

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Delbert Buffer Interview Abstract
 April 11, 2018

Interviewee	Delbert Buffer
Year of birth	1931
Place of birth	Decatur, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Randi Van Noy
Interview date	2018-04-11
Interview location	Kindley House; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	Buffer, Delbert Buffer, Xollie Hall, Billy Dr. Pierce, Earl Van Noy, Randi Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas Joe Witty Grocery; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas McAllister's Grocery; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas Farming Gravette Day Celebration Horse pulls Hospitals Shelling plants
Description	<p>Delbert Buffer's stories of growing up and living much of his adult life in Gravette (Arkansas) provide a look at his life and that of the growing, changing community. Born in 1931, early years in Gravette meant working hard and receiving limited schooling. Buffer tells the story of he and two siblings milking 27 cows twice daily for \$1.25 per day. During WWII, while still a boy, he spent summers in Colorado and Kansas cutting broom corn and harvesting wheat for wages. Buffer credits the people of Gravette such as Earl Pierce and others for helping the poorer people, including himself. Buffer remembers when Gravette was home to the Gravette Shelling Plant, Stokes Ballard garage, stores (McAllister's, the IGA, Witty's), the café that was also a dance hall, and later Dr. Hall and the hospital.</p> <p>As an adult, he and his wife Xollie would invest in land, farm, raise chickens for Tyson and others, along with owning several ponies and large breed horses (Belgians and Percherons). These animals regularly appeared in the Gravette Days and Christmas parades and participated in horse pulls. Today (2018) Delbert and Xollie enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, continuing to live in the Georgia Flats area of Gravette.</p>
Duration	39 minutes
Audio File Format	MP3

Images	Yes
Producer	Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
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Questions or Comments	https://nwaoralhistory.org
Interview sidebar	[Buffer] worked for the (Gravette) Shelling Plant in 1948, saying 'it was best thing that happened to Gravette. All the money that was made here was spent in Gravette' [00:01:57]

