off with about forty-five grand, I think is the figure that I've read.

HM: That was . . .

[01:18:38] BP: Well, was your bank, though, the oldest bank west of the Mississippi? Is that—or privately owned bank? Let's see, there's some legend attached . . .

HM: It's the oldest bank . . .

BP: . . . to the McIlroy . . .

HM: It was the oldest Arkansas charter. It's the oldest bank in Arkansas, chartered. So that would—I don't know, you know, there were so many banks around here at one time that I don't know when they actually—if there was another bank, you know, started. I was under the impression that McIlroy was the first bank in Fayetteville. But whether it was the first bank in Arkansas, I don't know. But it's the—it was the oldest charter issued by the state. So the other banks could have been—I think, in those days, it could have just been anybody could start

a bank.

BP: Bank. Mh-hmm.

HM: But . . .

BP: So . . .

SL: Whoever you trusted . . .

BP: . . . would—did your dad . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . would be your banker.

BP: . . . then—became a banker because your grandfather wanted him to? Or what happened? Did he have another ambition?

HM: I—no, I don't think so.

BP: Always wanted to be a banker?

HM: I think. Yeah, I think he more or less was sold on working in the bank, yeah.

BP: And you were to follow [*telephone rings*] in his footsteps?

SL: We'll have to pause here.

[Tape stopped]

[01:20:14] SL: Okay, one of the fir—I gotta take care of this right off. We forgot to introduce Barbara Pryor as our second interviewer back over here behind me. So . . .

HM: What a mis . . .

SL: . . . you're in the loop now, Barbara.



BP: Oh, good. Okay.

HM: . . . what a mistake.

SL: What a huge mistake. [*BP laughs*] My gosh.

BP: I know all of his secrets. [*Laughter*]

HM: Yeah, [*unclear word*] . . .

BP: But I'm not telling.

HM: It goes both ways.

SL: Yeah, it does. And we're ready.

HM: Oh man.

SL: We're able.

BP: No, we have a pledge. We've pledged.

[01:20:48] SL: Okay, so we were talkin' about some old family history with the bank and your great-grandfather and your grandfather and your father. And I think we were—had gotten to a place where Barbara asked if your father wanted to continue in the banking business, and you felt like he did. Is that right? Or was that your grandfather?

HM: Now, well, my—now you skipped a generation.

SL: Okay.

HM: I think my grandfather was a multitasker. He not only ran the bank; he did a lot of other things in town. He built the courthouse. He put in the first icehouse. He put in the—I think

he put in, well, built Carnall Hall [*thunder rumbles*]. Built . . .

BP: Interesting.

HM: . . . built the building right—it was down here on the corner before they turned it into—well, guess it still faces Center Street. Built that building across from the courthouse, built—had a construction company. And there was partners with a contractor. Put in the—I think developed the water system for the town. Was instrumental in a lot of things. I mean, I think my father, for instance—I think we had the bus line at one time. We—public transit. We—I know we had the only bonded warehouse in town to take care of the canning industry, which was quite large in Washington and Benton County. There were—I was amazed at number—somewhere I saw the number of canning companies that were located here. But they were—must—you know, Joe Steele's the only thing you can think of now. But gosh, there were probably twenty canning companies located in the two counties. [01:23:15] So—but my grandfather—a lot of people would come to him. He acted like a lawyer. He wrote wills. He wrote trusts. He wrote contracts as—not an attorney, but just write 'em. People would rather have him do it than—probably 'cause he didn't charge 'em, but anyway, he did a lot. He did really a lot. My father did some—a

lot of things too. Cable company, cable television, transit, the veterans hospital, I think. Either my grandfather or my father was instrumental in getting veterans hospital here. And the university, of course, we always contributed to. I can remember the days when we would buy the—buy football tickets from the athletic department and pass 'em out to people if they made a deposit. And ask 'em to go to the game just so they'd have a crowd. That's probably forgotten on this present group, but [laughs] . . .

SL: Bowden Wyatt era, probably.

HM: Yeah, you know, we supported—my gosh, I guess we supported everything in town. I mean, you know . . .

[01:24:51] SL: It sounds like your grandfather started the diversification . . .

HM: He did.

SL: . . . for the family, and your father . . .

HM: He did.

SL: . . . continued that. Now you mention the water system. Was that Lake Wilson? Is that when . . .

HM: You know, I don't know. I—somewhere in—somewhere I thought I had read that he started a Fayetteville municipal water department system. So . . .

BP: Remember up by—on Mount Sequoyah that reservoir was there forever, remember?

HM: That was there, but there was . . .

BP: And they've covered it up now, I think.

HM: Yeah. Probably a lake somewhere.

BP: Yeah.

HM: It might have been Lake Fayetteville. I guess it was.

BP: Made it . . .

SL: Well now, I think Lake Wilson was the first one.

HM: Wilson?

SL: Yeah.

HM: Okay.

SL: It's still out there, but it's much smaller than . . .

HM: Yeah, it's very small.

SL: . . . Fayetteville . . .

HM: Yeah, well . . .

SL: . . . Lake Fayetteville and . . .

HM: . . . course, you didn't probably need a whole lot then. Lot of people—I'm assuming that most people around here had wells.

SL: Yep.

HM: Yeah, so . . .

[01:25:55] BP: When we grew up, I think Fayetteville had ten

thousand people. Is that what you kind of remember, maybe?

HM: Yeah, I . . .

BP: And the university was maybe a thousand or twelve hundred.

HM: I think when I started the university, I think, I wanna say it was somewhere—or maybe when I graduated, it was five thousand. So it might have been thirty-five hundred. I don't know. But—and Fayetteville was—yeah, it was close to 10,000. It was 9,500 or somethin', if I remember. So—but you know, they've both grown, obviously. And you know, in the old days, it was—I can remember any fund drive for anything, whether it was the hospital, the uniforms for the Razorback band—well, they started with the banks, number one. And then they went to the utility companies. And Arkansas Western Gas and Southwest Electric always was a giver, and the Fulbrights. And so those people would raise about 90 percent of it, and then they'd try to get 10 percent [*laughter*] out of the rest of the people.

SL: Well, it worked, though.

BP: And . . .

HM: It worked. It was mayor form of government. Things got done, and they got done, you know, I think a lot easier and a lot less expensive than it takes to do somethin' today.

[01:27:58] SL: There is that—kind of that Fayetteville fathers group

that things—decisions were made among the local business leaders . . .

HM: Right.

SL: . . . pretty much at the time. It wasn't . . .

HM: They did.

SL: . . . a real—a formal entity, but it's my understanding you'd sit around, and you'd decide, "Well, we better do this or we're gonna be in trouble ten years from now. We gotta be thinking further ahead." There was—I don't know that it was all business driven. It may have been, but seems like to me, I remember some story, I think, oh, Curtis Shipley was talkin' about Beaver Dam at some point in time. And I don't know if it was your father or if it was you, but someone said, "Well, if we add another three feet to the height of the dam or whatever, we can come in and we'll have our water taken care of." It was that kind of camaraderie that went on. There was . . .

HM: Yeah, he's, you know, he's right. And it probably was Beaver Dam.

[01:29:16] BP: Do you remember your grandfather?

HM: No.

BP: He passed away before, and then . . .

HM: He died the same year I was born.

BP: Oh. And your father, by that time, was established in the bank.

HM: Mh-hmm.

BP: And how did your mother and father meet?

HM: Well, I think that she was a secretary in the bank. And . . .

BP: And they fell in love and . . .

HM: . . . and you know her brother worked in the bank. Jim Kays.

BP: Is that right? Yeah, I remember . . .

HM: And . . .

BP: . . . the name.

[01:29:52] SL: Now y'all only had one bank robbery. Is that right?



HM: I think one, and there might have been a second one, but the plot was exposed, and there was such a crowd that whoever the robbers was—they drove into town, and they saw this mile of people waitin' for the robbers to come. [*Laughter*] They kept goin'. They headed . . .

BP: They kept driving.

HM: . . . they headed to Oklahoma. [*Laughter*] But that was an old Herman Tuck story, I think, if I remember right. Herman—when he was a kid—this is—I'm talkin' about not our Herman Tuck, but his dad.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Herman Sr.

BP: He was mayor, wasn't he?

HM: He was postmaster.

BP: Postmaster.

HM: Yeah. [*BP laughs*] He—I think he was out playing in the woods or somethin', and there was an old house or an old barn out there, and they heard somethin', and they went sneakin' up on it, and it was Pretty Boy Floyd or John Dillinger or somebody of that reputation and his gang. And he heard 'em plottin' to come in and rob the bank in Fayetteville. So, of course, he came back, sound the alarm, and some [*laughter*—literally supposed to be robbed on Saturday morning at eight o'clock. Well, they couldn't—there was so many people, they couldn't even get to it. [*Laughter*] Somebody said they'd reported seein' the car goin' west.

SL: That's good.

BP: That is good.

HM: Well, that's a good story. I don't know if it's true, but it's a good one. [*BP laughs*]

[01:31:39] SL: You know, let's talk a little bit about some of the Fayetteville characters that you became aware of as you were growing up. I mean, the square was still the viable—it was the center of activity for the town. This was pre-mall and pre-urban



sprawl, but . . .

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: So—but there—weren't there quite a set of characters that just kind of held court around the square and around the post office in the center?

[01:32:11] HM: Well, yeah. The real—my favorite—and I think he's kin to the Lunsfords, I'm not sure, but was J. D. Eagle. And . . .

BP: He's not kin to us. [*Laughter*]



HM: There's just so many stories about him. And I, you know, personally had a lot of contact with J. D., and I loved him. At one time they lived behind me on Ozark Street. But gosh, he was a—you're talking about a certified character. He was just the great—he was always dapper. He must have been, I don't know—to me, he was a hundred years old when I was twenty-five. But he was, you know, at least in his seventies, and he could still jump over these parkin' meters outside, which he'd show you he could do. [*Laughter*] But you know, he—this was—it's the famous story about him parkin' in front of the post office, and while he was ins—and a bunch of spit and whittlers, as he'd call 'em, were sittin' out there on the steps. And everybody's heard this, but he goes inside, and he comes back outside and looks at the side of his car, and somebody's run into

it. And he turns around to the spit and whittlers, and he said, "Any you son of bitches see the gentleman that hit my car?"

[*Laughter*] And so—but there was—yeah, I'm tryin' to think of all the characters. There was Delbert and her sister and mother and—Delbert and his sister and mother and father, and they sold the newspapers. And you know, they were just—they would sit on the bank's—this was the old bank building, and it had a little stoop, so—you know, kinda in the front. And that was their favorite place to roost, you know, durin' the day and sell their newspapers. And I'm tryin' to remember who else. Gosh, I've gone blank. That's where I need Paul Berry 'cause he can remember every one of 'em. [*Laughter*] I'll think of some of 'em in a little while.

SL: Okay, well, just jump in with it if you . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . any time during this—today would be good. The—there was a question I was gonna ask you about. Oh, let's talk about integration and the black community and the white and black relationships that were going on in Fayetteville when you were growin' up.

[01:35:07] HM: Well, as you know, I forgot—somebody told me there was three hundred blacks in Fayetteville, and that was the only

blacks in, I guess, five counties, or six. I mean, there weren't any in Bentonville. There weren't any goin' east. Madison, Newton, any of those counties, there weren't any blacks.

BP: Baxter, none of those places . . .

HM: But these were . . .

BP: . . . would allow them to spend the night.

HM: Yeah, they wouldn't even, you know . . .

BP: They would keep goin'.

HM: They had—in the [19]60s, I think Springdale still had signs up, "Don't Stop Here," you know.

BP: Mh-hmm. Yeah.

[01:35:38] HM: But we always had a community of about three hundred or whatever the number was. And I have nothing but warm feelings for all of 'em. I mean, gosh, two of 'em worked for us. Buck and Dora worked for us for years. And I mean, you couldn't find a better cam—you know, better person to put up with me or [BP laughs] my family, frankly. And then they were, I mean, they were just wonderful. And goin' back to the family, you know, into the founding fathers theory. I member when Fayetteville integrated, which was the first school in the South, I guess. There are some claims.

BP: Nineteen fifty-four.

HM: There are some claims that . . .

SL: Charleston.

BP: Charleston.

HM: Charleston, yeah.

BP: Dale Bumpers claims Charleston was the favorite.

HM: Charleston was the first.

BP: But we know.



HM: But we—but that decision was made—I think Hal Douglas was instrumental. He was on the school board. And it was the same group was on the school board that was doin' everything else. And he just—he made the observation—he said, "This is," you know, "this is insane. Why would we want to—I mean, this is gonna be the law. This is gonna be the law of the land. And why do we wanna spend money and effort and time on something like this?" And so they integrated, and it no—as far as I know, there was never a problem.

BP: I don't think there was a word said.

HM: Never a problem with the students or . . .

