

Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History
Special Collections Department
University of Arkansas Libraries
365 N. McIlroy Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72701
(479) 575-5330

This oral history interview is based on the memories and opinions of the subject being interviewed. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using this interview should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

Arkansas Memories Project

Interview with

Seth Timmons
Hogeye, Arkansas
24 February 2000

Interviewer: Roy Reed

Roy Reed: . . . This is . . . Seth Timmons and Roy Reed on February 24th, 2000.

Seth, I just want to repeat, do we have your permission to record
this interview before we start?

Seth Timmons: Yes, you do.

RR: Okay. Let's start with your family. I've heard you say that they came to this part
of the country from out east. Can you tell me whereabouts the Timmons
were originally?

ST: Greenville, Tennessee.

RR: Greenville, Tennessee.

ST: Yes.

RR: Where is that, in the mountains?

ST: You can't prove it by me, now. I've never been there. All I've ever been is
Memphis.

RR: Yes. And where did they---what nationality were they, your family? Before they
came to the United States.

ST: Scots, wasn't it?

Clarrissa Timmons: That's what she told me.

RR: Yes. Scots or . . .

CT: Your mother's folks.

ST: Huh?

CT: Your mother's folks.

ST: Yes.

CT: I don't know about your dad.

ST: Well, I don't know what dad was, now. I never did hear him say.

RR: Okay. But they came from Tennessee . . .

ST: Yes. They came from Tennessee in a wagon.

RR: In a wagon.

ST: Yes.

RR: Do you know about when they came to Arkansas?

ST: Well, it was about '76, I think. I think the war was over with when they came.

The war was over in '75, wasn't it?

RR: '65. The Civil War . . .

ST: Yes, the Civil War.

RR: . . . was over in '65. They came about ten years after that?

ST: Yes, something like that.

RR: Did some of your ancestors fight in the Civil War?

ST: Yes.

RR: Did you ever hear anything about them?

ST: No, I never did. See, I never saw---I saw my grandmother, but I never did see my

grandpa. I never did see him.

RR: Do you know whether your grandpa was the one who was a soldier in the Civil War?

ST: Yes, he was a soldier.

RR: Was he a Union soldier or a Confederate soldier?

ST: A Union. A Union was a Republican, wasn't it?

RR: Right. Yes.

ST: Yes, he was---that's where Dad came in as a Republican, I know, and I know he had been in the Union.

RR: Yes. And they came here---so that would be about 135, 125 years ago now.

ST: Yes.

RR: And your mother and father were named what?

ST: Dad's name was Albert M. Timmons. He went by the name of Bert. Albert Marion.

RR: M-A-R-I-O-N?

ST: Yes.

RR: And your mother?

ST: You want her before she married my dad?

RR: Yes.

ST: Mina May Mitchell.

RR: How do you spell Mina?

ST: M-I-N-A.

RR: M-A-Y or M-A-E?

ST: M-A-Y.

RR: Mitchell.

ST: Mitchell.

RR: Okay. Now, did her family---were they Tennessee folks, too, or did they . . . ?

ST: No, they came from Kansas down here.

RR: And I guess she had---maybe one of her parents would have been in the Civil War; do you know?

ST: I never did hear them say it. I don't think they were. I never did hear them say anything about it. See, my grandmother that way had been married several times and when they came down here, she just came down with three children: John Mitchell and Otis Wright and Mina May Mitchell.

RR: John Mitchell and Otis?

ST: Yes, Otis Wright.

RR: O-T-I-S W-R-I-G-H-T?

ST: Yes. W-R-I-G-H-T. And where he lived was over here up on that mountain over there. The old homeplace is still standing there.

RR: And your mother Mina May, was she John Mitchell's daughter?

ST: No, she was John Mitchell's sister.

RR: Okay. So it was the two boys and your mother that came down from Kansas?

ST: Yes.

CT: She was six years old when her dad died.

RR: Your mother was six when . . .

ST: Yes, she was six years old when her dad died.

RR: That would've been up in Kansas?

ST: Yes.

RR: And you were born where? Here in Hogeye?

ST: No, I was born over here near West Fork, between here and West Fork. Where
Jim Winn lives on the place now. The house is torn down where I was
born.

RR: And what date were you born?

ST: February 20, 1912.

RR: We just celebrated that birthday a few days ago.

ST: Yes, a few days ago.

RR: Does Ronald Reagan have the same birthday as you have? Or . . .

ST: Well, now, I think so. I don't know, but I . . .

CT: Isn't his the 6th?

RR: I was thinking he and Seth were about . . . Is he the same age?

CT: His is on our anniversary.

RR: That's what it was.

CT: I think.

RR: Seth, tell me about growing up around here. What is the earliest thing you can
remember?

ST: Well, about the earliest thing I can remember we moved from over here this side
of West Fork to where Maggie Fox lives, in a wagon. They moved in a

wagon, and I walked along and led my dog. [Laughter]

RR: How old were you at that time?

ST: I was about six years old; I had just started to school.

RR: And where'd you go to school?

ST: Down here at Shady Grove.

RR: I guess I don't know that school. Is that . . .

ST: It's a little place---it's closed in now, but there was a schoolhouse there, and it
went to the eighth grade.

RR: Was that down on what's now Highway 265?

ST: No, it's on this road, 156, just right down the road down here. Right---there was a
well there, but I think they've torn it down.

RR: Down toward---between here and Hogeye?

ST: Yes, between here and Hogeye.

CT: [inaudible]

ST: Huh?

CT: Across from Donnie Day.

RR: Oh, okay. And that's where the school was?

ST: That's where the school was.

RR: So that's one of the earliest things you remember was moving from over there to
this place.

ST: Yes, moved over here, and I can remember coming out with my dad and coming
over here to Hogeye to the store---I can remember that---in a buggy. I

never bought a car until 1925.

RR: A buggy. Would that have been a two-wheel buggy?

ST: Four wheel.

RR: Four wheel.

ST: Yes. It worked two horses to it.

RR: So, yes. What kind of horses did you all keep?

ST: We kept some brood mares and some mules. We had mules to work and brood mares to raise colts with.

RR: At any one time, how many head would you have on the place?

ST: We'd have from four to six head nearly all the time. We didn't have very many cattle.

RR: How many head of cattle would you usually run?

ST: We wouldn't have over seven or eight head of cattle, but then when horses kind of dropped off in price and cattle was a good price, we quit the horses and went to cattle.

RR: Did you sell horses?

ST: We'd sell mules.

RR: Sell mules.

ST: There would be a mule buyer come through from---oh, one was from Springfield, Missouri and all---he'd come by, advertise with the paper. He'd be at a certain place, Prairie Grove sometimes, or West Fork and people would take their mules in there, and he'd go around, bid on them and try to buy them.

RR: How much would you get for a good mule back then?

ST: Oh, \$150 to \$200.

RR: That much?!

ST: Yes.

RR: That surprises me because in today's money, that would be \$1,000 or way up there.

ST: Well, yes, it would. That's how we'd get by, get that much money out of a mule, you know?

RR: What made them so valuable?

ST: Well, they would haul them out to cotton country and tobacco, to raise cotton.

See, those people used them for to pull cultivators, you know. Now, I was down at Fort Smith, in that bottom over there one time, and they drove over there and they had fifteen or twenty---I didn't know how many there were. You could see them down through the field---people plowing and cultivating with their mules. We couldn't tell whether it was colored people or who they were, but they were down, going through those fields with those mules, plowing.

RR: Down in the Arkansas River bottom.

ST: In the Arkansas River bottom.

