

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
Marta Lou Chandler Interview Abstract  
September 21, 2018

Interviewee	Marta Lou Chandler
Year of birth	1933
Place of birth	Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Beverley Helton
Interview date	2018-09-21
Interview location	Chandler home; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	Chandler, Marta Lou Chandler, Beulah Walker Chandler, Blue Foreman Helton, Beverley Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas Tahlequah, Cherokee County, Oklahoma First Baptist Church; Siloam Springs, Benton County, Arkansas Questers, Inc. (Organization) Baseball Cherokee Nation Dawes Rolls Education Religion Small town life Trail of Tears
Description	<p>Marta Lou Chandler’s family traces its roots to Scotland, the Cherokee Nation, and Tennessee. Chandler calls her grandmother a great storyteller. It’s how she learned about her grandfather’s life, her great-grandmother running the hotel, and her mother’s desire not to live in the country. Chandler’s research using the Dawes Rolls resulted in the discovery of a good reason a Cherokee family member may have lied on the Rolls about his degree of blood.</p> <p>Chandler’s own story began in Siloam Springs in 1933. She grew up in her maternal grandparents’ home. Her parents, though divorced, remained friends. All these adults are remembered as being good people and working hard both on the farm and in town.</p> <p>Chandler’s years in Siloam Springs were filled with fun times riding her bicycle and horse, enjoying school, and being chased by a boy who had a crush on her. The ladies of the First Baptist Church and nearby Baptist Camp provided Chandler with the Christian teaching that guided her since. When she was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade Chandler moved to Little Rock to finish high school. After high school she attended and graduated from the University of</p>

	Arkansas with a degree to teach physical education. Chandler continues her story with memories of her marriage to a professional baseball player and coach. That meant time living in Texas, Canada, and Missouri, finally settling in Fayetteville. Here she raised her children, while teaching for over 20 years. When asked about her life, Chandler responded she is enjoying her home, children (son, daughter, granddaughter), Questers activities, reading historical fiction and Christian faith.
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Interview sidebar	Chandler's grandparents lived in Siloam Springs 'back in the day when [it] was considered a big tourist town with at least three hotels, two springs, and a park...people from the surrounding area, especially Tulsa, would come and maybe spend the summer because they felt it was a nice place, cooler...' [00:07:56]