[01:37:29] BP: I think Virgil Blossom was superintendent of schools then. Do you remember?

HM: Virgil, I think he was.

BP: And he was . . .

HM: And then goes to Little Rock.

BP: . . . had a lot of foresight, and they, I think, at that time, they were busing the students to Fort Smith, which was . . .

HM: They were.

BP: . . . of course, was ridiculous because you had . . .

HM: They were.

BP: . . . to go over the mountains.

HM: And that was fore . . .

BP: I mean, it must have been an hour and a half.

HM: . . . that was fore 540. I mean, that was just a . . .

BP: Right.

HM: . . . crooked . . .

BP: Oh, it was just a—yeah.

[01:37:56] HM: In a school bus, I bet it'd take two hours to . . .

BP: I bet it would. And . . .

SL: Well, it also costs money to do that.

BP: Yeah, it did. But still, I think with the—I don't think there was ever an incident or a word said about the integration.

HM: I don't either.

BP: Our school.

HM: I don't either. Now I know . . .

BP: Now I remember the students that came. There were three. I

think two of 'em are dead now. Preston Lackey's dead, I know.

HM: Yeah, Preston and . . .

BP: Peggy.

HM: Bull Hayes, was he in that . . .

BP: I can't remember.

HM: Bull Hayes and . . .

BP: Could—he was a great football player.

HM: Oh, he was. And they wouldn't—at the . . .

BP: They wouldn't play him in Harrison because . . .

HM: The conference that Fayetteville was in refused to play Fayetteville.

BP: Yeah, they wouldn't play . . .

HM: Fayetteville went a year playin' Joplin and Springfield and Tulsa and places like that.

BP: And Harrison wouldn't play black players.

HM: And then Harrison finally let 'em play, and then wouldn't let 'em stay there—wouldn't let 'em eat.

BP: Mh-hmm. Yeah, yeah. That's right.

HM: So . . .

BP: Funny world.

HM: That's a—that was a—but I'm proud of Fayetteville for . . .

[01:39:03] BP: Me, too. And also I think Fayetteville—we were

lucky to grow up in Fayetteville because it was so unique because we were in the mountains. We were isolated. And I think that everybody felt advanced, and you know, because—I don't know whether it was because of the university, but I think everybody was more forward thinking. Having lived in some other towns in Arkansas, I think Fayetteville was by far the most tolerant of any town and . . .

HM: Oh, I—yeah.

BP: Yeah.

HM: We're lucky.

BP: We were very lucky not to have that race issue . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . in any of our dealings.

HM: Well, and just more progressive.

BP: Very progressive. But I think that's the town fathers, too.

HM: Well, they were. I mean, I look at some of the things they did.

BP: Far looking.

[01:39:56] HM: I mean, yeah, Scott and I were talking. We had the first cable company, cable TV, one of the first in the United States.

SL: That was your dad's doin', right?

HM: Yeah. He was involved in it for television. And so, you know,

did a lot of things that they didn't have to argue.

BP: That's right . . .

HM: They didn't have that . . .

BP: . . . they didn't.

HM: . . . you know, they didn't have—they met, they discussed it, they made adult decisions, and they moved on. Now, there's a lot of people that wouldn't agree that that's the best way to do it, but it certainly seems to me to have worked better than the way some things happen today.

[01:40:57] SL: Were y'all—Fayetteville fathers, Fayetteville families—were y'all very close to the Fulbright family at all?



HM: We were. Very close to the Lewis family. One thing I mentioned earlier about seeing the old Joe Louis fight on—one of the major fights on TV was over at our house. And I member that John came, and his mother and dad came. And they were over at our house, and we were over at their house, you know, quite a bit, which was, you know, would be unusual in today's world since you have competing banks, and yet they're, you know, still friends. And that was, you know, that was the way it was. I don't think either bank would have done—and didn't when I was there until right at the end when the banks started sellin' to other owners. But if a bank was gonna change its hours, for



instance, he would call the other bank and say, "We've met, and we've decided we're gonna open on Saturday mornin'. And let's talk about it." So we'd talk about it, and then we might go ahead and do it, which meant they were gonna do it, but we'd give 'em somethin'. We wouldn't go open on Saturday morning and not tell them we were gonna go open on Saturday morning. That kinda changed the tail end of my career.

SL: Well, yeah, there were a lot more banks early on, and then . . .

HM: Yeah, just a different atmo—it's kind of like what's happening in Washington. You're not supposed to talk to the other side, you know.

SL: Right. Yeah. Some of the civility . . .

HM: Has gone, yeah.

SL: . . . has left, yeah. Yeah. You just wonder if that has a lot to do with the way you were just brought up as a kid and what you had to go through to get where you were. I mean . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . it's harder, and you have . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . better appreciation of humans and . . .

[01:43:04] HM: John Lewis and I were best of friends, and I don't know how many fights we had. [*Laughter*]

SL: And who won most of those?

HM: Kind of a draw, I think. I think we just hit each other till we'd get tired, and then we'd go back inside. [*Laughter*]

[01:43:22] BP: Did you run away to join the marines? Were you—  
didn't John . . .

HM: John and I and your brother.

BP: That's what I thought.

SL: Gary.

BP: You all . . .

HM: Gary.

BP: . . . you all took off and joined the marines.

HM: And Kirby Penick.

BP: The four of you. I remember that. What was the motivation?

HM: God, I thought the next day when I woke up out there in San Diego in boot camp that that was the dumbest thing [*BP laughs*]  
I had probably ever done.

BP: What was the motivation? I'm curious. What happened?

HM: Oh, I don't know.

BP: You were tired of livin' a nice life and thought you just needed to see the world, or . . .

HM: Well, you know, it was one of those things. Some of our friends had been in the marine corps, and we heard how rough it was

and how tough it was and how many people didn't make it through, you know, boot camp and all that. So we said, "Well, we can do that." And boy, *[laughter]* *[sighs]* it, you know, it's one of those things lookin' back, it's—boy, it seemed like a lot of—you know, it was all right. That was a lot of fun, you know. It was a new experience. But boy, at the time, it wasn't fun. And I didn't care how bad the experience was. But it was tough.

[01:44:40] SL: So six months at Camp Pendleton. Is that right?

HM: Well, six months between Pendleton and San Diego. And that's the bad—the bad part I found out is if I'd gone in the regular marines, you just do San Diego and Pendleton, and then you go off to a job, whether it's changing oil in a truck or, you know, whatever, you know, whatever your specialty is. But there's no more harassment and no more brutal training. Well, since we weren't gonna be permanent, they just kept runnin' us through Pendleton. Once we got through boot camp, we went through advanced riflery training like three times. I mean, we went through the same thing. *[Laughter]*

SL: You guys were killers.

HM: Oh man. Except for Brother Gary. He . . .

BP: He copped out.

HM: . . . he developed a hearing problem. "Heh? What'd you say?"

BP: Oh, I thought it was his back.

HM: And so they said, "Well, he can't hear. He can work in the office." [*Laughter*]

SL: Well, didn't that—I mean, in some defense, I mean, the training was pretty brutal. I mean, it was not uncommon for a gun to go off next to your head, right? I mean . . .

HM: No.

SL: . . . and back then did they even issue salt pills or anything? You just sweat until you were—until you fainted. Until your heart gave out. I mean . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . there wasn't any . . .

HM: No.

SL: . . . concern, really.

HM: No. [*Unclear word*].

[01:46:18] BP: And what was your lesson that you brought away from that? That you could survive anything or . . .

HM: Well, in a way.

BP: Yeah, I bet it was, wasn't it?

HM: Yeah.

BP: That no matter what happens . . .

HM: I mean, it doesn't get much worse than that. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

BP: That you've . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . in other words, it made a man out of you, I would think.

HM: Well, it certainly changed your outlook. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Well . . .



BP: I mean, I member the drill instructors—it was about that time that the marine corps boot camp at Parris Island . . .

BP: Oh.

HM: . . . marched those recruits into a swamp, and they all drowned.

BP: Mh-hmm. I remember that.

[01:46:58] HM: And so they caught a lotta heat over that. And so here came, you know, here came the politicians and everybody, and so the orders came down that there couldn't be any more physical contact with the recruits between the DIs. So our DI got up there, and he said, "Well, here's my new orders." And he said, "Here's what I think of 'em." And he tore them up and threw them away. He said, "Now I'm not gonna change a thing, and if you mess up, I'm gonna beat the you-know-what out of you, [*BP laughs*] and if you don't like it, you can write your mother, and she can come out here, and I'll beat the new—you-know-what outta her. [*Laughter*] And she can bring her

congressman, and I'll sure beat the n—you-know-what out of him." And I said, "Okay, well, got that picture." [*Laughter*]

SL: Oh, that's good.

HM: So apparently they didn't think that applied to us, so . . .

SL: Well, I'll tell you what. You guys—the best thing, though, was we weren't at war, and you didn't have to go to war.

HM: No, that—you're absolutely right. That changes the whole thing. And you know, I'm lucky we weren't at war. But if we had been or had gotten into a war, well, I'd been, you know, right there on the . . .

BP: Right in the middle of it.

HM: . . . front line. But no, it was a—it was pre-Vietnam. So I actually served my six years before they ever went into Vietnam. So . . .

SL: Gosh, six years.

[01:48:47] BP: And so you came back and went to school here and got a business degree? Was that your next step?

HM: I lacked one semester.

BP: Oh, I see.

HM: So I came back and did the—I took the one semester, and then that's the—during that semester I think is when my dad died. And so I mighta gone to law school, I don't know, I was toying

with it, and mighta gone to work somewhere else, but it was just a given once he died that I had to stay here and I had to . . .

BP: That's pretty much the way it was, though, when we were growing up.

HM: It was.

BP: You had one job, and that's what you did for the next forty years. But now people change and have all these options.

HM: Yeah.

BP: But in your case, I can see.

HM: Well, you know, I would've—you know, if my father had been younger and if he'd've lived longer, I don't know that I'd've immediately gone into the bank. I mighta gone somewhere else and done somethin' else or, you know, who knows? But—or might've stayed in school. Might've at least got a graduate degree. But it was just a kind of a whirlwind deal, you know. I mean . . .

[01:50:19] BP: And what age was your dad when he died?

HM: He was seventy, I believe.

BP: Mmm. And did you always think that, though, that you would be a banker because it was so much in the family tradition?

HM: No.

BP: No.

HM: No, that's just it. I didn't. I didn't. I'd worked in the bank, you know, and so I [*car horn honks*], you know, I kinda—I knew a little bit. In those days, you knew most of the people in town, so it wasn't as sophisticated as it has become today. But I didn't have any burning desire to be in the banking business. I don't know that if I knew what I wanted to do at that time, but I would have probably done something other than the banking business knowing that if I had to, I could come back or, you know . . .

BP: Yeah, sure.

HM: . . . circumstances changed, I'd come back. But I don't know. I kinda gave into the pressure and said, "Okay. I'll stay here, you know, for the family and for"—including aunts and uncles and— aunts and cousins, I'll say. [01:51:53] But you know, it was— don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining, you know, I'm not complaining about it. I certainly had a great time and enjoyed it and learned a lot. And it was a wonderful experience, and I was thrown right in the middle of being one of the decision makers— if not decision maker, then people they would call and the city and the university. And I got in, you know, into fundraising for both institutions and the hospitals and the libraries. And so it was an experience that most people my age wouldn't've have,



you know, gotten it any close to.

BP: And of course, you were a part of the fabulous growth that began in northwest Arkansas with Tyson's and . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . and all of the different entities that were probably in the embryonic stages. But you were a part of watching all of that.

HM: And I was a part of the decline of the Fayetteville square and the start of the urban sprawl, as you'll say, and the mall and all that. And . . .

[01:53:16] SL: Your decision, though, to rebuild the bank—tear down the old bank . . .

HM: That was a . . .

SL: . . . and rebuild the bank. That was . . .

HM: . . . that was a tough decision.

SL: But that was really the start of what saved the square, as far as I can tell.

HM: That was. But that was also very risky. I think I was just young enough to not have given it much thought because after we built, then there was a big split over at the First National Bank whether they were gonna go out to the highway or they were gonna stay on the square. And I just thought to myself—I said, "Gosh, if they leave me up here by myself, there isn't going to

be anything left of the square, you know, if they don't stay." That's all those—you know, that's just all that much more vacancy, and what's gonna replace 'em? So luckily, knock on wood, well, they did stay. And John came back, and we—he and I got involved in urban renewal. Fayetteville had a \$500,000 grant, if I remember correctly, for urban renewal that nobody had done anything with. And the time was up, and we had to give the money back, return it to the feds. And we found out about this, and through friends in Washington, they gave us a stay of execution as far as returnin' the funds. [*SL laughs*] And we were able to hire Chad Kumpe to come in here and put together all the paperwork and do everything it took to save it. [01:55:10] Then John and I—they had a plan of such, and it would—it'd call for serpentine streets around the square with speed bumps. And it weaved in between planters and, you know, like this. So we said, "Well, is any"—you know, we asked around. "Who's done this?" And I think it was Olathe, Kansas, but I could be wrong. It might've been Kansas City, Kansas. It was some place in Kansas that John and I—we flew up there. And I never will forget. Got in the taxi cab, and he said, "Where you guys going?" We said, "Take us downtown." And he said, "Oh no." [*Laughter*] I said, "Yeah."