RR: Yes. I guess mules were good for tobacco because they wouldn't step on the plants. Have you ever heard that?

ST: No, I never did, but they wouldn't step on corn as bad as horses would when you were plowing with them. And the mules could stand the heat better than

the horses.

RR: All of which would explain why they cost a lot of money to buy.

ST: Yes. You see, they'd haul these mules, ride them in a car and they'd ship them out to places.

RR: Yes. Now, we're talking about around the time of World War I, I guess.

ST: Yes. Now, Fort Smith down here used to have the largest mule auction barn in the United States, over at Moffitt, Oklahoma.

RR: At Moffitt.

ST: Yes. It was the largest place. We used to go down there and watch them sell and then you'd get an idea, you'd know what mules were worth.

RR: So you wouldn't get skinned.

ST: Get skinned, yes. We'd always try to drive down there.

RR: I always heard that horse traders and mule traders were bad to skin people who didn't watch them. Is that right?

ST: That's right. They'd really hook you all, like all get out. If you buy one from them, too, you better watch out. There is liable to be something wrong with it.

RR: Like what?

ST: Wouldn't work. They'd tell you it'd work, and it wouldn't work a lick.

RR: [Laughs] Yes. Or maybe have some injury that didn't show up?

ST: Yes, they do that. You know, they pick them up cheaper, you know, and try to get more out of them. Of course, we never did trade with them any much.

We'd always just raise and sell.

RR: And you would keep brood mares and a jack, I guess.

ST: No.

RR: You didn't have a jack?

ST: No, we didn't have a jack. We'd go down the road here about two miles to get
the mares bred.

RR: Who had a good jack in this neighborhood?

ST: Joe Carney.

RR: Joe Carney?

ST: Yes.

RR: You talked about cattle while ago. You didn't have but a small herd at any one
time. I assume you had a milk cow in there.

ST: We had milk cows.

RR: Oh, you had more than one?

ST: Yes. Oh, we'd milk four or five cows. We didn't much ever get over ten until we
bought this place here. When we bought this place here, we put in stock
cows over here.

RR: Meaning for beef?

ST: Yes, for beef.

RR: But before that you didn't sell them for beef?

ST: No, we just sold the veal calf off of them.

RR: Oh, the veal calf.

ST: Yes.

RR: And the . . .

ST: About a two hundred pound calf.

RR: Yes. Did all three of you---it was just you and your mother and dad in the family,
as I remember, when you were a kid . . .

ST: Yes.

RR: You didn't have any brothers or sisters.

ST: No. I have one dead.

RR: Yes. Did all three of you milk cows or just you and . . . ?

ST: Yes, we all milked.

RR: Tell me about milking.

ST: Well, we'd get up early every morning and go drive the cows in. We'd eat our
breakfast---we'd generally always get the cows in and then eat breakfast
and then go milk and separate the cream and then we went to selling milk.

RR: In a wagon? Would you go out in a wagon or what?

ST: No, we'd just go afoot and drive the cows in.

RR: Oh.

ST: They'd be out in the pasture, you know.

RR: But I mean when you sell the milk. You said you . . .

ST: There would be a truck to come and get it. We'd put it in ten-gallon cans. There
are some of the cans sitting down there now we used to use.

RR: So you had to get up pretty early in the morning.

ST: Yes, because the truck came around pretty early to pick it up and they hauled it to
Rogers.

RR: What time did you have to get up?

ST: Oh, we'd get up by six o'clock.

RR: And get all that done by the time, I guess, you had to go off to school.

ST: Yes. But we'd all get milking done before I went to school.

RR: That's a pretty good day's work before you ever went to school!

ST: Yes. Helped milk those cows, and then in the evening I'd have to go drive them
in and all.

RR: And milk them again in the evening?

ST: Yes, we'd milk twice a day.

RR: What'd you do with the milk overnight?

ST: Well, we had some barrels cut off, wooden barrels cut off half way and we'd set
that ten-gallon milk can down in there. And there'd be so much water
would come up. You'd put a little fresh water around it every time so it'd
help cool it. That was the way you'd cool it. We didn't have electric
coolers come around after we, or some people bought them and went to
using them when they built these grade-A dairy barns.

RR: Where would you put the barrels?

ST: Set them down in a deep, ground hole---set the barrel down in the ground, so we
wouldn't have to lift the milk so high, and then have water in there. Those
barrels would rot out after about every three or four years, and you'd have
to get another one.

RR: Are you talking about in a spring?

ST: No. Just out. And you'd carry water from the well and pour it around down

there, and that would cool that milk.

RR: That would keep it cool even in the hot summer, I guess.

ST: Yes, hot summer. The truck would come around and pick that up, you know.

Sometimes it would sour on you, and they would bring it back.. Have to give that to the hogs. You would just lose that.

RR: And you always kept hogs.

ST: Yes, always had a sow and pigs.

RR: Was that---I know you probably butchered for your own house, but did you have enough to sell?

ST: Yes, we sold pigs. Get a good acorn crop, we'd feed them out and sell them.

RR: A good acorn crop.

ST: Yes.

RR: What other kind of livestock would you have on the place?

ST: Just cattle and horses and hogs, that's all. We had a bunch of chickens.

RR: Chickens.

ST: Yes.

RR: Did you sell eggs?

ST: Yes. We'd take eggs to the store every week. Trade them for groceries.

RR: Was it your job as a kid to gather the eggs or did your mother do that?

ST: Mother did most of that.

RR: Did she ever have to get the black snake out of the hen's nest?

ST: Yes, we've done that. That black snake---she's done that.

CT: What?

ST: Get black snakes out of hens' nests.

RR: Yes, I remember gathering eggs with my grandma and having to get the black snake out of the . . .

CT: I shot one and spoiled the egg, too, didn't I? I hit the egg. [Laughter]

RR: What were some of your other chores as a kid that you had to take care of when you were young?

ST: Well, I helped work in the garden. In fact, I plowed the garden. I had a good, gentle horse. I'd do that. We always raised a big garden.

[Tape interrupted by a knock on the door]

ST: Where were we?

RR: Acorn crop---oh, we were talking about hogs.

ST: Hogs, yes. The hogs had the forty acres under fence there and trees on it, you know. If you get those acorns, hogs will do well on acorns.

RR: You had to have a hog fence to keep them in, didn't you?

ST: Yes, I had a hog fence up there.

RR: You had forty acres fenced?

ST: Yes, under fence, yes.

RR: That's a lot of fencing. I still see signs of that hog fence. I guess it ought to be explained that where you're talking about, I now live.

ST: Yes. Right up above there, there was a hog fence that came up right along, right above where you live.

RR: Yes. Hog fence being woven wires . . .

ST: Yes. You've got a pond out there, don't you?

RR: Yes.

ST: Well, that hog fence was right above that pond.

RR: Yes.

ST: See, we had that pond dug up there. Or did you have it dug?

RR: No, you had it dug, and I had Ansel [Waterson] dig it out and make it a little
bigger.

ST: Bigger, yes, I knew you had some work done on it up there.

RR: I've seen that hog fence up above there.

ST: Yes.

RR: Tell me about hog killing.

ST: Hog killing. Well, we'd always butcher from two to three hogs and we'd swap
work with the neighbors. We'd kill the hogs and render the lard all in one
day.

RR: Rendering lard. Explain what you do to render lard.

ST: Well, the kettles are down here in the shed now. Up there, there are two big
kettles and you'd cut the lard up and cut it in about an inch pieces and start
with a little bit and get some grease, and then just keep adding.

RR: This is the fat on the outside under the skin you're talking about.

