

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

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

Arkansas Memories Project

Ginger Faulkner Adams
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford
July 25, 2018
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Objective

Oral history is a collection of an individual's memories and opinions. As such, it is subject to the innate fallibility of memory and is susceptible to inaccuracy. All researchers using these interviews should be aware of this reality and are encouraged to seek corroborating documentation when using any oral history interview.

The Pryor Center's objective is to collect audio and video recordings of interviews along with scanned images of family photographs and documents. These donated materials are carefully preserved, catalogued, and deposited in the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville. The transcripts, audio and video files, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center Web site at <https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/>. The Pryor Center recommends that researchers utilize the audio and video recordings in addition to the transcripts, to enhance their connection with the interviewee.

Transcript Methodology

The Pryor Center recognizes that we cannot reproduce the spoken word in a written document; however, we strive to produce a transcript that represents the characteristics and unique qualities of the interviewee's speech pattern, style of speech, regional dialect, and personality. For the first twenty minutes of the interview, we attempt to transcribe verbatim all words and utterances that are spoken, such as uhs and ahs, false starts, and repetitions. Some of these elements are omitted after the first twenty minutes to improve readability.

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

- Em dashes separate repeated/false starts and incomplete/redirected sentences.
- Ellipses indicate the interruption of one speaker by another.
- Italics identify foreign words or terms and words emphasized by the speaker.
- Question marks enclose proper nouns for which we cannot verify the spelling and words that we cannot understand with certainty.

- Brackets enclose
 - italicized annotations of nonverbal sounds, such as laughter, and audible sounds, such as a doorbell ringing; and
 - annotations for clarification and identification.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.

Citation Information

See the Citation Guide at <https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/about.php>.

Scott Lunsford interviewed Ginger Faulkner Adams on July 25, 2018, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Ginger Faulkner Adams. You are here with me at the Pryor Center. I'm Scott Lunsford, and today's date is July 25—uh—2018, here in Fayetteville, Arkansas. And—um—we're gonna be talkin' about your life and—um—I just wanna let you know that—uh—you will get a copy of everything that we do here.

Ginger Adams: Okay.

SL: Including the scans that we're doing now. Um—and you will eventually get a transcript. The transcription is the most time-consuming thing we do 'cause we want it be right and accurate.

GA: Mh-hmm.

SL: And it has to kinda match . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . what we say.

GA: Mh-hmm. Yes.

SL: Um—that's kinda new in oral history that you actually see someone talking.

GA: Right.

SL: Um—and then if there's anything that you say during this

interview that you wish you hadn't [*GA laughs*], you just need to tell us.

GA: Okay.

SL: And we will take it out of whatever we post, but we'll keep the—the original footage . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . anyway, but we'll protect that for you. Um—and also if there's anyone that's—um—wants to use part of either one of your all's interviews, we'll let you know about that.

GA: Okay.

SL: Because we do get people that are writing books, history books, and people that are writing books on religion or . . .

GA: Hmm.

SL: . . . any kind of cultural thing. Some documentarians . . .

GA: Hmm. Okay.

SL: . . . like to use our stuff 'cause it . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . it's worthy. I mean, it—it—good stories . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . good images, good sound. So if you're comfortable with all that, you and I will get started. And if you're not, that's okay, too. [*GA laughs*] We can stop and—uh—we'll have fun doing

something else . . .

GA: No.

SL: . . . the rest of the day.

GA: No, that's fine.

SL: Okay.

GA: I agree.

[00:01:45] SL: All right. Well, thank you. So I usually start with when and where you were born.

GA: Okay, I was born—and I was born as Martha Virginia Faulkner in Russellville, Arkansas, in St. Mary's Hospital on April the thirteenth, 1937.

SL: And—um—what was your—uh—father's name?

GA: My father was William Joseph Faulkner, and my mother was Norma Lucille Ball Faulkner.

SL: Wow. [*Laughs*]

GA: Yeah.

SL: Lucille Ball.

GA: Lucille Ball, yes.

SL: That's funny. And then William Faulkner, of course, wrote—um—uh—a book about—uh—grammar and—uh—you know . . .

GA: Yes.

SL: That was kinda the textbook.

GA: Right.

SL: But there's no relation there.

GA: No, not that we know. My grandfather, my father's father, was an orphan and was raised by someone, an uncle, in Morrilton.

SL: Okay.

GA: And so we really don—I think he was originally born in the Cabot area. But we don't really know that much about his family. I've read several biographies of William Faulkner trying to . . .

SL: Right.

GA: To make—connect them somehow.

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: But anyway, that's—uh . . .

[00:02:55] SL: Okay, and so then what about your mother's maiden name?

GA: My mother's maiden name was Ball. And her father—uh—James Madison Ball. Everybody named their children after [*laughs*] presidents and things. Anyway, he owned the Russellville Iron Works, which was the foundry.

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: Just across—just north across the railroad track—uh—on El Paso in Russellville. And the building is still there. And he—you know, I have no idea what all he did, but we have some pictures

with—inside the foundry with all these big pieces of equipment that didn't mean too much . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GA: . . . to me, but—uh—it was—it was sort of interesting. A least my husband thought it was interesting. And then he had—he and Mr. Sauerman, owned it, I guess together because they—we had a picture of he and Mr. Sauerman and all these other men that worked standing to the side of the building.

[00:03:46] SL: So are you saying Sauderman?

GA: *S-A-U-E-R-M-A-N.*

SL: Oh, Sauerman.

GA: Sauerman.

SL: Okay.

GA: Yeah.

[00:03:54] SL: Um—well—um—have you got—do you have a really—what's your earliest memory of either your mom or your dad?

GA: My own mom—uh—the grandparents, the Ball grandparents, I never knew. They both passed away . . .

SL: Okay.

GA: . . . before I was born. But my own parents—my mother was very—always painting because she had majored, at Central

College in Conway, she had double majored—uh—in voice and art. And she painted—our whole house, and even my home now is filled with paintings that she did. And—uh—you know, enormous things. And—and all of her friends got pictures. And when we got married, she painted a picture for Alan's stepmother. And you know, all this—all the way through, her paintings just filled the house and filled people's lives. Plus, she sang everywhere. She sang—she taught voice, she obviously sang in church, she directed the church choir at the First Baptist Church for many, many years for free.

SL: Yeah.

[00:05:02] GA: That was before people had to be paid to do this. And—uh—and so my—my life was filled with music. And so I remember—I don't remember hearing her sing as much as I remember her playing the piano and . . .

SL: Painting.

GA: . . . talk—and painting because she had always a corner of their bedroom was—we had a chest of drawers, and it was stacked with oil—uh—oil paints and the supplies for painting. And she always sat in that corner on a card table—had a card table. And she would either work with easel or painting. And she—uh—well, she graduated from Central in 1917.

SL: Central in Little Rock?

GA: No, Central in Conway.

SL: In Conway. Yeah.

GA: Central College. It was the Central Baptist College at that point.

I—I think it—I'm not sure what it is now. It's maybe a state teacher's college now.

SL: It's not UCA.

GA: It may be.

SL: Yeah.

GA: It—that's in Conway?

SL: University of Central . . .

GA: Okay, that's probably . . .

SL: . . . Arkansas.

GA: . . . what it became, yeah.

[00:05:58] SL: Or is that in Russellville?

GA: No, no, that's in Conway.

SL: Okay. All right.

GA: Yeah. No, Russellville is Arkansas Polytechnic College. Yes.

SL: There you go. There you go.

GA: Yeah. And I went there one year. But—and my father never got to go to college because his father got very, very sick three weeks before he was to graduate from high school. And he had

to come out of school and help run the jewelry store. And he always wanted to be an architect. And so because of that and his father's health, he had to help out for so long. And he always regretted it, but he did a lot of stuff that an architect would have done. He made the huge sign went over the store that said Faulkner's with—he cut out in wood the—you know, a ring and the package of—a gift box, and then the letters were in like Old English script, and he cut all that out and built it, and it went across the whole front of the store outside. And—uh . . .

[00:06:51] SL: That's kind of an artist craft . . .

GA: Yes, he did. And he had a shop in our garage, and he was always doing—fixing something or building something. And I have little chairs about eighteen inches tall that were like spindle that—for a—doll chairs.

SL: Mh-hmm. Yeah.

GA: That eventually—they used to have—he'd done some wicker, somehow, in the chairs. And I eventually made some little needlepoint cushions to go there because the wicker had long since fallen apart.

SL: Right.

GA: And he built a doll house that I played with. I—first my sister, who's ten years older, played with, and then when she got tired

of it, I played with it. When I got tired of it, my daughter played with it, and then my granddaughter. In other words, they—Alan put a few adjustments to it. He had to—it needed a basement, so he built another floor on the bottom. [*SL laughs*] But he was always doing stuff like that, and his father before him. So there were little pieces of furniture that we played with as children that, as far as I was concerned, they were just furniture. But it turned out I found out later he or my grandfather had built them.

[00:07:54] SL: Okay, so I'm a little bit confused.

GA: Okay.

SL: Now—it was your—your—um—father's father that had the iron works?

GA: No.

SL: Or your muh—

GA: It was my mother's father.

SL: Your mother's father.

GA: Had the iron works. My father's father was the jeweler also.

SL: Right.

GA: And then it became—it was J—he was J. C. Faulkner.

SL: Okay.

GA: And then it became J. C. Faulkner and Son when my father got

old enough.

SL: Okay.

GA: And so that was where he had learned all of that because, as I said, I never knew my grandparents on my mother's side because they . . .

SL: They had passed.

GA: . . . died long before I . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . I was born. But the other one, my other grandfather, the Faulkner, died when I was six. He did. She didn't. She was around for many, many years.

[00:08:39] SL: Do you remember any conversations you had with your grandfather?

GA: I really don't. Isn't that funny? He was very calm and very quiet. My grandmother I remember [*laughs*] extremely well.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Sometimes not so well. Not so pleasant. I used to spend the night with her instead of a babysitter. My parents would take me over and to stay.

SL: So she lived close to your . . .

GA: She lived actually on the other side of Russellville, but you know, it probably took three minutes to get there but . . .

SL: Right.

GA: By car. But no—uh—she taught me to play checkers. And—and she would always—oh, she'd make the best toast in the morning and thi—just regular, buttered toast, but I can still remember that. One time she had someone visiting her, and she said, "It's time to eat breakfast. I can hear So-and-so scraping the toast."
[SL laughs] Because they'd burned it, you know [laughs] . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . and so she knew it—she knew it was ready.

[00:09:28] SL: Right.

GA: But no, she had a place in the store, which was on—when I grew up was on Main Street in Russellville. Originally, it was on Commerce, which Commerce and Main were sort of—that was the center of town, I guess you would—center of the downtown.

SL: Mh-hmm.

GA: And—uh—when they first moved there in 1897, they started this store in—on lower Commerce, North Commerce. And in—well, let's see, that was 1897 when they moved there. My father was one when they moved to Russellville from Morrilton. And they started this store, and it was jewelry and gifts and a soda fountain, which was very unique at that point in life.

SL: Yeah.

GA: You know, the big Coca-Cola sign wa—even back then was there. But anyway, it was—I had a picture of it, and it was really a pretty little store. And my grandfather this—my father's father had rented this building somewhere in downtown Russellville, and I'm not sure where it was. But it was probably up on Main Street somewhere. And he used to have visiting entertainers come in for the local people to pay and . . .

SL: Minstrel show.

GA: Yeah. Shows to come in and see, and I have no—I never seen anything that told what they were. But anyway, he would bring them in and charge to have them. [00:10:44] And this one night, January 16, I think it was, 1906, he had the show going on, he had the cashbox in his hand with the receipts. He had just finished counting the evening's receipts, and he heard the fire alarm. He opened the front door of the building, and the entire town was aflame.

SL: My gosh.

GA: And course, that scared him because he didn't know how far back it went. He went—he forgot the cashbox, left it lying there. 'Cause that was part of his income, I guess you would say. He left that, he went to see what it was, and his store, relatively new—it was maybe eight years old—was gone. Burned to the

ground. And—uh—there is a picture of that. And the only building left standing in that two or three block area right there was the building next door to his . . .

SL: Minstrel show.

GA: . . . his store. No, no, to his own jewelry store.

SL: Oh.

GA: And—um—everything was lost except for this one porcelain candelabra that was about this tall and had, you know—with—very ornate . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: . . . with little flowers and everything. And the only reason it was not destroyed was because he had lent it to a customer because she was having a dinner party or something that night. And so she had borrowed it to use as part of her decoration. And so that one piece was saved. And I had that—actually, Arkansas Tech Museum has it now. [00:12:13] There's a small museum—they were doing a program on old companies—old families, sorry, in Russellville. And so they asked. They have his World War I helmet, the—this candelabra the—he was a hand engraver. Both my father and my grandfather, I think, did the hand engraving and—in the Old English script and everything. Beautiful stuff. He—my father got so shaky when he got old he

couldn't sign his name very well like this. He couldn't carry a cup of coffee without shaking.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But he could still engrave in this stuff, beautiful Old English script. But anyway—um—so that is there. It's this great big heavy thing that rotated sort of so that you could—he could turn it around to—to engrave. [00:12:58] But I went back—I started to talk about the store. My grandmother sat in a chair that was sort of almost in the window . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: . . . of the jewelry store, right by the side of my father while he engraved. Or the—he—or his father. She could watch him, and she could wave at everybody as they walked down the street, and if she saw somebody she knew or she wanted to talk to, she'd jump down and run out and start talking to 'em on the street. [*Laughs*] But—uh—the other thing great about that store was—and we just went back. It's now the Emporium on Main Street in Russellville, 214 West Main. In the windows, when you're facing the store, on the right-hand side window, the show window, on the wall at the end was a blank wall. When he was there, both of them, it was this beautiful old clock that stood there with a pendulum.

SL: Oh.

GA: And every day at 11:00, my grandfather would walk down to the train station, which was about two blocks, set his watch, come back, and reset the clock to make sure that it was accurate because everybody in town told the time by Faulkner's Jewelry Store. And I have that clock in our dining room right now.

SL: That's way cool.

GA: It doesn't run. [*Laughs*] He got it—he brought it up with him once, and he fixed it so it ran, and it stopped shortly thereafter. And you have to wind it almost every day, and of course, when you travel at all . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . you're not there to wind it. Uh—and I—it—we have set it at 7:20, I think it is, which is supposedly what you do with old clocks that don't run because that was the time Abraham Lincoln died.

SL: I did not know that.

[00:14:36] GA: Well, that's what we were told, that you always do that. So anyway, that was my best memory of that. And you want me to keep talking about the store and stuff?

SL: Yeah, sure. I me . . .

GA: 'Cause that's where most of my memories are. Not in the iron

works because that was a dirty place [*laughs*], and he was dead when I . . .

SL: Right.

[00:14:53] GA: My grandfather was dead when I came along. But—uh—I used to go down on—which was really fun for me—on Sunday afternoon sometime or even in the evenings and help my father unload new goods that came into the store. China, glassware, and silverware, and all this. And they'd come in these great big China barrels about like this and—um—straw. And so it's amazing we didn't all end up with these horrible allergies [*SL laughs*] because it was always really dusty. And so it was so much fun, you know, to pull this stuff out and set it up and see what it looked like, and then to even, when I got a little older, to . . .

SL: Like Christmas.

GA: It was, it was Christmas every time the sh—it went, you know, it came.

SL: Right.

[00:15:33] GA: But—uh—and then when I got older, I got to go—he usually went to Dallas once a year to buy goods for the store, and I used—I got to go with him a couple of times. And that was very exciting as a little girl to go to Big D and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: You know, and go to the Aldophus Hotel and get to dance with my father [*laughs*] on the dance floor.

[00:15:54] SL: That's—that's cool. So the—um—what kind of car did you go in? Do you remember the car?

GA: Oh, we—we rode the train when we went.

SL: The train.

GA: Oh yeah. We—we—I don't remember what kind of car we had at that point. My parents had—my grandparents had a 1912 Overland.

SL: All right.

GA: I don't know what that is, but . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: . . . it's like a Model T . . .

SL: Right, uh-huh.

GA: . . . sort of look. And so they had that. And he—actually my grandfather, in addition to having the jewelry store, was the Oldsmobile dealer very, very briefly. Uh—I think he sold maybe two cars a year. [*Laughter*] They weren't very—weren't very common then. And—um—but anyway, and that was—that was—but carwise—and then when I grew up we had a—it was an Oldsmobile still, I think, but it was not the dealer anymore. That

was someone else, obviously.

[00:16:45] SL: So let's—let's get back to the trains . . .

GA: Okay, I'm sorry.

SL: . . . you know—uh—um—that used to be the way that you went anywhere far away.

GA: That's right. Yeah.

SL: Uh—do you remember how many trains came in and out of . . .

GA: I think one came everyday through Russellville.

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: But we would take the—a—it was a funny name for like a—just like the hub or something. You would take it to Little Rock, and then you would catch the train from Little Rock and go across through Texarkana . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GA: . . . and come into Dallas. But that's the way—all—over the years all the letters we found and the diaries we found—all—when either one of my parents went anywhere, it was . . .

SL: It was by train.

GA: . . . it was always on the train. They would catch this little short spur into Little Rock and then catch more out of there. They never once talked about ridin' the bus. And course they didn't—I—you know, I can almost remember the first time you drove a

car to Little Rock, I mean, that was—you know, 'cause we . . .

SL: Big doin's.

GA: Yeah, 'cause we would go to Little Rock, when I was a child, we would go to Little Rock to shop because Russellville was pretty small.

SL: Right.

GA: And—uh—you know, my—I still remember when my sister came home, and she was about—well, she had her driver's license, obviously, but she was probably eighteen, nineteen. And she was—they let her drive the car as we were drivin' to Little Rock, and just about scared my parents to death because she went sixty miles an hour. And I think [*laughs*] the speed limit was probably about forty-five . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . at that point . . .

SL: Yeah.

[00:18:05] GA: But anyway, and this was the old Highway 64 before—long before 40 was built.

SL: Right, so it was single lane on each side and.

GA: Oh, definitely.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah. Still is, I think, if you get on 64.

SL: Right. Right.

[00:18:18] GA: Yeah. But no—uh—my mother went—uh—and we found this in her diary. We found her diaries. I didn't even know I had them, but when my father had passed away—and she had passed away many years before that. She died in 1965. And he di—he lived until 1985, but when we were—when he died, we brought all the stuff back home to Maryland. And we found these little books. My fa—my mother had kept books for her father, who was in the iron . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GA: . . . foundry. And they were little account books . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . I guess, and they were about . . .

SL: Ledgers.

GA: . . . that book—little ones, though.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And they had little tiny, like, college-ruled paper except smaller. And she had written every line and even in between, all across the top and down the sides, everything, in pencil. And it—you know, after so long, pencil smears.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And to read these as we were researching them, I used a

magnifying glass to go through and read them. Because you would—some of it was really bad. But she had written, when she was—this was in the Roaring Twenties. She was—finished college at seventeen, and so this was in, you know, [19]18, [19]19, [19]20—uh—she had gone to Texas two or three times because her sister and her husband had lived in—uh—west Texas. She had gone all the way to California on the trains and back. You know, she had just gone everywhere, but it was like you say, it was all trains.

SL: Well, let's just talk a little bit more about the trains because—um—I've interviewed folks that feel like it was a big mistake when the train—uh—commuter traffic kinda died off and they just became kinda freight trains.

GA: Right.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:03] SL: So how long did it take you to get from Russellville to Dallas, let's say?

GA: Well, it was—I think we had a sleeper, so it must have been long time. *[Laughs]*

SL: There you go.

gA: Yeah. Because when my father was in the army he—in the first World War, he was at—stationed at Kelly in Texas.

SL: Okay.

GA: South of San Antonio? Is that where Kelly Field is? I think . . .

SL: Wow. That's a long way down.

GA: And they had taken the train, when they found out he was going overseas, they had taken the train down to . . .

SL: See him off.

GA: . . . see him once before he left. And I know it was at least overnight. Course that was in 1918.

SL: Right.

GA: But—and I think we s—I'm sure we had a sleeper when we went to Dallas to the gift show. But . . .

[00:20:49] SL: Well, what a great way to travel.

GA: He—yeah.

SL: You don't have any to worry about anything.

GA: That's right. Oh yeah, don't have to stop and get gas. [*Laughs*]

SL: And the food? Was the food good? Or did you . . .

GA: I don't really . . .

SL: . . . pack your own food?

GA: No, I imagine we ate on the . . .

SL: On the dining car.

GA: . . . in the dining car. But I really don't remember anything. I—as a child, you know, I was young enough, probably a young

teenager, that I—when I went with him to the gift show, I don't remember anything about the food, frankly.

