

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

Mary Lucile Lewis Yoe
Fayetteville, Arkansas
5 June 2001

Interviewer: David Edwards

David Edwards: Start by giving us. . .

Mary Lucile Lewis Yoe: Unfortunately, my voice gave out this morning. This important morning, when I was going to talk a while. For that, I am sorry. I, Mary Lucile Yoe—I was Mary Lucile Lewis—was born in Fayetteville in 1913. I remember a lot of things that happened a long time ago. I have lived in Fayetteville most of my life. So I will be answering some questions.

DE: You will be willing to put this material in the university for use?

MY: Of course, I hope it can be used some.

DE: Mrs. Yoe, why don't we begin by talking just a little bit about your early years? Your mother and father. Can you talk just a little bit about the Lewis family?

MY: Yes. The Lewis family moved down here just at the turn of the century. There were five brothers who moved to Fayetteville from Springdale. They graduated from high school in Springdale. They worked in a hardware store, W. T. Pharrer and Company. They moved down here and started Lewis Brothers Hardware and Furniture. One of the brothers started a bank and one started a car company. The

other three worked in Lewis Brothers. My mother and father were—I don't remember the exact year they were married, but they were married in Springdale. We lived on Washington Avenue. I was born there in a little house on the alley, between Davidson and Maple. My cousin, who was about my age, was the first baby to be born in the city hospital at Fayetteville. She had that wonderful privilege because Uncle Art was president of the bank and hospital boards. I think her bill, I remember, was thirty-five dollars. When we had a reunion, they had her original bill there.

DE: That was very good. Can you talk about your primary school? Where did you go to school?

MY: I went to—about five blocks from where I lived—old North School. There were three schools at that time, the way I remember it. There was North School, South School, and there was Leverett School. Then there was a small black school at the end of Lafayette, which was in a log cabin. Washington School was the name when North School was torn down. I was in the sixth grade when they decided to start a junior high school. It was put into the basement of the old high school. There was the high school there on School Street. Jefferson School became the name of South School. The black school went to the fifth grade, I think. After that, if the children were able to go on to school, they could choose to move to Fort Smith. The Fayetteville school system paid for their room and board in the home of a relative in Fort Smith.

DE: What was it like being a student in grade school in Fayetteville in the 1920s?

MY: Of course, it was wonderful. As I look back on it, many of, the majority of the

teachers were maiden ladies. They were ladies who had not been married. I remember Miss Morrow especially. She taught me in the fourth grade. When we would go out for recess, she would call us in by clapping her hands and saying, "Everybody get into line. Put your eyes on the head of the one in front." We would march in. The playground was pretty awful. It was pretty much slick clay and rocks. We played—nothing was organized—we played jacks and skipped the rope and sat and talked about important things. It was wonderful. The teachers were very good and very dedicated. Miss Morrow, at the end of the day, would open up the drawer. She would look around to see if anybody was watching. She would pull out a can of baking powder with a piece of cotton and powder her nose. [Laughter]

DE: You mentioned the black school. Did you have any black friends? Was there much interaction?

MY: No. There was no integration at all. There was simply the little wash lady who came and washed one day a week. The children lived in one certain area. There were a few who had better jobs than others. They lived on what is now North Street. There were a few houses there at the end of Willow Street. To get to their homes, they would walk down Willow Street and up a hill where there was not a road or a sidewalk. Most of them lived at the end of Willow Street. It was "Nigger Town," that was what we called it.

DE: Is that the same as what is called "Tin Cup"?

MY: Yes.

DE: That was the historical black neighborhood in Fayetteville?

MY: Yes. Absolutely. I can remember one day when the wash lady had not been able to come for some reason, my brother and I went down to take the washing to her home. It was unbelievable. It was a dirt floor. The walls were papered with newspaper. They were truly, most of them, were truly shacks. Of course, that was a long time ago. That was in the 1920s.

DE: The 1920s?

MY: Yes.

DE: Moving from grade school to junior high, you went to junior high in the old high school?

MY: Yes.

DE: Can you tell us a little bit about, not only school, but the extracurricular activities?

MY: That was the first time they had changed the system. Up until then it had been through the eighth grade, maybe. I can't remember in grade school. When I was in the sixth grade, they decided to make the junior high. We were sent to the basement of the high school on School Street. They were remodeling and adding to that school. It was terrible for a whole year. I went to school and sat in a chair. Simply a chair. There was not one single window. The big furnace was there. I went to school for a whole year like that. There was not even a desk.