ST: Yes. Put it in there and keep stirring it. We never bought any lard for years. We
always had all the lard we wanted to cook with.

RR: So you heat fat and it melts.

ST: Yes. Cook it and melt it. And cook it a long time till the cracklins, till all those
pieces of meat get brown. And they call them cracklins.

RR: That's the skin, right?

ST: Yes. Right.

CT: You make cornbread out of that.

RR: Make cornbread out of it, right.

ST: Yes, you make cornbread out of them. And there's a lard press upstairs now
where you'd put them down in and screw it, mash the grease out of the
cracklins.

RR: Oh, like a cider press?

ST: Yes, the same principle as the cider press.

RR: And then you'd drain the liquid into a what?

ST: You'd put it in a big jar and all, and it'd sit there and get just white and pretty.

And you'd sit that around and you'd go dip that lard out of there and use it
to cook with.

RR: It's in liquid form when it's heated and then it sets up solid.

ST: Solid, yes.

RR: And you'd use that during the winter to cook with and during the rest of the year,
I guess.

ST: The rest of the year to cook with. Made good soap, too.

RR: The rest of the hog killing---who would do what? How would you kill the hog, to
start with?

ST: Well, you take a .22 and shoot him. We used to take a mule and drag him, but the
last years we got to loading them in the truck when we had a rack for it
and load them in a truck and drive out where there was a butcher. Reach

through the rack, shoot that hog, reach in there and pull it out. Then shut the gate up and go get another one.

CT: With the tractor.

ST: And then we'd scald them. You'd have a place in a tree with a pulley up there and take a tractor and put on that rope and let it down the barrel, shake it around. Tractor would go up and let it air. Then back that tractor up, and the hog would go back in there. Shake it again so you can get that hair loose.

RR: Shake it in boiling water, right?

ST: Yes, it had to be a certain temperature.

RR: A fire going under the barrel, right?

ST: No, we had water heated in the kettle and put water in the barrel. A lot of people put fire under the barrel, but I never did, for I always thought that would ruin the barrel in a hurry.

RR: So, you'd heat it in a kettle and then pour . . .

ST: . . . pour it in. There are a lot of kettles down there in the garage. I'll show them to you.

RR: What would happen if you got the water too hot?

ST: It would set the hair, and it'd be hard to get off.

RR: And, of course, if it's not hot enough . . .

ST: You just have to keep waiting longer to do it.

RR: Yes. And you scrape the hair off, do you?

ST: Yes. Pull with your hands and scrape it with a butcher knife.

RR: And then when you get the hair off---well, at some point, you gut the hog.

ST: Yes, hang it up on a pole like that. Hang it up there with a gambling stick through it, the arms and legs. You'd cut a place in there and get a leader and stick that gambling stick in that.

RR: How many men would it take ordinarily to kill and dress out these two or three hogs every season?

ST: It'd take about three to four. The more you had the quicker you could get the hair off of one.

RR: And then somebody, I guess, would start cutting up the hog.

ST: We'd all work together cutting them up. We always tried to get them dressed and hung on the pole with the entrails stuck out before dinner. And then go right out after dinner, throw it up on a table---the old board's down in there in the barn now that we used to cut them up on---and so we'd go to rendering, take the meat and take it in the smoke house, lay it out on some boards and sprinkle a little salt on it and leave it overnight. The salt draws the blood out of it. And then, we cut that lean off, grind the sausage up and make it, and then render the lard.

RR: What were the choice pieces of the hog? The best pieces.

ST: Hams, the rear.

RR: Yes. And how much of the hog would be smoked?

ST: Well, you'd smoke the shoulders---bacon, mostly, and ham. We'd smoke some of it. You'd hang them up there. You'd eat the shoulders first and then eat the ham and have the bacon in the summer.

RR: The bacon would be the side . . .

ST: The side meat, yes. You'd take a big hunk of what you called tenderloin off the side of that bacon and grind it up in sausage.

RR: What's the secret to smoking pork meat?

ST: Well, I don't know. I've raised it without---sometimes I haven't smoked it and then again we have. Smoke gives it a little better flavor than the other.

RR: How long would you keep the smoke going in the smoke house to smoke the meat?

ST: Oh, you'd put it in a kettle, an old kettle, and two or three days. Hickory is what you used to smoke it with.

RR: Just two or three days, not a matter of weeks?

ST: No.

RR: And that smokehouse was tight enough that the smoke stays in there and . . .

ST: No, our smoke house never was tight; it was old boards and there'd be cracks that wide where those oak boards would be put together when they were green, and you know how they dry out.

RR: So, I guess from the outside you could see the smoke coming out?

ST: Yes, you could see it coming out.

RR: How'd you go about---I know everybody ate chicken a lot from the yard---how did you go about killing a chicken?

ST: Well, take it and the first thing is chop his head off. [Laughter]

ST: Have the water so hot, dip it down in there to the feathers, pull the feathers off, hang it up on a clothesline and take a knife, get those entrails out of it.

CT: 160, isn't it?

ST: Huh?

CT: 160?

ST: Yes, 150?

CT: 150?

RR: That sounds about right.

ST: About 160, 50 or 60.

RR: Yes.

ST: You get them too hot and set them, you're in trouble. It makes it hard to clean.

RR: Was that your job as a kid or did your mother take care of killing the chickens?

ST: I generally always killed the chickens for her. And we'd dress three or four at a
time.

RR: How did you catch a chicken?

ST: Well, we had them in the house and got a . . .

CT: A chicken house [laughs].

ST: A chicken house---and go in there with a long piece of wire---it's hanging up out
there now---it's got kind of a hook on it, like this round there, and you just
hook that on a leg and reach in and pull it out.

RR: Yes. Did your mother mostly fry the chicken?

ST: Yes, we'd fry, have fried chicken. And then old hens we'd kill them and make
dressing out of them, you know?

RR: Yes. Chicken and dumplings sometimes?

ST: Yes, dumplings.

RR: And then along with food out of the garden, it sounds like you ate pretty well.

ST: Yes, we always had something to eat.

RR: Even during the Depression?

ST: Yes.

RR: What do you remember mainly about the Depression years, late '20s, '30s?

ST: Well, we always tried to raise a big garden, and Mother canned lots of stuff and picked wild berries, blackberries and stuff like that, and canned them.

RR: Was cash money pretty short?

ST: Yes, it was. Cash money was pretty short. If you had a little bit laid back, it bought a lot of stuff.

RR: Do you remember, did your family get through the Depression pretty well compared to other people that you knew?

ST: Yes, none of us ever worked out on what they called WPA or anything like that. None of us ever worked out on that at all. And they had what they called Drought Relief and down here at the old school house, they were down there, signing up and, of course, I went down there and I didn't sign up. Everybody was signing up to get on, you know. And if you had so much money, I think as much as \$400, why, you weren't supposed to sign up. And I never did; I was just sat around down there and visited, and here came a woman out there said, "Here, I know you didn't have \$400. Now sign this up." And I said, "No, I am not running that up there." My folks said for me not to sign anything when I came down there. "All right, if you all are that way, but you just better sign up and get this." And I saw

people there that I know had a lot more than that signing up, but I didn't say anything. It wasn't anything for me to be butting in.

RR: You mean the rule was that if you had as much as \$400, you were not eligible?

ST: No, if you sold as much as \$400 worth of stuff, you weren't eligible to sign up for that.

RR: That was in a year's time?

ST: A year's time. But, heck, I knew that we had sold teams of mules and stuff like that and other stuff, and I knew that we had more income. They told me not to be signing. They had read it in the paper, you know. They said, "It's all right for you to go down there, but don't stick our name on anything down there." They said, "We're not entitled to it." But a lot of people I'd see sign up and I think about how I know they . . .