[00:21:14] SL: So do you remember him coming back from the war?

GA: I don't because he came back in 1919.

SL: Oh [GA *laughs*], that's right. That's right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Did he ever talk about the war?

GA: Oh, he talked about it all the time. It was . . .

SL: Is that really—'cause that's . . .

GA: . . . the greatest experience that . . .

SL: . . . kind of unusual.

GA: Yeah, it was the greatest experience in his life. He had never, except for maybe going to Dallas—or he'd gone to Chicago for the World's Fair at one point with his parents, and I think he went the St. Louis World's Fair, which was really a big deal.

SL: It was.

[00:21:42] GA: And he had never really been out of Russellville or Arkansas except for those things. And so he—the idea that he got to go to Texas first, and then he—hearing him describe his trip from Texas over up to New York. He wrote letters to his parents, and he wrote almost every day.

SL: Wow.

GA: For the entire time he was gone. He was definitely a mama's boy. [*Laughs*] Very spoiled, as you realize when you read these series of letters. But he wrote, and he talked all about everything they saw, everything—and how—everything they had to shield them. They couldn't buy any food that people were selling on the side of the train because it might be the enemy trying to poison them. All these things that were in his mind. But they got to New York, and then he went over on the *Mauretania*, I think, was the big ship that went over, and it went to Southampton in England. And then he was in England for a little while, and then they went over to France, and then they brought—came back to England. And then he went to Ireland. [00:22:52] And this was because he was a watchmaker. He wa—had gone in before the draft took effect. He had volunteered. And they found out he was a watchmaker. And that making fine tools.

SL: Right.

GA: And my husband tells me there were probably no more than two meters or two [*laughs*] dials on these planes back at that time period.

SL: Right.

GA: But that was what he did. He worked—the instrument panel was

what he did. And they had them based in Ireland because it was safe and they didn't have to deal with any active war. And that's the other reason that he loved it the whole time because he got to travel, and he got to see the—see Ireland, he got to see England, he got to see parts of France. Never under fire. Never.

SL: Huh. How did that happen?

GA: And the only time he carried a gun of any kind was when he was on watch or whatever he had—which they had to do. I don't even know if he ever shot one.

SL: Boy, he . . .

GA: He was a very pass—pacifi—what am I . . .

SL: Pacifist.

GA: Pacifist a person 'cause—yeah. He just did not like things like that. [*Laughs*]

[00:23:57] SL: Well, he's a very lucky.

GA: He was because many of his friends . . .

SL: 'Cause it was an awful war.

GA: . . . were killed. [*Coughs*] Excuse me. Yeah, it was pretty bad. But no, I don't remember when he came back, but I just remember hearing him tell stories. And that was the height of thi—one time he loaned somebody—when they were in Texas at this Kelly Field. This was their boot camp, I guess you would

say, and they were there for quite a while. They had went into town, into the city, to have their pictures made in their uniform so they could send them back to their . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . family, you know. And he was so excited about this, but when they got ready to pay for them, this friend that was with him, he didn't quite have enough money to pay, cash to pay for it. So my father loaned him I think it was five dollars. Which was more then than five dollars . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . would be today.

SL: Yeah.

[00:24:45] GA: But anyway, years later—and he kept saying, "I'll pay you back. I'll pay you back, Joe." Years later, my father got a letter from this man. Didn't even know where he had gone, what had happened to him, or anything, and there was five dollars inside of this thing, this letter. [*Laughter*] I mean, you know, people were really honest then.

SL: Well, your word was . . .

GA: That's right.

SL: . . . was your bond.

GA: That's right. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But no, that was great. And he, as I said, he just really enjoyed—and that's gee—it's hard to say you enjoy war. But he did.

[00:25:17] SL: Well, he was lucky that he didn't see—actually see action. Yeah.

GA: Yes. Right. He did. And he was on the train in France somewhere when the armistice was signed. And he took this little snapshot, which I don't have because it was such a poor picture, but a little snapshot of the people in the train station the day that they had just signed the armistice, you know.

SL: Everyone happy and . . .

GA: Yeah, cheering and . . .

SL: . . . cheering.

GA: Because he wanted—wished he had been in Paris because evidently that was a big celebration . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . in Paris.

SL: Right.

GA: But anyway, that was fun. But I was thinking of something else. Well, I'll think of it. You—maybe you can ask me a question and I'll think [*laughs*] of it.

[00:25:55] SL: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Well, so he comes back and gets back into the jewelry store.

GA: Yeah.

SL: What's so great about the Ireland thing is that he's practicing his craft . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . his fine craft. And so the instrument panel was for the biplanes?

GA: Yes. Yeah.

SL: Yeah, there probably weren't more than four or five gauges.

GA: I think Alan said maybe two, three at the most.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But anyway.

SL: Fuel, oil pressure.

GA: Yeah. I guess. Altimeter, maybe

SL: Maybe a compass.

GA: Maybe. I don't . . .

SL: Altimeter, there you go. [*Laughs*]

[00:26:30] GA: Oh, I know what I was gonna say. In his letters it was very interesting. He had grown up with my mother and Brooks Hays, who ended up being a congressman from Arkansas.

SL: Yeah, sure.

GA: And so the—actually the cornerstone of our—the First Baptist Church in Russellville has Steele Hays, who was Brooks's father, my Grandfather Faulkner, and my Grandfather Ball, are of the six names that are on the cornerstone.

SL: Founders.

GA: That's the old church. It's sort of buried in a little lobby now in the new one. But anyway, they had grown up together, and so my mother had been in the same class with him, and they had—he'd known her forever. She was just a classmate, a friend. So there was no romantic interest there when he was eighteen or nineteen. I mean, she was—she had many, as we found from her diary. She dated all the time. In fact, she would be out until two o'clock in the morning, and when I was growing up, I had to be in by ten or ten thirty. [*Laughs*]

SL: That's right.

[00:27:25] GA: I said I guess she knew what happened after ten or ten thirty, maybe.

SL: Right.

GA: I don't know. But anyway, my father wrote these letters back to his parents. And in one of them, he talked about this one woman from Fort Smith that he had met. And he said, "I'm in

love with her." And I don't know where he met her but he—
somehow she—maybe he met her at church, a function, or
something. Her fa—her husband was a doctor in Fort Smith.
And so he—they had—he had met her, and they had evidently
been together a little bit. And so he was so sure that this was
the woman he wanted to marry that he basically asked her to
marry him. Not quite but—by letter. And they, you know, sent
the letters back and forth. He sent—when she wrote him, he
sent her letters to his parents also. "Save these for me."
[Laughs] I mean, how many young men share their
girlfriend's . . .

SL: Love letters.

GA: . . . letters? Yeah. [00:28:25] And so when he came back, he
was very still—they had been writing, and he was still very much
in love with her and—all by post. And so he came back, and he
said, "I'm coming back, and I want—but I want—first"—she was
in college in Nashville . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . Tennessee.

SL: Okay.

GA: And he said, "I want to first go see her." And he said, "I want to
give her a ring." So he came back, and he told—ahead of time

had told his father in a letter, "Pick me out a ring. I want to take her a very nice ring, and you know, and see if she will marry me." So he came back, he got the ring, he, by train, went to Nashville, got over there, and he said all the young men there—this was Belmont—it was actually Ward-Belmont, I think, which—what it used to be called.

SL: Yeah.

GA: It was sort of a finishing school for young ladies.

SL: Right.

[00:29:23] GA: And so her doctor father had made sure that she got away from this area, you know. He wanted to get her—he wanted her to marry a doctor maybe from Vanderbilt or something.

SL: Right. Sure.

GA: But—and we heard by the grapevine that maybe he wasn't too pleased that his daughter might be interested in a simple merchant, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: So anyway, he went with the ring, and he said he really felt out of place because all the young men had their jackets and their bowlers and everything, and they were really sharply dressed, and the women were all in their big, flowing gowns. And so he

said she was very nice, but he said it wasn't quite the reunion he had expected. So he never actually got the nerve to say—get down on his knee and say, "Will you marry me?" But he said when he left, "I'm gonna leave this with you. Wear it if you wish." In other words, if you would accept. "But if you don't, just keep it, and I'll get it back sometime." So evidently, she didn't wear it. And when she finally came—she got very sick with the Spanish Flu. Remember when the big . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . flu epidemics came through. And so she was extremely ill then. And but when this was all over and she came back, she came to Russellville.

SL: Wow.

[00:30:38] GA: She first said, "I'm coming to Russellville to see you. I'll be staying overnight in the Pearson Hotel and would like to visit with you." And course, I think my father began to realize that maybe—why she was coming back. So she came back, and they had a little time together, and then she was gonna leave the next day. And then you—in the meantime, she pa—gave the ring back to him and said, "I can't do this." We found out later because of commercial salesmen that sold to jewelry stores that sold to the people in Fort Smith and Clarksville and Russellville

and along the line and that knew my fa—my grandfather very well had passed this along that hi—no way was he going to have his daughter marry just a common jeweler.

SL: Merchant. Yeah.

GA: You know, it was a merchant. He—she was gonna marry a doctor. Although she didn't have anybody in mind, but he was not gonna ruin her chances initially. So that's—I'm sure press—parental pressure, both her mother and her father. In fact this man told my grandfather, "Well, she would be a very expensive wife to keep" . . .

SL: High maintenance.

GA: . . . because—y—high maintenance because her mother evidently bought everything in sight in Fort Smith. And but anyway, so she gave the ring back and they—the next day before she put—was put on the train to go back to Fort Smith, he got my mother, Norma, and probably Brooks if he—Brooks Hays, if he was there and three or four of their friends.

[00:32:11] And my father had a new Dodge car. And he took—they went for a ride around Russellville and over to Dardanelle and other various places in the car to entertain her until, you know . . .

SL: Until she left.

GA: Until she left. And one day he was sitting at my living room in Annapolis, and he said—I said, "What happened to that ring?" He said, "Well, you have the diamond on your hand." So one of the stones in this ring had been the stone that had been in the ring that he had given her. And so he had just kept it back.
And . . .

SL: That's so cool.

[00:32:45] GA: It was pretty interesting. And it was sorta neat, you know, but that was a romance whereas with—then he went on and, you know, my—letters from my—not letters but diary notations from my mother said, "I don't know why I ever thought I would love someone different because Joe—but I had just known him all my life, you know, and taken him for granted." And so they got married in 1924. And so this was—he'd come back from the war in 1919, I think, and he'd been in business, and they had been dating, but she had been dating many other people, and I don't know if he had dated. He never mentioned too many—he mentioned other people's names, but it was usually to get together for a sing-sing or a sing-along or whatever . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . or to play cards or something like this. And they went to

movies. And I don't know how many theaters there were in Russellville, but I know that they were a lot of notations about going to see movies. And sometimes they would see the same movie two or three times with different people just to be sure that they—not that they got to see the movie, but that they got to go with different people.

SL: And share the experience.

GA: Sure. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[00:33:55] GA: But anyway.

SL: Well, film was a big . . .

GA: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . big invention.

GA: Well, that was it, you know. I mean, no television . . .

SL: It was a big deal.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And music.

SL: Right.

GA: And as I said, my mother sang and played the piano. My father learned to play the piano, too, and they—sh—he sang in the church choir. She directed the church choir. Had painted all the

pictures in town. [*Laughs*] But I have one picture that she painted for my grandparents, my father's parents. It was a picture about, oh, I don't know, five feet tall and . . .

SL: Really.

GA: . . . maybe three feet wide of blue chrysanthemums in a—wu—a vase. Do you know what Niloak pottery is?

SL: I do.

GA: Okay. In a great big . . .

SL: Yeah, that's like very . . .

GA: . . . Niloak—it was very—it came from ark . . .

SL: Japanese. Or, no, it's Arkansas . . .

GA: No, it came from Arkansas.

SL: That's right.

GA: The clay that—down in—around Benton, I think, or . . .

SL: That's right.

GA: . . . something like this.

SL: That's right. You're right.

[00:34:43] GA: Anyway, it was in one of those vases, and the huge picture, you know. And it hung on the landing in my grandparents—you went up three steps, and then it went up to a lo—going upstairs in the house, and then right there on that wall was this picture hung. And now it hangs in my—where is it

hanging? Anyway, it's hanging in my living room [*laughs*]
somewhere. I've got pictures everywhere, so I can't remember.

SL: Well, so did she paint mostly still lifes?

GA: Lots of still life. We have some pictures of people. I have a picture she painted of a child in a high chair. It was not her child, but it looks so much like my sister, who had, evidently, golden yellow hair, that—and it—we had a high chair very similar, the old wooden high chair with the little . . .

SL: Sure.

GA: . . . painting on the back of the chair . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . you know. And I had that big—in fact, I reframed it and had it hanging in my children's bedrooms when they were little as they were growing up. And she painted—the—I know my sister has one she painted of a woman standing at an old well, you know, like in the Middle East somewhere, I think.

SL: Oh.

[00:35:50] GA: And some of 'em were—she was very good at copying. She—I don't think she would say she was a forger, but she could sketch and copy most anything. And but she—we have pictures that she painted of when she was in—at Central majoring in voice. After one of the voice recitals, there's a

picture that she painted that has the gold shoes that she wore, the roses that she was given, and what else is in it? Oh, the strand of pearls that she had worn is strung across there, and that's one picture. And then we have another one she did that was a violin of someone that she was in music with at Central, I guess, that had lent her this violin, so she painted the picture of the violin. And it was—you know, it's just—as I said, I—most of 'em are—lots of 'em are flowers. And she made me try to do this, and I was [*laughs*] not very good.

SL: Well, you have to have an affinity for it.

GA: Yeah.

[00:36:47] SL: So did she ever talk about how her painting interest came about? What her influences were or . . .

GA: I just think as a child, she just probably loved to draw. I mean, one of Alan's books, if you notice the little Indian . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . maiden. Okay.

SL: Yeah.

GA: She did that when she was seventeen years old.

SL: It's beautiful.

GA: And that was just a pencil sketch. And we found the little piece of paper that it—literally, it was about the size of a check, that

you write a check on. And you know, it was just a sketch.

SL: Nice piece.

GA: I mean, a lot of . . .

SL: Yeah, it's a nice piece.

GA: . . . kids will just sit and draw, and she had it—I've got one si—
one son that can sketch a lot of—he doesn't 'cause he's business
and everything, but he can draw lots of things. And I used to
draw. I mean, I may—I guess I minored in art, but I went to
university, and I didn't get along with the colle—the art
professors because I wanted stuff to look really—if I was drawing
or painting something, I wanted it to look like that, which . . .

SL: You wanted it to look real.

GA: . . . meant it was like a photograph. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[00:37:49] GA: And this was the beginning more of the more
modern . . .

SL: Abstract, yeah, sure.

GA: Yeah, abstract thing, and I really had a hard time . . .

SL: Impressionism.

GA: . . . with it. I could do the colors, but I didn't [*laughs*] have too
much luck. So I make—I made—that's probably the only Cs I
made in college. None in high school, and probably the only

ones I made in college were in art at the university. [*Laughs*]
But I got into fashion and dress design, and that was a lot of
sketching in that because you'd have to sketch the . . .

SL: Was that in homemaking?

GA: Yes. I have a Bachelor of Science in home economics. I know
we've jumped to college now but . . .

SL: No, that's all right.

GA: That's all right.

SL: I mean . . .

GA: But . . .

SL: . . . we're talkin' about your lineage of . . .

GA: Okay. Well, that was there.

SL: . . . art and craft.

[00:38:28] GA: And my mother sewed for me all the time, so she
was at least into part of that. Course part of the reason you
sewed then was to have something unique. I mean, you go to
the store and buy it, but then so did everybody else go to the
store and buy something. So she made a lot of my clothes as I
was growing up until I started sewing, and then I made almost
all of 'em. I was going to make my wedding gown, but my
mother had a heart attack shortly before, and I bought—within
the year before, and my father said, "I—you just not gonna have

time to do that," because I was already designing it and everything, and that—it was necessary that I do that because I only weighed eighty pounds when I got married. I was like—these days they have size twos and fours. They didn't have anything smaller than a size seven back then.

SL: Wow.

[00:39:14] GA: And so I would've worn a five, and but I actually—my wedding gown that I ended up buying in Little Rock, I think, was a size seven, but my waistline was only, like, nineteen inches. And so I had to take darts and seams in the waist to make it fit me. And so many years later, our church in Annapolis had a style show of old wedding gowns. And so I volunteered mine, but I said, "I can't get into it [*laughter*], I've had three kids." But they said, "Well, we'll see if we can find someone that can fit into it, if you are happy to have them wear it." So that was fine. They found a little girl [*laughs*] that was twelve years old that could fit into it.

SL: Really. You were tiny.

GA: And—I was really tiny and—when Alan married me, he said, "Well, I always knew by the time you were forty, there'd be something there to grab hold of." [*Laughter*] He used to take me to Jug Wheeler's where—in college here.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And make me drink milk. Everybody else would drink Cokes and whatever they'd drink, and he had . . .

SL: Right. Or beer. Didn't they . . .

GA: Maybe. I thi . . .

SL: Jug Wheeler's use to . . .

GA: Did Jug Wheeler's? Did they . . .

SL: He used to . . .

GA: Back in those days? In the [19]50s?

SL: He used to deliver beer . . .

GA: Oh, okay.

SL: . . . to the campus, yeah.

GA: Yeah. Well, I don't think there was much drinking on campus in the [19]50s . . .

SL: Maybe . . .

GA: . . . except at the fraternity houses.

SL: Probably.

GA: Er—the mid-[19]50s?

[00:40:29] SL: Yeah, I mean, it was—it wasn't illegal for him to deliver the beer.

GA: No, no, but you couldn't—like the student union didn't sell . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . alcohol . . .

SL: That's right.

GA: . . . or anything.

SL: That's right.

GA: I think there was George's that sold alcohol.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I don't think Jug Wheelers did then. I really don't.

SL: Yeah.

GA: They may have delivered it, but I don't think that . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . you could buy it there and drink it in their . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . in the cars that you, you know, backed in.

[00:40:49] SL: And then I guess Maxine's, maybe.

GA: I don't know if that—where that was.

SL: Oh, it's right here off the square.

GA: I don't . . .

SL: Right across from . . .

GA: You think it was . . .

SL: Next door to Woodruff Cleaners.

GA: You think it was there in the [19]50s?

SL: I do.

GA: Okay.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I wasn't aware of that.

SL: It's pretty old, yeah.

GA: He never brought me there, so I [*SL laughs*]*—*and neither . . .

SL: Spared you.

GA: . . . did anybody else. But anyway, we were into art and . . .

[00:41:09] SL: While we're—yeah, so let's talk a little bit about the house that you grew up in.

GA: Okay. Well, the house I was born in was next door to my Faulkner grandparents' house. And my sister lived there for many years 'cause she was ten when I was born. But I only lived there for one year, and then we moved to South Denver. And the house had originally, which is a picture in one of my pictures I se—brought, was on River Street 'cause Denver used to be River Street.

SL: Okay.

GA: 'Cause it ran from probably downtown straight to the Arkansas River. Now it's a different road that runs to the river. But so they changed the street names, and I wanna tell you about that 'cause that, to me, is really one of the more interesting things in my background.

SL: Okay.

GA: Anyway, so I moved—we—they moved to that house, they remodeled it, and moved there in 1938. And it was a brick home on the corner of—on—three blocks from downtown on the corner of Denver and Third. And it was—well, I guess we had three bedrooms. And it was ah—there was an attic in the upstairs. But nice stairs going up, but then it was an attic.

SL: Right.

[00:42:28] GA: And we used to play up there at—my friends and I'd play dress up and all kind . . .

SL: So it was floored.

GA: Oh yeah, it was floored.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And there were ceilings, and at one point there had been paper on the ceilings. I think that was part of the stuff that had not been done in remodeling. And it's all been changed now, but when we sold it when my father died in [19]85, then someone bought it, and they re—they did the upstairs, too. But anyway, it had just the three bedrooms, the kitchen, living room, formal dining room, and a music room, I guess you would call it. I've forgotten what they called it. But we had the living room and then the music room, and then the dining room and the kitchen.

And down the center was the old—you know—was it the dog trot they called the center . . .

SL: Yeah, sure.

GA: . . . of the old houses?

SL: Yeah.

GA: Course, this was a hardwood floor hallway, now.

SL: Right.

GA: Had bookcases in it and everything.

[00:43:14] SL: But originally, it was an outdoor . . .

GA: Yes, originally it was. Well, this was not . . .

SL: Pass through kind of . . .