DE: Were there some extracurricular activities that you got in to?

MY: No.

DE: Nothing while you were in junior high?

MY: No. Of course, I think there were some athletic things down in the high school,

but nothing for women. The women did not take part. I mean, girls did not take part. I think the boys played some football. I don't remember any activities.

DE: Did that make you feel discriminated against?

MY: Oh, no. My goodness, we were just in that school. We took it as it was. We were just thankful we had teachers. There was one teacher who was terrible. She was really cruel. She was not well. I felt sympathy for her because she was not well. She was certainly past what we would call the time of age. She was the wife of the principal, Mr. Bates. She spent most of her day with the ruler in her hand for discipline. I do remember that. That was unusual. Most of the teachers were very dedicated. I guess we learned something. [Laughter]

DE: I am sure you did. What changes took place as you moved into senior high?

MY: It was wonderful. Louise Bell, a name many people know, was my teacher. She was not much older than I. She was just graduated from the university. She was first my teacher, certainly my most respected teacher. Later, she became principal of the high school.

DE: Did social or other extracurricular activities kick in at the high school?

MY: Yes. We had clubs we had gone to. There were really--no, I do not remember any choirs or extra classes like that. I remember we had a little Ace of Clubs.

DE: Now you graduated what year? What did you decide to do upon graduation?

MY: I graduated in 1930 from high school. I graduated when I was only sixteen because the practice then was if there was a grade that had too many people, then they tried to find someone they felt could handle it and moved us on. I skipped two grades, which was really bad. I am totally illiterate in mathematics and

science because I skipped and was not really able to learn. I remember in high school, my teacher, Dr. Massey, which is a name some historians will know, used to look at my report card when I went around for them to put the grade on. He would shake his head. I did well in other subjects, but he would shake his head and write down a "D." He would say, "Honey, I am just giving you that."

DE: Was it just assumed you would go on to college, or was this a big step for you?

MY: No. It was not a big step. Neither my mother and father had been able to go to college. Living in Fayetteville is a great blessing. There was not a doubt in our minds that I would go right on to the university. I probably would not have been able to go on to college if I had to move away from home.

DE: What did you major in?

MY: Arts and Science. Then I received a degree in Education by doing some correspondence and summer work. So, in college, I was able to graduate in four years with a teacher's certificate.

DE: So you were at the university from 1930 to 1934. What did the campus look like then? What buildings were there?

MY: The main thing was we drove in from Dickson Street right in to the campus or from Maple Street at the back. It was a street which went all the way through, which made it very convenient. The whole thing was wonderful. They used to have chimes on the hour from the tower. The campus was well kept and beautiful. When I first started, they had not improved Arkansas Avenue as they did later. The entrance from Dickson Street, where you walked up, was wonderful. We had the Senior Walk, which is still there. As we graduated, our

names were put on the walk. The library, the Reeves were—then Old Main. All of our fun things were in the awful old women's gym. All the dances. There were wonderful square dances on Saturday nights—they were always on Friday and Saturday nights. Sometimes the fraternities would have formals, but mostly they were what you would call script dances. They would stamp your hand after you had paid fifty or seventy-five cents. Always had a wonderful jazz band because there were young people who loved to play. The main band was Mitchell's band. He was a music teacher in Fayetteville. Most of the people who played were students at the university. They played for whatever was collected.

DE: That's good. What were your most favorite memories from your four years at the university?

MY: All of the friends that I made. I belonged to a sorority, Chi Omega, and I made many friends. Although I did not live there, we kind of got together for transportation back and forth. None of us ever went in the car by ourselves. We went together. All the friends that I made up there—the ones I became close with, it was because they were with me more. Lots of my cousins were in school at the same time. Of course, I have to remember the friendships of the dances. I love the dance. The only talent I ever had was ballroom dancing. [Laughter]

DE: You had a car and a driver's license?

MY: I guess I had a driver's license when I was fourteen, although I was driving before then. My mother did not drive. Mother was a do-gooder. She was really wonderful about taking care of aunts and uncles and neighbors. But I got to do the driving. It was never questioned because that was just the way it was. We

helped the people who were close by. That was just what we did. Yes, I did not have a car that was mine. This was the family car, one car. When I was in high school, we had the store car. It was an extra car for the people who worked at the store to come home. Everybody had their main meal at noon, most people that I knew. I would walk home when I was in grade school, and I would run home sometimes, when I was in the university, to eat at home. We did not like to carry lunches. There were not close by places to eat.

DE: You lived at home during all of your college years?

MY: Yes.