RR: Yes. Do you remember, was pride much of a factor in making that kind of a decision? Some families were, you know, had enough pride that they just didn't want to be involved in something like that.

ST: Yes, but there was a lot of people think if they could get something for nothing--- you know how that goes.

RR: Yes. In other words, pride didn't have anything to do with it if they could get something for nothing.

ST: No, if they could get something for nothing, they were right there to get it. So, I just sat around, never said anything. Come out there and said, "Here, sign these papers." I said, "No, I am not running up there. I'm not going to sign anything."

RR: That was for the federal drought relief.

ST: Yes. Federal drought was what it was.

RR: Tell me again what you were telling me the other night about the times you worked clearing right-of-way for the power line.

ST: Oh.

RR: Down to what's now Highway 265.

ST: They built that line from Fayetteville down here to what we call Roacher Hill, up there.

RR: Roacher Hill.

ST: Yes. It went through to Van Buren. And you had to cut the right-of-way and it was cut by chopping ax and crosscut saws---no chainsaws or nothing. They'd come through and pick you up on a truck. I had a chopping ax---they furnished the ax---and I'd trim right up. And they had some people that followed around and dragged brush and burned it. And if I'd get too far ahead, I'd have to go back and help them.

RR: How long did the project last altogether?

ST: Oh, it lasted about three or four months. Thirty cents an hour is what I got for working.

RR: Yes. And I believe you said you would walk from your house to West Fork, or the top of the hill.

ST: I'd walk up here on top of the hill and catch the truck up there.

RR: Oh, back up there.

ST: Back up here. You know, it's not too far right up through here to it.

RR: What would it be, about a mile up there?

ST: Yes, three-quarters of a mile up there to it. I'd catch the truck up there.

RR: What time would they pick you up?

ST: Oh, just about sun up. I know I'd leave the house and it would still be dark.

RR: And you'd get home about dark?

ST: About dark I'd get back.

RR: I guess you took your dinner with you.

ST: Yes. You took your dinner or you wouldn't have anything to eat.

RR: Yes. Pretty hard work.

ST: Well, yes, swinging an ax all day is pretty hard work, but I could do it; it didn't
bother me any.

RR: Were you able to save up some money?

ST: Yes, I saved up some money on that deal.

RR: Do you remember about how much?

ST: I think I made about a couple hundred dollars that winter.

RR: That was enough to give you a little bit of a head start?

ST: Head start, yes. I had a little head start from selling some horses and some stuff
like that. I had a horse, mare, and stuff like that. I'd had some. Dad
always taught me to always save some, for you might need some for
sickness or something or another. I just had a little bank account; it didn't
amount to much. Now, I raised strawberries and got my biggest bank
account, that's when I really started to save money.

RR: Talk to me about strawberries. I've heard you mention strawberries in the past.

ST: I'd clean up these hillsides and set them out and cultivate them all year. One year [it came a drought?], I worked them all year and got enough set out the next year to get a bed.

RR: How many acres of strawberries do you reckon you had?

ST: I had about five acres at one time.

RR: That's considered a pretty good sized strawberry patch.

ST: Yes, that's considered a pretty good sized strawberry patch. Now, I hired a truck to go out and pick up hands for me.

RR: I guess there was pretty good money in that.

ST: Yes, of course, you didn't get too much. You'd do well to get, for a twenty-four-quart crate, two dollars for it. Then it cost you two cents a quart to get them picked then the crates cost you about thirty cents.

RR: Yes. So what years are we talking about here, the '30s?

ST: Yes, the '30s.

RR: And, by comparison, do you remember how much you were paying for gasoline at that time?

ST: Oh, about twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three cents.

RR: And you could get a new Model T car for how much?

ST: Well, we had a Model T, but we had a pickup then. And the first pickup we had cost \$612.

RR: That was a Ford pickup?

ST: Yes, Ford pickup.

RR: What year would that have been, what model?

ST: '37. A '37 model.

RR: A '37 model.

ST: Yes. \$612.

RR: You were telling me the other night about the first car that your family bought.

Was that in '27?

ST: It was in '25.

RR: '25.

ST: Yes.

RR: That was a Model T Ford?

ST: Yes, a Model T Ford.

RR: Do you remember what they paid for that?

ST: \$350.

RR: Yes. And I believe you said you couldn't even get a set of tires for that now.

ST: I don't know where you can buy those 30 X 32 tires. That's what it had on it. I
doubt you can even buy them now.

RR: What were they, 30 by what?

ST: 30 X 32.

RR: Yes. Tell me how you started the Model T Ford.

ST: This one had a starter on it, down under your seat. You'd step on it.

RR: Okay. You didn't have to crank it?

ST: No. You would if your battery would go down on you.

RR: Did you ever crank one?

ST: Yes, in fact, I've had them kick, too.

RR: What does it do when it kicks?

ST: Fly back on you and break your arm. You want to catch it this way, not get your thumb over there. If you do, it'll come up on like that. If you have it like that, it'll come out.

RR: And break your thumb. Oh, I see, come out.

ST: Come out.

RR: Put your thumb around it.

ST: Yes. And a lot of them would spin them. Now, that's where you got in trouble. But if you just hooked that crank in there and come up about a half a turn, if the car was in good shape, that would start it. But a lot of people got a hold of that and just spin it to beat the band. And if it tried to kick, then they'd be in trouble.

RR: That's when they get their arm broken.

ST: Their arm broken.

RR: I've heard tell that you had to have the brakes set real good or they would start creeping forward when it started.

ST: They will. If you didn't have a good tight emergency brake C and a lot of them never kept that emergency brake good, but I always kept that emergency brake up in shape, and they could set it and it wouldn't bother it. But a lot of people who never did C when that emergency brake went out, they just let it go, but I always kept mine fixed. If I couldn't drive it right, I didn't drive.

RR: I guess you had to step pretty lively if that thing started towards you.

ST: You had to get out of the way, yes.

RR: Up there, cranking it . . .

ST: You could kind of hold it and get around to it. I saw them crank them and get around like that, you know. Those batteries didn't last in those days like they do now. They'd go down on you. They weren't as good. It'd take a good new battery about every two years for one of them.

RR: Did you have a lot of flat tires?

ST: Yes, we'd have quite a few flats. And those were clincher rims, you know, you'd take them off?

RR: Oh, yes.

ST: There's an old clincher rim laying down here now in the barn.

RR: Yes. When you had a flat, I guess you patched it yourself?

ST: Yes, but we always carried a spare. A lot of people didn't carry a spare, but we always had a spare.

RR: Yes. How would you go about fixing a flat in those days?

ST: Well, you'd---it was what you called a clincher rim---[went out in and caught there?]. Then they came out with these later ones that had balloon tires on them; they had a split rim. You'd pry it out and put it together, but these others, like those rims I was showing to you just laying down there in the barn now, you'd take a tire tool, get in there and pry it up over, let the air all out of it and pry it up over the rim. I'll show you that rim that's laying down there on a box down there at the garage.

RR: How did you go about patching the tube?

ST: Well, take that tube out and if there was a nail hole, you'd take a tire pump and pump it up---there's a tire pump hanging down there on a wall now--- pump that up and take it and put it in water and see that hole. Then carry this patching---you'd scrape it, put a patch on there.

RR: With glue?

ST: Yes, with glue. I don't even have any of that patching now, but I used to carry it.

RR: I guess nobody uses that anymore.