GA: Yeah. And this just went straight from a front porch, which was screened in when I lived there all the way to the back bedroom, which was my parent's bedroom. And just before it got to the bedroom, it widened so that it was probably ten or eleven feet wide at that point and had room for a couple of reclining easy chairs. That's where the television ended up. So that was—what—we just called it the . . .

SL: Living room.

GA: . . . hall, but . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . that was like a den.

SL: Right.

GA: Like a casual living room because they didn't use the formal living room very much except when they had company.

SL: Right.

GA: We used the music room a lot because we all had to take piano lessons. All. There were just two of us. *[Laughs]* But we took piano lessons and voice lessons, eventually. But no, music was a big, big part of my life growing up, completely.

SL: So is the piano?

[00:44:07] GA: Just piano and voice. Yeah. No, I took piano from the time I was six, I guess, until I was in high school and had too many other things to do and finally got them to let me stop taking piano. And then I didn't play the piano much after that until I met Alan. And he played the piano and got interested. And we got s—when he was taking from Mrs. Humphreys here in Fayetteville, she was having a recital, and we were just dating. And she said, "Would"—asked Alan, "Would you bring your girlfriend over and play in my recital and play a duet?" She said, "I want these young kids to see what you can do if—be—the romance comes through piano." So we learned—he already had played it. I had to learn my part. I think my part was what Ronnie Morris had played before with him. But anyway, "Tea for

Two." [*SL laughs*] So we played "Tea for Two" in his little re—the recital of all these.

SL: Right.

GA: Of the little kids. But anyway, and so from then on, we started playing duets a lot after we were married. And to this day we sit down at the piano and play duets. And over the years we've had—well, we had an upright piano, and then we had a small grand, and then we had a big grand, a concert grand, and then we just dialed it back to a little smaller grand, which made your living room a lot bigger when you got . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . rid of the big grand.

SL: Right, right.

[00:45:35] GA: But anyway, and for years we played the piano and were—I think he talked about this—in charge of the music at our church on the ti—the Sundays. The choir didn't sing every single Sunday. Only two times a month. The rest of the time, they needed music, special music. So we either played the piano or got someone to do it. And we got lots of practice that way. We played for two weddings. One was outdoors. One was in the church. One was actually outdoors in someone's garden. And they had a keyboard brought in, and they had had tremendous

rains . . .

SL: Oh!

GA: . . . right before. And they had just . . .

SL: [*Unclear word*] swell up.

GA: . . . put down sod in the back yard, and they'd put more sod where it had gotten so wet. They had portable toilets here . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . ready for the guests 'cause it was a big wedding. And this—the father of this bride turned out to be our doctor, our GP or whatever. But anyway, so they had this keyboard, and we'd sit on the bench and try to play. Course we had to have a bigger bench 'cause there were two of us. [*SL laughs*] The wind was blowing and the wi—we had clothespins to hold our music on the music rack. The chair started sinking . . .

SL: Oh, no!

GA: . . . because the ground was so soft.

SL: So soft.

[00:46:44] GA: So anyway, we felt like we were gonna—and it was on a big bluff, so we just knew we were [*laughter*—not literally straight down, but sloped, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: So anyway, we got that done. But that was two weddings, and

I—did we play for a funeral? Anyway. We—it seemed like we played for someone's funeral, and Alan, I know, has played for funerals. But when we played for the church services, you know, one of us, one or the other of us would do the hymns, and when the—all of the special music was either someone solo that we had gotten or a duet with both of us . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . on the same piano. Yeah.

[00:47:19] SL: Right. So the "Tea for Two" duo worked much better than it did with Mr. Morris then 'cause . . .

GA: Well, they had some—yeah, they had problems.

SL: They got out of sync.

GA: Yeah. Well, and when you were sitting right there—by the time you—by—and at this point we'd been married—we just celebrated our sixtieth anniversary. By this time you sort of feel. You sort of know what's happening. You can tell if someone's gonna have trouble, you slow down.

SL: Right.

GA: You don't have to say, "Slow down." [*Laughter*] You know.

SL: "Start over."

[00:47:46] GA: Yeah, right. Right. But no, and so we've been playing all kinds of duets for any—and we played in senior

homes like—let's see, what do you have here? Butterfield.

SL: Butterfield, yeah.

GA: We played at Butterfield several times. We've been—given concerts at Butterfield.

SL: That's so beautiful that you guys . . .

GA: Yeah, I don't know how many times. And we did that partly when his stepmother was out there. She would, "Please come," 'cause it gave her a boost to . . .

SL: Sure.

GA: . . . have us, especially after Alan's father died.

SL: Right.

GA: And they'd give her a special seat on the front row, you know. And we did that, and we played in the ones in Annapolis several times and for, as I said, church services. And we've gone to lots of places. Wherever they have a piano with a big enough chair.

[00:48:28] SL: So when you were growing up in the house with the piano—well first of all, let's—we'll go ahead and keep talking about the music.

GA: Yeah, that's all right.

SL: So radio, I guess. You had a . . .

GA: Yes, yes.

SL: . . . radio in the house.

GA: Yes.

SL: And did you listen to music programs on the radio, or were you . . .

GA: I was too busy.

SL: . . . spinning records or . . .

GA: Oh, I had records, yes. I had the—well . . .

SL: . . . 78s?

GA: The 33s and then the little 78s with . . .

SL: Oh, forty . . .

GA: . . . which were the—45s, I mean.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah, 78—this was—yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah. And I had, you know, the typical little record player. We didn't have any big sound system. [00:49:03] But my father built the first radio that was in Russellville. In fact, they—his family was the first people that ha—I think I told you that, maybe.

SL: No, I . . .

GA: That had a radio. I have a picture of him holding this thing that's—well, it's about that long and about like that, so it's a big block, and this—he built the radio. And he would have social

events at his life—at his house when he—with his friends when he would get a station from far away. Like he'd get a Chicago station . . .

SL: Sure.

GA: . . . it we—or Memphis or something, and he would get very excited. And so all these friends would come over and listen. That was what they did for their evening's entertainment. Went to listen to the radio.

[00:49:38] SL: Yeah. They did the same thing in Harrison with John Paul Hammerschmidt. His dad had a radio, and he had the wires, the antenna, comin' off of it and mounted up on trees. [GA laughs] So he had great reception.

GA: Oh, wow.

SL: And then the—they'd have twenty or thirty people in the yard.

GA: Yeah. I mean, that was a big social event . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . to get the music, yeah. No, that was—he was very proud of that. And he—you know, then we had regular radios in the house later, of course. But I wasn't ar—well, I I don't know how old when he built that radio. He was younger, I think, before I was born, probably. Probably in the [19]20s or something.

SL: Boy, it'd be something to still have that, wouldn't it?

GA: Yeah. Well, we have a lot of it, but . . .

SL: Right.

GA: Anyway. Not that.

SL: Well, just the handcrafted early, vintage radios.

GA: Oh yeah. Yeah.

SL: So remarkable.

GA: Well, the big ones that were, you know . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . cases like this, we had one of those that sat back in that little sitting area I was talking about.

SL: Right.

[00:50:37] GA: And they'd sit back there and listen to *Fibber McGee and Molly* and some of those old radio shows, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: But I think eventually the insides got taken out. This is more of his woodworking. The insides got taken out when we got nicer radios, I guess.

SL: Right.

GA: And that was made into a very nice little whatnot shelf.

SL: Right, yeah.

GA: That then sat in the living room or something.

SL: I've got a radio cabinet . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: That's kinda like that. Our radio when I was growing up had a record player in it as well.

GA: See, you're young. [*Laughter*]

[00:51:10]SL: Well, so what kind of records did you listen to?

GA: Well, the popular ones at the time and classics.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And we—yeah. That was . . .

SL: So big band stuff and . . .

GA: Big band stuff, yeah. I'm tryin' . . .

SL: That's great stuff.

GA: . . . to think of some of the ones that . . .

SL: It's some of the greatest stuff.

GA: . . . were in there. And now it's just—it just bothers me 'cause as I said, we seem to go to Starbucks most every morning and sit, and there's always that background music.

SL: Right.

GA: And maybe one day in ten, they'll have some music that . . .

SL: That's worth listening to.

GA: . . . is really—yeah, right, that's background music. Sometimes it's . . .

SL: Right. Muzak.

GA: . . . big band, but it's quieter big band. But it's not someone yelling, and you don't hear the drums thump, thump . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . thump . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . you know, that you just think, "Oh, will they ever stop?"

SL: Right.

[00:51:48] GA: But anyway, that's—no, I—class—in fact, trying to get a radio station in our rental car here to—we asked one of Alan's sisters, "Do they have any classical stations? Can we find a cla"—'cause all we could find was the loud, popular stuff, you know, or . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and he—she finally told us the—one of the NPR stations, I think, that we . . .

SL: Yeah, KUAF.

GA: . . . finally—yeah, we found it between—coming up here from Russellville.

SL: Right.

GA: But it was not easy. And we've been other places where it was hard. Because if we're just driving in the car, we'd rather have either talk news or classical music.

SL: Right.

GA: That's—we both seem to prefer the classical stuff.

SL: Well . . .

GA: But.

SL: . . . I can understand that.

GA: Yeah, you sort of . . .

[00:52:31] SL: All right, so you had a house that originally had a dog trot in it . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . that became kind of your informal . . .

GA: Yeah, the dog trot . . .

SL: . . . den.

GA: . . . did.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But I mean, we had a formal living room. And a formal—the music room was very formal and the dining room. You know, to the point that you—the heat wasn't even on in those rooms in the winter time if we weren't using them.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, and I . . .

SL: So . . .

GA: Yeah, I sat in the living room more when my sister was looking

at colleges because she'd have people—she was valedictorian of high—of her high school class, as was I ten years later.

SL: Whoa.

[00:53:03] GA: But she—we would sit in there, and these people from Mississippi and te—all these other states would come and there—to interview her or whatever they did. I don't know.

SL: Right.

GA: Try to sell her on their university.

SL: School. Yeah, sure.

GA: Yeah. And I can remember sitting in there and thinking, "This is really boring." But for some reason I was required to sit there and be nice [*laughs*] while . . .

SL: Well . . .

GA: . . . one of the host—but anyway, it was interesting.

SL: It's certainly a big moment in your older sister's life.

GA: Oh, yes, 'cause she ended . . .

SL: Determines her . . .

GA: . . . up going to Agnes Scott in Decatur, Georgia, which was a long way away.

SL: Right.

GA: Even in the [19]40s, you know. And she just went for one year, and then she came back to the University of Arkansas.

[00:53:41] SL: Let's talk about your sister a little bit.

GA: Okay.

SL: So what was her name?

GA: Mary Josephine Faulkner, and then she . . .

SL: Josephine.

GA: . . . married James. We were Mary and Martha. Neither one of us ever went by the Mary and the Martha. We were Virginia and Josephine. And the Josephine, of course, came from my father, who was William Joseph.

SL: Right.

GA: My just—Virginia came just because my father liked the name. So but anyway, but she became Jo, so she's been Jo and . . .

SL: I've got a cousin Jo.

GA: Yeah. Just *J-O*. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And she is ninety-one years old. She lives in Granbury, Texas. She's mentally as sharp as you could ever get. She has a little vision problems. She had some surgery at one point somewhere that . . .

SL: Didn't take.

GA: . . . didn't go right. And something happened, you know . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . to one eye. Anyway, so—she's not blind, but she, you know, do—and her hearing is typical of ninety-one-year-olds . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . so she uses the close caption on the television all the time, which drives me batty, but I try not to look at it [*laughs*] when I'm visiting her. But she uses a walker. She does, and she had to stop driving.

SL: Yeah. That's hard.

GA: Yeah, it's very difficult because she lives i—you know, it's la—she lives on a lake outside of Granbury about ten miles. And there are about—there are a few houses out there, maybe four or five or so, but you know, her daughter lives with her.

SL: Oh, okay.

[00:55:07] GA: Her daughter is about sixty-five, which is great. Her daughter by—she has a business in downtown Granbury, and so she's gone at least six days a week [*laughs*] if not part of seven. But she's wonderful. She's been wonderful—it's been wonderful for both of 'em, really, because my—her daughter has been married a couple of times, divorced, and so she's, you know—this is great 'cause she will receive the house when my mother—my sister dies.

SL: Right.

[00:55:32] GA: But they take care of each other, so to speak, but she, you know, she—I talk to her on the phone about every other week.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And she'll talk my eye—arm off and talk forever if we—eventually, we'll have to say, "Well, I guess we've talked too long," or the battery on the phone go—starts running down.

[Laughs]

SL: Right, right.

GA: And but no, she's great. She played golf avidly for years.

SL: Huh.

GA: And now she still plays bridge at least once a week.

SL: Well, that keeps your mind sharp.

GA: Oh yeah. Well, that's what I'm saying. She . . .

SL: 'Cause that's a memory thing.

GA: . . . sharp. And she spends the rest of her time like I do on an iPad with crossword puzzles or doing word games or math games or something.

[00:56:13] SL: Words with Friends.

GA: Yes, we do that. I do that with her, and I do it with my son in California.

SL: Right. Right.

GA: And so it's just great and it ke—it—to me, it's all relaxing. If I need to just sit down and collapse, I just pick up the iPad and sit there. And I use the big computer to pay bills . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . and if I need to type something that I wanna—'cause it's easier to type on a keyboard than it is to . . .

SL: It is.

GA: . . . type on this.

SL: Yeah.

GA: In fact my kids even, at one point, gave me a keyboard that attached to the iPad.

SL: iPad.

GA: But I didn't like that very well. It was not . . .

SL: Well, it's not quite the same.

GA: . . . didn't have the right feel. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[00:56:45] GA: But no, she's great, and I—the only reason she had to stop driving—she was still driving. She drove too fast, to me, but [*SL laughs*—she'll see this on the thing, and she'll say, "Oh, I—you didn't tell me." But she just, you know, it's open roads in Texas and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . not much traffic, and she was very confident, and she was a good driver. But one day she was driving in this place called Pecan Plantation where she played golf and where she plays bridge, I think, one of the—anyway, it was like a country-club area close to where she is, and the sun suddenly got in her eyes. And she reached for her sunglasses. And these are just little residential streets. But this is the place where they make their mailboxes bricked, so they're great big posts.

SL: Right.

GA: And right on the road.

SL: Right. I've seen that.

GA: So when she reached for her sunglasses because the sun, as she came around a curve, the sun was right in her face, she probably turned the ste—you know how you do when you reach . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . for something, you where—steering wheel goes with you. She ran into one of those and basically totaled her car.

SL: That's amazing.

[00:57:49] GA: It didn't hurt anybody. Didn't hurt her. But they said, "I think maybe you better not be driving anymore." And this was only at the most two years ago, so she was almost ninety when this happened.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But anyway, but she's, as I said, great. She married John James, who was a graduate of the naval academy, in 1948. Ten years to the day before we got married. [*SL laughs*] June 13, [19]48, [19]58. But anyway, mine—ours was on Friday, hers was on a Sunday. But they got married in Russellville, and he—most of his groomsmen were midshipman people that he knew from the academy. One young man was Van Andy Moores, who Van Moores, his father, was my father's best friend, and they had one of the—I can't remem—Oh, The New Store was the name of the department store in Russellville, and he was right across the street from my father's store. But Van Andy is deceased now, I just heard. But anyway, they were ther—I was a junior bridesmaid at eleven, I think. And then the rest of the girls were—most of 'em were from Agnes Scott, the bridesmaids. But . . .

[00:59:04] SL: Your—so it was a ten-year difference between you and your older sister.

GA: Yeah.

SL: So really—my bru—my next-older brother wa—is ten years olde—was ten years older than me, and you don't really get to spend the social side of stuff.

GA: Right.

SL: That's enough distance where you're probably playing with younger kids, and she's probably playing with older kids, and as she goes through junior high and high school, that kind of expands that . . .

GA: That's right.

SL: . . . social gap a little bit, so I . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . I assume that you probably didn't get to spend . . .

[00:59:43] GA: We didn't actually get to know each other until we were both married and had children.

SL: There you go.

GA: And at that point we had something in common. She hated me when I was born.

SL: Well.

GA: This is—she tells me this. She said, "You took my mother away from me."

SL: Yeah.

GA: She said, "I'd had my—that mu—that woman was my mother for ten years, and you came and" . . .

SL: Everything changed.

GA: Yeah, everything changed. And she used to [*laughs*]*—*we had

this—we—my parents in their bedroom—they had two closets, two walk-in closets. One was my mother's, and this was my father's. And the doorknob on the inside of my father's was missing. So if you're inside the closet, you couldn't open it.

SL: Oh, no.

GA: And she used to lock me in that closet.

SL: Oh my gosh.

GA: And she thought that was so funny. To this day, I can still see standing in that pitch-black closet and not being able to get out.

You know, I mean [*laughs*], that was really frightening. But . . .

[01:00:37] SL: Well, surely she got in trouble for that.

GA: I don't know that anybody was there. She was probably babysitting.

SL: There you go.

GA: Because I was probably six or seven.

SL: Right.

GA: But you see, by the time I was six or seven, she was in high school. She was dating, and then she went away to college.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, I think . . .

SL: So she was gone by the time.

GA: . . . I was seven when she went to college.

SL: There you go.

GA: And so no, we di—we had nothing in common.

SL: Yeah.

[01:00:59] GA: I mean, she would take me places, and I can still remember her saying, "See that woman over there? See how fat she is?" And I'd say, "Yeah." And she'd say, "Do you know why?" And I'd say, "No." And she said, "Well, she's pregnant." And I said, "What does that mean?" [*SL laughs*] You know, I mean, I didn't know. I mean . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . she was gonna educate me, I guess, right then. But I remember little snippets like that, and that's the main things I remember: being locked in the closet and that experience. And she—at one point she was taking Spanish, and I remember she taught me how to count . . .

SL: Uno, dos, tres . . .

GA: . . . maybe to ten in Spanish. Yeah.

SL: Right.

GA: And that's really about it. And then she was homecoming queen for Russellville High School in, I guess it must've been [19]47 or [19]48. And I—this picture is in there. She told me—she said b—when I told her I was doing this, she said, "Please don't take

that picture of me." She said, "It's so horrible." It's a lovely picture for 1944.

SL: Yeah.

GA: You know, and so it's in there. But I mean, you know, it's flowered taffeta dress with flowers in her hair and everything. [Laughs] But this was the picture taken when she was homecoming queen.

SL: Yeah.

[01:02:08] GA: But anyway, so then—and then she was valedictorian. But then she married John, and he was in the navy, and so they traveled everywhere. They lived all over the United States. They lived in England for a while. And great experiences, you know, I mean, she thoroughly enjoyed it. And he was in submarines. He—well, when they were in London, he was in the headquarters, the American Navy headquarters there. And then he went to San Diego, and he was qualifying for command of a submarine, and it just happened that the ship he was using to qualify was the *SS Razorback*—*USS Razorback*. And we were visiting them and he—because Alan was, at this point—I guess he—was he in the air force, maybe? Anyway, he was—had clearance. So he let—he went out with John for the—to qual—when John qualified for command of the submarine.

SL: Neat.

GA: And that was a highlight for my husband. But anyway.

SL: Well, sure.

GA: That was—you know, they lived in San Diego, they lived in the whole, you know, west coast and the east coast and—always a coast, of course.

SL: Yeah.

[01:03:17] GA: And in England. That's the main places they lived.

But anyway, no, they had—and then he died of, I guess it was emphysema because of . . .

SL: The . . .

GA: He smoked, plus the lungs filled in the . . .

SL: From the . . .

gA: . . . these old submarines.

SL: Submarines. Yeah.

GA: This was before the nuclear subs.

SL: Couldn't exhaust . . .

GA: Oh, it was terrible.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Just terrible.

SL: Diesel.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, in my family, there's ten year's difference . . .

Sarah Moore: Excuse me, you guys, I'm so sorry. It's five minutes past an hour, just to give you an idea of where we are right now.

SL: Okay. Well, why don't we get up and move around.

GA: Okay. That's fine.

SL: I think that'd be healthy.

GA: I do, too.

SM: All right, I'll go ahead and stop recording.

SL: Okay, thanks, Sarah.

GA: Okay.

[Recording stopped]

[01:03:50] SL: All right, Ginger. This is our start of our second segment, here. We're trying to be more reasonable today.

GA: Thank you.

SL: I think yesterday we went two-and-a-half hours with . . .

GA: I think you did. [*Laughs*]

SL: . . . with Alan before we took a break, and that's really not healthy, so we've ordered our lunch, and so we'll go another hour here, and when the lunch gets here, we'll have a break.

GA: Okay.