DE: After graduating, what did you decide to do?

MY: After I graduated, I was not able to get a job. That was a tough time in 1934. I looked at things that were available. The only thing was Mountainburg. It was \$87.50 a month in script. I decided that just wasn't what I wanted to do, so I decided to go to business college. I went to Fayetteville Business College, which was over the old Washington Hotel (the old Davis Business School). I went to business college and learned to type and do shorthand. I went to work for Fulbright Lumber Company. I worked for them until I married in March. In my records I have a wonderful recommendation from the person who was head of the Fulbright Lumber Company, named Mr. Clarke. It was what a wonderful, wonderful secretary I was. That was when I realized it isn't what you know, but who you know. I knew very little about anything that I did. I knew a little shorthand and a little typing. It was a friend that gave me the recommendation. Since I was to be married in March, he really gave me a flowery invitation to be

able to try and get a job. After we moved to Little Rock, my husband-to-be was an engineer with the bridge department.

DE: Okay, we have moved into the question of economics. Let's talk about that for a while. You think of the 1920s as the roaring twenties and a high time. Do you remember them that way?

MY: Well, of course, I am thinking of the economy in the 1930s. I don't really remember what it was in the 1920s. I think it was in the 1930s that the banks closed. We were very fortunate. I lost so many friends from school who had to go home because the banks had to close. In northwest Arkansas that did not happen. Those times were not distressful to me. We certainly did not go hungry. We certainly did not buy a new coat, even when we entered the university and wanted to look our best. We did not have luxuries. It was the same with everybody. I realized that I was one of the lucky ones. We really did not have poverty in this part of the state.

DE: Fayetteville during the depression, in your opinion, did fairly well?

MY: Fairly well. I can certainly remember people coming by seeking jobs. People who were on the road, without a home and all of that. I am not sure there were any more people in northwest Arkansas living under bridges or really having a extremely hard time. There were the ones who would come to the back door. They were mostly people who were traveling and on the road. They would hitch rides on the trains. My mother would never turn anybody down. She would give them a meal sitting on the steps of the back porch. There were not many people who went hungry.

DE: Did you know any families that left Fayetteville for California?

MY: There were many people, especially in the 1920s. That's when that started. I can remember my mother—some of her relatives in Hindsville, Madison County, were dirt farmers and really struggling. I remember two of those families moved to California. They were able to live better out there.

DE: You were married in what year?

MY: 1935.

DE: 1935. You moved to Little Rock?

MY: Little Rock.

DE: Can you tell us a little bit about that?

MY: Of course, it was still during hard times. My husband had a job that was around \$100.00 a month. We lived in a little apartment within walking distance of the Capitol. I tried to get a job then. We lived in a little apartment that was in an apartment house. It had a bed. It was one room with a kitchen and a breakfast room. The bed had to be pulled out from the wall. There was no air conditioning. We would open a window—it was on the second floor—and hang up a wet sheet with a fan. We didn't think all that much of it. Our entertainment was playing ping-pong. If you can imagine in that small space having a ping-pong table. We did. Another part of our entertainment was to cook waffles on Sunday evening and play bridge.

DE: Mr. Yoe worked for the state? What was his position there?

MY: He was an engineer with the bridge department. We moved one time after living in Little Rock for a year. We moved to Van Buren. We boarded in a bedroom in

a house while they built a bridge from Fort Smith to Little Rock, I mean Fort Smith and Van Buren. I am sorry.

DE: You moved back to Fayetteville in what year?

MY: 1939.

DE: 1939.

MY: We moved back here so he could get in with Lewis Brothers. He stayed there for a couple of years. He liked his engineering, so he went into surveying. He helped to develop many important parts of Fayetteville. We built a little house down on Davidson, a couple of houses. They were little white brick houses, and Paul Jones was the architect. We bought some of the old Davidson property, which is at the end of Washington, with those great big concrete pillars. We built two houses there. We have lived five or six places that we built. Later Clay inherited a little bit of money, and he decided he wanted to do some developing, which he did. We were never successful financially because it cost a lot to develop.

DE: What were the costs of developing? Why did it cost so much?

MY: Developing just costs a lot. You buy the land because you have to put in a road.

DE: Was the developer required to put in the road?