ST: I don't even know whether you can even buy it or not. There's an old vulcanizer down here somewhere. They used to buy patches and strike a match to them, smoke would go on.

RR: Oh, yes. I remember those. Well, Seth, where did you---you went to school down here at Shady Grove through the eighth grade, did you?

ST: Yes, eighth grade.

RR: Did you go after that anywhere?

ST: No, I quit after the eighth grade. I was having trouble with my eyes, and the doctor said that it was better to quit studying with them.

RR: You lost an eye when you were a kid, didn't you?

ST: Yes, I lost an eye years later.

RR: Oh, that was later?

ST: Yes.

RR: But even before that you were having eye trouble?

ST: Yes, I had trouble with my eyes before then, but the doctor told me I would outgrow it and I did. And I got over that, and in about six or seven years I

was cutting a nail in two with a coal chisel and got hit in this eye.

RR: The nail flew up and hit you in the eye?

ST: Yes.

RR: In the left eye.

ST: Yes, the left eye.

CT: Do you all want some coffee? If you do, I'll make some.

ST: Make us some.

RR: Oh, yes, that'd be good. Thank you. So, you got out of school, do you remember
what year it was?

ST: Oh, I'd judge it to be about '30. I missed a year or two when I didn't even go to
school at all, and I guess it was about '30. I never did put it down or
anything.

RR: Do you remember the teachers that you had?

ST: Yes. There's one of them still living, but I think she's in Texas now. Eva Miller.

RR: Eva?

ST: Yes.

RR: E-V- How do you spell Eva?

ST: E-V-A.

RR: Eva Miller.

ST: Yes.

RR: Was she pretty young when she was teaching you?

ST: She had just got out of high school. That's the way they'd do, they'd go to high
school and then go to teaching. They'd go to take an examination. A lot

of them never did go to high school that taught school.

RR: Yes. I remember Orval Faubus told me that he started teaching after he finished the eighth grade. He passed an examination.

ST: Yes, you could go take an examination. A lot of them went. After they'd get out of the eighth grade, they'd go take an examination and go to teach in these country schools out, you know.

RR: Was this Ms. Miller, was she a pretty good teacher?

ST: A real good teacher, yes.

RR: How did they handle discipline? Bound to have been some boys that were ornery.

ST: Well, they'd either put them up with their nose on the wall or stand in the corner or, sometimes, I saw them whip them.

RR: What'd they use to whip them with?

ST: A switch.

CT: A peach tree limb.

RR: A peach limb?

ST: Yes. Any kind they could get.

RR: Yes. So you got out of school about 1930. Do you remember what was going on at that time around the community? What was Hogeye like in 1930?

ST: Well, it had a big store there with everything in it, and, finally, it closed out, and there were years there there was no store there.

RR: Was it down here at the fork in the road or . . . ?

ST: Yes. It was back C you know where Shanks's house is?

RR: Yes.

ST: It was right out beside it there. And the Odd Fellows had a lodge upstairs there.

RR: Were you a member of the Odd Fellows' Lodge?

ST: No, my dad was, but I wasn't. When I got big enough, it was dissolved out.

RR: Yes. What kind of churches were around the community?

ST: Presbyterian and a Christian. The Christians met in the school house and the
Presbyterians met down there at that church building. There were two
going here at one time.

RR: Down at the Billingsley Church?

ST: Yes, the Billingsley Church.

RR: That's where the Presbyterians met.

ST: Yes. And Christian Church met in the school house.

RR: Your folks were Presbyterian?

ST: Yes.

RR: Did they refer to your branch of Presbyterian as Cumberland Presbyterian?

ST: Yes, Cumberland Presbyterian.

RR: Do you know what that meant as far as how the Cumberlands were different from
...?

ST: No, I don't. I've heard it told, but I never did . . .

RR: Did you consider yourself a pretty active churchgoer?

ST: Oh, yes, we went all the time. As far as taking any big hand, any offices or
anything, I never did.

RR: You still go to church, you and Clarrissa?

ST: Yes, we go over to West Fork for church now.

RR: Do you think of yourself as a religious man?

ST: Well, yes, I guess you'd call it that.

RR: Yes, but you never have taught Sunday school or anything like that though, is that
what you said?

ST: No. My wife has, but I never have.

RR: I know you are pretty active in the West Fork church . . .

ST: Yes.

RR: . . . with the activities going on over there.

ST: We're over there all the time to go to church. We went down here till it got to
where---well, I'll tell you the truth about it. There's a family by the name
of Mobleys that went out there and just took over, just---rather than have
any trouble, we just quit. I never did believe in having trouble at church.
Finally, it went on three or four months after we quit, it quit and there's
never been anything going since.

RR: The church just died then?

ST: It died out.

RR: When would that have been?

ST: Oh, it was in the '40s sometimes, and it built up there. It went good again after
the '30s there. It came in and they built up, and then it finally went
dwindling down again.

RR: Has there ever been a church in that building since that one closed?

ST: No.

RR: It's been used as just a community building?

ST: A community building.

RR: Speaking of . . .

ST: There have been several other denominations that wanted to take over, but Harold thought they just might want to cause---you know, a lot of denominations cause a lot of trouble in the country, too, you know.

RR: He owns that building, doesn't he, Harold Bartholomew?

ST: Well, no, it belongs to the community I think. I've heard that he said he owned it, but he might do that to keep somebody from . . .

RR: What sort of things would cause trouble in the community back in the '20s and '30s and '40s?

ST: Well, this used to be an open-range country.

RR: Meaning no fence?

ST: Yes, people would let their cattle run out, you know, and it'd be on the ballot every year to vote, and that caused a lot of---a lot of these people that buy a lot of cattle and turn them loose on you and the other people getting in your fields and wouldn't pay you anything. One time West Fork had what we called a stock law and Valley didn't. And there was an old boy who bought a bunch of cattle and ran them out here on this mountain up here of ours up here.

RR: On Tink Mountain?

ST: Tink Mountain. So we got them out of there, and we bought a fence to put up across there, and they couldn't get up there anymore. So that stopped that.

And then we went up on the hill---we didn't own that land then---went up there and talked to the guy who owned it up there. To keep them from coming in the other way, we bought the wire and he helped us put it up. And we set it over, and it's still over a little bit, about a foot over the line, and it's still up there that way. Then this forty we had fenced there went back to the state and we bought it, got it. Now we own it.

RR: How many acres did your dad own at one time there?

ST: At one time we owned right at four hundred acres, me and him.

RR: On both sides of Highway 156?

ST: Yes, me and him together.

RR: You and him together.

ST: Yes, I raised strawberries and bought this. We had about 250 acres over there. I sold Richardson some up there on the mountain and all. After I got over here and had all this good level land, some of that mountain land up there got---I thought I just might as well get rid of it and I sold it.

RR: You sold some, I guess first, to Richardson and then to Bill---oh, my next-door neighbor who died---Alta and Bill . . .

ST: Bennett.

RR: Bennett. And then some to me. And, I guess, did you sell to Steve Lamm or was that . . .

ST: No, I never did . . . [Bill Bennett sold to Steve Lamm.]

RR: . . . somebody else? Okay. You were talking about the open range thing back

there in those days being a cause of controversy. Did people ever come to blows or was there ever any violence over that kind of trouble?

ST: No, not around here. Not around here, I never did hear. But they had a lot of hogs brought out in there on our country, and we had to sit up there and keep the hogs out to keep them from eating our corn up and all. Some people's neighbors said, "I'd shoot those hogs." Well, I didn't want to do that.