SL: B&B Barbecue.

GA: Oh, good.

[01:04:16] SL: So I'm still very interested in the house that you were raised in. And I forgot to ask you—it had running water.

GA: Oh, definitely.

SL: Right.

GA: Oh yeah, we had a shower and a tub and . . .

SL: Good.

GA: . . . and two bathrooms. One of the tubs in one of the bathrooms was on legs. It was, you know with . . .

SL: Claw.

GA: . . . feet.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Claw, yeah, the claw thing.

SL: Porcelain-lined, iron tub, probably.

GA: I don't know. I just know it was a neat—they're . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . very hard to get into if you were short, you know . . .

SL: Right, right.

GA: . . . to climb over that . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . edge. [01:04:48] But no, we—and I don't think that bathroom had a shower, but that—the shower was the new thing. It was over the other bathroom. And that one bathroom

was one of these where the doors open on each end. One went to my mother's bedroom and—parents. And the other one went to mine or my sister's, whoever—we—it was her bedroom, and then when I grew up it was ours.

SL: Right.

GA: And then there was another bedroom that was always the guest bedroom.

SL: Right.

GA: That's where Alan got to stay when he visited. [*Laughter*]

[01:05:15] SL: Yeah. That—we did talk a little bit about that . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . in his interview. So what about the street outside? Was it paved or dirt?

GA: Oh, it was paved, and it . . .

SL: It was paved.

GA: . . . was a very tree laden. You know, it was a—it—Denver was a nice street. And there were a lot of nice homes on it, you know. It was literally right across the street, now, from the First Methodist Church because they took—they cut through the street that runs by the side of our house. I think it's called Third Place, not Third Street, but anyway, Third Place went all the way across. And that part was closed off, and now that Methodist

church covers all of that and goes basically, with the parking lot, all the way through the lot—or the whole lot's across the street from our house but—and tore down some people's homes that [laughs] I knew.

SL: Right.

GA: But the ones on our block, they're all still there except the one behind us, and it—I think the people that own our house now bought—that house was torn down and bought that lot, so they own all the way through to the next road, to Glenwood, I think is the next street.

[01:06:20] SL: So how big was the yard? Did you have—was . . .

GA: Oh.

SL: Did y'all have a garden at all?

GA: We . . .

SL: Any vegetable garden.

GA: Yeah, we had a vegetable garden at one point. We must've had—somebody else took care of it, though [laughs] because my father didn't like doing things in the yard. He was great with the wood and fixing things or painting on the house or doin' stuff like that, but no, he never did any gardening, and we had someone—always someone mowed it and trimmed the hedges 'cause there were hedges all the way around the back of the house—I mean,

of the yard. And two big pine—pecan trees in the back yard,
which were wonderful because we got all these pecans.

SL: Right.

GA: And my mother's greatest joy was to go out and pick the pecans
off the ground in the fall, but after she had her first heart attack,
that bending over bothered her. And so she had to sort of stop
bending over and picking up the pecans.

SL: Did they whip the branches to get the . . .

GA: No, they just let 'em . . .

SL: They just let 'em fall.

GA: . . . fall down.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And my father used to—every year at Christmas, he would get
all the pecans in, and then he would sit in front of the TV, I
guess, or the radio, listen to music, and pick pecans, and we
would get bags full of shelled pecans.

SL: Yeah, we did the same thing.

GA: So that was great, yeah.

[01:07:34] SL: Yeah. It was. So the—when you—there was no air
conditioning in the house when you were growing up?

GA: No, there was an attic fan.

SL: Right.

GA: So we slept with the windows open, and the fan pulled the air in. They did later put a window air conditioner in my parent's bedroom, which was the very back room.

SL: Right.

GA: But that was the only air conditioning. And—who—I was thinking of something else that was different about that house. I'll think of it. I'll come back to it then.

SL: Well, the screened-in porches—I know sometimes folks would actually move and sleep on the porches.

GA: No, we didn't sleep, but we spent a lot of time. We had one of those swings. Two or three people . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . could sit and swing. My father just lived in that swing. But no, we spent—every evening was spent on that front porch. But.

[01:08:24] SL: Let's talk about the kitchen.

GA: Okay.

SL: So was it still back in the icebox . . .

GA: Ye—well, initially, yeah, initially . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . we had an icebox, and the stove, initially, was one with the burners on the right, and then the oven was up, and it was on

legs.

SL: Yeah.

GA: The stove was.

SL: Porcelain.

GA: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Porcelain stove, yeah.

GA: And no dishwasher.

SL: Right.

GA: No washer/dryer. And so we grew up either going to a—well, initially laundromat. Most of my father's clothes and things went to a—just to a laundry that . . .

SL: Dry cleaner.

GA: I think they came and picked 'em up. I mean, they even did towels and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . his underwear and the—everything. His shirts and everything. And then for my clothes, they always seemed to have a woman that would wash and iron my little dresses and everything and bring 'em back.

[01:09:13] SL: So did you have any domestic help in the house? Did your mom . . .

GA: We had **Margie**, who was an African American lady who came—I

think she came every day, and she would be there in the morning, and she cooked the noon meal. And my father walked home since it was only three blocks from town. He would walk home every day at noon. So our big meal was still dinner at noon. And then we had supper at night. But he came home and ate dinner, and she fixed it. And then I think she left. I don't remember anything after that. And then later they had just someone that came in and cleaned, and my mother did all the cooking. But someone cleaned. Didn't do a very good job. I'd go home and find cobwebs under the—especially the part of the house that people were not using, you know.

SL: Right.

[01:10:03] GA: But yeah, we did have that and had someone do the yard. There was always somebody [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . doing things but . . .

SL: Well, it's a big house.

GA: . . . not a lot of people.

SL: It looked like a big house.

GA: Yeah. Not a lot of hired help in that sense except for that one lady. And she was almost like a nanny at the same time, I think. She didn't live there, but anyway.

SL: So did you feel close to her growin' up?

GA: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I don't have any idea whatever happened to her, though.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But yeah. And my sister still remembers her, too, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: In fact . . .

SL: My mom had help, too.

GA: We used to jokingly, you know, after she was gone, my father would say, "**Margie**, something needs to be done," and course, **Margie** [*laughs*] wasn't there.

SL: Was gone. Right.

GA: It was Norma, I guess, then. It was my mother.

SL: Right.

GA: But no.

[01:10:49] SL: Did you ever see **Margie's** house?

GA: No. At—as a teenager, I worked in the [*clears throat*]—'scuse me, the Black, Negro churches were down in—and the—their area of town. Of course, it was divided.

SL: Right.

GA: Was about three to four blocks west of us. But our church group

used to go down and run their Bible school in the summers. And it just killed me and many of this—many of these things because when I was in high school, they had an essay contest, and it was "What American Means to Me" was the title. And I wrote an essay and entered this contest, won fifteen dollars, which was a lot of money then.

SL: Sure.

GA: But it was bemoaning the fact that these kids for high school had to be traveled—had to travel twenty-five miles to Morrilton to go to high school. I guess there was an elementary school there, so they didn't have to—the little kids didn't go. But I mean, I just thought that was absolutely ridiculous. But this was long before—I mean, I'll have graduated from high school in [19]54, and that was long before all the ruckus in . . .

SL: [Nineteen] fifty-seven.

GA: . . . Little Rock and stuff.

SL: Crisis.

GA: Yeah.

[01:12:01] SL: Well, did you see much of a—did you ever see, you know, colored fountains and . . .

GA: Oh, the movie thea . . .

SL: . . . the segregated . . .

GA: Yes, definitely. And . . .

SL: And . . .

GA: . . . at the movie theater, they went in one door, and we went in another, and they sat in the balcony.

SL: That's right. That's what happened up here, too.

GA: Yeah. And the mou—water fountains, sure. They were marked. And I don't remember being on busses. As I said, nobody seemed to talk about traveling in a bus. And I don't know on a train. As I said, it's—for people that haven't grown up with it, they just can't understand it, and if you do grow up with it, it takes you many years before you even realize . . .

SL: What was goin' on.

GA: . . . what's happening. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I mean . . .

SL: It was all . . .

[01:12:42] GA: I'm sure I was in high school before I even thought about the . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . the difference.

SL: Me, too.

GA: Yeah.

[01:12:51] SL: So what about the restaurants? Were there . . .

GA: I don't think there were any Blacks in the restaurants at all.

SL: Right. They just . . .

GA: That I know of.

SL: Yeah. Sometimes they could pick up food at the back door or something.

GA: Well, they might could be—they might could do that, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And if they would have come to our back door, I'm sure my mother would have given somebody food.

SL: Yeah.

[01:13:11] GA: And we had one person that wanted—always wanted to come and know if we had any vanilla. I think it was someone that worked in—may have been someone that worked in the yard. Course, vanilla extract is how much alcohol? 'Cause it was a dry county. Totally dry. We had no liquor stores or anything. In fact, even when Alan's sister, who lives there now, when their daughter got married, they had a wedding and—at the Methodist church, but they had the reception at their home over on the east side of town. And they had to go to another town in a different county . . .

SL: To buy the alcohol.

GA: . . . if they wanted alcohol for the reception. And so then you had to watch it because people walking down the street would tend to wander into the—'cause it was outdoors, the reception was. They'd wander into the [*laughs*]-to the yard.

SL: Oh, boy.

GA: I don't know—I was not—I didn't drink alcohol at all. I don't think I'd ever had anything till I was probably in university. It was just not a—I mean . . .

SL: It was not in the house.

GA: No, it was not in the house unless it was in there as medicine of some kind.

SL: Right.

GA: But that—it was not even—you didn't even think about it. You didn't miss it because you didn't know the difference.

SL: Right.

[01:14:15] GA: But no, that was . . .

SL: But it's—that county's not still dry though, is it?

GA: Yes, it is.

SL: It is.

GA: I think it is.

SL: Wow. That's pretty big.

GA: Yeah. I mean, I think someone just told me—and they—the

country club . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: I think there was drinking at the country club.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And everything went in the newspaper. Every social thing. So-and-so is having a Coke party for somebody that's getting married or their tea—is having tea or they had a luncheon or they had a bridge party or something. It was always . . .

SL: Someone's . . .

GA: Little blurbs.

SL: . . . visiting from somewhere.

GA: Yes. Oh, definitely.

SL: Yeah.

[01:14:48] GA: Well, never in the paper did they say anything about anybody having a cocktail party or anything to do—I mean, it—the town was pretty straight too, when you think about it. At least as publicly, you know. But it would even tell you who poured for the punch, or who poured. So-and-so poured.

SL: Yeah, sure.

GA: It's such—I mean that was an honorary position, I guess.

[Laughs]

SL: Well, yeah. And they would describe the service.

GA: Yes.

SL: What kind of service it was.

GA: That's right, yeah. [01:15:15] So when we got married—and how long we had been married, I don't know. And my father in business, of course, thought, "Well, you know, your husband is up and coming. You need a silver service." So I think it was maybe our tenth anniversary, he said—told Alan—he said, "I'm gonna order a silver service. You can give it to her for your wedding present." [SL laughs] I mean, for your anniversary present. So I'm sure he paid my hu—father something, a little bit. So we have a silver service. And then a little bit later he said, "I think"—I—maybe this was after we went to the naval academy. "I think you're gonna entertain so much you need a silver punch bowl and punch cups." So I have a silver punch bowl, a ladle, a tray that is so large that it won't even fit on my dining room table unless it's in the middle, and so I've never used it. It's still wrapped the way it was when we got it. And I have twenty-four silver punch cups. Half of 'em have never been out of the original boxes. I may have used half a dozen of 'em once. [01:16:11] And now you can't do with—can't get rid of it. Unless it's sterling and they can melt it down, nobody wants silver plated. It's just so funny. They'll take if it's sterling

and then they'll—even the flatware they'll melt it down.

SL: Wow.

GA: So you know, you can go to used places like—even Goodwill, and you can find a silver service that would've been several hundred dollars at least.

SL: Right.

GA: And it may be twenty dollars.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean . . .

SL: It's not practical.

GA: No. Nobody want . . .

SL: It doesn't work in a dishwasher.

GA: Well, the ki—that's right, and the kids don't wanna polish silver.
I don't wanna polish silver.

[01:16:44] SL: Yeah. We still have . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: My parents . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . gave us a silver set.

GA: But—I mean that—they want wood or wicker or [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Right. Right.

GA: Or pottery or something that's . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . you know. But no, I we—I never did think of that other thing I was gonna think. It was something about the house, but I'm sorry I couldn't think of it.

[01:17:02] SL: Well . . .

GA: It may pop up.

SL: . . . I was surprised that you didn't have a washing machine. I'm—my mom's washing machine was the kind that had the wringer . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . in it, and it was downstairs in a little utility room off the garage.

GA: Yeah. We didn't even have a utility room. I guess my parents didn't think they were gonna do any work [*laughter*] like that. But no, we didn't. We had a garage, a closed in—that was separate from the house. And my fa—yeah, my father had a big workroom, and it was a two-car garage and then a workshop to the side with a lot of tools. But no washer dry—I—when I would go home visiting after we were married and everything, I would go to the laundromat, which, you know, takes a lot of your time when you're just there for maybe a couple of days to go sit . . .

SL: It's not the greatest social venue . . .

GA: No.

SL: . . . either.

GA: No, it's not. It wasn't—it was better then, though, when they were new . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . I think. Now it gets little run down sometimes.

SL: Right.

[01:17:58] GA: But no, someone just ran into me the other day at—we went to church in Russellville on Sunday. And someone ran into me and told me, oh, they lived just next to us, to the house. First she told me where they lived, and I said, "Oh." She said, "We live in the Neal house." I said, "That's—he was the president of the Bank of Russellville." And she said, "Yes," and she said—and I said, "Lila Neal, it was Sam and Lila Neal. They played bridge with my parents, and they had a son that dated my dau—my sister, and they"—and I said, "That was just right next door." I mean, there was a street between us, but it was literally like that.

SL: Right.

[01:18:43] GA: And so that was sort of neat. And then she started telling us about the person that bought our house. And—which we sold—we sold it for \$50,000 . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . when we—when my father died. At that time—well, course housing prices in Annapolis are so—I mean . . .

SL: Off the scale.

GA: We've got houses smaller than that was, much smaller, just a little frame house, that are on the market for \$400,000 right now.

SL: Yeah.

GA: No water view, no, you know—it's just the community. But I mean, our house is not anywhere as big as that, except it just does have the attic and the—you know, finished attic and the main room and a basement. But it was a summer cottage, and so you know, it's appraised for well over a million dollars. Well. But it's on the water.

SL: That's different.

[01:19:32] GA: And that's all it takes. And in a historic area like Annapolis, you don't—it doesn't make any difference how old—in fact, sometimes the older the house, the more valuable. But no, they had a bidding war when we tried to sell that house. I think we had initially started out at forty-five or something 'cause someone had to tell us—we had both—she was from tex—my sister Texas, and we were Maryland. We had no idea what

housing . . .

SL: What the market was.

GA: . . . prices were.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so by the time they—it actually sold, it was a little over fifty, which I thought, at that time, was giving it away, but that was okay. Neither one of us wanted to keep it . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and deal with rental property halfway across the country.

SL: Right.

GA: But no, it was a nice house, yeah. And it was a nice place to grow up. Nice, as I said, nice big yard and a driveway that went all the way around the house so you could drive around and . . .

[01:20:21] SL: Did—do you remember when you got television?

GA: Sort of, yes, because when I was—how old was I? I was in high school. About sixteen, maybe, fifteen? I was in high school, and I went to Norfolk, Virginia, to visit my sister and her husband and little girl. And he—that was—he was in the navy stationed in Norfolk. And I saw the first television. And it was *Howdy Doody* time.

SL: [*Laughs*] Oh yeah.

GA: 'Cause I guess because of her little girl they were watching . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . *Howdy Doody* time. And I'd never seen television. Alan's family, I think, had a television before that, but it was a screen about this big, you know, it was a big . . .

SL: Black and white.

GA: Yeah, black and white. But no, I don't re—I was not still living at home when . . .

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: . . . they got television the first time. And I was—went away, of course, in [19]54, went to college in [19]54. And so I mean, my father was just happy to listen to the radio or listen to nice music. In fact, he just—eventually he started watching the news, but he would probably watch news three and four times a day. I mean, once he retired I'm sure he did.

SL: Right.

[01:21:29] GA: I mean, he didn't watch all the other stuff that was on, probably, unless it was a how-does-it-work program.

SL: Right.

GA: You know, he was always curious about how things worked.

SL: I member the first time I saw Elvis, it was on TV.

GA: Really?

SL: Yeah. I was just totally mesmerized at how dark and almost evil

he looked. I mean, we . . .

GA: That dark hair. Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: Hi—yes. His hair was down to his nose, and he was singin' like this and looking up, and I was going, "Wow, that's a g"—I was excited.

GA: Yeah.

SL: I thought thi—yeah, I like this rock-and-roll stuff.

GA: Yeah. Well, I liked the rock-and-roll music.

SL: Yeah.

GA: More to dance to, I think.

SL: Right. Right.

GA: Yeah.

[01:22:05] SL: Well, let's talk a little bit about your schooling.

GA: All right.

SL: Do you member the first . . .

GA: I went to kindergarten—I think it was kindergarten, but I think they called it first grade. It was at Arkansas Tech, the college. And it was the teacher training program.

SL: Yep.

GA: And Mrs. Turrentine was the woman that supervised it, and so she was the head teacher, and I guess they had students teaching us. And so I was there for one year. And then I went

to a public elementary school, which has now been torn down. [Laughs] Don't remember that much about it except it was mainly school. When I was in school, it was school because I was a devout student, I guess, and I always made good grades. I graduated from high school with a perfect—a straight A from all my years, so I didn't—it wasn't that I was a brain, but I just—it was easy. And I did the same through junior high and high school. And no sports. I didn't have sports. I mean, our biggest sport was folk dancing. [Laughs] I think you—and I chose chorus instead of folk dancing. You could choose when you . . .

SL: Right.

GA: But no, it was—I guess it—the piano lessons and the activities at church were mainly the—any extracurricular that I really remember. I don't—I remember play—being in plays when I was in high school, but I . . .

[01:23:24] SL: So did your—at home did your parents help you with homework, or did they—did you—was there a time set aside where you had to do your homework before you could do anything else or . . .

GA: No, I just did it the first . . .

SL: You just did it.

gA: I just did it. Yeah.

SL: You were just an ideal student.

GA: And my mother had learned don't help. Because my sister graduated from high school, went to college, went to Agnes Scott College, as I said, in Georgia, which I think may have been hard to get into. I don't know really know.

SL: Yeah, it sounds like . . .

GA: But as valedictorian . . .

SL: . . . a small, private . . .

GA: . . . it was fine.

SL: Yeah.

GA: She'd never made any bad grades, 'cause she—I don't know that she graduated straight As, but she graduated with very good grades. She went to Agnes Scott. Flunked freshman English.

SL: Oh my gosh.

GA: Because all through high school, if she had to write a paper, guess who wrote the paper?

SL: Oh, no.

[01:24:11] GA: My mother had written papers for her or helped her. And my mother was very, very good at that stuff. She learned very quickly because then she sent her away to college [*laughs*] and she couldn't do it on her own.

SL: Oh, that's hard.

GA: And my sister to this day says, "Ah, she wrote all my papers." I mean, she probably recopied 'em in her handwriting, and maybe she . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . helped a little bit, but no. And I used to help the ki—my children by asking questions when they had tests, but as far as doing anything for 'em . . .

SL: Doing the work.

GA: . . . no. I would ask 'em, and I would—in fact, my third child probably got neglected because the other two were so much oh—six or seven years older than he was, and so he didn't demand the attention. They did. But it was always to study for tests or something like that. Except the youngest one studying for geography tests, which he ended up majoring in. [*Laughs*] Technical geography, though, with GPS and all that stuff.

SL: Right.

[01:25:05] GA: I—he was learning the capitals of all the states. And so I had to think of all these little funny things that would help him remember 'em. Like Topeka, Kansas.

SL: In . . .

GA: To pee in a can. [*Laughter*] That was the way he remembered

to—the capital of . . .

SL: Oh, that's good.

GA: . . . Topeka, Kansas. Oh, we had little things like that for all the states, you know, so he could—the ones he had troubles with—trouble with. But anyway, he did fine, so. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

GA: Eventually.

SL: Well, that's so interesting that you were so self motivated. I mean . . .

GA: Yeah, I just wanted to be—I wanted to do well for my parents. I think a lot of what I did—and this comes from a small town. Everybody knows you.

SL: That's right.