SL: Didn't . . .

HM: "What's wrong with that?" He said, "Oh, I just hate that. I hate going downtown." Said, "They—it's just horrible." And I said, "Really? Why?" He said, "Well, they put in these speed bumps and serpentine streets," and said, "I get in there in a taxi, it takes me twenty minutes to drop somebody off and get out of there." So we went down there and took a look, and it killed—I mean, it was mess. And so we came back and had to scrap all that had been approved. Scrap all that and start over. And I think we—everybody was in agreement. I think the outsiders—there was a division over whether we'd leave the courthouse there or whether we would tear it down and turn it into a park. And that was debated for a long time. And then we decided to leave it. I was for tearing it down and turning it into a park myself. But someday maybe somebody will find a use for it.

BP: Why did they . . .

Trey Marley: Excuse me, we need to change tapes.

SL: Okay. I'm gonna put you up front here.

BP: Oh no . . .

[Tape stopped]

[01:57:14] BP: I was wondering if you thought the closing of the post office began the decline of the square, even though I think

the square has come back. But I mean, don't you think that was the beginning?

HM: That was probably the beginning. You know, it moved out, and then you—'cause let's face it. The post office brought . . .

BP: Everybody . . .

HM: Everybody in town to . . .

BP: . . . everybody here. Yes.

HM: . . . you know, to the square once a day.

BP: To pay their bill.

HM: Now they didn't go any further than Dickson Street. And it was a blow. So as a consequence, then you started losin' merchants.

[01:57:55] BP: Mh-hmm. And what happened—what was the name of the restaurant that was there that someone opened that was . . .

HM: Well, I'm tryin' to think of . . .

BP: . . . so fabulous.

SL: In the post office?

BP: I guess it was the Old Post Office?

SL: It's the Old Post Office.

BP: The Old Post Office. And that was a great thing, wasn't it?

HM: Yeah, I'm tryin' to think. It was patterned after a really successful restaurant and bar in Dallas, and I can't remember

the name of that, but . . .

BP: But I remember didn't Billie Snyder have a night club in the—or  
a bar in the lower part of the post office?

HM: That's the hotel. That was the Mountain Inn.

BP: Oh, it never was in the bottom of the post office.

HM: Yes.

SL: There was one, but it wasn't Billie's.

HM: A backgammon bar.

BP: A backgammon bar.

HM: A backgammon bar and then a dance . . .

SL: Disco.

HM: . . . disco.

BP: Really?

HM: Mh-hmm.

BP: See, I missed all that. I . . .

HM: And . . .

BP: . . . got married and moved away.

HM: . . . and, well, backgammon was, you know, went through a  
period of time where that was the hot deal. And so you could  
either dance or play backgammon.

[01:58:58] BP: That's a good idea.

HM: Yep.

BP: Well, I remember Billie's bar, of course. Who does not remember Billie's bar? That was the spot, wasn't it?

HM: Oh yeah. The . . .

SL: Brass Monkey.

HM: . . . Brass Monkey.

SL: David Royal.

BP: She was great.

HM: I called it the Brass Knuckle. [*Laughter*] Had some good fights down there.

BP: I had no idea all these fights were . . .

[01:59:28] HM: Well, it wasn't like . . .

BP: . . . occurring.

HM: . . . it wasn't like back in my day in college. I mean, my gosh, you know, back then, they had date call at ten thirty, if you remember.

BP: That's right.

HM: And—or somethin' like that. Ten thirty, if you were—made your grades on a Wednesday night, and the rest of the night was eleven thirty and twelve thirty or somethin' like that on a weekend. And so, you know, once you took your date home, there wasn't anything to do except to go back out there and drink some more and fight.

BP: And fight. [*Laughter*] Well, remember the Tee Table?

HM: Oh yeah.

BP: And the Bubble Club.

HM: Yep.

BP: But what was the name of the club that was right there on the way up to the country club?

SL: Rockwood.

HM: The Rockwood.

BP: Oh, the Rockwood, yes.

HM: The Rockwood.

BP: Those were the places to go to dance.

HM: The Rockwood.

BP: Our—my parents never allowed me to go there until I was in college, though. That was . . .

HM: Well, I'm surprised Bruce didn't go with you. [*Laughter*]

BP: I know. Me too. Exactly.

[02:00:35] SL: So, Hayden, was the Rockwood Club a happening place when . . .

HM: Rockwood—the crowd followed Dayton Stratton. Wherever he opened a club, that's where the crowd went, you know. And . . .

SL: Was Ronnie playin' at the Rockwood Club?

HM: Ronnie played there. And then there was a place down on

Dickson Street called the Library, if you remember.

BP: Yes.

SL: Dickie Pool.

BP: And there was a—the Red Lion . . .

HM: No . . .

BP: . . . wasn't there?

HM: The Red Lion.

BP: The Red Lion.

SL: The Red Lion and Charles Smoot.

BP: My brother was a . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . bouncer there. Porter . . .

HM: Charlie Smoot and . . .

BP: Yeah. I never went to any of places. Did you?

HM: No, but I saw your car out there. [*Laughter*] So you're not telling the truth.

BP: That was Bruce's car.

HM: Well, I knew it wasn't Bruce in there. So . . .

BP: But those were fun times. It wasn't always live music. You know, they had the . . .

[02:01:41] HM: No, it wasn't. Most of the time, though, it—on a weekends, you know. Course, I don't guess there was any live



music durin' the week, but you know, John Tolleson played . . .

BP: Oh yes. Wonderful . . .

HM: . . . forever.

BP: . . . wonderful, wonderful . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . player. Yes.

HM: And . . .

BP: And every Friday night when we were in high school, there was the sock hop down at the—oh, I think it was the—not the jail, but you know, right there. It was the community . . .

SL: American Legion.

[02:02:11] BP: American Legion. Do you remember those sock hops after football games that we . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . used to go there and dance . . .

HM: Yeah, I remember that.

BP: . . . wildly. [*Laughs*]

HM: I remember that. I remember . . .

BP: It was a dancin' town, as I recall.

HM: Yeah, yeah.

SL: Wasn't Don Ty . . .

HM: You'd sneak out in the parking lot. [*Laughter*]

BP: I was too busy bein' a good girl.

HM: When Bruce wasn't lookin', you were sneakin' out the back door.  
I saw you. [*Laughter*]

SL: Wasn't Don Tyson one of the door guys at the Rockwood Club?  
I've heard he tells a story that . . .

BP: Is that right?

HM: I think Don paid for some bands that Dayton or somebody,  
whoever—there was some—another couple that ran the  
Rockwood there for a while. I can't remember their names.  
But . . .

BP: Don was a little bit older than we were, though.

HM: Yeah, I think . . .

BP: See, I never went out—went around.

HM: . . . I think that . . .

BP: He was . . .

HM: . . . there was some times when Don put up the money for the  
band, but that meant he coll—he stood at the door, and he  
charged everybody that came, [*laughter*] tryin' to get his money  
back.

BP: I don't blame him.

SL: That's good.

[02:03:26] BP: Didn't Fay Jones—didn't they say that—who gave

him \$5,000? He had a budget of \$5,000 to build the Rockwood,  
and that's what he spent.

HM: I don't know . . .

BP: To design.

HM: . . . if it's possible.

BP: Have you ever heard that? I don't . . .

HM: No.

BP: I think it only had one window in it.

HM: Oh yeah.

BP: [*Laughs*] It had the door.

HM: I don't know that it's got a window. I mean, I don't know.

BP: May not have had a window.

HM: I don't know how it would pass a fire code. I don't think there's  
any way out other than the one door. [*Laughter*] But they  
weren't—oh gosh, there were some—your old boyfriend Billy Ray  
Smith would come in there. [*BP laughs*] And . . .

BP: Some good times were had . . .

HM: . . . Member . . .

BP: . . . by all, I think.

[02:04:15] SL: What about Dayton? Did you know Dayton Stratton?

HM: Oh yeah.

SL: Talk a little bit about Dayton Stratton.

HM: Well, I asked him years later—I said—you know, after I'd been out of college about fifteen years or somethin' like that, I was talkin' to him, and I said, "Dayton," I said, "What's the difference between the crowds now and our crowds?" And he said, "Your crowds were the worst crowds I ever saw." He said, "I'd have so many fights by the end of the night, of throwin' people out of there and everything, I was exhausted. It was all I could do to get the door shut." And he said, "Now," he said, "there you never have that problem." He said, "They only thing is they get a little overextended in their courting business here, and you have to go and throw some water on 'em. [*Laughter*] But," he said, "you don't have to worry about fighting." [*BP coughs*] And he . . .

SL: Make love, not war.

HM: Yeah. That was when the make love, not war part came in. But Levon played at the . . .

BP: The Rock . . .

HM: . . . the Red Lion.

[02:05:23] BP: Did he play at the Rockwood? Levon?

HM: I don't know. He probably did some concerts, but he played at the Red Lion all—quite a bit . . .

BP: Oh yeah. Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

HM: . . . with—I don't know if they had changed their names to the Band. It might have been still the Hawks or somethin'.

SL: Hawks. Mh-hmm.

BP: Mh-hmm. Porter was a bouncer at the Red Lion. [*Laughs*]

HM: I remember.

[02:05:48] TM: Now where was the Red Lion?

BP: It was right there behind . . .

SL: Corner of West and Lafayette.

BP: It was behind Jose's. It was in the alley back in there. Is that right?

HM: No, it's on the other side of the street.

SL: No, no. Huh-uh. No, it was right there at . . .

BP: Was it?

SL: . . . at the bridge, right there.

HM: At the—just before you get to the bridge.

SL: It's a hair place there now.

HM: Where the old Schlitz distributorship . . .

SL: Right next door to the . . .

BP: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Uh-huh.

HM: . . . used to be where Doug was. He's right in there.

SL: Yeah, close to it.

BP: Right, right. That's right. [*Laughs*]

HM: We can talk about Rogers Pool Hall . . .

BP: Yes.

HM: . . . which I hung out in all the time.

SL: Rogers is pretty famous place . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . 'cause you had . . .

HM: Oh, we had characters in there. [*Thunder rumbles*] We had "Tobe" Otto Gage. And—who was Fayetteville's answer to the Sopranos. I mean, he ran the [*BP laughs*—he ran all the pinball machines and jukeboxes.

SL: Jukeboxes.

HM: And anything that took quarters, he ran. [*Laughter*] He was in the pool hall. Then, gosh, I don't know, there was—there were really a lot of characters in there. I can't even recall, and they were there. They were good clients. I mean, they showed up at nine or ten o'clock in the mornin', and [*BP laughs*] they stayed. They musta liked the food and everything. They stayed all day. But . . .

BP: And of course, George's.

HM: George's, yeah.

[02:07:20] BP: George's was infamous, wasn't it?

HM: It—up and down, you know. I guess George's had some great

years durin' the—fore I ever got to college.

BP: They had that beer garden in the back.

HM: Had that beer garden, you know, that the Frisco Railroad finally told 'em they were gonna pull the train out of Fayetteville if they didn't do anything about the beer garden. [*Laughter*] Because when the train came by, everybody stood up and threw their beer bottle at 'em. [*Laughter*] "We're gonna lose our train service." But . . .

[02:08:10] SL: Okay, so now how did you all meet?

BP: Well, how did we meet? [*Laughs*] I remember you comin' to mother's—mother—you would have supper with us sometime. Maybe—who would have brought you there? One of my brothers, maybe? No? I don't know.

HM: Well, I was probably ?driving?.

BP: A lot of people came to mother's. That was kind of a hangout.

HM: It was a hangout. It was a hangout.

BP: And so she always cooked enough for . . .

HM: Everybody.

BP: Yeah, she did.

HM: Yeah.

BP: And she made a cake every day, and people started comin' about four o'clock in the afternoon. [*Laughs*]

HM: Oh yeah.

BP: They'd stay for supper.

HM: Oh, I know.

BP: And it was fun. We laughed and . . .

HM: No, it really was. And it . . .

BP: Actually, I think I was—we were smokin' cigarettes and playing cards and laughing, as I remember.

HM: Yeah.

BP: Mother taught some people to dance there.

HM: We played bridge. I played bridge . . .

BP: Played bridge. Me too.

HM: Played bridge with your mother and Porter all the time. And . . .