RR: In any community, there's always some little friction going on. And now and then, it'll erupt into the open. Didn't there used to be a fair amount of friction over bootlegging, making illegal whiskey?

ST: Yes, but that went on, but you never heard anybody say anything against it. Did I ever tell you how---there was a guy who lived right over yonder, Shug Carney. One time me and him had been to a sale off down below Strickler. We came back by Hogeys, and Dee McConnell was running that whiskey still down there. He was selling it, just by going in droves. Any kid could go down there and buy all they wanted. Boys at West Fork used to walk across that hill. Did I ever tell you about an old boy over there wearing a sheepskin coat in the summertime?

RR: No. [Laughs]

ST: Yes, he'd walk around the street there with a big sheepskin coat on. Of course, I was taking the cream over to West Fork and I'd always stop there and set up there on---they had a big bench outside of the drugstore---I'd stop there a little bit and there would always be somebody talking there. Here came

Bard Little. His name was Bard Little, and he came up there and had a big sheepskin coat on—it was about a hundred degrees. And I don't know who the old boy, man, was that was sitting there, and I said, "Why does Bard have on that sheepskin coat?" And he said, "Why, he's got whiskey in the hip pockets." And he said, "If you want to buy a pint of whiskey, he's got it right there for you right now." He said, "He walks over the hill there and buys it from McConnell and comes up here and peddles it to drummers and stuff like that."

RR: So he was a walking liquor store! Well, McConnell, I've heard said, kept the sheriff paid off so he could . . .

ST: Yes. Shug asked him down there one time, he said, "Dee, I'd like to know how you stay in business." He said, "That's easy. I pay the sheriff \$400 a month." And, heck, we didn't make \$400 a year farming.

RR: So he was making good money.

ST: Oh, making good money, good gosh! You'd see people going down this road here and be gone about an hour, just droves of them, to buy whiskey.

RR: What became of him, Dee McConnell?

ST: Well, he died. He's buried up here at the cemetery where I take care of up there. They finally got him and took him to the pen. Federal men came in here and caught him. They laid a trap for him. One of them went out there and bought whiskey, you know, and they caught him.

RR: So, he did have to serve some time?

ST: Oh, yes. He served some time.

RR: Did he go back to making whiskey when he got out?

ST: No, he didn't go back at it when he got out.

RR: Who were some of the lawyers around the county during your young manhood?

ST: Vol Walker, did you ever hear of him?

RR: Yes. He was a lawyer?

ST: Yes, he was a lawyer.

RR: How about Rex Perkins, did you know him?

ST: Yes. Rex Perkins was a lawyer up here.

RR: You told me a story one time about running into Rex Perkins in the middle of the road between here and West Fork. What was that?

ST: Oh.

RR: He had his car . . .

ST: His car was parked—he was coon hunting. And I was coming in one night about one or two o'clock and I came up and that car was parked right in the middle of the road. I was coming down there, and I was driving, I guess, a Model A, then. And the lights hit something; I saw it up there, and I slowed down, got up there and I knew it was his car. I'd seen him out here hunting, you know, and he was way up there on the hill and just left that car sitting in the middle of the road. I saw that I could get in the ditch and go around. I just pulled in the ditch and led us up there and went on around and came on home. He was up there in the middle of the road with his dogs and I didn't even stop to talk to him. I just went on.

RR: Did you know him?

ST: Yes, I knew him.

RR: What kind of a guy was he?

ST: Well, I got along with him all right, but I've heard a lot of people say he was
kindly hard to get along with.

RR: I guess he was a pretty good lawyer.

ST: Yes, he was a good lawyer.

RR: Who were some of the main people around Hogeye when you were a young man?
You mentioned Shug Carney while ago . . .

ST: Shug Carney. Tom Carney ran the store down there. Dayton Shanks, he got
killed over here, and Edward Carney, got killed over there by Greenland
one time. They were kind of leading people around here. Turned a car
over.

RR: They both got killed at the same time?

ST: Yes.

RR: Edwin Carney?

ST: Yes. And a guy by the name of Mack Dye got killed with them.

RR: Mack Dye? D-Y-E?

ST: Yes, D-Y-E. Yes, they were killed up there, just as you come off---you know
where the airport is---you come off the hill there. It happened right along
that hill right along in there.

RR: Turned the car over?

ST: Yes. Turned it over on them. Everybody thought they'd been up at Fayetteville,
kind of got liquored up. I never did know for sure. Nobody else ever

knew or ever did say.

RR: Yes. Who were the leading citizens in the Hogeye community?

ST: Oh, now, I don't know.

RR: No two or three men kind of stood out as the main . . .

ST: No, nearly everybody kindly took a hand in anything that happened. I never did know of any really leading ones that did anything mostly like that. They used to have, back when I was a boy growing up, a road overseer. And then there'd be several people who tried to run and get that job. And there would be a lot of electioneering around for it. He'd warrant people out. I've been warranted out. When you were from 21 to 45, you had to work four days a year on the road. And they'd warrant you out, and you had to go.

RR: They'd warrant you out?

ST: Yes, they'd give you a pick and shovel.

RR: So you were expected to work. By law, you had to work on the road . . .

ST: Four days a year.

RR: . . . four days a year. Do you remember working on the road?

ST: Yes, I remember that, digging bridges and putting in the culverts and stuff like that.

RR: Hand work.

ST: Hand work, yes. One time we needed some bridges in this country. Everybody had horses, teams, you know, and holes in those wooden bridges, you couldn't get across them. So the overseer said he'd buy us some lumber.

RR: You said there were holes in the bridges?

ST: Yes, those boards, you know, would rot out every four or five years.

RR: Oh, yes.

ST: Four or five years, so the overseer said that, to all of us one day, he said, "I've got some money to buy some lumber if we could get somebody to go get it." And Dad said, "Well, I've got a good wagon and a good team, where do we need to go to get it?" And there were three or four of us who went down here below Strickler, in a place off down the hill. To get it out, we had to hook a team on the front. We were going to go get it. Dad didn't go; he was sick, and he sent me. And he said, "You go out there and you get that double tree, and take a log chain with you. You're going to take some chains, but you better have a set of double trees so you can unhook and put on the end of the wagon and pull up that hill," he said. I know where it is out there.

RR: So you could run two teams?

ST: Two teams and pull the wagon out. What? [In response to someone in the other room.]

CT: Did you know the coffee was perking?

ST: I heard something.

RR: I smelled it. [Laughs]

ST: Yes, we had to pull out there, you know? Dad didn't go, but I took a good team that we hooked on the front of a wagon and then went back and got my wagon and pulled them out with that lumber to put on these bridges, and

then helped put them in, just gratis, free, work.

RR: Did the money come from the county government?

ST: Yes, county road overseer. They had so much money allotted to every township.

RR: In an election, not for road overseer, but just a general election, when there'd be, you know, people up for sheriff and governor and that kind of thing, were there any one or two or three people around the community who seemed to have influence in getting people to vote a certain way?

ST: You had some that thought they did. [Laughter]

RR: Did you ever engage in politics yourself? Except to vote, I mean.

ST: Just voted, I just went and voted. I never did run for anything or anything like that, I just . . .

CT: You worked at the election.

ST: I worked at the election, but you don't call that politics.

RR: When I first knew, you all both were working at the election precincts . . .

ST: Yes.

RR: . . . the polling places.

CT: I quit.

RR: Thank you for the coffee.

CT: What?

RR: Thank you for the coffee. Did we let it boil? [Laughs]

CT: I was going to get something to set it on.

ST: She's getting something to set it on.

RR: Okay, just set it down there for the time being.