MY: Oh, yes. I remember we put in the road between 45 and College Avenue. There was not a road through there. There was Fuller's Meat Market—that was where they raised the cows to butcher at the butcher shop—that road had been there, a little dirt road, from College up to the top of the hill on North Street. It was a difficult road. There were just a few houses. That was where the black houses

were. We had to pave the road between. When we did the developing, we put in a lake there, and we put a road up on the hill. Before that, we had developed up on Ridgeway up above Mt. Sequoyah, an area which involved a lot of land, and we developed that. That's when I got out the Little Rock phone book and started naming those streets. Like Ridgeway and Shadowridge, descriptive. He also developed an area where the junior high school is now.

DE: Moving back to Fayetteville in 1939, this is a difficult time in world history because of international problems. Can you talk about the coming of the war and the impact of the war had on you and your family?

MY: I remember that so very well. So many of our friends who joined the various services and who were drafted—I remember that my husband, Clay, was very self-conscious from the very beginning because he felt a need to serve. He decided, not totally unselfishly, to pray a decision was made for him because he wanted to choose what branch of the service he wanted to go into before he was drafted. So he went into the Navy, served in the Navy. He served in it because he was sure of a place in special engineering. He was going to a special training school in Chicago, which he did do. Those years were difficult because by then my son had been born. I had two children by then. My son was born in 1942. I don't really remember right now what time of the year Clay went off to [Navy engineering] school, but Clay, Jr., was just a tiny little boy. I remember it was very, very, difficult because the amount I got was a little under \$100.00 a month. It was really pretty difficult. The only time I got to see Clay was by traveling by train to Chicago. I went a couple of times and traveled on a train. There were no regular

seats. They had little heater stoves. It was really pretty bad. When I got there, I was able to stay in a hotel. Those were difficult years in Fayetteville. Of course, those were the years when people came back from the Army and they went back to school. This was a great blessing for me, an education.

[End of Side 1, Tape 1]

[Beginning of Side 2, Tape 1]

DE: During the war did you rely on your larger family for support and help during that time?

MY: Yes. I was very fortunate because Clay was not in the Army very long. After the war ended, he was still in training. He had a long delayed time. He nearly died with pneumonia when he was in San Diego waiting. This was early in his service. So after the war was over, soon after the war was over, before they had assigned him a place, his mother died. Since he was an only child, I did not know this was the rule, but since there was no war in progress right then, they gave him a release from the Army because he was the only child. He was able to come home.

DE: He returns after the war and then you settle down into development?

MY: Yes. First, he went into surveying. He served on the planning board, and he was mighty interested in Fayetteville. He did lots of surveying and then later did do some developing. In fact, an important part of Fayetteville, he put in the road between 45 and 16 and Crossover Road. There had been a small portion of that road from Highway 16 where there was a small development in there, but that road quit. He was the one that put the road over the mountain. That's when they said--when he tried to get some help--"Why there are only ten cars a day going

over that mountain.”

DE: Did he have his own company then?

MY: No, it was just him. He had a little office in the basement of the First National Bank on the square.

DE: By this time, he was moving into the power structure of Fayetteville. How were important decisions like where to put a road in or where to develop . . .

MY: They had a planning commission then. They had a different form of government. Wes Gordon ran the city in many ways. He was the—he wasn’t the mayor. The mayor was sort of an honorary job. Wes was the head of the council, I guess you could say.

DE: Those decisions were made by the planning commission or the city council?

MY: I don’t think it was the city council then. I’m sorry, I can’t remember.

DE: We can check that out as to what the records are on that.

MY: It changes a little bit. The mayor is sometimes just a honorary job. Wes Gordon ran the city for many years. The utility companies, the banks, and those in the city government, they were the ones who made the decisions. For instance, if they needed money desperately for something, I can remember Daddy and different ones of them, they would go around to the businesses that they needed to contribute. They would collect and pay the interest.

DE: One of the things that happened during the 1950s was the new high school was put in. Is that right?

MY: I am not sure.

DE: Also, integration comes along about that time.

MY: That was the interesting thing because . . .

DE: I don't remember the year integration began.

MY: Virgil Blossom and his wife were close friends of ours. He had been superintendent of the schools here for a long time. She had been a teacher. We had a couples dinner bridge club. He came one night to my house and got the men over into one corner. He told the men that the city of Fayetteville had been chosen for the first city for integration to start in the high school. It was successfully carried out without any problems. That was why he was chosen to go to Little Rock to be superintendent of schools there. It was very, very, difficult. The family had to leave the city at one time, the wife and children.

DE: The superintendent of schools?

MY: Yes.

DE: Oh, really?