[02:09:20] BP: But I remember your mother was so nice to me.

Invited me to your home, and we used to go grocery shopping together. She would take me grocery shopping with her. I don't know why we did that. It was fun. And then every—was it Christmas Eve you took me to church at midnight?

HM: Mh-hmm.

BP: And did we have communion?

HM: Yeah.

BP: And that's the first time I ever tasted wine. Because you—the Methodists just used old grape juice. But you all had wine.



[Laughs]

HM: I hope you didn't tell Bruce. [Laughter] That'd been the end of that. So . . .

BP: Exactly. So that was pretty special.

HM: Well, I remember that.

BP: I do too.

HM: And that was a beautiful service, you know, they turn the lights out.

BP: Beautiful. Beautiful church to this day.

HM: And lit the candles, and yeah, the church was built in 1871.

That's a hundred and fifty years, isn't it?

[02:10:33] BP: It looks like the way a church should look, I think.

HM: I agree. I agree. And I don't know when we met, to be honest with you. It was probably after my second year at St. John's.

Let's see. I don't think we had anything to do with each other in junior high school. You were—they were ninth graders, and I was only a lowly eighth . . .

BP: I was too old for you. [Laughs]

HM: Yep. A lowly eighth grader. But as it'll happen, as you get older, then age seems to . . .

SL: Go away.

HM: . . . disappear.

BP: Even things out.

HM: Even things out. So I think probably the—be the summer before my junior year—had to be.

BP: I think you fixed me up—I don't think we ever dated, but I remember you . . .

HM: Oh yeah, we did, a couple times.

BP: I remember that you fixed me up with Jimmy Tatum from Tulsa at that time, at one point.

HM: Jimmy Tatum and Jack Budd.

BP: Jack Budd.


HM: Yep.

BP: Yeah.

HM: Yeah. But we went out a couple times. [*BP laughs*] Scared . . .

[02:11:51] SL: Did you go to Jug's?

HM: . . . scared me. [*Laughter*]

 BP: Yeah, Jug's. I bet we did go to Jug's.

HM: Jug Wheeler's.

BP: That was the big thing.

SL: Jug Wheeler's.

BP: Drive through, see who was there.

HM: There's an institution.

BP: That was an institution.

HM: Drive around there, you know, you'd circle about twice, and then you'd either park or you could leave and go somewhere for ten minutes and come back . . .

BP: Then come back and drive around. See who was there.

HM: Circle again. See if anybody's changed. *[BP laughs]* People comin' down there, and Hawkins would play down there for—play two songs that took two and a half hours. *[Laughter]*

SL: "Who Do You Love?"

HM: That's all—that's the only words he knew, you know, and . . .

BP: Well, it was "When the Saints Came Marching In." That was one of 'em. It wasn't a large repertoire.

[02:12:49] HM: No, he—and didn't have many instruments. I think Harold Pinkerton on the guitar was it. *[Laughter]* And they'd pass the hat. And then Howell Trumbo would come in at about . . .

BP: Reeling.

HM: . . . ninety-five miles an hour and slam on his brakes and throw that car in reverse and go into that slot that was about—just fit his car at about sixty-five miles an hour.

BP: *[Laughs]* That's true.

HM: And Jimmy Hatfield would come around lookin' for Barbara *[Laughter]*, and he'd—and everybody else—and he'd be circling

right in front of me. And gosh, I don't know. It—that Jug Wheeler's was—it was another institution.

BP: It was the hot spot.

[02:13:39] SL: Well, they delivered beer to the campus . . .

HM: Oh yeah. I know that.

SL: . . . back then.

HM: Yep. Yeah, we—I had a friend whose parents left him in charge of the house. Big mistake. [*BP laughs*] We weren't old enough to buy anything, but you could call Jug's and pass the money through the door without 'em ever seeing. [*Laughter*] "Leave it on the porch. Here's twenty." But you know, there wasn't anything in those days that were . . .

BP: Overall, I'm thinkin' it was so innocent, really.

HM: It was an age of innocence. I mean, you know, it was . . .

BP: It really was. So . . .

HM: You did crazy things, but it wasn't anything that would intentionally harm anybody.

BP: No.

SL: Who was the sheriff back then? Was it Spencer or . . .

HM: No. I think I'm right. He's—golly. Goin' blank. Big family in Greenland.

SL: Horne? No.

HM: If you drive down there in that big curve. That pasture on the right . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . just as you go over the bridge. That's all theirs. I can't think of—well, I'll think of it in a little while.

BP: Well, overall, the police were very benign.

HM: Police were absolutely wonderful.

BP: They were so—I mean, I don't think anybody ever really . . .

HM: Well, they'd take you home. [*BP laughs*] Make you go home.

BP: Yeah, they would.

HM: You know, I mean, I'll be honest. I was stopped several times, and they told me to go home, and they followed me home. And they said, "Do not get in that car again tonight." And so I didn't. And they were great.

BP: They were.

HM: There was one named Riggins. And he was my favorite. He seemed to catch me every time and [*laughter*] . . .

SL: He knew where to look.

HM: Yeah, I guess that's it. He knew where to look.

SL: Yeah.

[02:15:56] HM: But—and old Judge Pitak . . .

BP: Yep.

HM: . . . he was a disciplinarian if I ever saw one. He gave you a lecture whether you wanted it or needed it or whether you were even innocent, you'd get a lecture. And that's a Ronnie Hawkins story. I was in there one day when he—I'll back up. I was driving back from Tulsa one night. And about nine o'clock, and I got the intersection of Leverett and 16. And I stopped, and over the hill up there by Leverett School came this car just flying off—left the ground, went past me. Jiminy Christmas. And I saw this—it was Hawkins driving a guy named Blue's three-tone Riviera Buick. And about a minute or two right behind him over the hill came the poor old Fayetteville police in a Chevrolet with—that had a maximum top speed of ninety. *[Laughter]*

[02:16:59] And so we—I said, "Well, I'm gonna follow them." *[Laughter]* So I went out there, and Hawkins got into the university farm out there when the corn was in season. And he'd pull—you know, he was driving around there, and he'd let 'em go by, and he'd honk his horn and flash his lights and and pull out behind 'em, and this went on for about ten minutes. And then all of a sudden, he stuck the car somehow. Got into a wet area out there in the field and bogged the car down. So they nabbed him. So he goes to court next day. Judge Pitak's up there and starts one of his lectures, and Ronnie kept sayin',

"Now, Judge, your blood pressure. Remember your blood pressure." [*Laughter*] Pow! "Fifty dollars." And when it got to about three hundred, even Hawkins shut up, you know.

SL: Those were the days.

HM: But you know, that was—you know, if you did that today, I guess they'd just lock you up forever.

BP: Or shoot you. [*Laughter*]

SL: Yeah.

HM: Yeah, they'd be shootin' the tires out from under you.

SL: Yeah.

HM: But they were awful nice to me. That's all I say.

BP: I don't think anybody ever got into any trouble, really.

HM: No, we were always . . .

BP: Pretty nice.

HM: The only thing we were doin' was racing, you know.

BP: Yeah.

[02:18:32] HM: And—which was not the safest thing in the world, but I mean, we were—we weren't drinking in those day—I mean, you know. You might . . .

BP: That's right.

HM: . . . be lucky if you found a beer somebody had or somethin', but you weren't really . . .

BP: That's right.

HM: . . . drinking. That wasn't that easy to do.

[02:18:53] TM: Where would you race? Was there a place?

BP: Wedington Road. Was it . . .

HM: Well, we'd go out to Lake Wedington, that straight stretch out there. We'd go to—what's the . . .

SL: Goshen.

HM: . . . intersecting road out there by the university farm and where you cut through from . . .

BP: Yeah.

HM: . . . from Gregg to . . .

BP: I know.

HM: . . . from Gregg to Leverett or whatever. It's—Billy Woodfield lives there—lived there. That . . .

BP: That big ol' house, yeah. That pretty farm house.

HM: There's a straight stretch right in there that goes right between—right after you come off the bypass onto . . .

SL: Porter Road? Deane Street? TM: No, I think it's where . . .

HM: No, no.

TM: . . . Pendergraft lives.

SL: Oh, Drake.

HM: Drake.



SL: Drake. Yeah.

HM: Is that it?

SL: Yeah.

HM: That was a favorite place. And . . .

SL: We always went out to Goshen, 45, and that straight stretch there this side of Goshen.

HM: Yeah. Been there.

SL: Circle H.

[02:19:59] HM: Yeah, been there. But—and then I made the fatal



mistake of—Howell Trumbo and Jim Hatfield and I had three Pontiac convertibles the same year. Trumbo's was black, Hatfield's was red, and mine was white. And mine was the fastest. And we took off, and as we went by the courthouse right down here, Riggins and another guy were parked there, and so here they, you know, here they came. So about Dickson Street light, well, we started slowin' down enough to where we could stop in Safeway—or IGA's parking lot. So that's why I love the police. They gave me a ticket for doin' ten miles over the speed limit. They gave Howell one for fifteen miles over the speed limit, and they gave Hatfield one for forty-five miles over the speed limit, and he was running third. *[Laughter]*

BP: Oh, that's funny.

SL: That is funny.

[02:21:31] HM: Well, I remember Barbara, what, you know, how hot she was. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Yeah, by all accounts.

HM: Mmm, boy. She'd put on that Bulldog sweater, and you'd just make a grown man cry, you know. [*Laughter*] But we were always friends.

BP: Yes. Good, good friends.

HM: Always have been, and hell, if David hadn't come along, I'd've probably married her. [*BP laughs*]

BP: Since I've been married for fifty—how many years?

HM: I had to wait for . . .

BP: Fifty-three, fifty four.

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . I had to wait for her to get old enough to where she could stay out late enough to make it worthwhile. [*Laughter*]

BP: I know it. I have to hand, he was severe, wasn't he? Oh.

SL: Well, I bet Porter kinda looked out for you, too, a little bit.

BP: Porter was good to do that.

HM: I love Porter.

BP: He was.

HM: Love Porter.

BP: No one argued with Porter, I don't think.

HM: Hm-mm. Porter . . .

BP: He was pretty big. Yeah.

HM: I had that—we played bridge, Porter and your mother, and we played bridge every Saturday night or Friday night or whatever night it was for years.

BP: Absolutely, and that was a continuing bridge game that kept—it would start sometimes in the morning, and people would come in and sit in for the fourth. You know, we would keep it goin' all day. If somebody would go to class, they'd come back, take a hand, play for an hour, then somebody else would come in. And it was so wonderful, all of that. My brother Porter was probably the best bridge player I've ever known. He could remember every card. He knew where everything was.

HM: He was a good one.

BP: He was really good.

HM: Mh-hmm. So was my mother, though.

[02:23:34] BP: Yeah, bridge was a great game. I don't know if people play it that much anymore.

HM: I don't know either. It's—I haven't played in so long I . . .

BP: Me either.

HM: . . . I wouldn't even know how to begin. But it—back then, it

was great.

BP: It was.

HM: And then backgammon came along, and I got—played that till I was cross-eyed, and I haven't played it in twenty-five years.

BP: Yeah.

HM: So I don't know if I could even—I couldn't even set the board up now. But . . .

[02:24:07] SL: So I'm a little—you went someplace else to school, though, didn't you? I mean, we didn't talk about—didn't you go to an academy somewhere at some point in your . . .

BP: St. John's.

SL: St. John's.

HM: St. John's Military Academy.

SL: Now where is that?

BP: But that was when you were in school. You weren't—you were in ju . . .

HM: High school.

BP: High school.

SL: Where . . .

HM: Well . . .

SL: . . . where is St. John's?

HM: It was the . . .

BP: In . . .

HM: . . . tenth grade.

BP: Yes.

HM: So it . . .

BP: I remember when you all came . . .

HM: Tenth, eleventh. I would say it . . .

BP: You all would come home for Christmas break.

HM: Yeah, we . . .

BP: St. John's. It was in . . .

HM: It was a four-year high school, and I went in freshman year and sophomore year. Junior year I came back here and went and did so poorly I went back there my senior year. It's in Delafield, Wisconsin, probably one of the coldest spots in the United States during the wintertime.

[02:25:08] BP: Isn't that the truth? I think it is, Wisconsin.

HM: It's surrounded by lakes. It's a—it was a good school. I mean, unfortunately, it was a boy's school. So—and I think that tends to cause more problems than if it was a good—girl school—girls were included because, I don't know, you had more time to dream up plots. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

HM: But it was still a good school, and it was, you know, it was—the

atmos—the—it was a place where you had to study, which was good. It really taught me—they taught me how study. If they taught me nothing else, they taught me how study, which is, I think, harder to do—would have been harder for me to do in Fayetteville. There were just too many distractions.

SL: Too many fights?

HM: And up there, you know, there—you didn't have much of anything else to do, so . . .

[02:26:27] SL: So this was a—was it a Catholic school or Episcopal?