ST: Yes, they used to . . . all that, overseers, boy, they would run the country
electioneering, you know.

RR: Who was . . .

CT: Do you use anything in it?

RR: Sure don't. Not me, thank you. That looks good.

ST: I'll use this spoon.

RR: Who was the overseer that seemed to be pretty good at getting elected to the job
back in the '20s and '30s?

ST: Joe Carney down here got it for quite a while and then Arthur Cates, Earl Cates's
dad. Then that went on and that kindly quit and then the county judge
would appoint somebody to hire some people to go out and help work on
the bridges. They'd have a little money for that. I helped work one time
on the bridges between here and West Fork. Every one of those little dips
there was a wooden bridge in them. And we'd dig them out and put rocks
in there and fix them.

RR: Were there ever community events where the whole community would turn out
for some occasion or other?

ST: Yes . . .

RR: Like a fair or a cemetery working or anything like that.

ST: Well, I'm telling you, there are so many cemeteries around here it never did work
that way for them.

RR: Did you all have fifth Sunday meetings at your church?

ST: No, not this church. We didn't, but the Christian Church had fifth Sunday

meetings, but I don't think they ever had one down here.

RR: What were those exactly, fifth Sunday meetings?

ST: Well, there'd be some preacher who would get up and make a talk. I've been to them. And they'd have what you called dinner on the grounds.

RR: And they'd take place on a month that had five Sundays in it.

ST: Five Sundays, yes.

RR: And it was an occasion for a get together, to have a . . .

ST: We would have it over here at West Fork; I knew there. And then around here and yonder, Prairie Grove would have it.

RR: Was it a kind of revival meeting?

ST: No, just a preacher make a talk from certain churches around and all.

RR: The ones I've been to as a kid, it seems to me, if I'm remembering right, that it would be a time to talk about the church organization, you know, getting people involved in working in the church. Is that . . .?

ST: Yes.

RR: But your church didn't have fifth Sunday meetings.

ST: No.

RR: Seth, back over here on, I think on the Findahls' farm, there is the remains of an old graveyard, all grown up now, where colored people were buried. I heard you say there was a school back up there for colored people. Tell me about that.

ST: Yes, there was a school back over there across the holler from where Mark lives. Now there's a graveyard up here on Findahls' place, but, now, I---there

are probably some colored people buried there, but I don't know who all is buried--- I've helped dig graves over there to it. The last one I helped dig was over there for a Phillips, I can remember, years back.

RR: So there may be colored people . . .

ST: There might be. There used to be quite a few colored people around here.

RR: Yes. Didn't they call that colored school the Academy?

ST: Yes, the Academy.

RR: Did you know any of the colored people that lived in the community?

ST: Yes, I knew some colored people who lived down here, lived up south of Hogeye up there. Now, there were, back up on the hill up there, there were two colored people who got killed. And Dad was---we lived over there where Jim Winn lived, and he'd come over here to Lodge—he was an Odd Fellow, and they came to Lodge one night and about---he'd always get back by 9:30 or 10:00. Mother woke me up, and she said, "Dad isn't back yet. He's been gone two hours overtime for him to be back. If he isn't in in another hour, we're going to go out to the barn and get Pet." That was a mare out there we used to raise colts with. She was out there in a lot--- said, "We'll get her and go hunt your dad. Something's happened to him. His horse has fallen or something or another and we'll go see about him." She said, "You lay back down and rest a while. I'll just sit up here." In about an hour, Dad came in. I never did get up, but I heard him telling about he'd been, they'd come down to that lodge and took them all up there to where those people were killed and had them all for inquest. They

had to have so many people . . .

RR: Yes, for a coroner's inquest.

ST: A coroner's inquest. And he didn't have a way, no phone or anything to call back to tell, you know, that he'd be late to come in. And he was telling about it.

RR: What did he have to say about the killing?

ST: Well, they found them up there and all of them, but they said they didn't know how they were killed or what there was and everything, so that's the way they left it.

RR: Did they ever find out who killed them?

ST: Oh, they always had an idea it was some of their kinfolks, but they never did, couldn't prove anything, so . . .

RR: Do you remember the name of the people who were killed?

ST: No, I don't.

CT: Don't look at me; I wasn't here.

RR: Do you remember any of the names of those colored folks that you knew?

ST: Buchanans was the name of the ones that lived down there, and there was a woman who did washing around over the country; they called her Mirar.

RR: Mirar?

ST: Yes. She would go to places and do washing for people for so much money.

That's how she got enough money to get by on.

RR: But these weren't Buchanans that got killed?

ST: No. What were their names? I forget. I don't know.

RR: Was that about the time that they all pulled out of Hogeys and moved away?

ST: Yes. That's about the time that most of them moved back over to Cane Hill.

RR: What do you reckon caused them to move? Were they afraid after that?

ST: Well, I don't know. There never was anybody living back up there. Joe Carney finally bought the land back up in there. There was some good timber on it, and he got the chance to buy it, worth the money.

RR: So they owned the land up there at least.

ST: Yes, they owned the land and owned the house.

RR: Wonder how much land they owned?

ST: About eighty acres, I think.

RR: That would be back up on Tink Mountain?

ST: No, it was on Ike.

RR: Ike Mountain.

ST: Yes, Ike. This one is Tink behind us and that's Ike back over there.

CT: Manuel was one of them.

ST: Yes, Manuel.

CT: I met him.

ST: He used to be up at Fayetteville, Manuel did.

RR: You met him, Clarrissa, after he moved away from here to Fayetteville?

CT: Huh?

RR: You met him after he moved to Fayetteville, do you mean? Or did you know him back when he was living . . .

CT: No, I didn't know him up here. I just happened to meet him up town one day. He told me who he was.

ST: I told her who he was. There was Manuel and there was Carl Buchanan and all of them. They used to be down there at the store with us.

RR: What kind of folks were they, do you remember?

ST: Oh, they were nice people. They just worked around here and yonder for people to try to make a living.

RR: Yes.

ST: They never caused anybody any trouble. They were always---they'd always take off and go over to Cane Hill and stay a day or two. There were a lot of colored people who lived around Cane Hill.

RR: I think there's still one old woman named Buchanan still over there.

ST: Yes, I think there is.

RR: I've heard said that if you walk up to her house, she'll meet you with a shotgun.

ST: Yes, I know where she lives.

CT: Close to the . . .

ST: Huh?

CT: Close to the [locker?] plant.

RR: [Locker?] plant? Where we all took our chickens?

ST: Yes, chickens over there. She lives right in that neighborhood there.

RR: Yes.

ST: Not too far from where that wheel is there by the side of the road, you know?

RR: Oh, the old mill?

ST: The mill wheel.

RR: Yes, yes. What happened around here during World War II? I know you didn't

go into the service; you had that bad eye, one eye.

ST: Yes.

RR: But you might not have been the right age anyway, were you?

ST: Yes, they were getting about ready to take me to do work around the camps when
it was over with.

RR: Oh, really?

ST: Yes. You went up and registered, you know. They registered down here at the
school house. When I went down and registered, everybody a certain age
had to register. And that went on, and they had a board up here at
Fayetteville. So many people were on the board, and they'd call you in up
before that board every once in a while. And they called me in up there,
and they made me show my artificial eye. I had to show that to them.
And they said, "Well, you go on back out there and farm. It'll be all right
for a while." But they were getting about ready to take me to work around
camps.

RR: Where it didn't matter that you didn't have but one eye.

ST: Yes. It didn't matter.

RR: Were there other young men in the neighborhood who got called up?