[01:25:46] GA: I knew all the teachers. I knew the—even when I got to Tech, the college, I knew—when I was a freshman in college at Tech, I received the **Brian award** at the end of my freshman year as a home-ec major, which was—I don't know how they were chosen, but anyway, I received the one award that was given. I knew Mrs. **Leela Jane Brian**, who it was named for. I'd known her all of my life. And I knew the all—I knew the pres—I knew all—the president played bridge with my parents, the president and his wife, so—and I knew all my high

school teachers because I'd grown up with 'em. And I think you—it also keeps you the straight and narrow when you . . .

SL: Well, there's that. Also in a small town, everybody knows most everybody's business.

GA: That's true.

SL: If you're acting up in school or you got in trouble at school, by the time you would get home, the parents already knew.

GA: Yeah.

SL: The mom . . .

GA: I . . .

SL: . . . had already got . . .

GA: . . . never acted up [*laughs*], so I didn't . . .

SL: Well, yeah, so that . . .

[01:26:42] GA: I never got into trouble. In fact, I used to—my father used to threaten me with a—being—spanking me, which they used to do, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And he'd say, "Well"—we had a weeping willow tree in the back yard.

SL: Willow.

GA: Well . . .

SL: Willow switch.

GA: . . . if you're a little girl with short dresses, someone swats you on the leg with a weeping willow branch, it hurts.

SL: Yeah.

GA: All he had do was, "I'm gonna go out to the tree" . . .

SL: Cut off . . .

GA: . . . "and get me a branch," and he—I'd say, "Oh, Daddy, I'm so sorry, I'll be so good, I won't do that again." And it probably wasn't anything bad to begin with because I don't remember really getting into trouble for very many things.

SL: Right.

GA: But.

SL: But there—it was just the threat was enough.

GA: The threat was there and I—you know, my parents were just very supportive, and I just wanted to please them, and so I think a lot of the stuff that I probably did or didn't do was in an effort to please them.

[01:27:30] SL: Well, you know, you've mentioned the church several times already.

GA: Yeah.

SL: So that sounds like it paid a—played a pretty big role.

GA: Oh, it did. It was only . . .

SL: In your childhood and . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . growing up.

GA: Two blocks away. And my father was—well, he was chairman of the board of deacons several times, I'm sure, but he was always a deacon in the church. My mother was the choir director. I was always in Sunday school, and I was e—went to prayer meeting on Wednesday night. I was always in any little choir that sang. But music was just the—anything in—musically. And when I was in high school, I guess, junior high and high school, in the youth choir we went to choi—on choir trips. We went to— one time I remember we went to Ouachita College down in Arkadelphia.

SL: Yeah.

[01:28:16] GA: And our choir director was Bill Medley, who now is at ju—Butterfield. And he and his wife, Pat—Pat was the organist, and they were a duo piano team [*SL laughs*] that traveled the country. And then they were on the faculty at Tech. And they were, you know, really a young, good-lookin' couple, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: And it was so neat to have them be our choir director and organist, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: So I remember that trip very well. But we did that several times with different directors. And so it—and I went—I guess other music trips or whatever they were. But I never played an instrument except the piano. Never even played the organ except just to sit down at the church once or twice just to try it, but no feet. You know, just the . . .

SL: Right.

GA: Just play it like a piano.

[01:29:03] SL: So seems like I remember that Baptist Church wasn't particularly fond of dancing, either.

GA: Oh, that's right. Oh, they weren't. In fact, I went to Siloam Springs summer camp one time.

SL: Oh, yeah, I've . . .

GA: The church—Alan did.

SL: I've been there.

GA: He had fun, I think, there. I thought it was the most miserable week I ever spent in my life. But I went up there, and they had J. Harold Smith, who was outta Fort Smith, I think, was one—the main preacher. And he had you sign pledges that you would never dance, not just on Sunday, but you would never dance, period, you would never smoke, you would never use alcohol, you would never go to the movies or anything like on Sundays.

There were all these things, and you were supposed to sign all these things that you would never do 'em. [01:29:50] Well, I refused to sign it. Now it wa—I was fourteen years old. You think that wasn't a hard thing when there were twenty kids from my home church that were there, and I was the only one that refused to sign it. Not because I was planning to do all this stuff. I was gonna dance, I'm sure. [*Laughs*] But it was just that I wasn't sure. I was—I'd—at that point my life, I realized I still . . .

SL: You'd never signed . . .

GA: . . . wanted the choice.

SL: . . . a contract.

GA: That's right. [*SL laughs*] I wasn't gonna sign something that promised I wouldn't do somethin' that I might do.

SL: Yeah.

[01:30:19] GA: And that was a very emotional thing. And so one day I'd been up there about four days. I guess it was a week long. And I was somewhere walking across the campus up there, and I saw my parents' car. And you have never seen me run so hard with the tears streaming down my face. I was so excited to see them. My uncle had passed away.

SL: Oh.

GA: And they were coming to get me. Terrible to say, I was happy that he had died, but I was so happy to see my parents and get to leave that place. [*Laughs*] I just hated it.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But it's funny that, you know, church camp should be fun. It was not. The boys swam separately from the girls.

SL: Right.

GA: And so you didn't get to swim at all, and at fourteen you're—not that you wanna swim with 'em, but you want to have, you know . . .

SL: Well, sure.

GA: You want to mingle, at least, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And I didn't—like Alan had this—he played softball, and that stu—I didn't have that stuff. But it was—so I didn't have fun at all. It was just, you know, go to church and go to meetings and sit in classes . . .

[01:31:17] SL: I was afraid you were gonna tell me that when the pare—you saw your parents' car that someone had called them and said, "Hey, your daughter's not signing this contract."

[*Laughs*]

GA: Oh, no. No, no. [*Laughs*] No, but I think they were proud of

me for realizing that—you know. But I was not allowed to go to church on—I mean, go to the movies on Sundays anyway.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, I would sit at my—in my house on Sunday afternoons, and I would see my friends walkin' down. They were on their way down for the movies on Sunday . . .

SL: Matinee.

GA: . . . afternoon. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[01:31:44] GA: And I wasn't allowed to do that. I could read the newspapers. I could read books. And we always went for a Sunday drive. We always went and take—took my grandmother.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Who—after my grandfather died. Who lived alone and went for a Sunday drive anywhere around—we'd drive around for an hour or so, you know.

SL: Yep. We did, too.

GA: Yeah. I mean . . .

SL: We'd get—Mom would bring her digger with her and . . .

GA: Dig flowers . . .

SL: Dig up flowers and plants and . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . sometimes we'd bring a load of rocks.

GA: Yeah.

SL: She wanted to . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . put in the yard.

GA: I soon learned that wild flowers don't live very long, though, once you . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . tear 'em off or break 'em off.

SL: Right.

[01:32:17] GA: But no, that was a part of—that was the routine on Sunday. You read the newspaper or comics, at least. And did a ri—and you either went out to lunch. We had this place called the Robinson House. It was a boarding house, and it was right down by the railroad track. And they had the best fried chicken I have ever eaten in my life. I've never eaten any since then that was so good. But I found out what they did. They soaked the raw chicken in brine before they ever breaded it.

SL: Salt—really salty.

GA: To fry it. And it had really salty, you know. But they, you know, you just went around a table, and they had big mounds of mashed potatoes and . . .

SL: Yeah. Family style.

GA: . . . you know, green beans that had been cooked three hours, probably [*laughs*], but they were good.

SL: Right.

GA: But anyway, that was where we often ate on Sundays after church. And it was hard for the Baptists to get there and get to the front of the line, though, because the Baptists always had that invitation at the end of the service that could drag on and on. They'd sing another verse of the hymn hoping that somebody else would come join the church.

[01:33:16] SL: Oh, I see, so they would . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . invite folks to join the church.

GA: Yeah, that was Southern Baptist.

SL: And so there was this lull where you were kind of hoping someone would come up.

GA: Yeah, and the minister would just say—and he'd say, "Well, I feel the spirit moving. Let's sing another verse." [*Laughs*] And usually it was "Just as I am without one plea," and I grew to dislike that hymn very much. But anyway.

[01:33:38] SL: Did y'all have a preacher over for lunch or dinner?

GA: I'm sure we did. I mean, because—but I—well, one of 'em was—

Fritz Goodbar was our—the minister that I first grew up with, and he was there for many, many years, and he just lived—the manse was about—well, about a block away, actually, from us. But yeah, I'm sure we had the preacher for lunch. I don't know. I don't remember that. [*Laughs*] 'Cause we—that was what would be room—use the dining room, in other words. We would've gone into the dining room and pulled out the . . .

SL: The formal . . .

GA: . . . China . . .

SL: . . .stuff.

GA: . . . the crystal and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . put a tablecloth on. Otherwise we ate in the breakfast room, which—on a table that my father made, which is still in my basement.

[01:34:18] SL: Oh.

GA: It was just—you know, it was the normal—about, I don't know, six by three or . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . four by six. I don't know.

SL: Had a leaf for it.

GA: No, no.

SL: No?

GA: It was just one solid piece of . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . of wood, and had . . .

SL: I bet it's beautiful.

[01:34:30] GA: You could get four or five people around it. In fact, my son-in-law refinished it, and my daughter used it for something for a long time. Or he may have even used it as a big desk. And then when he passed away and my daughter moved back, I ended up with it, and I fold clothes [*laughs*] on it now. But it's right by the washer-dryer.

SL: Yeah, but that's nice, isn't it . . .

GA: It is nice, yeah.

SL: . . . to have it. Yeah.

GA: But it's very nice now because he refinished it so beautifully.

SL: Right.

GA: It had been painted, I'm sure, several times.

SL: Right.

GA: And had little wooden chairs that matched it, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: But.

SL: It really sounds like you had a wonderful, wonderful life in

Russellville.

GA: Yeah. I did. Yeah, it was good.

[01:35:08] SL: So what else about Russellville—what about the public swimming pool?

GA: There was at—one public swimming pool. And one year when—I was always afraid of the water. One year when I was eleven, I took swimming lessons. I learned to swim. I was swimming like a fish. The next year I couldn't swim a thing.

SL: Why?

GA: I could dog paddle. I don't know. I wa—that fear came back. I couldn't put my face in the water. To this day, I would say I can float on my back, sort of swim on my back.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But I can dog paddle. But to stay afloat, I would have to turn on my back for very long. I almo—we were on a float trip in the Buffalo River with Alan's father one time. He—homemade float, which I think a . . .

SL: With the . . .

GA: . . . eventually fell apart.

SL: Yeah, the inner tubes . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: With the plywood on top.

[01:35:54] GA: Something like that. And I had just gotten new contact lenses. And I didn't realize that—well, I was afraid if I opened my eyes underwater, they'd come out. [SL laughs] And so I wouldn't open my eyes. And I was sitting cros—Indian style, cross-legged on the raft, and it flipped over. And so I fell in. And I—so I didn't know the water was shallow. I could've stood . . .

SL: Stood up.

GA: . . . up very easily, but I was sitting there almost drowning, and Alan, I think, gra—or his father one grabbed me, and then I opened my eyes when I got out from under the water, and I could see [laughter] I was in shallow water. They thought they were gonna lose me. At least I wasn't in—at Branson. But.

[01:36:33] SL: So is that the only time you floated the Buffalo?

GA: I think so. We were on a relative's power boat one time, and the kids were water skiing on it. But the Buffalo River is not close to . . .

SL: Right, it's not a skiing . . .

GA: . . . Russellville, we—and the lake was not there, then.

SL: Oh.

GA: Dardanelle Lake was built well after I left. And so there was just the swimming pool was about the only water. So, oh yeah, we

went to the swimming pool anyway. Even though I didn't swim, we still went all the time. In fact, that's where I think my sister met her husband, probably, because he—his family was temporarily living in Russellville, just renting a house or something. And that's how—he was—this was while he—after he went to the naval academy, but he was home on leave, and I think she met him at the swimming pool. But anyway, that—so that—yeah, we used the pool. But that was it. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[01:37:26] GA: Can I talk about the streets?

SL: Yes.

GA: I'm scared you're to—gonna forget that one. [*Laughs*]

SL: No.

GA: My father was chamber of commerce and the Lions Club. And under one or both, he was responsible for renaming the Russellville streets. And . . .

SL: So why do they want to rename them?

GA: Well, they were just helter-skelter. You know, this . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: So-and-so lived on somebody's name that maybe whoever had a farm on that street, that name was the name of the street. No rhyme or reason. And so the poor postmen would have a really

hard time. So he talked to a friend who was a city planner in Tulsa.

SL: Okay.

GA: Oklahoma, and said—suggested or helped my father work it out. So Arkansas Avenue runs north-west.

SL: Okay.

[01:38:11] GA: And that's the main street. Main Street runs east-west. So those are—that's the big X in the middle. Any street parallel to Arkansas Avenue goes to the east is named for cities east of the Mississippi.

SL: Oh.

GA: And ones going west are named—parallel to Arkansas—for cities west of the Mississippi. Then on Main street, the ones north of Main are named A—not A 'cause A is Main Street. Named B, C, D, like that, and the other way it's First, Second, Third, Fourth. Like that. Now, now they have run out of names on the cities, and I'm not quite sure what's happening now, but that went on all my lifetime, and you know, and I now, driving around will run into streets that I've never heard of before. I've never heard of the city, so I don't know if—what happened, if they just started pulling—'cause I—I ran into something the other day that was Sycamore, and I've never seen—heard of . . .

SL: A tree.

GA: . . . a city named Sycamore. Trees. So maybe they went to trees. I don't know.

SL: Well, that's not an unusual . . .

[01:39:08] GA: But anyway, it was such a unique, easy thing when you thought about it. And so now I can say, you know, it's Arkansas Avenue, Boulder, Commerce, Denver, El Paso, Glenwoo—you know. So you just can name the streets and know rou—exactly where you are.

SL: And the whole community got behind that.

GA: I guess. I mean, they—I—and the Lions Club, I think, paid for new street signs everywhere. And that's when the house I grew up in went from River Street to Denver Avenue. So and that's—you know, I have the picture of the . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . the old one.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah. But I just thought that was a really neat thing that, you know, that happened. [01:39:50] My father was a neat guy. Instead of puttin' his arm around me and sayin', "Love ya, kid" or anything, he would go—and wrinkle his nose like that.

SL: And you knew.

GA: And that would—that just meant—ah—I'd be in—anywhere—I'd be in church, or I'd be in the choir, and he'd be sitting out, and he'd go like that, and it was just like, "I love you, kid." [*SL laughs*] You know. It was just such a neat thing, and to this day, I can see that nose wrinkle, you know. But and I guess I—I don't know that I was closer to him than I was my mother. Obviously all girls are close to their mothers. But he lived for twenty more years after she . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . after she died. And I guess that had part of it. As part of it, you know.

[01:40:26] SL: Well, sure. You became adult.

GA: Sure.

SL: So, yeah.

GA: Yeah.

SL: The relationship matured.

GA: Well, and I was an adult. I mean, I was an adult when my mother died.

SL: Yeah.

GA: In fact we were already married and had one child. And I was—we were moving. It's the year that we—the month that we moved from Anna—from graduate school, Purdue, Indiana, to

Annapolis, Maryland. And we were to settle on the house. We had gone out earlier in the summer to look for a place, and there was nothing in Annapolis to rent. Nothing. And we'd have liked to have rented for a little while because we just had the one baby. There wasn't—there was one house that we finally found that was a rental. And by the time we called 'em . . .

SL: It was closed

GA: By the time we went to see it, it was gone. And so now there's so many rentals you [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Right.

[01:41:14] GA: You know, you can't rent 'em all. But so we found a house that was almost new, and we said, okay, you know—it was bigger than we needed, it was four bedrooms and three baths, and we certainly didn't need that much room with one baby, but anyway. Had another one on the way, though. But we decided on that one, and so we said we'd come back and we'd settle on August the 13th. It was a Friday the 13th. [*SL laughs*] Which had always been very lucky for us, you see.

SL: Yeah. Sure.

[01:41:41] GA: And so I got a call from my father the day before we were to leave Indiana that my mother was in really bad shape, and I better come home, that she was not expected to live.

SL: Oh, no.

GA: So instead of driving straight from Indiana to Maryland, we drove straight from Indiana to Russellville and—with our little one who was two, I guess, at the time. And so we got there, and I mean, I did get there before she passed away, but just barely.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so she died on Friday, the 13th of August.

SL: Oh.

[01:42:18] GA: And as I said, that was the only negative thing that ever happened in my life on Friday the thirteenth. But Alan then left. He got my power of attorney, left, and went to Indiana and—I mean, to Annapolis and . . .

SL: Closed on that house.

GA: . . . signed the papers, closed on the house, and I stayed for about two to three weeks with my father and my—and the little girl. And my—they couldn't find my sister because this was when they were stationed in London. And they were on holiday. And they finally located her, and the navy finally located them in Norway and told them what, you know, what was happening. And so she got the first flight she could, but of course, we had to hold everything up . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . in Russellville. And so she flew in, and I went to Little Rock with my father to pick her up at the airport. And you know, I mean, she was devastated, of course, but she came back and. Funny thing—the first thing she wanted was she wanted to know could we buy a cantaloupe. Isn't that funny that I remember that? It just came to me then. Because I guess in England, they couldn't get good . . .

SL: Fresh fruit.

GA: . . . cantaloupes, or they were so expensive that, you know—and so we—anyway, so that was a funny thing that happened. You—funny things don't usually happen in deaths, but anyway. So she—the—you know, they had—we had the funeral in the First Baptist Church there. And she stayed also about two weeks with me. And I guess her children must've stayed in England with her husband because he—they weren't there.

SL: Yeah.

[01:43:51] GA: But they were in school, so that was probably . . .

SL: Right.

GA: That was okay. But anyway. I me—she let my little girl, who had never been dirty in her life—I came back from doin' something one time, drove in the driveway, and it was a gravel

driveway. My little girl was sittin' out there at age two in her diaper playing in the gravel. Just filthy from head to toe, you know. She was havin' a ball.

SL: Well, sure.

GA: But my—and that's—my sister had been raising boys, so that was okay.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But you see, I wasn't. [*Laughter*] My first one, she was always perfect.

SL: Right. Right.

GA: But.

SL: That's funny.

GA: But yeah, that was a neat thing.

[01:44:24] SL: I'm just gonna ask you about—oh, what did your mom die of?

GA: Coronary thrombosis. She had a heart attack.

SL: Oh.

GA: She had had a heart attack earlier when I was in—still in the university. And it was final exam week. My father called me and said, "Your mom's had a heart attack." Your mother. I didn't call her Mom back then. But anyway. "Your mother's had a heart attack. You need to come home as quickly as you can."

And I was right in the middle of finals. And so I said, "Okay."

And so I went around to all my professors, arranged to take all of the exams in one day.

SL: Golly.

GA: No studying. I mean, I didn't have time to study.

SL: Right.

GA: And I made straight As that semester. I was so—the adrenalin was pumped so high, I guess, because I was upset. But I, you know, without studying or anything. I made straight As that one semester. But anyway.

[01:45:17] SL: You know, it kinda sounds like you didn't really have to study a whole lot. Did you? I mean . . .

GA: Well . . .

SL: . . . it's look like—it sounds like you . . .

GA: I memorized easily.

SL: First pass.

GA: Yeah. I memorized easily. I remembered things pretty well.

Depending on what it was, I guess. And course, when I was majoring in home ec, I mean, I was taking nutrition, which had, you know, chemistry and stuff. I was taking bacteriology, so I had a lot of science classes. Chemistry, organic chemistry, but a lot of the home ec classes were labs. Had a lot of lab to it, and

that was pretty easy.

SL: Right.

[01:45:51] GA: I mean, you had to do it, but . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . it wasn't . . .

SL: You can't take the lab home with you.

GA: No, you can't, so you had to—you couldn't—well, I could sew at home, but I couldn't take the lab with me.

SL: Right.

GA: So anyway, I had—no, I was planning to, at one point in college and before I got marry—I got engaged, I was going to—I was thinking about going to New York and majoring in—going to fashion school and really getting into it.

SL: You really loved it.

GA: Oh, I loved it.

SL: You still do.

GA: I loved designing the clot . . .

SL: Probably.

GA: Oh, yeah, I don't do much of it anymore, but I love desi—I love picking out things. I would love to be just working where I help people pick out clothes that were appropriate for their shape and size and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . where they were going. But . . .

[01:46:30] SL: Wha—let—what influe—I mean, what—where in your growing up did this fashion thing . . .