HM: No, it was a . . .

BP: Military school.

HM: . . . it's a military school, and it was Episcopal based, the religious part of it. But . . .

SL: So was this something that your dad just kind of mandated that you were gonna go there or . . .

HM: No, actually, I think Jack Budd told me he was thinking about goin' there. And I said, "Well, I'll go with you" type of deal. No, it was really funny. It wasn't like most of the students who came from Chicago. And there was an old saying in Chicago, you know, if you had money, you went to St. John's. If you didn't, you went to St. Charles, which was the Illinois state boys prison. [*Laughter*] So . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . it was an eye-opening experience for a kid from Fayetteville, Arkansas . . .

[02:27:32] BP: I think that's why your parents sent you and . . .

HM: . . . to go up there and see a whole new different culture than you'd ever, you know, ever seen. I mean, my first roommate was a Greek. His dad had come over. His dad was—could speak English, but it had a heavy accent, so he was Greek. My second roommate was pure Italian. His father couldn't speak—if he could speak English, he never did say. He just grunted. People—the family knew what the grunts meant, you know.

*[Laughter]*

SL: One grunt means—yeah.

HM: I didn't know, but—and then Jewish—I had one Jewish—I mean, I don't think I'd ever seen a Jewish person. Never seen a Jew. Didn't know that there was a difference. So I mean, it was Greek, I never had seen a Greek, never had seen an Italian. Maybe I'd seen an Italian 'cause I think at George's—a guy at George's was Italian, but bein' subjected to these different cultures—and I went, lucky enough, I went home with some of 'em in Chicago, and you sit down to a Greek meal, which, you know, here you—it was roast beef and spinach and black-eyed

peas. And up there I didn't know what it was. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

HM: And the Italian meal really got me.

BP: Oh boy.

HM: I don't think I'd ever had any—even spaghetti. And all I knew is the first thing I was served, I tried to stab it with my fork, and it ran across the plate. And when you're fourteen years old, you—"Whoa." [*Laughter*] And of course, big mamma's looking at you and makin' sure you're gonna eat every bite. And I moved it from one side to the other. And it—but those were an education into themselves. I mean, that was, you know . . .

[02:29:43] BP: I think that's why your parents . . .

HM: . . . something that nobody around here had ever experienced.

BP: . . . wanted you to go. Don't you think that's why your parents wanted you to go, to expose you to something outside of Fayetteville?

HM: I think so.

BP: Because everybody in Fayetteville—and it's still true today—people love Fayetteville. Some kids come here to school, and they never leave.

HM: That's right.

BP: You know. And we loved growing up here. It was wonderful.



HM: Right.

BP: And we didn't go anywhere else. So I think your parents had a lot of foresight to think that it might be good to have—see a little bit more of the world. Yeah.

SL: Was the . . .

HM: Well, you probably didn't know—like me, you probably didn't know ten people with a last name over six letters.

BP: No, that's right. Yeah . . .

HM: I mean . . .

BP: . . . Mr. Sanger was the only Jewish person I ever met . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . who managed the Boston Store—I used to work there. So—but I didn't know he was Jewish. It didn't occur to me . . .

HM: No, because there was no . . .

BP: . . . that he was Jewish. [*Laughs*]

HM: . . . there was no temple in—there was no place of worship here in Fayetteville. So . . .

BP: Yeah. That's right.

HM: I don't know about Guisinger. I don't know if they were Jewish or . . .

BP: I don't know. I don't know.

[02:30:51] HM: But anyway, you just didn't, you know . . .

BP: You didn't know too many.

HM: . . . you didn't know any.

[02:30:55] SL: Was any of the curriculum Biblically based? Was it . . .

HM: No. Hm-mm.

SL: You didn't study any of the . . .

HM: No, it wasn't . . .

BP: Religious. It was . . .

HM: . . . no, it wasn't . . .

BP: . . . military.

HM: . . . it wasn't daily, you know, prayer services or any of that. I mean, it—they did have a service on Sunday. And they had—they had one night service on Saturday night or very short kind of service, but that was it. There wasn't any in-classroom prayers or any Biblical studies or—it wasn't pushed. And I mean, really, it was more of a military academy than any kind of religious school. It just happened that I guess whoever founded it happened to be an Episcopalian or something. So when he built the chapel, he got an Episcopal priest, and then it's . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . stayed that way, you know. But it wasn't funded by a church. And it was a—you know, I mean, one of my roommates

was a—you know, why I didn't learn to ice skate, I don't know, because one of my roommates was a star hockey player, you know. And you know, the lake was about a hundred and fifty yards, and of course, once it froze over in the wintertime, you could drive a bulldozer out there. I mean, it just froze solid. And you know, all the kids from up north skated, and I never did skate. I was always playin' basketball or runnin' track indoors or somethin' else, and I kinda regret that I didn't take that opportunity to learn how to ice skate. But . . .

[02:32:57] SL: What about athletics growing up? Were you—did you do team sports and . . .

HM: I did 'em all.

SL: You did 'em all.

HM: Yeah.

SL: Did you have a favorite?

HM: Football, eventually. I mean, at one time, I was playin' baseball, basketball, runnin' track, playin' tennis, and playin' football. And I became [*thunder rumbles*]*—oh, what is it? Master of none. Jack of all trades . . .*

SL: Trades . . .

HM: . . . and a master of none.

SL: None, yeah.

HM: Yeah, that was me, you know. I just liked playing in sports, so I—and I didn't really concentrate. It got to the point to where I couldn't run track and play tennis, though, because they were goin' on . . .

SL: Same time.

HM: . . . at the same time. I couldn't—and literally, in some cases, I ran a race and then went over and played a tennis match, so I dropped tennis. And I dropped baseball, and then eventually dropped basketball and kind of stuck with football and track.

[02:34:06] SL: Who was your football coach?

HM: I don't know. His name was Larson or somethin'. I can't—we had a—it was amazing. We had all the talent. And our line, our high school line, averaged more than the Razorbacks.

SL: Ooh, that's big.

HM: Our high school line . . .

SL: Wisconsin boys . . .

HM: . . . was two hundred and—205 pounds or somethin' like that.

BP: Good gosh.

HM: And Arkansas's was 195. And Fayetteville High was like 175.

And we had huge guys on there, you know, big Polish guys,

big—one guy from Syria. And they were—and there was no age

limit. One of my favorite players was twenty years old. And he

was from Chicago, and he was already—he was all-city in Chicago, and he got into some kind of a jam, and they sent him to—the parents sent him to St. John's, and man, was he great on the . . .

BP: Hmm. That's interesting.

HM: . . . on the football team. I mean, he played defensive end, and I was a D-back. And if anybody messed with me, I just went up there and said, "This guy, twenty-three, keeps comin' over and tryin' to block me." So next play, my man might miss a block completely or we gotta go for a touchdown, and number twenty-three wouldn't get up. [*Laughter*] So—but gosh, I mean, it was really a talented team. And the problem with private schools is that, you know, number one, you don't have any girls in the stands. And most of your parents aren't there. So the crowds are, you know, zilch. Crowds are mostly the schools you're playin'. [*Thunder rumbles*]

SL: Yeah.

[02:35:59] HM: The opposition. And I don't think the coaching staff was—I mean, his main job was teachin' history or something like that. He just agreed to coach the football team. Same way with track. We had a world-class track team. We ran the fastest time in high school track in our relays. And—but we didn't get

any better. We didn't even have track—didn't even have indoor track shoes. I ran in tennis shoes, so—but I remember we went to Milwaukee Journal Relays, which was one of the biggest indoor track meets in the country, like a crowd of ten or fifteen thousand people. And we got invited to go there. I never saw the coach. [*Laughter*] We'd wander around there and ask people what time we're supposed to run. And so from that standpoint, I think I could have been better at a lot of sports than I was. But by the time I got through St. John's, then my sporting days were over. But anyway, I sure enjoyed it for a while. I went to . . .

SL: Sounds like you came out of it stronger than . . .

HM: Well . . .

SL: . . . when you went in.

HM: . . . yeah. It—my emphasis shifted, you know, a lot. Sports weren't—winnin' and, you know, winnin' and losin' weren't that big a deal to me anymore in sports, and I was moving on to—actually more interested in school, which was a first.

[02:37:58] SL: Yeah. So you come back to Fayetteville for your senior year? Is that . . .

HM: No, I was back here for my junior year. I went back up there. In Fayetteville, I didn't do too well. I—there's too many . . .

BP: Too many distractions.

HM: . . . too many distractions. Too many . . .

SL: Too many girls?

HM: Yeah, too many cheerleaders.

BP: Too much fun. [*Laughter*]

HM: And so I really wanted—I went—I wanted to go back. I said, you know, I'm—I went to my dad, and I said, "If you'll give me a new car, I'll go back." He said, "You got it." I said, "Well, that wasn't very hard to" . . .

SL: You should have upped that ante a little. [*Laughter*]

HM: But it was a good experience.

[02:38:54] SL: So after that, after you graduated up there, then what happens? You come back here or . . .

HM: I didn't graduate up—well, yeah, I graduated up there. Came back here and went to the university, which was—you know, I tried to sell the University of Miami and one other school in Florida, and they're lookin' at me . . .

BP: On the beach? [*Laughs*]

HM: . . . and sayin', "Your house is on the campus. It doesn't cost you a thing to live here. You don't have to have a car, really, because you can walk to all your classes."

BP: Oh, it's so practical.

HM: "And you're wantin' to go to—fifteen hundred miles away to the University of Miami? I don't think so." [*BP laughs*] So, I mean, they were right. And if I wanted to go away, I shoulda upgraded the [*laughter*] school.

BP: The demands.

HM: Yeah. Anyway, came back, went to the university, and then enjoyed . . .

BP: Were you a business major, or what was your major?

HM: Finance and general business, financing, you know, major. Halfway through my senior year is when we went into the marine corps. So I missed that . . .

BP: That was so crazy.

HM: . . . I missed that semester, which I had to make up to graduate.

[02:40:33] SL: You come back and do that, and that's when your father passed?

HM: Yeah, during that semester. And also I'd gotten married.

[*Thunder rumbles*] So that . . .

SL: That was . . .

HM: . . . somewhat anchored me.

SL: . . . Melanie.

HM: To Melanie Parker. And then next fall, we had our first child.

Misty, or Melissa, McIlroy. And three years later had our second



one, Melinda McIlroy. And then we got divorced after ten years. And I got remarried about three years later, and we had one child, Michelle McIlroy. So I've got three girls, all *Ms.* They can pass their monogrammed shirts down. [*BP laughs*] And girls are wonderful. They use a lot of toilet paper. [*Laughter*] They—other than that, they're all right.

[02:41:58] SL: Well now, so you're comin' and goin', and then, of course, Barbara hookin' up with D. P.—y'all kinda—your paths kinda split apart. But y'all . . .

HM: I felt like . . .

BP: We always . . .

HM: . . . I'd been deserted at that point, you know. [*Laughter*]

BP: We were always best friends, though, even though we . . .

HM: Well, we . . .

BP: . . . went different directions.

HM: Oh yeah, we—yeah.

BP: And David loves Hayden, so you know, it was a natural thing to continue the friendship.

HM: Oh, we did. We went to Washington to see 'em, went to Chicago to the convention.

BP: [*Nineteen*] sixty-eight.

SL: Wow.

HM: Went to New York to—David's favorite—to see Redd Foxx.

[*Laughter*] And . . .

[02:42:42] SL: Okay, now, these are some stories. We can't just say we just went there. I wanna hear—well, you know, I think we need to hear about—let's hear about the Chicago convention first. What was that like?

HM: Oh man.

BP: That was [19]68, yeah . . .

HM: Smoke bombs and stink bombs goin' off and . . .

BP: I was actually maced in Chicago from—the wind blew—you know, the police were throwing these bombs at everybody, and the wind would blow . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . it back on you.

SL: So you didn't have it comin'?

BP: [*Laughs*] Of course not.

SL: Okay.

BP: I was just havin' fun.

SL: Okay. [*Laughter*]

HM: She was in the park, though.

BP: I was in the park.

HM: I was in the hotel. [*Laughter*]

SL: No, really, I mean, that was kind of a . . .

BP: That was an exciting convention.

SL: Yeah. That's a big moment in political history.

HM: Exciting times. Yeah, it was—I never was afraid, but probably 'cause I was still so young it didn't, you know, I didn't weigh any risk. But it was awesome to watch out the windows, you know. You got police on horses, you know, and ridin', beatin' these, you know . . .

BP: Students, yeah.

HM: . . . students with batons and . . .

SL: Vietnam War was . . .

HM: . . . signs and guys and megaphones out in the park, you know, preachin'. I guess in the hotel somebody dropped a stink bomb in the elevator shaft. And . . .