MY: His family, because they were threatened. It was a difficult time. He did—we know it is all history, [but it] was carried through. Here in Fayetteville, it was remarkable how well it was handled. I know that my son was in that graduating class and there were very few [black students]. I don't know the exact number, seven or eight. That's why it was so—and also the fact that it was a high school. People were beginning to think a little differently. Especially the young people would be more liberal in their thinking. There was no resentment that I remember.

DE: I am a little confused. Did you say that Mr. Virgil Blossom and his family had to leave town?

MY No, I wasn't saying that he had to leave town here. There was no problem here in Fayetteville. This was after they had been chosen to start the integration in Little Rock. They had moved to Little Rock. It was during that period.

DE: In Little Rock, he had to leave.

MY: There was no trouble here. In Little Rock, the family—it was threatening to the family, but he never did leave. I'm thinking for a brief period the two girls and his wife left.

DE: Was Virgil Blossom from Fayetteville? Was he the school superintendent here first?

MY Yes, for a long time.

DE: Then he went to Little Rock.

MY: I don't think they were born here, but they had been residents here for a while.

DE: Then he became involved in the Little Rock city integration.

MY: He was the superintendent of the schools.

DE: Okay, you have me straightened out on that. That is very interesting. He came from Fayetteville and then went to Little Rock.

MY: Yes, he was a resident of Fayetteville. First, he had been a coach; then he was a teacher; then he became superintendent of the schools.

DE: In Fayetteville was integration led by the business community? Did the people believe this was good for Fayetteville? Good for business?

MY: As far as I knew, there was very little resistance in Fayetteville at all. There was—among the young, there did not seem to be any problem at all. It wasn't instigated by us. I really don't know who it was instigated by. The state chose

where the place was to start it.

DE: That was very interesting.

MY: It certainly was carried out successfully. But, as you see, there were very few blacks in Fayetteville. Many of them have responsible jobs in car companies. They weren't active in government or anything like that. They were servants, mostly, yard laborers. But there was never, as far as I can remember, there was never any problem with discipline or crime. If they got drunk on Saturday night and had a fight or two, we didn't know anything about it. The thefts—you didn't look towards the black community when something was stolen.

DE: So the relations between the white community and the black community, during your life time in Fayetteville, you would classify as amiable?

MY: Very. They were in many ways well cared for. If they worked for a family, that became a close relationship. When they went home at the end of the day, she carried a sack with her that fed her family. The amount of money paid was very little. Blacks did the yard work. I can't remember that we felt that there were any crimes in the city. If there were, it wasn't as much as it is today. We didn't look at the black community as a crime community.

DE: In the business community were there unwritten rules concerning employment of women or employment of other groups?

MY: It was sort of an unspoken rule that maiden ladies were given jobs whenever possible. Mostly those were nursing jobs or teaching jobs. Those were, generally speaking, the only jobs that women had. I do remember some very respected employees at Lewis Brothers as secretaries. That was a little bit later. It wasn't in

the beginning of Lewis Brothers. I don't think there were any women in the beginning. Maybe in the 1930s or 1940s, they did clerical.

DE: One person who comes to mind who might be regarded as a woman who was independent and had a responsible job was Roberta Fulbright. Was she an exception, would you say?

MY: She was an exception. I don't remember what year they came here. They had a beautiful home on Mount Nord. They were the most—I don't remember anything about him, but she was single. She was very influential because of the newspaper. Bill Fulbright, I don't remember his reputation being anything really important on campus. He did not go to school here.

DE: As an undergraduate, yes, he did. In fact, I think he played football.

MY: He went to school early.

DE: He went to England, Oxford.

MY: Yes. But she was very influential. You have a little story about her?

DE: Yes. In your writings. The parents of J. William Fulbright, though, his mother . . .

MY: That's who I'm talking about.

DE: Roberta, yes.

MY: She was a true character.

DE: Was she influential in determining what went on in the city, or was she just reporting what went on in the city?

MY: She was influential because of her reporting, because of the articles she wrote.

She was very influential in people's thinking. She was very business like, and she

wasn't a social butterfly. She was influential about things.

DE: As time passes, the square is the center of Fayetteville?

MY: Yes. I have some wonderful pictures.

DE: I would love to see them.

MY: At one point, they were trying to—they almost ruined it. I was on some committees and boards that helped make some decisions that turned out to be important. When Little Rock made the decision to have no transportation on the square—off the main business section, Main Street—when they made their decision, some nuts decided that that's the way it ought to be in Fayetteville. We had to work very, very hard to keep that from happening. The downtown dies with that. The square has almost died. I remember that was maybe in the 1940s when they determined to take the—I am not sure of the year. They determined to take down the courthouse, I mean, the post office in the middle of the square. They were going to have an amphitheater there. Can you imagine? We had to fight, fight, fight to keep that from happening. So, as you know, the square is very presentable. Now that the Town Center is being built, there will be a lot of activity. There is a shift in the type of activity, of course. It connects with Dickson Street, and I'm really proud of what they've been able to accomplish.