GA: I think that's the art of my mother.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Because she also—when we read this diary of hers—on this travels. I mean, her father in the iron works, which, you know, is a dumpy old building, sort of—it's a little better now because they—it's still the same old brick building. But it—it wa—I didn't think about them making any money there. But I mean, I think he did—built iron works for bridges and things in Little Rock. I mean, I think he had contracts for stuff a lot of pla—he must have.

SL: Right.

GA: Because when she traveled—I mean, she's, to me, spent a lot of money traveling. And she'd go to Little Rock and buy whole bunches of clothes. Just ride the train to Little Rock just to buy clothes and shop and then come home. And she bought—and she—it would tell what she bought. She bought this, and then she bought shoes to go with this, well, then she found a purse, and then she'd buy a hat, and she'd buy . . .

SL: Belt.

GA: . . . a shawl and—just all—everything. And so she loved clothes. And but she was, at least somehow, she taught me to be economical with it. I mean, I don't think—I think Alan will tell you, I never go splurging and buying things. My kids used to get up to—upset because I'd go to sale and buy them clothes, and they'd say, "It must've been on sale, Mom." You know, I—it wasn't on purpose, it was just—mainly because if I could make the things, why was I gonna pay three times what they—it would cost me to make 'em.

SL: Right.

[01:48:03] GA: Just because someone else had made 'em. And so I don't know—I—if that's where it came from, but I still to this day love looking at clothes and things. I don't buy very many because I don't go anyplace much anymore. I mean, when Alan was teaching and on the thing, you know, we went to all kinds of things. But you know, church is the dressiest thing that I have to go to. And . . .

SL: Sunday go to meetin'.

GA: That's right. Don't even do that. No hats, no gloves.

SL: Right.

FA: First—we first went to the naval academy, and I was invited—the

prins—the superintendent, which is the president, what he's called, superintendent's wife had a luncheon for fac—new faculty wives. And so I went. Hat, gloves—to me, which was the appropriate way to go to a lady's luncheon.

SL: Right.

GA: I was the only person there with a hat and gloves except for one little eighty-year-old woman. And so I learned then it's a little more casual than it used to be.

[01:48:56] SL: Yeah, you know, I've always—it's always fascinated me that men's clothing hasn't really changed that much.

GA: Not really.

SL: I mean it's—a little fine tuning here or there. Maybe a lapel that's a little wider.

GA: Yeah. Or the . . .

SL: A little narrower.

GA: . . . button-down collar. Yeah.

SL: Button-down collar, you know. But basically . . .

GA: Yeah. And course we . . .

SL: You know, coat, jacket, tie.

GA: Yeah. Yeah. And women have gone to seldom dresses unless they're really short, and at my age, I don't wear really short dresses. In fact, as I think I said, I haven't had on a dress since

I went to a wedding of someone that's already been married and is divorced, so it's been several years ago.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And I mean, you know, I'm much happier to wear pants and a dressy jacket or something . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . to go with 'em, and I have lots of tops and everything.

SL: Right.

GA: And I don't sew that much anymore. I fix things. In other words, if I don't like something, I may remake it. Or if I've had something for a long time, I may change something or, you know, do things like this. I'm always doing hemming of things because I'm short in comparison to . . .

[01:50:05] SL: Now, your mom sewed, though, right.

GA: My mom sewed.

SL: And was the sewing machine the one that had the pedal?

GA: Yes.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yes.

SL: Yeah.

GA: She had the old Singer with the pedal. Yeah.

SL: Right, and the actual sewing part of it would hinge down into

the . . .

GA: Yes. We never had—it was always busy.

SL: Yeah.

GA: We never had time to hinge it down. But no, I have, you know, I have a nice sewing machine. I'm on—I guess I'm only on the second one since I've been married. But I always have to have a sewing machine. [01:50:33] We had someone—this—Freer—do you remember Alan went to Germany with this group of people, and one of 'em was **Robin Freer** . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . from the Freer Art Gallery.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, that's his family. He came over once to something at the naval academy. And course he had grown up in a very well-off family. And the idea that someone could fix something on the sewing machine didn't occur to him. [*SL laughs*] I mean, you would take it out and send it to the tailor.

SL: Right.

GA: So he—his tux pants actually split.

SL: Oh, no.

GA: He did s—he bent over the wrong way or something and . . .

SL: And it. . .

GA: . . . they split. Embarrassed him to tears. But he'd already spent a month or whatever it was with Alan in Germany, so he knew him, but he was so embarrassed, and Alan said, "Oh, Ginger can fix it." So he went somewhere and took his pants off and gave me the pants. And I ran to the sewing machine, got the right color fled—thread and sewed 'em up. He was so impressed. [*Laughter*]

SL: Changed him . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: It may have changed his life.

GA: Right. Yeah. Well, I doubt it. I don't know who he married, but I . . .

SL: Well, yeah.

GA: . . . doubt that it changed that much. But no, I've just always—I never wanted to really—I sewed for my children. I used to make matching shirts when we'd go—like the knit shirts.

SL: Yes.

GA: The rugby shirts.

SL: Yeah.

[01:51:43] GA: I used to make matching one e—for all three because they were such different sizes you couldn't've bought 'em. So if we were going to Hershey Park or Disneyworld or

somethin', I could identify them in a crowd easier.

SL: Right.

GA: Keep up with 'em. But no, I sewed for them, and I sewed Easter dresses, I sewed graduation dresses for my daughter. More for the girls than—but even some for the boys. But I never wanted to sew for anybody else. It just was not fun in that sense.

SL: Right.

GA: My fun was in creating and picking out the fabric and designing what—how it was gonna be, which I could do if it was for me. If it was someone else—I had a friend that sewed, and she would actually do tailoring for people.

SL: Right.

GA: And she would say, "You know, you're so good. You really oughta get in the business of doing this." I said, "No, thank you." You know, I . . .

[01:52:32] SL: Well, then you're . . .

GA: If I needed the money, maybe.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But it's not—it doesn't sound fun [*laughs*] at all.

SL: Well, yeah. You have to kowtow to their tastes and what they want.

GA: Sure. Yeah.

SL: If it's not right.

GA: And if doesn't fit the way they want it to fit . . .

SL: Right. You gotta do it over.

GA: If it didn't fit the way I wanted it, I'd just change it and do something else to it.

SL: Right.

GA: But I'd create as I was going along, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: If it had a pleat and the pleat didn't look good, I'd take the pleat out or make it a dart or something, you know, but.

[01:52:54] SL: So you—were you—when did you start sewing?

GA: Probably a little bit when I was in high school.

SL: Yeah.

GA: With my mother. But then in college, I pretty much made everything. In fact, we had—well, one of my classes was in desi—well, it was all pattern making and designing clothing in the home ec line. I did as little food as I could get away with. I had to take nutrition, and I had to take some food courses, but I didn't like that part of it at all.

SL: Right.

GA: In fact when I went to work for—at Purdue and went to the kitchens because they—the best job I could get was as a

dietician in the men's dorms.

SL: Right.

GA: We had four kitchens and eight dining rooms, two off of each kitchen. And so I was a dietician in the—two—there were two of us in each kitchen. And we had to plan the menus, order the food, et cetera. And when I went for the interview, I walked through the kitchen, and they had fifty-gallon tubs of beef and noodles. Well, just the idea of—I had grown up in a house—we didn't even have casseroles. My father wanted his meat, his vegetables, his potatoes . . .

SL: Separate.

GA: . . . and rolls and desert. But so I really learned to bake and make—deserts and breads were my two thing. The meats and vegetables were something you had to do to get the meal on the table. [*Laughs*]

SL: Right.

[01:54:12] GA: But I le—I went home and told Alan—I said, "Even if they offer me that job, I just don't think I can take it." I said, "I think I'd be sick [*laughs*] every day at work." It was just looking at those huge amounts of things, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And but I got the job, and I . . .

SL: You survived.

GA: . . . progressed. Oh, I survived. They gave me—I was a faculty member then, which gave me a good parking pass.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And that meant that Alan could drive to work then, and he—part of the time the kitchen I was working in fed the football team during the fall, so . . .

SL: That's a big meal.

GA: . . . we had—oh yeah. Sixteen-ounce T-bones and et cetera, et cetera.

SL: Right.

GA: And he could come over and eat with me 'cause I could eat with 'em if I wanted to. Course I got—the t-bones didn't d—make anything to me, but he enjoyed it [*laughs*] I think.

SL: Well, yeah.

[01:54:55] GA: And he could—you know, we had—by this time we had our little girl, and he could pick her up from the sitter, and he could actually bring her over, and we had—could have the evening meal there.

SL: That's so great.

GA: It worked out very well. Yeah. And my head boss of the entire dormitory of this thing had worked for Stouffer in Chicago, and

so she had brought a lot of Stouffer recipes. I don't know if it was Stouffer's beef and noodles [*laughs*] recipes. But we had to convert—well, we had to help plan the menus. That was the team of all of us all together. And then we had to order the food, and we had to base it—we had to go back and research what had been eaten 'cause every meal had at least two choices of the main dish. And we had to research what—the last time they had this, how many people had chosen it because you had—you know, you're gonna end up with . . .

SL: You don't want it to waste.

GA: . . . too much of something.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But you don't wanna end up with a lot. So we had to research that and then order the quantities of what we needed to go in there. Then we had to take the recipes and do the math . . .

SL: For the . . .

GA: . . . to gear them down or up for the number of servings they needed. And then we had to supervise the kitchens, the cooks if they . . .

SL: Staff.

GA: . . . had any questions. But and at—then when the meals was—were served, not every single meal that we had to do, but we

had to periodically supervise the student waiters as they served so they wouldn't give their best friend three servings of roast beef . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . and the next person a half of a—you know.

SL: Right.

[01:56:21] GA: But no, I learned a lot. I got a lot of really good recipes that way. But of course, most of 'em were for more than two people so . . .

SL: Yeah. Commercial.

GA: With just two of us it's not worth much.

SL: Enterprise level of . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . cooking. Yeah.

GA: Right.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But I learned a lot that way. Yeah.

[01:56:36] SL: So let's get you back in—before we are done with your time in Russellville, let's get you back in the school.

GA: Okay.

SL: And I think—so how far was the elementary school? From . . .

GA: The elementary school was pretty far. I think I was always

driven to elementary school. I—you know, it's not there, but the same—there's a school on the same lot. But it's—it would be fifteen, twenty blocks probably.

SL: Oh.

GA: Yeah, it's pretty far. Yeah. I—junior high and high school were side by side. And they were probably maybe six blocks. And so I di—sometimes walked. But my best friend's mother taught algebra in the junior high. And so many times . . .

SL: You just.

GA: . . . they would stop by and pick me up.

SL: Catch a ride.

GA: And they lived down just off of Main Street, and so they had to come right by where I lived.

[01:57:39] SL: Well, what about—did you have a bicycle growing up?

GA: Yeah. It was my sister's old bicycle. You know, that was . . .

SL: But you didn't . . .

GA: I rode it in the neighborhood, yeah. But I didn't ride it to school.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah. I would walk if I didn't get a ride. And my father walked to work, so there was not someone—I mean, my mother could've taken me, I'm sure, some but . . .

[01:57:57] SL: Right. Well, so did you have any favorite teachers or favorite classes, favorite . . .

GA: Well, I had home ec in junior high and high school, and I didn't really like it. The teacher I knew, and eventually she moved to Fayetteville, and I got—I liked her, but I didn't like the . . .

SL: Curriculum.

GA: . . . the subject matter then, you know. That's when you were learning to make toast and stuff, I mean. *[Laughs]*

SL: Right.

GA: But so I didn't really get to like the sewing in a class until I got to college, I think. I mean, I did the sewing at home was fine, but sewing for a home ec teacher, they measure your stitches and with a ruler and, you know . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . made sure that you always wore your glasses if you had glasses of any kind because if not the pressure foot would hit you in the forehead if you were squinting and getting too close and the thing went up . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . back and forth . . .

SL: Right, right.

GA: . . . and hit you in the forehead. But I'm trying to think. I don't

think I had as good of teachers as they had in Fayetteville when I talked to Alan about this. I mean, I was an avid reader, so I learned a lot of stuff anyway. I had terrible biology and chemistry teachers because they were the coaches.

SL: Well, that . . .

GA: The basketball and football coach and . . .

SL: And that still kinda continues to this day.

GA: Really. Well, but I bet some of 'em are better [*laughs*] than mine were.

SL: Right.

GA: But mine didn't even know how to pronounce some of the words. I mean, you know, it was a sea anemone or—you know, some of the things were incredibly stupid that were said, and no one corrected them, you know.

SL: Right.

[01:59:28] GA: I'd had good English teachers, and a good Latin teacher.

SL: See, Latin. I can't imagine taking Latin. I never had to take Latin.

GA: I had to ta—my mother made me take Latin. She had had a lot of Latin. I think she had not only taken it in high school, I think she must've taken it in college, too. She said, "It will help you

with vocabulary so much."

SL: And she was right.

GA: Yes, she was right. Yeah.

SL: Yeah. I've always heard that.

GA: Yeah. And so I just had the two years, but—and I had algebra and geometry. I did not take trig. That was—I've forgotten why I didn't take trig. Maybe I graduated before they—before it was offered. I took something else. Anyway, I took—and I loved math. In fact, I thought about majoring in math when I got ready to go to college. But my father looked at the catalog from Arkansas Tech, and he, you know—typical father. Thought, "You know, this home economics looks really nice. This looks very practical." And course, being a very practical kind of person that I guess I am and he was, I majored in home economics. And there again, they knew the head of the department, and so did I, from growing up. Course, I probably knew the head of the math department, too, but anyway.

[02:00:39] SL: Well, also I would think back in those days women in general . . .

GA: That's right.

SL: . . . were—they were either gonna be a homemaker, or they were gonna be a secretary or maybe a nurse.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And that was kind of the . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . the female realm in . . .

GA: Or an elementary school teacher.

SL: Elementary school . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: Or a teacher. Yeah.

[02:01:04] GA: Yeah. Yeah because when I went to the university.

I mean, I had no intention—I mean, every inte—I was graduating and there was no doubt in my mind that I was gonna graduate, but I had many friends who went up there just to major in elementary education. And they'd spend their free time reading little kids books that they'd have to read so many little kids books and make a report on *The Cat in the Hat* or that kind of thing.

SL: Right.

GA: You know.

SL: Right.

GA: And that would've been—I would've been wasting my time, I

think, to have done that. English I think I would've probably done well because I love anything to do with words, and as Alan will tell you with editing his books, I'm sort of a stickler sometimes. I mean.

SL: Yeah, we're gonna talk about that.

GA: Okay.

SL: This afternoon.

GA: I'm—yeah. But no, I majored in home ec because my father thought that sounded practical.

[02:01:54] SL: Well, how was your social life going through high school?

GA: Well, you were always going steady, it seemed like. It wasn't a matter of—when I got to college, it was so much fun in comparison because I had a date with somebody different every other day almost, you know.

SL: Yeah, I was gonna talk about your dance card.

GA: Oh yeah. *[Laughter]* But in high school, I seem like I was always going steady with somebody, and I can name three or four, so it was not the same people all the time, obviously. But not the one that he said was my—that he introduced me as his girlfriend. He was never—he lived a block from me. We had grown up together, but he was never my boyfriend. *[Laughs]*

But I had gone to some things with him because when I first went to the university, he was the only person I knew . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . except gir—other girls.

SL: Right.

GA: But—and I didn't do names, you noticed. Anyway . . .

SL: Yeah, I did notice that.

GA: Okay. [*Laughs*] Very carefully.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But no, I—we went to dances at the country club because my father was a member of the country club, and so I could—I had—you know, I could take a date. And then I usually had invitations that I could take another couple. And we had school dances, but the school dances were on the basketball court, which was the au—the sku—the stage of the auditorium.

SL: Right.

GA: You know it—the back part of it was the au—the stage.

SL: Well, I was . . .

GA: And we went to the movies.

SL: Yeah, I'm wondering about this constantly going steady thing that you said.

GA: Yeah.

[02:03:28] SL: I wonder—I've never really heard that in that way,
and I was just wondering if that's, again, part of the culture back
then that man and woman—it was like a one-on-one . . .

GA: I think it must . . .

SL: . . . thing.

GA: . . . have been 'cause everybody I knew was going steady with
somebody.

SL: So in other words, there was a possessive quality about
relationships.

GA: Yeah.

SL: I would guess.

GA: Yeah. I mean . . .

SL: Claim . . .

GA: Yeah. It . . .

SL: You were claimed and . . .

GA: It wasn't like going steady would be now. I mean, it was very
pristine in comparison to . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . what probably goes on now. [02:03:59] I was very—what
was the word I used for my father? I don't remember now, but I
was very naive, I guess, and so I—that—you know, I, as I said, I
went with—it was interesting because one of my steady

boyfriends went to the Church of Christ, and Alan's main steady girlfriend in high school went to the Church of Christ, so we had both had that experience in the ba . . .

SL: Sperience. Right.

GA: In fact, we had had so many experiences similar that our marriage was just so easy to navigate. It wasn't ever conflicting.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: 'Cause you'd had similar experiences.

[02:04:37] GA: Similar experiences, yeah. But no, I, you know—and we—you know, you'd go to church. That was—with them. Or vice versa, with—they with you. That was one thing. You went to the movies. You went to the drive-in or the downtown movies. You went to—I guess that's the main thing.

SL: Fo . . .

GA: I mean, you didn't go out to dinner and stuff.

SL: Football games.

GA: I don't remember going with dates to the football games 'cause the boys you were dating usually were . . .

SL: Were on the field.

GA: . . . on the team. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And . . .

SL: Were you a part of any of the cheer . . .

GA: I was not a cheerleader.

SL: . . . or pom-pom . . .

GA: No, we didn't have pom-pom girls. But I was not a cheerleader, and I was always sort of glad because I've heard Alan talk about how terrible cheerleaders were, that they didn't know anything about football, and they'd cheer at the wrong time, and they—nobody really watched the game.

SL: Right.

GA: And I didn't know anything about football. I mean, I've learned—I sit with him and watch spots, and I ask questions about everything because I'm—I went to baseball games, but more with my father. Just in the city, not school. Got ptomaine—got food poisoning from going to a bass—baseball game one time. You know, they served . . .

SL: In Little Rock or . . .

GA: No, in Russellville.

SL: In Russellville.

GA: They served something and one of the—everybody had brought stuff, and one of 'em was potato salad, and my father and I both

got deathly ill from [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Oh my gosh . . .

GA: . . . that potato salad. So that was not a good experience. But anyway. 'Scuse me. I think I . . .

SL: That's okay. What about clubs?

GA: Well . . .

SL: Were you a club member of anything or . . .

GA: Anything that was there to—that was offered, I was a member of, both [*laughs*] in high school and in college. I guess I . . .

SL: So you were

GA: . . . was a joiner.

SL: You were busy.

GA: Yeah. But we didn't have that many things. I don't—I'm tryin' to remember. There again, most of it geared around church stuff. There weren't very many school clubs. [*Coughs*] 'Scuse me, I'm gonna have a problem now.

SL: Okay so you graduate from high school, valedictorian, and where was it that you went first?

GA: I went to Arkansas Tech in town.

[Recording stopped]

[02:06:51] SL: So we just had lunch. B&B Barbecue, which is now Penguin Ed's.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And I ate about half of [*GA laughs*] what I ordered.

GA: Me, too.

SL: Now I'm almost miserable from eating too much. But I think we had started to talk about Arkansas Tech.

GA: Okay.

SL: And so what happened at Arkansas Tech? What . . .

GA: Well, I started out majoring in home economics. I think I did say that I received the Brian award as the freshman in home ec when I—at the end of the year. I guess I dated some people. No steadies in—at Tech. And I just stayed the one year. The only thing I specifically remember was at a football game, they—there—they were doing the newspaper, so to speak. That was the theme for the half-time show, and they had for the society part of the newspaper, I was dressed in a long, flowing, black formal. This is when we wore formals, you know.

SL: Right.

[02:07:58] GA: With a big, cerise-colored sash and big rose or something, and you—all you did was walk across part of the sta—I mean, of the field.

SL: Field.

GA: And I sang in the chorus there. I took voice lessons some from

the choral director. And went to the football games, and the basketball games, and that was it mainly. I did get sick while I was out there once in the—and my roommates were gonna take care of me. I did live on campus, though. That was—even though I was from Russellville. And so they were gonna help me. I was gettin' all stuffed up, you know. And so they said, "Okay, well, you get in the bathtub, and we'll get the water as hot as you can stand it" . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . "and that'll open the—all the airways up." Well, I did, and my—they couldn't get me out of the tub I was so weak from the hot—so I ended up in the infirmary. [*Laughs*] They wouldn't let me go home to let my mother take care of me. I had to stay in the infirmary until I gained my strength back. All because they were tryin' to help. So . . .