SL: Wasn't me. I wasn't there. [*Laughter*]

HM: It was, I don't know, it was kinda—what'd you think?

BP: It was. It was exciting . . .

HM: Yeah.

BP: . . . but serious, too.

HM: Yeah.

[02:44:38] SL: So did you guys . . .

BP: Civil disobedience.

SL: . . . were you actually in the convention? Did you get to be inside . . .

BP: On the floor?

SL: . . . the convention hall or anything?

HM: I just was hangin' out with them.

SL: Yeah?

HM: I wasn't . . .

BP: David was on the—David was the head of his delegation.

SL: Delegation, yeah.

BP: Yeah, he was actually on the credentials committee, so he worked a lot of the time, so Hayden and—we all were runnin' around seeing Chicago. But there was a taxi strike, so you had to walk everywhere.

HM: Yeah. We were . . .

BP: So we were out in the midst of it a lot of times.

[02:45:18] HM: We—that was one of my old roommates that had lunch with us one day.

BP: Yes, and you told me . . .

HM: Guy named Dennis . . .

BP: . . . "Whatever"—what was . . .

HM: . . . Dennis Kyros. He was a Greek—my Greek roommate.

BP: Kyros. And you said, "Whatever you do, whatever you do, don't

look at his nose." [*HM laughs*]

HM: So that—course, she's [imitates BP looking overtly]. [*Laughter*]

BP: But then the first thing you say was, "What happened to your nose?" He had a nose job, didn't he?

HM: Yeah.

BP: And his nose was . . .

HM: Perfect.

BP: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

HM: But he had a—kind of a beak . . .

BP: Snoz—didn't you call him Snoz?

HM: . . . high school, he had a beaky nose, you know.

BP: A beaky nose.

HM: And that's what I called him, Beaky. [*Laughter*] So . . .

BP: Hayden always named everybody.

HM: He passed away about two or three years ago.

BP: I didn't know that.

HM: Yeah.

BP: Nice person.

HM: It was horrible. He had MS or . . .

BP: Oh, I'm sorry. Didn't know.

[02:46:21] SL: Okay now, what about New York and Redd Foxx?

HM: Oh, listen. We were in New York, and I said, "David," I said,

"Looky here. Redd Foxx is playin' down in the Village," or someplace. I for—no, it wasn't the Village. It was some place, which I didn't know where it was. "We've got to go down and see him." "Well who is he?" And I said, "Well, he's this comedian." Said, "You'll love him." [*Laughter*] And he'd just started his TV show, you know, and it was hysterical.

SL: Yeah.

HM: So load 'em in a taxi, we go down there. I think we were the only white people [*laughter*] in this. And we're sittin' there like four white birds on the fence. And Redd Foxx was the nasty . . .

BP: He was the most obscene . . .

HM: I mean, it was . . .

BP: I have never in my life, and David had never . . .

HM: And David Pryor was wearin' the seat of his pants out scooching, you know. [*Laughter*] He was so nervous he was wearin' his clothes out from the inside out. And . . .

BP: He was obscene.

HM: Finally they took—we were afraid just to get up and walk out. I mean, it would have been a little obvious. [*Laughter*] Finally he took a break. Remember that?

BP: Yes.

[02:47:42] HM: And we went outside, and I'll never forget. We're

sittin' on the curb waitin' for a taxi come, but just prayin' that a cab would come over to this neighborhood and we'll flag him down. And David said, "God, don't ever tell anybody I went to this thing." [*Laughter*]

BP: It was. It was shocking. I mean . . .

HM: He said it was . . .

BP: . . . man, it was shocking.

HM: He said, "That's the worst language I've ever heard in my life."

BP: I know it was. It was, absolutely. Nasty. Bad.

HM: "Don't ever tell"—he said, "Don't ever tell anybody I came to see Redd Foxx." [*Laughter*] And years later, he told me he heard from him.

[02:48:26] BP: Is that right? Hmm. Well, then he had that very successful television show, which . . .

HM: Oh yeah, that had just started . . .

BP: . . . was not obscene.

HM: . . . when we . . .

BP: Yeah.

HM: That's what made me go see him.

BP: He was a star, you know, he was—became a big star.

HM: But he was on his home ground in that place, I'm telling you.

BP: I know it. [*Laughs*]

SL: Did D. P. say what he had to say to him?

HM: Oh, some—yeah, he said income tax or somethin' that was . . .

BP: Oh, he wanted help, yeah. [*Laughter*]

HM: He wanted help. David said, "No, I saw your show. Don't ever call me."

SL: Oh! [*Laughter*] He didn't say that.

HM: No, he's too nice to say that.

BP: By then he was braggin' about it. By then he was braggin' about it.

SL: Yeah.

BP: "I saw one of your shows" . . .

SL: Yeah.

BP: . . . "back in the day."

HM: Yeah, he said, "I saw your—caught your show in New York. Oh, that's a good show." [*Laughter*]

[02:49:18] SL: Well, he was pretty famous for how awful . . .

BP: Obscenity.

SL: The obscenities, yeah.

HM: Well, see, I didn't know it. I just . . .

BP: I didn't know it, either.

HM: His show had just started, and I'd seen one or two episodes of it, and I said, "Man, that guy's funny." I was readin' the paper in



New York, and I said, "God, David, we gotta go down here."

SL: Well, you guys got to see some history there. I mean, not many people . . .

BP: Yeah.

SL: . . . got to see that show.

HM: No.

BP: That's right. One of our great adventures.

HM: No, it would've never gotten south of Missouri because  
[laughter] . . .

SL: Oh brother.

HM: Oh man.

[02:49:57] SL: Well, what a—tell me some more stories about the  
two of you, or the four of you, or—what other big adventures?

BP: Darn. Let's see. What do you think? I'm trying to think.

HM: Well, I've got one. [BP laughs]

SL: Well . . .

BP: What is it?

HM: I better not tell it. Well, that time you were datin' Jack Budd  
and . . .

BP: Yes.

HM: . . . he and I took a boys night out?

BP: Yes.

HM: And you and Pat Ferinberg took a girls night out?

BP: Yes.

HM: And Mickey Crigger got with you somehow?

BP: Yes.

HM: And Jack and I were picked up for bein' drunk down in the Baldwin Piano parking lot, and they thought we were stealing hubcaps. [*Laughter*] And so they kept us up there in jail for a couple of hours and let us go. Decided we were harmless. Meantime, Barbara and her crew I think drank too much and . . .

BP: That's right.

HM: So they got into more trouble than I got into.

[02:51:22] BP: Yes, my mother said, "I want you to call me every hour on the hour," 'cause she didn't like Pat. She thought she was a bad influence. So I'd call her—I think I called her at nine, then I called her at ten.

SL: Ooops.

BP: Then eleven when she called, or whenever we were—I think she called—there was just this insane laughter. No one ever said hello or anything. It was just, "Hahaha hahaha." [*Laughter*] And so she, naturally, and my father came over there.

HM: Oh, I know.

BP: It was not pretty . . .

HM: No.

BP: . . . as I recall. I was very, very sick. [*Laughter*]

HM: Well, you were drinkin' somebody's sloe gin.

BP: [*Laughs*] Oh, it was funny. Thinking about it. It wasn't at the time.

HM: But it's funny that here the boys have a night out and the girls have a night out, and I don't know who's got in . . .

SL: The girls get in more trouble.

BP: . . . worse trouble, you know what I mean. But we didn't do any more of that.

BP: Yeah, I don't think I ever drank again after that. I was so sick.

HM: Oh, it was a long time before I did.

BP: I know. I never could tolerate it.

[02:52:40] SL: Well, Hayden, how did you and Melanie meet?

HM: She was a freshman—well, we were both freshmen. I just met her at the student union, I think is where I met her. Yeah, I know that's where I met her. And we just started dating and . . .

SL: Now where was she from?

HM: Lewisville.

SL: Lewisville.

BP: Extraordinarily beautiful girl.

HM: Got married and . . .

BP: Oh, she was so luscious. Beautiful girl.

HM: . . . we lasted ten years, and then we just kind of parted ways.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And anyway, she's deceased now, so . . .

SL: Well, you had two children.

HM: Two children came out of it.

SL: And they're healthy and . . .

HM: They're wonderful.

BP: They're wonderful, yeah.

HM: They're wonderful. And the third one's wonderful. I've been lucky with my children. They're all edu . . .

[02:53:57] BP: Is she a schoolteacher, Michelle?

HM: Well, she's got a teaching certificate. She hadn't taught yet, so . . .

BP: Oh, I thought she was teaching now.

HM: No, they fired all the teachers in Dallas.

BP: Oh. No, I didn't know that.

HM: It's not a good time for . . .

BP: Teachers.

HM: . . . teachers.

BP: Oh, that's too bad.

HM: Yeah.

BP: Terrible. Because of budget?

HM: Mh-hmm. Budget cutbacks and . . .

BP: That's terrible [*tuts*].

HM: They can hire, and they're not retiring. The ones that were up, you know, to retire are not retiring.

BP: Mh-hmm. Not replacing any people.

HM: And because their husbands have—income's gone down or for whatever reason—because of the economy, they're not leavin', and they're not hirin' any new ones. And there's the ones that are tryin' to get jobs have twenty years of experience, which . . .

BP: Sure.

HM: It's a tough market.

BP: Yes.

[02:54:53] HM: And I really encouraged her to do—to get her teaching certificate because I said, "Now there is a job, Michelle. I'm explaining this to you. Let your old dad tell you how this works. Once you're a teacher, you're on solid ground, you know. You won't make much money, but you got great hours."

BP: Always, always got a job . . .

HM: "And you got a lot of vacation and you got great benefits. And you got stability. They don't fire teachers." And so I don't—she

hasn't asked me yet when this kicks in, so—but . . .

BP: Yeah, that's too bad.

HM: Her timing was a little rough.

[02:55:33] SL: And Melody is an attorney. Is that right?

HM: Melinda.

BP: No.

SL: I mean, Melinda.

BP: Melinda.

SL: Melinda is an attorney.

BP: Melinda's the attorney.

HM: Melinda is the attorney for the state and for Human Services.

Twelve years, I believe. She's probably been at it for twelve years. Melissa's been the one in Little Rock. She's Melissa Hawkins now. She has two children, a daughter, Anne-Elise, who's a junior at Arkansas. And a son, Walker, who's graduating next month from Central in Little Rock and be going to University of Virginia. And her husband, Drake, is a great dentist. Has a fabulous practice. And she has decided at about fifty years old to go and get a doctorate degree, so she's now a doctor of education.

SL: Very good.

HM: Don't know if she'll work or not, but she got that. And I've got

her thesis if you want to read it. I've been lookin' at it for  
[*laughter*] about six months. It's that thick. [Uses fingers to  
suggest thickness of several inches]

BP: Is it? What is the subject?

HM: Oh, how to better educate your children or somethin'. [*BP  
laughs*] I . . .

BP: Maybe we oughta . . .

HM: . . . I don't know. I've just got it on a table like a coffee book.

SL: Not many pictures, though.

BP: Maybe we oughta publish it.

[02:57:08] HM: No, there's no pictures in it. And it's not great big  
type. So—but I'm proud of all of 'em.

BP: Yes. And they're all beautiful. Very beautiful girls.

HM: They are. And they're close to Mary Joe. I think all of 'em are  
close to Mary Joe. And she did a great job of raisin' Michelle.  
And does a great—continues to do a fabulous job. But—and  
she's more McIlroy than McIlroy. She said, "Be sure and put  
that in." Said, "I know more about the McIlroys than you'll ever  
know." And . . .

SL: So that's who I should be talking to?

BP: Oh, we should have brought her. She would have been good.

HM: "I, you know, I promote McIlroys, and you don't do anything.

And" . . .

SL: Well, maybe we should just send her the transcript, then. Let her go over it.

HM: Well, she'd damn sure edit it and get some more time out of it for her. [*Laughter*] But I don't know if you've got enough tape to do her.

SL: Well, I probably do. So . . .

TM: Scott, we should probably change tapes.

SL: Okay, let's change tapes.

[Tape stopped]

[02:58:46] SL: Is this tape four?

TM: This is tape four.

SL: Tape four. So we're working on our fourth hour.

HM: [*Sighs*] That's enough. [*BP laughs*]

SL: Well, actually, you know, we got you in the bank, and you know, you were kind of in line to run the bank, but I got the feeling that what you didn't realize being in line meant also was this group of folks that helped shape what was gonna happen in Fayetteville and Northwest Arkansas, and kind of become one of the go-to people to help the place become what it's become. So did that kinda catch you off guard, that . . .

HM: Oh yeah. I'm twenty-one years old . . .



SL: That's right.

HM: . . . and now I'm sittin' there with L. L. Baxter and Hal Douglas  
and . . .

SL: Has Deacon Wade already passed?