DE: One of the things that I can remember when I came here was the square seemed to be a lot more active. Lewis Brothers Hardware, of course, was running.

MY: That was the center of town.

DE: Brown's Feed Store and some other businesses.

MY: All of that was the whole town. That was before the mall. At the first the mall

had very little. There were even grocery stores on the square. The hotel was active. I get a little confused as to the years that certain things happened. It used to be that the Washington Hotel was the center of social life, with dinners and receptions and that sort of thing. Then later that became Kress. Of course, back in my teenage days, the square was very different. There was the old Royal Theater. The south side was the business side. It was the only place where blacks were allowed. They were allowed in the old Royal Theater, in the balcony.

DE: On the south side of the square?

MY: On the south side of the square.

DE: There was another theater on the east side?

MY: On the east side was the Palace Theater. That was where Gladys Sonneman played the organ. The Sonnemans owned all the theaters. Of course, that was wonderful. The Ozark Theater, that the young man, the high school boy, saved.

DE: Jonathan Story was his name, I believe.

MY: Jonathan. Thank goodness that was a center of great activity. Way back then, the top of the Ozark Theater was a beautiful ballroom. The social life when I was a child, the adult social life, was in that room above the Ozark Theater. They had beautiful ball gowns, and the men wore tuxes. Those were really wonderful days.

DE: This would be during the 1920s and 1930s?

MY: Yes. That was the time when Bella Vista was thriving with wonderful bands up there. They had a pavilion over the lake, beautiful big balls. This was true even at Monte Ne. They had a group that came from other states. There were little cottages. They weren't really little cottages. They were brick buildings that had

beautiful red tile roofs. There was an Oklahoma building, a Missouri building, different ones where people would come in and start loading, like we would call hotels. They lived there, and they had a great big building where they had their balls. Even though the economy was not high, it was high society. Even Winslow, on the mountain of Winslow, they had the same thing, summer houses. It more like a clique—mostly Fort Smith people. They had what would now be called a club house, where they all ate together.

DE: I didn't know about Winslow. That is very interesting. Winslow, Bella Vista . . .

MY: It was small. Winslow was not to be compared in number.

DE: What about Eureka Springs during that time?

MY: Eureka did not have the same feeling. It was more a—when I was a child, we went there often, my family did. We stayed in one of the big boarding houses. I can remember we would play with straight pins. We would put straight pins on the rails of the trolley cars. That was the transportation, trolley cars. We would stay over there for a week. Eureka was more—well, there was always music in the park. The old Basin Park Hotel, where at the back of it on every floor—you could walk to every floor. There were about ten or twelve stories. Eureka was so unique. It was more of, it is hard to say, crafts. It was not a society town.

DE: More of a family vacation spot?

MY: Right. Of course, at every spring they had tin cups. Everybody drank out of the same tin cup. The water was wonderful. People would even come and stay for the summer. They would come and stay in the hotels. They would live there and have hot baths, like Hot Springs.

DE: Did you go up there every year with your family?

MY: No, not every year.

DE: Regularly?

MY: I can remember some years when we went over there and stayed in some boarding houses.

DE: Well, this morning, I wanted to touch on education and economics. In another session we can talk about more social and maybe political issues.

MY: We were talking about integration in grade schools. In the university, I can remember when it was some sort of a banister or division when they first entered the university.

DE: I wasn't here at that time, but that's pretty famous.

MY: They used the elevators, the faculty elevators. And also used the faculty bathrooms. That was even in the university.

DE: Are there any other aspects of what we have talked about that come to mind that we haven't touched on?

MY: I could talk for five hours. Nobody might want to listen. [Laughter]

DE: What we can do is have another session in a month or so. Before we get off the tape, I want to thank you sincerely for me and for the Arkansas Center for Oral and Visual History. You have made a good contribution here.

MY: I have lots to say. I don't know that it is a lot of contribution. I don't know if it is useful. I do like to record some of our memories because I don't really have a family that I think will protect it. I think that I remember some things that other people—but they may have been recorded in earlier times.

DE: Well, everyone's memory is unique, and everyone contributes to the whole story.

You have made a contribution, and I thank you very much.

[End of Interview]