[02:08:57] SL: Wow.

GA: Anyway. But I survived, and I made reasonable grades and, you know, took general chemistry there, which helped. And I took organic in the summer, so I got my chemistry that was required for home ec. I got that out before I went to the university.

SL: That's good.

GA: And then I had all that—zoology, bacteriology, and stuff at the

University of Arkansas.

[02:09:20] SL: So was arka tech—Arkansas Tech the first and only time that you had formal voice lessons?

GA: Yes. I mean, I've sung in choirs all of my life.

SL: Right.

GA: And small groups and big groups, whatever. And I had sung some solos here and there, but not like my mother did. I mean, my mother sang solos everywhere, you know. I mean, she was always on the program in this—in town, in Little Rock, in, you know, wherever. But . . .

SL: So she had some celebrity status, then.

GA: As a vocalist, yes, I think she did. But just in this part of Arkansas.

[02:09:55] SL: Was she soprano?

GA: Yes. Same as me.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But she was much better than I am. [*Laughs*]

SL: So did anyone ever record your performances?

GA: Oh, yes.

SL: Or you mom's performances?

GA: I—not my mother's, but oh, mine, especially when I was in the madrigal group. We had—we made CDs and tapes all the time.

'Cause you had to have a demo tape when someone was gonna
ha—bring you in.

SL: Right.

GA: And everything, so yes, definitely. But . . .

SL: Now you did mention, I think, theater . . .

GA: That was just . . .

SL: . . . in high school.

GA: . . . in high school, yeah. Just the junior and senior plays. I . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . I always got parts because I could memorize well.

SL: Right.

GA: So I could memorize the lines. I was probably not a very good
actress, but I was a good memorizer. [*Laughs*]

SL: Our senior play was always a musical.

GA: No.

SL: No.

GA: Ours was not. They were both dramatic.

SL: Ah.

GA: Yeah.

[02:10:47] SL: So but you just—it—you really wasn't—weren't
taking drama, you just . . .

GA: No, no. It was just a part of the . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: You know, you just tried out for the play.

SL: Okay.

GA: Yeah.

[02:10:55] SL: So you finish up a year at Arkansas Tech.

GA: Yes.

SL: And you end up . . .

GA: Then I went . . .

SL: . . . going to Fayetteville. Now why did you choose Fayetteville?

GA: Well, I guess that's [*laughs*] what everybody did. Everybody was goin' to Fayetteville. Very few many people—very few people were leaving . . .

SL: Arkansas.

GA: . . . the state at that point.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah. And so I—that was just what you—they—it was understood that you went to the university after you finished here, so I just went one year here, went up there, went through rush, pledged Zeta, moved into the house, the Zeta house, and lived there for the next three years. Served various offices in the sorority plus being rush chairman, which was a big job. Either my junior or senior year. I'm not sure which it was.

Great because you had to memorize the names of everybody and start trying to recognize them and know anything about their families and everything. So that's when I learned who was who, especially [*laughs*] in Little Rock, you know. And my sister had gone up there, and she had been Chi Omega, and of course, that's the mother chapter of Chi Omega . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . which was very important. And people couldn't understand why, since I was a legacy, I didn't go to Chi Omega. But I just found the girls at the Zeta house were very friendly, down to earth, unpretentious, and I just liked that better.

[02:12:17] SL: Yeah. So it sounds like being rush chairman is kind of a crash course in politics, in a way.

GA: Yes. Well, it is.

SL: 'Cause you've got to put names with faces and know . . .

GA: Yes, that's right. Yeah.

SL: . . . a—know about them. Not just their names . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . but their lineage a little bit if they're . . .

GA: Right. Yeah because you had to know the people that were important to have in your sorority. [*Laughs*] I guess.

SL: Yeah, you know, so I've always, you know—course I've always

known about rush and the Greek system and stuff, but it's kind of a traumatic time, isn't it, for the kids that are tryin' to get into a sorority or a fraternity if they . . .

GA: Very traumatic if you don't get in at Arkansas in those days. If you happen not to get in. I mean, I got my first choice, and I had had no problem. But Carnall Hall, the old Carnall Hall . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . was the dorm if you were an upperclassman and didn't get into a sorority. And it was a wreck. It was a fire trap then.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, it was just horrible. And many girls that didn't get in to any sorority went home. They just didn't stay in school.

SL: Didn't wanna stay at Carnall Hall.

GA: No. I mean, it was—you would have almost thought it was a dangerous place to live. If you walked across the floors, they were the old wooden floors, and they sort of, you know, went down . . .

SL: Swayed.

GA: . . . and up and made all sorts of creaking noises and everything. So I don't think I knew anybody that stayed and lived in Carnall. I—course Carnall Hall has been remodeled and is . . .

SL: Oh yeah.

GA: . . . a beautiful place now.

SL: Yeah. Second oldest building on campus.

GA: Yeah. Well, it—that—it was the oldest back then. [*Laughter*] I mean, it looked the oldest.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah.

[02:14:00] SL: Well, so it's big emotional thing if they don't . . .

GA: Yeah, and it goes—fortunately it happens, least it used to happen the week before school starts, so you didn't have anything to worry about except that. But you'd go to all these little parties. And all summer long the sororities all over the state would entertain you, and as rush chairman we went—I had to go to all these different s—towns. They were having parties.

SL: Oh my gosh.

GA: . . . to, you know, to introduce the girls and to try to get them to want yours, you know. And I had done that, obviously, before I was rush chairman, I'd gone to the other sororities, but I don't think I had done much of anything except maybe Chi Omega since my sister had been Chi Omega.

SL: Right.

GA: And Zeta. And there were some very active Zetas in Russellville, and they, of course, were pushing Zeta. And course, I came up here, and it turned out that Alan's aunt, Corin's mother, was one of the Zeta alums. She was very active. And his father's two sisters were very active alums. And so I was sort of surrounded, started being surrounded by his family before [*laughter*] I was even . . .

SL: Before you knew it.

GA: . . . knew who he was. Right. Yeah. But no, it was fun. It gave you a nice place to live. Except the first year I was there, I was put into a four-girl room.

SL: Oh my gosh.

GA: Two sets of bunk beds.

SL: Oh my gosh.

[02:15:24] GA: And we had one closet . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . for four girls, if you can imagine, and that was when we wore formals and things, too, so lot of space. I was meeting people everywhere, and I kept meeting young men from all these different fraternities and things.

SL: Sure.

GA: At socials and everything. And they would—one of my

roommates was named Virginia. Course, I was Virginia . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . at that point, too. And they would call for dates. And she was engaged, so she was usually in the house. So she would answer the phone many times and say, "Yes, this is Virginia." And they'd say yes—they'd try to ask her for dates 'cause they thought they were talkin' to me. And she would turn 'em down. "Oh, I can't, I'm engaged." And so I didn't know this for a while, and then I'd run into guys that had said, "I tried to call you for a date. I'm sorry, I didn't realize you were engaged." And I'd say, "I'm not," [*laughs*] you know. And so we finally figured out what was happening, and I said, "Okay." I went to her. I said, "One of us has got to change our name. This can't go on." [*Laughs*] I said, "I'm missing a lot of fun.

SL: Right.

[02:16:29] GA: And so she said, "Well, I don't wanna change mine." I said, "Okay. My sister used to call me Ginger." So I said, "I will become Ginger." So this was the beginning of my sophomore year in college. So that's when I became Ginger. And then I had many invitations, and Alan jokes about that. I don't know that it was as bad as he said it was but . . .

SL: Well, I—I've been joking about talking about your dance card

and . . .

GA: Yeah. Well, I was pretty busy, I have to admit. And I went—but I can't remember a lot of 'em. But you know, every time there was a big party at some fraternity house, I ended up getting invited. And some people I dated more than once, and some people I didn't. But that went on for the full fall semester and that—and I met him, though, you see, as a Zeta pledge at the old student union. And that's when I first met Alan. And so by the first time we could have a date when he was tryin' to schedule one was in January [*SL laughs*] of [19]56. I went up there in the fall of [19]55. And so we had our first date on Friday the 13th of January.

SL: Oh.

GA: And he remembers everything about the game and everything. I don't. I remember what I wore. [*Laughs*] Isn't that funny? You see who's—what my mind has says. I wanna know about clothes, he wants to know about sports.

SL: Right.

[02:17:46] GA: So then I, you know, we just realized we really had a lot in common, and it really worked. And so I still had several dates with other people but . . .

SL: Yeah, you know, it's interesting. I remember when David Pryor

was asking Barbara, my sister, out. And it was a big deal when he called for a second date.

GA: Yeah.

SL: It was like he was—he would go on one date . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . and move on. So there wasn't any real . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . serious. But when he called for the second time, I member there was excitement [*laughs*] . . .

GA: Really?

SL: . . . in the house . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . because, you know it was . . .

GA: Yeah.

[02:18:32] SL: And I forget—he was—he may have been president of AKL or so—I don't know, he was . . .

GA: Sigma Chi, wasn't it?

SL: Sigma Chi.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah. Yeah.

GA: Yeah. No, I—'cause he was bmoc, the big man on campus . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . in any cases.

SL: Yeah. Yeah.

GA: Yeah. He was a politician from the beginning, I think.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Right.

[02:18:48] GA: Yeah. No, he came over one time when he was in Washington after he was elected, and Alan invited him over to something that was at the academy. I think it was an after-dinner thing where the midshipman practice how to give a speech. And we had sat down to a lovely dinner. And Barbara wasn't with him. It was just . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . just David. And we had this nice dinner, and we had this drink with our dinner. And afterwards he said, "You know, Ginger, that's the best champagne I think I've ever tasted."
[Laughs] I sort of laughed and said, "David, that was sparkling grape juice."

SL: There you go.

GA: "They can't serve alcohol at the naval academy." [Laughter] So you know, you can buy it at—whatever. Ikea or whatever, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: But that was what it was. Just sparkling grape juice.

SL: Yeah, I don't think that they were ever big drinkers.

GA: Maybe not.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I mean, we certainly weren't, so it didn't bother us . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . you know, at all.

SL: Right.

GA: But that was a funny—that was like the sewing on the man's pants that [*laughter*—with my sewing machine. Little snippets that people come for one thing and something funny happens.

[02:19:52] SL: Well, did you all know David any earlier than that or . . .

GA: Alan did because they were in Blue Key, I think . . .

SL: Yeah, that's right.

GA: . . . or something. I did not, no.

SL: Mm-kay.

GA: I mean, oh, I had met him, but—at—when we were here at the university.

SL: Right.

GA: But I hadn't met him—been around him much.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Right.

GA: And I didn't realize Barbara was the same age. Was he in—was she in school at the same time?

SL: Yeah. I think she might be a year younger.

GA: Kay.

SL: Maybe two.

GA: Okay.

SL: Yeah. I might could—I put together a little slide show about their courtship and their . . .

GA: Oh, neat.

SL: For their wedding anniversary.

GA: Anniversary. Yeah.

SL: Yeah. It's kind of a funny story.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Good.

[02:20:36] SL: He was on the balcony of the old student union . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . and saw her walking down the sidewalk. Said, "I wanna ask her out." [*Laughter*] Yeah.

GA: Yeah.

SL: It was funny. So all right. You meet Alan your spring semester of . . .

GA: Sophomore year.

SL: . . . sophomore year.

GA: Right.

SL: And so . . .

GA: No, I met him the fall of my sophomore year. But our first date was in the spring.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah.

SL: He couldn't get on the dance card [*GA laughs*] till then.

GA: That's it.

SL: You were a popular girl.

GA: Well, I guess. It was fun because in high school, as I told you, it had all been going steady with one person.

SL: Right.

GA: And then somebody else, but it still was never one here, one there, whatever, you know.

SL: Right. Right.

GA: But.

[02:21:25] SL: So what were some of the—I mean, I'm assuming

you went to the fraternity and sorority parties, you went to the football games.

GA: Yes.

SL: And it was a football game with—no, it wasn't.

GA: No, it was a basketball game.

SL: Basketball game.

GA: Yeah. 'Cause it was in January.

SL: Right.

GA: Yeah. No, you know, we went—I mean, with Alan, you mean?

Who'd I go mainly . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: We went to concerts, we went to anything. Any excuse to be together. He would come over, and we would just go out for a Coke in the evening af—you know, whatever. We went to the city park—no, Wilson. Is that by the . . .

SL: Wilson park.

GA: . . . pool? We went there and took a blanket and sat and studied together 'cause, you know, he had all this engineering math to work on. And . . .

SL: Folks still do that.

GA: Do they really?

SL: Yeah, they—so they . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: And now they have hammocks.

GA: Oh, wow.

SL: That they string be—they have actually hammock . . .

GA: Trees?

SL: Well, they have things that were built . . .

GA: Oh, wow.

SL: . . . to string a hammock as well.

GA: Wow.

SL: Yeah. It's neat.

GA: Wow. Yeah, we did that. And the first time I was ever invited to his house, Edith, his stepmother—this was Sunday dinner. I think maybe I told you this, that he—she—no, I didn't. I didn't tell you, I told someone else. She served tongue.

SL: Oh my gosh.

[02:22:43] GA: I didn't know people ate tongue. I'd never had tongue in my life. I'd never heard of anybody eating it. And so she served tongue, and I thought, "Oh, dear." At first I thought it was roast beef until I tasted it. The flavor was fine like roast beef, but the texture just really got to me, and then when I found out what it was—*[laughs]* I must've had a weak stomach then, and it was terrible. But I mean, they didn't think anything

about it. I think I was telling Hayden this, and Hayden said,
"Oh, we had tongue every Sunday."

SL: That's right. He di—he told me that, too, in his interview.

GA: Yeah. But [*SL laughs*] and that—you know, they liked me, obviously. His father sent me flowers many, many times. I got more flowers than anybody in the sorority house. Not from Alan. They may have had his name on the card, but it was his father that made sure that I got flowers periodically.

SL: Oh, that's a big approval, isn't it?

GA: Yeah. Yeah, he did. And I think, you know, he found out that the backgrounds were similar, and he was obviously pleased, I guess.

[02:23:43] SL: Well, so you all dated for a couple of years, right?

GA: Yeah. We got—yes, we did. We got—he pinned me for—with Sigma Nu probably the next fall, the fall of [19]56. And then gave me an engagement ring at—on December the 13th. I don't know if it was a Friday, but anyway—of that—of [19]57. And then we were married Friday the 13th of June in [19]58. So.

SL: So when some—when you get pinned, is that kind of a—in the Greek system, that means, "I'm gonna ask you to marry me."

GA: Yeah, it's a step, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: It's like going steady, but then it's a . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . step, and then engagement, and then marriage, yeah. And they just, you know, the Sigma Nu brothers came over and sang whatever the Sigma Nu love song is . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . out in front of the Zeta house, and I had to step out [*SL laughs*] onto the porch and Alan was there, and I think he gave me a white rose 'cause that was the symbol of Sigma Nu. And pin—and so then from that on—from that time on, I wore not only my Zeta pin, but I wore his Sigma Nu pin at the same time.

[02:25:04] SL: And so that was pretty much hands off.

GA: Yeah. Oh, definitely.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah. And as—I think I heard him say, that was even in the student newspaper. When someone gets pinned, it's actually a blurb in the University of Arkansas—whatever the little newspaper is . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . called. So.

SL: Well, how'd the—how'd your family feel about all this?

GA: Oh, they seemed to be fine. I mean, they had not met him at

that point, I don't think.

SL: Oh.

GA: But he did come down—well maybe by the time we were pinned, he had. But obviously before we were engaged they had . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . because my father—he had my father order the ring. But [*SL laughs*]*—*which was very nice, to have a jeweler as a father for him . . .

SL: Sure, yeah.

GA: . . . it was nice. [*Laughs*]

SL: Right.

GA: And it was nice that his father was a florist, too, when we got married. It was a good deal.

SL: Magnificent.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[02:25:51] GA: But no, I think that—I think both families were very pleased. I mean, my sister had married a naval officer, and that meant she was gonna be never around home. Course, they didn't realize that we were not gonna be in Arkansas, either.

SL: Right.

GA: But we had a better chance, at least, of coming back more often

than someone that was halfway around the world in the navy.

SL: Do you remember exactly how he proposed?

GA: I think it just happened. I real—as far as he proposing to me.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Probably sitting in a car in the road behind the Zeta house.

Probably, because that was place you could pull—there were too many—there weren't any parking places in front.

SL: Right.

GA: And there was a road back there, so you get a parking place, and then you could sit there and talk. And that's probably it. He did go to Russellville and talk to my father, so he did that asking for her hand in marriage type thing.

SL: He did.

[02:26:45] GA: Yes. And my father told him then that—he tells me that he did. My father said, "She's very sensitive. If she thinks that you are displeased with her, she'll probably cry." And I didn't realize I was this se—[*laughter*] but he still, to this day, if something happens, which seldom happens anymore that I cry, but if it does, he says, "Oh, your father told me you'd do this." [*Laughter*] That was a long time ago.

SL: Right. Right.

GA: But no, it worked out, and it just sort of progressed, you know.

I mean, we spent as much time, I guess, as we could. I mean, we'd go to the library together or whatever to study or go to concerts or—we went, obviously, to the Zeta dances and the Sigma Nu dances.

SL: Right.

GA: And we, I guess, went to things at his church some, too, maybe. I went to—tried to go to the Sunday school at the Baptist church once as a sca—which is hard for college students 'cause you have to get up early on Sunday morning, and you have to get someone . . .

SL: Now you talkin' . . .

GA: If you don't have car yet . . .

SL: . . . about the one on Dickson Street that . . .

GA: Yeah. The . . .

SL: Big one.

GA: . . . old one.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah, it was the old one. And the other one wasn't there at that point.

SL: Right.

[02:27:50] GA: But you get up and go, and who was my Sunday school teacher but Mrs. McWhorter, the woman that had been

like a mother to him and his girls when his mother died.

SL: Right.

GA: And she happens to be the Sunday school teacher. So then I met her, and she met me, and I had another person on my side.

[*Laughter*] So pressure was coming from all angles. And Corin McIlroy was a little bit on that pushing, too, 'cause she—of course, Alan's mother had been her sister and so . . .

SL: Right.

GA: She put a little pressure, too.

SL: But it didn't . . .

GA: It was good. I mean . . .

SL: Yeah, it was a good thing.

GA: . . . it didn't make a difference. It was gonna happen any ti— anyway.

SL: Right. Right.

[02:28:30] GA: So we got married and went to Hot Springs on our honeymoon. We stayed at the Jack Tar Motel. I don't even know if it exists. And now it's—I think it's—the last time we heard about it, it was an old folks home. [*Laughter*] But anyway. And we went to the alligator farm, and I don't know what else you did there. But the main thing, I think we watched something on TV. In June was it the worl—no, it wouldn't have

been the World Series. I just remember Alan sitting down and turning the TV on and watching some ball game, which meant nothing to me 'cause I was not into sports . . .

SL: Sports.

GA: . . . much.

SL: Yeah.

[02:29:03] GA: But anyway. And then we got mar—after we got married, we went to Shreveport, Louisiana. His first job was with Interstate Oil Pipeline Company. We went there for maybe three months until he—having been in ROTC, he was waiting for his assignment. The first assignment went to Belleville, Illinois, where he was in communications school. And we were there for about two to three months. And the next thing was in Othello, Washington, right in the very center of the state of Washington. So we took the long road driving south to San Diego. That was when he got to ride in the submarine when my brother-in-law was working for command. And so we ended up in Othello, and there—well, actually, we thought we were going to Spokane 'cause that's where he—where he was to report. We went to Spokane. We got there over the weekend, so we spent the time looking for possible apartments. Fortunately, we didn't find one and didn't sign anything because early the next morning, when

he reported in Monday morning, they said, "Oh, you're not in Spokane at that air force base, you're at Othello, Washington." Which is an AC&W site on the middle of a radar hill in the middle of the state in the middle of the desert.

SL: What does AC&W stand for?

GA: Aircraft something control and warning.

SL: Ah, okay.

[02:30:25] GA: And so we went there, and he reported in, and they said, "Oh, we don't have any housing here." They had little houses on the top of this hill out from town. So he said, "Temporarily"—he said, "When one man leaves, you can have his house." And it was a little two-bedroom house, which was very nice for a newlywed couple.

SL: Right.

GA: But he said, "In the meantime, you'll have to go into town, and there's only one motel in town, but you can rent a room in that motel with a little kitchenette." So we went down into Othello. There was no place to live in Othello. I mean, it was a little tiny town. And so we lived in the motel for whatever many months it took. A couple months, I guess, until we got the on-base housing. And then we were up there with, you know, with all the other officers were up there. I don't know where the

enlisted men lived. I guess there must have been a section like a dormitory-type thing on the base.