HM: Deacon Wade—no, Deacon was—yeah, Deacon was still active.  
And oh gosh, Buck—oh, Buck Lewis was there for a while, and  
then John came in. And El Shelton, and I'm leaving somebody  
out.

[03:00:13] SL: So you were the young'un among all the fathers . . .

HM: Yeah.

SL: . . . there.

HM: Yeah. Oh, Clark McClinton.

SL: Yep, Clark McClinton. So you probably learned quite a bit pretty  
quick.

HM: Yeah, I mean, it was a great experience. I mean, there's no  
denying that. I mean, it was an experience that not many  
twenty-one-year-old people are gonna experience. You know, I  
mean, it's more like somethin' you're gonna experience when  
you're forty years old, not twenty years old. And it was good  
training. It was wonderful to be in that position.

SL: The bank was in good shape?

HM: The bank was in good shape.

[03:01:16] SL: Was there—did you enjoy the bank side of it as much as the—as this other side of . . .

HM: [*Sighs*] Yeah, I wish I had—I wish I'd've had more experience. I think if I'd've had a chance to have more experience doin' anything, it would have benefitted my banking ability, whether it—if I'd've worked for a construction company or anything else, you know. But I came straight out of school into the banking business, which [*clears throat*], you know, was not that complicated when I first went in there because banks were heavily regulated and your competition were the other banks and the S&Ls. And the S&Ls really weren't competitions because they could only lend on long-term mortgages on homes and not the type of assets that the banks wanted to lend on. And then the geniuses decided that they just needed to deregulate everything, and as a consequence, all the S&Ls went broke, and half the banks went broke. And it completely changed, and now it just—it seems to me it just gets worse. Now they make Goldman Sachs and all these investment banks—they make 'em banks. And they're allowed to go in and borrow money from the Fed without any regulation. I mean, it's just amazing to me. And it's got to be tough on small banks because you know that if you're too big to fail, you're not gonna fail, and if you're not too



big to fail, they're gonna step on you like a, you know, like a bug. And I know they're bein' regulated and harassed by the regulators—at least the small banks are. And they're under pressure, and I'm—just in a way, I'm thankful I'm not in it.

SL: Sounds like it.

HM: No, I . . .

[03:03:51] SL: Who did you turn to, or rely on, in those early years?

HM: Well, I didn't really have many people to turn to. I mean, I really had to look to myself. I—there wasn't anybody in the family.

SL: Uncle Jim had already passed or . . .

HM: It—well, yeah. He died about that time that I graduated. And so that left me with two aunts and . . .

SL: Your mother.

HM: . . . a cousin. And my grandmother had died, and my mother was alive. So I had my mother and two aunts. And then eventually, you know, shortly thereafter, the aunts died. And then eventually the cousin died. And then my mother died, so there wasn't really anybody except myself.

SL: Well, you kept the bank out of trouble, though. There's that.

HM: Well, we kept the doors open, and I—but it was—it ceased to be fun—three or four years fore I just said, "You know, this isn't

worth it." I mean, things are, you know, they're gettin'—now, you know, they're—you almost were—you either had to get bigger, or you just had to sit there. And you didn't know which way to go, you know. Well, do you wanna buy more banks, or do you want to be absorbed by a bank? And I finally said, "Well, I think I'll just let somebody else fight this battle because it's gotten real tough."

[03:05:50] SL: So I guess about that time, Wal-Mart had emerged as a major retailer?

HM: Well, Jim Walton had always been in the banking business. He had little banks and started Bentonville, I guess. And then I think that was his bailiwick in the family organization, if I understand it right. And about that time, Bank of Fayetteville was organizing. And John and I talked, and that would have been—we were so—you know, we were such good friends, like, you know, "If I stay in this, who's gonna be in charge, me or John?" And we're too old to go out and duke it out again and then go back in and make up, keep goin'. But I didn't feel like [*clears throat*] that was the best interest of anybody. And Wal-Mart was the—you know, Jim Walton was an obvious choice. He was, you know, he was in the area. He had banks here. He had—by this time, he had [*coughs*] surrounding banks. He was

local. It wasn't sellin' out to Bank of America like First National did, and they immediately stripped everything out of the bank and left an empty building over there. I mean . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . I didn't want to see that happen. I wanted to see somebody that had enough financial stability that the bank would stay here.

[03:07:34] SL: Now had—was Gary Head with you or . . .

HM: He was with me at the time.

SL: He was with you. And so did the Waltons—did they try to keep the folks that you had with you for a while, or was there . . .

HM: I think Gary Head actually went somewhere else, and then the Waltons . . .

SL: Brought him back.

HM: . . . brought him back, if I remember right. I think he went maybe to First State or—I can't—or First National Springdale. I can't remember, and if I'm wrong, I'm wrong. But I think he had already left and gone and somewhere else, and then the Waltons brought him back. And then he left, as we know, he left here. He left the Waltons and started his own bank.

SL: Yeah. So your decision to go with the Arvest group, let them have the bank, and that kinda worked well for you personally, and you were kinda burned out on the banking business anyway.

HM: Yeah.

[03:08:39] SL: You kind of saw what the trend was going to be, and you didn't really feel like competing with John and going down that road. It . . .

HM: No.

SL: You just felt like it was time to get out.

HM: Yeah.

SL: Let go. Well, it was a good decision, wasn't it?

HM: I think so. It's got pros and cons, but I think it was an excellent decision. I think, you know, the time we've had in Dallas has been wonderful. I mean, I couldn't have made more or better friends than I've got, you know, down there and been exposed to more—you know, it's kind of like going to St. Johns, exposed to different culture. I mean, it's just—they think differently, they do different things. They—there's more energy. I mean, there's just—I don't know. I couldn't explain—I can't explain Dallas. It's not—there's not anything to me that's beautiful about Dallas. I think it's ugly. It's flat. The weather's terrible. In the spring, the wind blows you over tryin' to play golf, and then it gets too hot to play golf. And then it rains on you the rest of the time when it's, you know, in between those two things. And so . . .

SL: Well, a Razorback would say it's also Texas, right?

HM: And it's also Texas. [*SL laughs*] And—but the energy of the people is something that's kind of amazing. I mean, they are go-get—they just don't think anything's impossible. If it takes a billion dollars to build somethin', my gosh, they'll get out and raise a billion dollars. And they—and it shows. I mean, they—Dallas is becoming a—really a cultured—their downtown area is just amazing. I mean, in the last, oh, seven or eight years, I think they've built—you know, they've got the Nasher down there now, and the museums, and they got the performing arts center, and they've got the, you know, concert hall. And it's all tied together, and parks in between, and it's just like goin' into a different world than when I first went down there.

[03:11:16] SL: Well, what did you decide to do after—I mean, you [*HM clears throat*] sell the bank, you—what do you get into? What's the . . .

HM: Well, I get to Dallas. I didn't do anything for a while. I'd go up and sit in the Highland Park Village and drink coffee and look at my navel. [*Laughter*] And then I, you know, met a guy, and we were visiting, and we kinda hit it off. And he said, "Have you got an office?" And I said, "No, I've got one in my house, but you know, that's not—it's not working too well." And he said, "Well, shoot," he said, "I've got all this empty space." Said, "Why don't

you come in there and move in with us?" Well, I did. And that's been about twenty years ago. And so I've just stayed with him. We've moved about three times. I think we're gettin' ready to move again. But he runs a real estate investment company, and he does extremely well. And I do some deals—I do some deals with him, but I'm not part of his company. And I just sublet my little space, and I've got everything I need for an office. I got fax machines, copy machines. I've got FedEx envelopes. I've got, you know, stationary. I've got a secretary. I got answering service. I mean, it's ideal for me. If I came—didn't come back for a month or three months, they—that's fine, you know.

SL: Keeps goin'.

[03:13:00] HM: Keeps goin'. They don't need me to run their company. So it's been a great relationship. I will say that I miss Fayetteville. I think if—I think the best of both worlds is to live in Fayetteville and be able to travel. I would rather do—in a way, I'd rather do that than to live in Dallas and be able to travel because in Dallas, if you want, you know, you—it's not as exciting anymore to go to, you know, all the fine restaurants that you have in town. I've been to, you know, I've been to every one of 'em. And it's not like goin' out of town and goin' to a fine restaurant. It's—because they're right there in your back



door, you know, and that's got its advantages, but then you get—and say, "Well, gosh, I've been there. I don't wanna do that. I don't wanna, you know, go out and spend seven or eight hundred dollars on a meal," you know, and you don't feel like you're travelin', goin' anywhere to do that. You're just goin' across the street.

SL: Yeah.

HM: So—but on the other hand, if you do want to go to a wonderful concert, and you do want to go to all the first-run movies the minute they come out, and you do want to do certain things that you can't do here, they are available to you. But I find myself doin' less and less of 'em, you know, as time goes on. So I don't know how important they are to me now versus twenty years ago.

[03:14:50] SL: Well, do you have more family up in this area than you do down in Dallas, or is it kinda even or . . .

HM: Well, that—yes, I've got a daughter here. And I don't know—if I came up here, I'd have a daughter here and might have to leave one in Dallas.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Got one in Little Rock, so that's close enough. That works. The ideal situation would be able to fly Southwest out of here . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . because it's just impossible and expensive for me to get up here. I mean, American—you gotta go out there an hour and a half before the plane takes off, and then it's late. And then you get up here, and you drive forty-five minutes to get back down here, and you look at it, and it's taken longer than it does to drive.

SL: Yeah.

HM: Now just the only thing it's doin' is savin' wear and tear on yourself and your car. So Little Rock's a different story. I can jump on Southwest, which is six minutes from my house. And I don't have to go an hour before. I can go thirty minutes before the flight and still get on it. And so the ideal world would be to have Southwest come from Dallas to Fayetteville.

SL: Fayetteville.

HM: I think that'd be great.

SL: Gosh, don't we know anybody? [*Unclear words*].

BP: I think it's happening, isn't it? I thought that they were coming to northwest . . .

[03:16:23] SL: There was somebody was talkin' about some kind of service into Drake Field, I think, recently. But . . .

BP: I think Northwest, though—I thought that they had just . . .

HM: I don't think—I don't know. As much as I'd love to see 'em go into Drake Field, I don't know that they would—you know, I don't know that it would work.

SL: Yeah.

HM: You gotta member probably their big pasture load is connectin' in Dallas . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . on American. So I don't know what Southwest would be just somebody wanting to go to Dallas and no further 'cause they're not gonna go to Love Field and then get a taxi . . .

SL: Yeah, comes . . .

HM: . . . and spend seventy dollars to go out to . . .

[03:17:06] SL: Right, right. Well, where are you thinkin' about travelin' to?

HM: Oh, I don't know.

SL: Where do you wanna go?

HM: Oh, I don't know. I've been just . . .

BP: He's been everywhere.

HM: . . . I've been—no, there's a few places I haven't. [*Laughter*]  
But I like that option.

SL: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

HM: That's just an option. You don't have to take it. But no, I mean,

I enjoy traveling. And you know, I like to go to California in the United States. I like to go—there's a few countries I hadn't been to. New Zealand. I know Barbara's been to New Zealand. I'd love to go to New Zealand. I hear nothing but great things about New Zealand.

SL: Yeah. I've got some folks that live there.

HM: So—haven't been to China. I've been to the Middle East, but I haven't been to—Egypt and Israel, and I haven't been anywhere else. Where is it I was—Argentina. I hadn't been to Argentina.

SL: Patagonia.

HM: I think I flew through there, but I haven't been . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . to Buenos Aires.

SL: Yeah.

HM: So I mean, there's plenty of places that I could go if my bucket list—if I made my bucket list, I could probably get 'em all in.

[03:18:39] SL: Yeah. Well, Hayden, is there anything that we hadn't talked about that you think we oughta talk about? Any—I mean, we're—we got plenty of time. I don't want to totally wear you out, but at the same time I don't want you to feel like you're missin' somethin', but . . .

HM: I can't—I really can't think of anything. I mean, I . . .

SL: Is there anything else you wanna say about your kids or . . .

HM: Well, I mean, they're wonderful kids, you know. I mean, I got wonderful kids, a wonderful wife—wonderful two wives. I couldn't—you know, I haven't—I can't think of anything else to say about 'em other than they've been a pleasure and they—the children have been great. They've done everything right. It's amazing, too.

HM: And so I'm lucky. I'm blessed that way. I can't think of anything else. I . . .

[03:20:00] SL: You know, you were—you told us some really fun and some good stories about early friendships growing up, and I get the feeling that there's some real—still some real connections with your friends that you had early and that your friendships have continued. Is there—are there—is . . .

HM: Well, the only . . .

SL: . . . is there anything you wanna say about any of your friendships, or is there any—are there particular friendships that have real influence on you? I—we talked about—you talked about how St. John's had a big influence and kinda shifted your focus a little bit, and it's understandable how stepping into the bank at twenty-one completely changed your focus.