ST: Yes, Earl Cates got called up and the Phillips boys here got called up. And there
were getting quite a few more ready to, getting about ready to go like me.
Hugh Carney, they were getting about ready to get him. They had
Howard. His brother was already gone.

RR: Those that got called up, did they all come home? Or did any of them get killed?

ST: They all came home round here.

RR: Any of them wounded?

ST: No.

RR: Hogeye was pretty lucky.

ST: They were lucky none of them got wounded.

RR: What about World War I? Did any Hogeye men set out for World War I?

ST: Yes, Elmer Carney went from up here south of Hogeye. And, let's see, Mallie Tucker.

RR: Mallie?

ST: Yes. No, I don't know whether Mallie Tucker went or not now.

RR: Did they all make it back home?

ST: Yes, they all made it back home. No, I don't believe Mallie Tucker---I think he was getting about ready to go when they got it. But Elmer Carney went up here. I can remember, I was over at West Fork when he got on the train to leave to go. See, we didn't have buses in those days. You had to go to West Fork to catch a train to go.

RR: And he was just getting ready to go?

ST: Yes.

RR: When the war was over?

ST: Yes, when the war was over with.

RR: I remember Orval Faubus told me that his daddy opposed to World War I and almost had to go to the penitentiary over that. Did you know anybody around here that was against the war?

ST: No, I never did hear of anybody around here against it, but I've heard of those Faubuses. I heard a lot of people who said they wouldn't vote for Faubus on that account.

RR: Because of his daddy?

ST: His daddy, yes. But he got in, elected, all right.

RR: Of course, his daddy was also a socialist. Do you reckon that . . .

ST: That might have got a lot of them, too, you know it.

RR: You mentioned while ago that your dad was a Republican and you're a Republican. Do you think of yourself as a what they used to call a Lincoln Republican?

ST: Well, I don't know. I was just a Republican. I was just always raised up that way. I've voted for, a lot of times, me and her both, for Democrats, just split tickets and, anyway, who we think is the best. I always study the people more than I do the politics.

RR: I was thinking about the history of the Republican party in our country, and it was always strong in the mountain parts of the South, where the Democrats were strong down in the flatlands. Your people came from the mountains, I believe I've heard you say . . .

ST: Yes.

RR: East Tennessee is just nearly all Republican, just like the Ozark Mountains over here is nearly all Republican.

ST: Well, they used to have that Democratic Primary down here. And they would take quite a hand in that. People electioneering. When the candidates,

you know, they used to come around---they had a certain day that you had to go assess at the center, the voting precinct. And the candidates would all clog there where they got to see everybody in that township.

RR: Sounds like almost a holiday.

ST: Yes. They'd do that and there was a fellow named Phillips over here who was running for assessor. And he swapped votes with everybody, you know, and he'd said, "You may not get any more votes in this township, but me and Mame will vote for you." [Laughter]

RR: Me and Mame. Was that his wife?

ST: That was his wife. [Laughs] We'd go down there, us boys, and we'd sit around, you know. He'd always be around there, electioneering that way. "Me and Mame'll vote for you."

RR: Well, Seth, this thing just—tell about driving to Fayetteville in the buggy.

ST: We'd get up early in the morning and start to town in the buggy.

RR: Yes.

ST: Two hours and a half and then you'd go up there and you'd put your team in what was called a wagon yard down there

[End of Side One]

[Beginning of Side Two]

RR: You were talking about getting, tying up the team when you get to Fayetteville.

ST: Yes. Tie them up there right back C behind the Campbell-Bell Store, there was a big what we called a wagon yard in there. Drive in there and then go uptown, get what you wanted and then start back. Now, the side at Lewis

Brothers store there, I saw that down through there with six or seven wagon loads of watermelons. People would come in up there and trade, sell produce.

CT: At the bank now.

RR: And now the bank, yes.

ST: Bank is there now, but the hardware was in there. Lewis Brothers Hardware was in there. There were three or four of those brothers running that store.

RR: What all would you buy there around the Square? Feed? Groceries?

ST: Yes. No, the feed was nearly always off to the side. Off down this side a little ways was what we called a farmers' market that always sold feed, but Everett Campbell put in down here and he'd buy it by the carload and you could go in an pay for it, go over to the car and get it. And he said he'd make five or ten cents a sack on it that way.

RR: It was a railroad car?

ST: Yes, on a rail car, which you'd have to pay for in the store and he'd give you a receipt.

RR: Then they'd load it off the rail car.

ST: Off the rail car. And that way he didn't have to---then he got, what do you call that, cars sitting on the track how long in days you'd have them to stay, you know?

RR: Oh, yes, there's a word for it; I can't think of it, but he saved that . . . hmm. How about clothing stores? Was Campbell-Bell the main clothing store?

ST: Yes, and then J.C. Penney came in up there, and they took a lot of business away

from Campbell-Bell. E.A. Budd had all on the south side of the Square,
did you ever hear of him, E.A. Budd?

RR: E.A. Budd? B-U-D-D?

ST: Yes.

RR: No.

ST: He owned the Royal Theater and had a big department store there.

RR: Did you know---weren't there---there were two or three banks back then, I
believe. Did you know the owners of those banks? Who were they back
then?

ST: McIlroy. I knew him. And the First National was Lewises.

RR: Didn't the Fulbrights own a bank?

ST: No, I never did know the Fulbrights owned a bank. They owned the paper.

RR: Is that . . .

ST: Something's smoking.

RR: Something's smoking.

CT: Oh, it's all right. It's just steam coming out.

RR: Oh, okay.

ST: Fulbrights owned the paper, and she [Roberta Fulbright] tried to take a big hand
in politics.

RR: Did you know her?

ST: No, I didn't. I've heard a lot about her. Her and the Walkers had quite a round.
Henry Walker was running for sheriff and she didn't want him.

RR: Yes, seems like I read something about that not long ago. She won that round,

didn't she?

ST: Yes. Yes, she was quite---the fact of it is she just thought she ran the politics up in here.

RR: Yes, she must have been something. I never did know her. I knew her son, but . . .

ST: Bill [James William Fulbright]?

RR: Yes, but I never did meet her. Well, Seth . . .

ST: Well, I'll tell you about Bill. I never did vote for him or anything, but he came down there to West Fork one time electioneering with little a ol' kid's straw hat on. [Laughs]

RR: Yes. What made him do that?

ST: I don't know. Had a little ol' kid's straw hat on. I remember that just as well, running around those stores, electioneering, and . . .

RR: Was it too little for him or how could you tell?

ST: Yes, it was too little, sitting up there on the back of his head, and so . . .

RR: You figured he . . .

ST: I said to myself, "There's a guy I won't vote for." No, I just went on. I never electioneered for anybody or for anything. You know that. I never take any hand. I figure a fellow makes up his own . . .

CT: Have you seen this book? There are only so many of these printed.

RR: Oh, Kent Brown. I know him. Are you all in there?

CT: No. We just happened to be lucky enough to get in on the about middle ways of buying them.

RR: There's a timeless epoch by Kent R. Brown, *Fayetteville: A Pictorial History*. I need to get me a copy of that.

CT: Well, you can't do it unless you find someone who's got one to sell. They only put out so many.

RR: Oh, yes. Oh, boy, talk about old timey pictures!

CT: It's really interesting. McIlroy Bank had them and . . .

ST: We got one from McIlroy.

CT: We had a chance to buy one. The number of the book we got is in the front.

ST: Where is that card I got from McIlroy the other day, Clarrissa?

CT: Huh?

ST: Where is that card I got from McIlroy the other day?

CT: Well . . .

[End of Interview]