HM: Well, there's some friends I've had that've had a lotta influence.

Don Tyson—we traveled for years and years and years together. We've been all over the world together. Miss him. John Lewis—he was just kinda your base, your touchstones type of guy, you know, grew up with and knew him forever type of person where if you didn't see him for five years, you'd see him with—you know, immediately you saw him, it was like you just saw him five minutes ago, not five years ago. Course, Jimmy Hatfield's still around. And he was one of my high school buddies. Gosh, I'm tryin' to think. You go back to grade school, you're lookin' at Dash Goff, and we were talkin' about tough schools. Jefferson bein' number one on the list back in grade schools. Well, poor old Dash had to go to Jefferson. That probably affected him. [Laughter] Maybe explains him. And so . . .

[03:22:13] SL: Well, talk to me just a little bit about Don Tyson and what—what was it about Don that kept you guys together or . . .

HM: Oh, I don't know. I'd get mad at Don like you'd get mad at anybody, and I think he's—at times was hard to handle and went over the line. But he was—you know, one thing you could say about it, he was generous. And he was fair. If you made a deal with—you know, it's funny. I played golf in California with a guy about January, I think, January this year, and we're just talkin', and I said I was from Fayetteville. And he said, well, he, you

know, he had spent a lot of time in Fayetteville and Springdale. And I said, "Really?" And he said, "Yeah." He said, "I sold"—I guess his company built large freezers, and he'd done some business with Tyson's. And I said, "Really? Well, did you meet Don?" And he said, "Oh yeah. I met Don." And I said, "Well, how did it turn out?" He said, "I want to tell you somethin'."

[03:23:27] He said he built a two hundred thou—I think it was 200,000- or 300,000-square-foot freezer, maybe the biggest in the United States. "And I brought all these contracts in, and he said, 'I don't want a contract.'" He said, "We built that thing without a contract on either side." He said, "You couldn't do that today if your life depended on it." And I said, "No." And he said—Don told him—"he said, 'Look, you said you could do it for this.' He said, 'I expect you to do it for that.' And we got a deal, a handshake." And so I said, "Well." I said—and I know of two or three other things that—and that's unlike some of the other people that, you know, they retrade the trade, and they beat you up, and they call it business and all that. But Don—if Don told somebody he's gonna give him \$5 million for somethin', he'd write the check and then go do the due diligence.

SL: Yeah.

[03:24:33] HM: Which is very unusual. He is somewhat—Barbara

knows—he's somewhat bigger than life, and a lot of things he did, not only the way he lived, but the contributions he made that, you know, will be long-lasting that helped shape this whole area, and contributions to the university, contributions to the poultry industry, the way he grew the industry, the size of Tyson Foods home based in—right here in northwest Arkansas. I mean, that's amazing. John Lewis was—I talked about John. And we were just close personal friends. Dash, I've known since—Dash, now, was—since as long as I can remember. And I mean, I watched his dad, who I—I loved his dad. He was a bigger-than-life man. I tell—you know, he was somethin' out of the Texas oil fields. He would—he was loud. I remember our secretary in the bank said, "I just quake when Mr. Goff comes in. You can hear him comin' fore he ever gets through the door." [Laughter] And so he—and so Dash grew up under a kind of a living legend, which probably wasn't too easy. But Dash has always been—I've known him for seventy years, so that's a friend. Hatfield, I knew in high school, but I'm tryin' to think. I mean, I've lost so many . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . many of my friends. I'm leavin' some out, I know. But I went to high school in St. John's, so I don't have the high school



friends here 'cause I was only here a year.

SL: Yeah.

HM: And I was only in junior high a year, so that's where you, you know, you really make your—I think you establish your relationships more so than in the first seven grades.

[03:27:19] SL: What did you—what were your experiences with, say, Hal Douglas and Deacon Wade and those guys? I mean, was it just . . .

HM: Oh, I liked 'em. I mean, I liked 'em both, and they tolerated me. Hal Douglas—he was always nice to me, always nice. And Deacon—he was associated more with my father. Then I came along, and Deacon was—he was still in the bank for, oh, I'd say [*sighs*—I don't remember now, seven or eight, nine years, maybe, after I was there. And then he died. And—but he had slowed down. You know, he wasn't a representative anymore. He wasn't—I don't know that he was even practicing much . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . much at all. He had health problems, and so—but Hal Douglas was always, you know, he was always amazing guy. I mean, you know, he'd—I really liked him. I liked L. L. Baxter, who was—started Southwest Energy, or Southwest Arkansas Western Gas, as we knew it. He did a tremendous amount for

our area and always contributed. And Clark McClinton. I think he was probably on that school board with Hal Douglas when they integrated. Great guy, great to me. Like, I hate to name names because I'm gonna leave somebody out.

SL: You're gonna leave somebody out. Well, that's—I think people understand that, though, Hayden.

[03:29:34] HM: I mean, I worried about, you know, who have I, you know, who have I left out? And somebody says, "Well, why didn't he mention me? You know, I did this, this, and that for him, and I" . . .

SL: Well . . .

HM: You know, I just . . .

SL: . . . I think everyone understands that . . .

HM: Well, but . . .

SL: . . . you know, that's the nature of oral history. It's based on memory at the time that you're talkin' about it.

HM: Yeah, you can think of a million things after you turn this off.

SL: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

HM: But . . .

SL: Well, is there . . .

BP: I think—no, I think that's fine.

SL: Are we good?

BP: Yeah.

[03:30:01] TM: I have one little thing. I mean, you grew up over there on that hill at the university. What's it been like to see, basically, your home stomping grounds turn into what it has become?

HM: Well, that was—we were talkin' about earlier about one of the, you know, one of the prettiest streets in town was, you know, I guess Ozark, and it had all—it had some very impressive period homes, you know, all the way down the west side of the street, mostly with the chancellor's home, or the president's home, and my great-grandfather and grandfather's home, and then our home at the end of the street, and that's where Ozark ended. It's just that one strip. It turns . . .

SL: Yeah.

HM: . . . and when you turn the corner there, it turns into Duncan or somethin' else, Buchanan or—I can't remember now. But what really—when they started tearin' those houses down—first they tore down, I guess, my great-grandfather's house and put the cafeteria in there. That wasn't too bad. But then when they came in and put the high-rise dormitories there—and we never locked our doors. I mean, I grew up with never lockin' the door, and all of a sudden we had strangers in the house, you know.

And so we had to start lockin' doors, and it just changed. I mean, you know, we went from a neighborhood of thirty people or forty people to a neighborhood of five hundred. And I didn't want to sell that house because I knew that there was no way to replace that house even in the year I sold it, which would have been—uh—late [19]60s. But I knew that that house couldn't be, unless you wanted to spend a ton of money, couldn't be replaced. And—but on the other hand, I didn't wanna—you know, it was no longer a neighborhood—no longer a residential neighborhood. So I sold it. And would love to have it back. I might put a big, tall fence around it, you know, like Gitmo or somethin'. *[Laughter]* And . . .

SL: Yeah.

BP: Yeah, that would be fun.

HM: Yeah.

BP: To have it there.

[03:32:43] SL: Well, I think they're puttin' a trail in that goes by it now.

HM: Well, yeah, they're buildin' that trail. They're cuttin'—I used to walk . . .

TM: It's back behind there, and it's really nice. It's cool.

HM: Is it? I used to go down there. The honeysuckle was really—

you could crawl under that honeysuckle and hide from anybody.

[*Laughter*]

SL: Many times.

HM: Yeah.

[03:33:01] SL: Well, Hayden, man, anything else? I . . .

HM: I can't think of anything. I think you've pretty well covered it and done a hell of a job.

SL: I can't think you enough for all the time you've given us. It means a lot to me personally, and I know it means somethin' to Barbara and David.

HM: Well, I mean, havin'—it just—it made it so relaxing to have you and Barbara here. I mean, it's somebody I knew, so I could, you know, make a few mistakes and not worry about it.

SL: You don't have to worry about it. We'll take care of it. And you'll be gettin' all the stuff that I told you you'd be gettin'.

HM: Okay. Great.

SL: We'll get it to you as soon as we can.

HM: Fantastic.

SL: Okay, man. Thank you.

HM: Thank you, buddy.

SL: Okay.

BP: Okay. Well, that was good. That was fun.

[Tape stopped]

[03:33:39] SL: We wanna talk a little bit about this painting here.

HM: I'd like to tell you the history of this painting that my good friends Jim and Diane Blair had done for me. And that is a painting of my original home where I was born and grew up. And Jim and I have—we've been in a lot of interesting situations together. [*SL laughs*] Forgot where it was—I think he burned a motel room down somewhere. But we have been friends for a lot of years, and he's helped me immensely. And Diane was a wonderful person. And we all miss her. And so I just wanted to say that that's two people that I owe a lot to.

SL: Okay, that's sweet. Thank you, buddy. All right.

[Tape stopped]

[03:34:50] Kris Katrosh: Well, Hayden, tell me just a little bit about Paul Berry.

HM: Well, Paul Berry and I bonded, rebonded, in grade school. Our paths crossed at the old Razorback basketball gym, where we were playing pickup basketball. And anyway, it was my ball, so I figured I made the rules, and Paul—you know, if anybody knows Paul, he wasn't gonna go for that, so I took my ball and went home. He couldn't believe it. So it was years later, though, that we got together. He'd just gotten married, and I'd

been married for a number of years, and we bonded at that time. Have been—stayed close friends ever since, for forty-five years, I guess.

KK: Forty-five years.

HM: Yeah, no. Let's see. It wouldn't be that long.

KK: That is . . .

HM: Yeah, about forty-five years. Forty years, forty-five years.

KK: Yeah. And you know, he's a guy who's very energetic and very interested in politics, and do those interests cross over for you?

HM: No. I tease him about his politics. I'll take the opposite—if I know he's in favor of somethin', I'll usually go the other way just to try to aggravate him. But that's one of my main purposes in life is to keep him agitated and aggravated.

KK: [*Laughs*] But apparently his friendship has meant somethin' to you.

HM: It has. It has.

[03:36:39] KK: Well, what does he bring—what did he bring to you as a friend?

HM: Oh, Paul will do—for his friends, he'll do anything. I mean, he will go the extra mile. And he's been there when I've needed somebody, and I've tried to be there when he needed somebody. And I think we understand that, and there again,

that's one of those great friendships that you can go for months without seein' each other or, you know, doin' anything, and we're both—I know he's still workin' hard, and I'm goin' my separate way and—but when we get back together, it's just like we've seen each other an hour before. So . . .

KK: Well, that's great relationship, yeah.

[03:37:30] HM: He's been big in my life, and there's a—you know, you try to think of all the people that you can mention, and it's impossible, because soon as you turn these cameras off, I'll think of somebody else, and I'll just be kickin' myself because I'm saying, "I hope they don't watch this 'cause I didn't mention 'em." And it's not that I [*laughs*] don't hold 'em up, you know, as high as anybody I know. They're on the same level with anybody that it—that I consider a friend. It's just that right now I can't think of 'em. And you know, I know that there was—goin' through four years in Leverett School, the guy that lived on my street that was my best friend was a guy named Jim Tatum. His dad was a Buick dealer here, and we were inseparable. But he, you know, he moved to Tulsa in about the fifth grade or sixth grade, somethin' like that. And so we've kinda lost track. We talk on the phone periodically and—but we're still—it's that old boyhood friendship that you establish back in grade school and



high school that, you know, never changes. You might lead separate lives and have completely different agendas in life, but it never changes.

KK: Some of those things never go away.

HM: No, they don't.

KK: Well, I'm glad you had a chance to talk about Paul. He's a great guy.

HM: [*Laughs*] Yeah. Well, yeah, he's all right.

KK: He tells some funny stories.

HM: Oh, well, you've been around him, then.

KK: Yeah.

HM: Yeah.

KK: Enough to know that he can tell a great story.

[03:39:20] HM: Have you heard his rendition of Dickson Street?

KK: I don't think I have.

HM: Oh, you gotta—next time you are around him, it's a—you've gotta ask him about the U of A Barber Shop. He can name every barber and, of course, Buddy Hayes . . .

KK: Yeah.

HM: . . . the constable Bob Day, and the ticket giver, a guy named Skelton. He—and can do every mannerism of every one of 'em. And it was—it could be a sitcom on TV. Somebody should write

the U of A Barber Shop down and—'cause it was a place of unique—I mean, every barber there had been there for twenty, thirty years, forty years, or somethin' like that. Buddy Hayes had been there forever. Buddy played ever high school dance for twenty years, probably. And sounded just like Louis Armstrong. But Paul can really do that one for you. [*Laughs*]

KK: Well, he's on our list. We need to get him.

HM: Yeah.

KK: All right. Thank you very much.

HM: Okay.

[03:40:40 End of interview]

[Transcribed and Edited by Pryor Center staff]