SL: Right.

GA: But it literally was a very tiny base. And the housing area was one little circle, you know, of little houses. And so we were there for a year. [02:31:31] And then his next assignment went to Pagwa River, Ontario. And it was really, as he would say, in the boondocks. I mean, it was in the middle of nowhere. There was a train that came through like once or twice a week at the most on the train track. No real roads that came in there. There were none that were passable in the summertime 'cause they were all full of mud. Now in the wintertime when they were covered in ice, you could somehow get in there, maybe. But nobody had cars, so you get in and out on the train. They did have a small L-20, which was an airplane, that they could take them on emergencies or could take them places. So he went up there, and I went to Arkansas. We had our furniture shipped back to my parents in Russellville. Course, they were thrilled to death to be able to have one of their children back for a year. So I moved back in with them for a year. I went to Fayetteville often or came to Fayetteville often and helped his father some because his stepmother, Alan's stepmother, was in Virginia with

her parents. There was an illness there. So there were these three little girls that, you know, his father sort of was happy to have some help with.

SL: Right.

[02:32:43] GA: And so I, you know, helped them. When it was Easter time, I took them shopping for their Easter dresses and things like this. And so I got to know his father very well. More so, then, on a one-to-one basis. And the girls, too. And then Alan made arrangements with a department of transportation, the Canadian department of transportation. They had little houses. There were six little houses about a mile from the air force—air base. And they were stationed there to maintain the stri—air strip.

SL: Right.

GA: For emergencies. And so he and—met this one young couple about our age. And they had one little baby. And they said, "Well, you tell—when we leave for a vacation, we'd be happy to have you stay in our house." So Alan said, you know, obviously he would pay 'em rent.

SL: Right.

GA: So he ma—we made arrangements. And Alan's family drove up to Canada.

SL: Wow. That's a big road trip.

GA: Yeah. With his three sisters and me all in one car. One of the li—the youngest one, Carol, was—sat in the front with—between her parents and the other three of us in the back. We camped out all the way up there. We got up near Hearst, Ontario, and Alan came down on the train and met us. And I mean, the feeling—I mean, I have to admit to you, I was extremely excited then to finally see my husband after all these . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . these months, but so I went back up with him, then, and stayed in this little house for—I'm—I think it was just a month. And then he put me on the train to Winnipeg, and I flew back to Little Rock, and my father met me. And so then he—he only had f—when I came back, he didn't have that much time left before he was to get out of the—his next assignment, which was Duluth, Minnesota. [02:34:36] So then I met him—he came to Duluth, and I met him in Duluth. And we lived in an apartment on the second floor of a Scandinavian couple's house. Very, very nice people. And we literally had—I guess it was two rooms. One big room, which was the living room, dining room, kitchen, everything, and then there was a bath, and there was a little bedroom. And we didn't have much furniture. I'm not even

sure—I guess our furniture that we had in Arkansas was shipped because the air force shipped it.

SL: Good.

GA: So we had a couch. That was about it. [*SL laughs*] A couch and a coffee [*laughs*] table.

SL: Yeah.

GA: We ate on a card table. I guess we did have a bed by then. And then he was there for about six months at Duluth. And then he got the—well, we were leaving for Purdue for graduate school because he had written and been accepted to go for his masters at Purdue. And that was to be in September of [19]61, I guess. And so we were all ready to go. They had come and shipped our furniture because it was Fourth of July weekend.

SL: Yeah.

[02:35:46] GA: They shipped all of our furniture and all of our clothing, everything but one uniform for Alan and his golf clubs. He had kept his golf clubs. [*Laughter*] We had the car, of course . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and we could take some things.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So over that—sometime that weekend he—they got a twix in

saying that he had been frozen and was not gonna be released because the Berlin Wall had gone up. And we thought, "Oh, great. We're sleeping on the floor. No furniture." [*Laughs*] He was playing golf every day 'cause there wasn't anything else to do. I mean, he was basically on leave until . . .

SL: They could . . .

GA: . . . until we left.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So he had this one uniform, which of course, he didn't wear to play golf in, but he was always had to be within reach of a telephone. And then he—that's when he called Senator Fulbright. Actually, tried to call Senator Fulbright and got his daughter, Betsy. Betsy talked to her father, and Monday morning—Tuesday morning 'cause I guess Monday was the holiday. Tuesday morning early, they got the message from the president of the United States saying, "Release Lieutenant Adams from the Air Force." And so—he—and it's when he was supposed to have gotten out anyway.

SL: Right.

[02:36:59] GA: He was supposed to have gotten out three or four days before that. But anyway, so we got in the car as fast as we could and got out of there and went to Purdue. And we lived—

we were there for his master's, and then he decided to stay for his doctorate. So we—that's where I worked as a dietician in the men's dorms.

SL: So y'all were there for two, three years?

GA: Four years.

SL: Four years.

GA: We—yeah, we—in [19]65 we—summer of [19]65 we moved to Annapolis. So you know, I worked as the dietician all that time. Our little girl was born there in [19]64. And then of course, I was off work for a little while. But then we found a agricultural professor's wife that loved kids, and her kids were all grown, and she was thrilled to death to take care of our one year old . . .

SL: While y'all worked.

GA: . . . while I worked. And so I would take her—take—or one of us took 'em, depending on what time I had to work because sometimes I worked the—when they were serving the breakfast, and sometimes I worked for dinner.

SL: Dinner.

[02:38:04] GA: And so you didn't work—you'd get off at two or come in at noon or something.

SL: Right.

GA: And so she kept her, and you know, she'd have her sittin' on the

kitchen counter helpin' her cook and stuff like this that I probably wouldn't've had the patience to do then, but she did. And she loved it, and Alan then—one or the other of us would pick her up, and sometimes when the football team was there and I was serving the football team, Alan would pick her up and bring her over for dinner at the men's dorm. It was the—it—Cary Hall was the name of the dorm.

SL: All right.

GA: C-A-R-Y. And but it was called the men's quad because it was a quadrangle.

SL: Right.

GA: And it was right near the football stadium. So that's why the team ate there, I guess. But anyway, it was a fun year. We—fun three years, four years, whatever. And we bought a piano while we were there, so that made us happy.

SL: Get some music happening.

[02:38:53] GA: We could then have our own piano music. And we even had a—got a guinea pig. This was right before our daughter was born. We needed a pet, and they were illegal in the—'cause we were in college housing. Little apartments, you know . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . for married students. And we got this guinea pig and kept him in the floor of the closet when we were gone in the daytime in case somebody—'cause they had keys, could go in any of the apartments, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: And he survived until he bit me one time. And he bit all the way through my finger that—teeth came, you know, they had long teeth.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And through—you know, it didn't hurt anything I mean, it hurt, but it didn't damage anything, but I think we probably decided that was probably not smart to keep this there.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And then when we found out I was pregnant and we were gonna have a baby, we couldn't have a—something like that.

SL: Right.

[02:39:40] GA: And so then we moved to another house in Lafayette. And it was a small house. It was, there again, a little two-bedroom house with a living room, kitchen, small dining room. And it was just a couple of blocks from the union, so Alan could easily walk over to the engineering building. And I di— well, I could drive, since I had that parking pass that gave . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . as faculty member. But this was after the baby was with the babysitter after she was born. And . . .

SL: So is that two children now?

GA: I have three now.

SL: But at this point . . .

GA: That was one.

SL: . . . in time.

GA: No, that was the first one.

SL: Oh, that was the first one.

GA: That was the first one.

SL: Okay.

[02:40:21] GA: And that was the only one born until we moved to Maryland.

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: And that's Stephanie Lynne. And she was born in [19]64.

SL: That's a beautiful name.

GA: But we didn't like Stephanie. We didn't use Stephanie. She . . .

SL: Liked Lynne.

GA: . . . evidently didn't like it.

SL: Steph.

GA: We had problems because Alan's parents called her Stephanie

and my parents called her Lynne because [*laughs*] one didn't like Lynne, and the other one didn't like Stephanie, so they chose. She decided on her own she'd be Lynne, so.

SL: Okay.

GA: But anyway. The—that—as I said, that was fun. And then I guess it was when we were almost ready to leave here and—let's see, Alan got his master's, and then he interviewed some and decided that he really wanted to stay academics, so he went back—stayed on for his doctorate. And when he got his doctorate, he applied, and friends told him to come to the naval academy and try there. He was either going to Colorado univers—Colorado State or University of Missouri, Syracuse University if it—I mean, Syracuse—the—some big plant that's in Syracuse. I can't think of what's there, but you know what I'm talkin' about. Or there was something else in Texas, I guess. These were all the jobs that he had offers from, and he decided that he would try the naval academy 'cause he knew the students would be good students, for one reason.

SL: Right.

[02:41:37] GA: And it was an opportunity because they were starting a new program to try to bring it up to par with all the other major universities. And so we moved there, but on the

way there was when my father called and said, "Your mother" . . .

SL: Oh yeah.

GA: . . . "is not doing well, you must come home." So we took the little one and drove to Arkansas, and I told you that this morning. And then went to—I stayed, and then we went to Annapolis eventually. And then I found out that I was expecting [SL laughs] my second one. So the second one is a boy, and he was born in [19]66. And so we moved there in [19]65, and he was born the next year. And he is David Faulkner. He has Faulkner as his middle name.

SL: That's good.

GA: And he's the one that has a Japanese wife. And they live in California. Lynne lives in Annapolis. And so then . . .

SL: So how . . .

GA: . . . all the . . .

[02:42:34] SL: What did you do in Annapolis?

GA: In Annapolis?

SL: Uh-huh.

GA: I did all kinds of stuff. When we first—obviously, I was a faculty wife. One of the first things I learned is that there was a flower committee for faculty wives that you arranged the flowers for

the navy academy chapel. Well, I thought that's okay. [*Laughs*]
It was a pretty big deal the first time I went. They take—this woman that was in charge of it took a ruler to make sure the—'cause it—the—if somethin' on each side. That made sure that they . . .

SL: Balance.

GA: . . . they balanced, and they were the right length of stems. I mean, she'd measure with a ruler the stems. I'd never seen anything [*laughs*] quite—I'd watched f—Alan's father direct, you know, direct weddings and do flowers, and it was like, stuff it in, and they always looked gorgeous.

SL: Right.

[02:43:16] GA: But it was not measure this, it was—you know, that was by the book. [*Laughs*] I guess that was the military way. So we did that. And then I started giving tours of the naval academy, which used faculty wives. And that was fun. We had to wear navy-blue jumpers and gold—the . . .

SL: Epaulets?

GA: . . . shirts. No, just the shirts.

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . that went underneath it. And that was fine. Especially if you had adults that come because the tourists just come off the

street, and there's a visitor center. When you had school groups, it sometimes wasn't so much fun 'cause it was a day off of school for them.

SL: Right.

GA: And unfortunately, many of the teachers that came expected the tour guide to . . .

SL: To be the . . .

GA: . . . discipline the children.

SL: Right.

GA: Well, I didn't think that was fair at all. But you know, you did what you had to do. But anyway, it was—that was interesting, and I had fun doing it. [02:44:10] I one time got a—some dignitary from Japan. Course, I didn't speak any Japanese, and he didn't speak much English, but I had to give him this tour. And I was—he came to the academy to meet me, and then I was to deliver him down on Main Street of Annapolis, which is just a block away, to some specific place where he was going, I guess, for dinner or something after the tour. And that was fine. He was very, very polite. And he had someone with him that was an interpreter. And we got down there, and of course, they don't—well, they pay for their tour. They don't tip you, and you're not supposed to be tipping. So here in the middle of Main Street, in

the middle of the day, this man was trying to give me money, and he was trying—he was bowing, you know, like—they don't shake hands, they were bowing. So here's the man—and ba—and I felt—I was so embarrassed because you had no idea what all these other people walking down the street were thinking. But anyway, we—I survived.

SL: Yeah.

[02:45:09] GA: And then I had a—one tour group I still remember from Gallaudet college in Washington, DC, which is—it's a college for the deaf.

SL: Okay.

GA: And their ele—they have an elementary school. The Kendall school is the elementary school. And they had brought a group of children. And they had a hint—had an interpreter, and so one of the children asked me—really cute little kid, probably no more than eight or nine years old, asked the question—of course, through an interpreter, "Could I be a midshipman?" You know, he had seen these people walkin' around in uniforms. That was the hardest question I ever had to answer in my life 'cause of course, if you couldn't hear—and that was before the days that they could really do much in the way of surgery. Sometimes I know there are things that can be done now that can help that.

But that was really difficult. So I mainly let the teacher try to—because she obviously was used to answering these kinds of questions.

SL: Right.

GA: But anyway, that was a very difficult thing to do. But it was—I enjoyed that. [02:46:16] And then I auditioned and started singing with the New Renaissance Voices, which was six women in costume, in Renaissance costumes. We were each responsible for our own, so there was the design again. I had to design and make my own costume. And we sang—well, we sang every place from the Naval Academy Chapel to the hotels to—we sang in the par—the little parish church in wilming—in Williamsburg. We sang at Longwood Gardens up in Delaware. We sang in the Smithsonian a couple of times. We sang at the Kennedy Center. Not on the big stage but at—I guess it was maybe in the—it was outdoor stage, but we even sang there. We just sang any kind of places you can think of that were historic in the whole—that part of the country.

SL: Right.

[02:47:07] GA: And there were six of us. I'm the—well the—two have passed away since then. We were together for about twenty years.

SL: Wow. So you guys stayed in touch.

GA: Oh, we did. We practiced every single week.

SL: That's neat.

GA: Twice a week, we would go to the director's home in Annapolis, and she had been a school music teacher. And her husband actually was the minister of the Presbyterian church. That wa— didn't have anything to do with how I was in it, but anyway. We had, you know, one person that was a music major that played flute and taught public-school music. What were the other people? I'm tryin' to think, now. One person that was a speech—I mean, a music therapist. But anyway, over the years, we had—I me—at one point we went to seven because I left for a year when Alan took a sabbatical to Colorado State, so I was gone for a year, and they auditioned and took someone to take my place, at least in the vocal range. And so she took my place in—for the—then when we—I came back, they kept seven for the rest of the time but . . .

SL: Magnificent seven.

[02:48:18] GA: That's it. [*SL laughs*] But I mean, you know, we had that sound—I mean, we had an audience that followed, so to speak. I mean, everybody didn't like Renaissance music. And we sang religious music, classical—you know, it was all—mostly

unaccompanied. Sometime we had a—one person that did play a harp that was in the group, but sometimes we used a harp or a flute in the background. But otherwise there was no instrument behind, no keyboard or anything.

SL: Oh, so acapella then.

GA: Yes, it was—yes. And it was beautiful music, and the sound many times would sound like a boys choir because it was all female, and we didn't have any powerful soloists that would stick out. I mean, we worked very hard on the blend. And so we had, you know, anything from the six parts down to three, you know, if we were doubling up on a part or whatever.

SL: Right.

GA: But we had—we sung a lot of part—thing that was—things that were six parts. But that was a major part of my life for that period of time. And . . .

SL: For like twenty years.

[02:49:24] GA: Yeah. We were together. And the director passed away, and then another, younger woman—actually the youngest one in the group passed away since then. But you know, the rest of us still periodically used to get to—we used to get together at least once or twice a year and just sing for the fun of singing.

SL: Right.

GA: And we have—once a year we'd have a big dinner where the husbands came, and we prepared the food, and we'd try to do it a Renaissance dinner. We had the crown pork one time with the little thing sticking up and the . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . fans on each bone. [*SL laughs*] Rib, I guess it is, not a bone. But so that was fun. And a lotta close, very close friends and good memories. [02:50:08] And then my son was born. I think I said that. So there were two children. And then I guess then we went to Cambridge University on a sabbatical, Alan did. And I came back with a third child. He was born after we got back, but I got pregnant over there, and you weren't supposed to fly past seven months.

SL: Right.

GA: And I was right at seven months, but I was so tiny myself that I was huge as being pregnant. And I was afraid they would not let me on the plane. I did have a note from the doctor that I was—it was okay.

SL: Right.

GA: But I made a cape. I rented a sewing machine and made maternity clothes 'cause I didn't like the English maternity

clothes, so I made maternity clothes while we were there, and had those to wear. And then I made this cape. So I got back on the plane in July, which was okay in England. It was July, and I got pla—on the plane with a wool cape covering me up so I, you know, you couldn't tell that I was that pregnant. Got off of the plane in Dulles, Washington. And it was probably in the nineties, and I'm sure everybody thought I was . . .

SL: Nuts.

GA: . . . nuts.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And I was hot, I'm sure, but anyway. So we came back and—back to Annapolis, then, at that point. And so the next one—that one was born in August. And so that's the last one. And that's enough. [*Laughs*]

[02:51:37] SL: Well, okay, so the—tell me all three of the children's names?

GA: Okay. Stephanie Lynne is the oldest. That's the daughter. The next one is David Falkner. He's the middle one. And then Alan Ray. Alan for Alan—husband Alan. Ray for Alan's father.

SL: Right.

GA: The Faulkner was for my side, and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . the Ray is from his. And the Stephanie Lynne wasn't after anybody.

SL: Right.

[02:51:58] GA: And they—they're all happily married now. And Lynne married her childhood sweetheart, I guess. I mean, they had even been infants together in the church nursery. And his mother was the secretary of the Presbyterian church. We were very active in the Presbyterian church at that point. We were there for about thirty years. And so they got married in [19]89. And they were in—well, they were living in Virginia at this point, Haymarket, Virginia. And he ha—on their sixth wedding anniversary, she was pregnant by that time with their first.

SL: Yeah.

GA: They were playing co-ed soccer. He was. She had been playing, but since she was pregnant, she was not playing . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . that day. They were playing co-ed soccer in vir—in—over in Virginia near where they lived. He collapsed on the field.

SL: Oh.

GA: Thirty-one years old. And he never got up. She went out to the field to give CPR because she knew that. She was a fitness leader for the—for GTE, a company . . .

SL: Okay. Right.

GA: . . . at—in du—near Dulles. And he never recovered, and so she called us and said, you know, "Come, and bring his mother." And so we drove, and I'm not sure—I think they'd taken him to the hospital. I think at that point she didn't know for sure, when she called us. But he never came to again. And so that was pretty traumatic . . .

SL: No kidding.

GA: . . . because of her age—they were—she was thirty-one, too, and it was their two—sixteenth—sixth wedding anniversary. And of course, this is—he was the baby of the family, of his family, and that was ver—he had older brothers and an older sister. But anyway, so we got through that and I—Lynne—I stayed with her over in Virginia for a little while, and then she came over, and she said, "I'm—I need not to stay by myself." So she came over and actually moved back into our house. She sold her house in Virginia. And moved back in, and she wanted to be in the basement, which we thought was not the best place in the world because it—you know, very tiny outdoor windows so that it was dark.

SL: Right.

[02:54:24] GA: But that's what she wanted to do, so at that point,

you do what . . .

SL: Sure.

GA: . . . she wants to do. So we fixed it so she could stay, and she used—then the baby was born Christmas day of that year.

And . . .

SL: So I guess I didn't know that she was pregnant at that time that . . .

GA: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . he passed.

GA: Oh, she was very pregnant when he passed away.

SL: Oh, that's right, she . . .

GA: Yeah, he . . .

SL: . . . was wearing . . .

GA: Two months later.

SL: Right.

GA: No, I was the one that was wearing the cape.

SL: Oh. Okay.

[02:54:47] GA: But and he was born, but he was born in Annapolis, but this was—then he—at this point was in college age.

SL: Okay.

GA: So many years passed in there. But you know, as I said, it's pretty tough to—you know, you kept thinking, you wish it were

you. Not that you wanted to lose your husband, but it's pretty tough when someone's thirty-one. You don't expect it when they're that young.

SL: And pregnant.

GA: Yeah. And so the baby was born on Christmas day. She is now just graduated from college.

SL: Wow.

GA: And she's named after her father. His name was Darin. And she's named—we spell the name differently, but she's *D-A-R-Y-N*, his was *D-A-R-I-N*.

SL: *I-N*.

GA: Yeah.

SL: That's even different.

GA: Yeah. But anyway, and you know, we had had to go through their wedding. I mean, planning their wedding, which was lovely, but it was the typical wedding, you know, in the Presbyterian church and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . .with family as much as they could, you know. His sisters were part of it and his—his sister and his nieces, I guess, were part of it, and his brothers were part of it and everything, so my sister came from wherever she was living then. Texas I guess.

[02:58:58] So that was fine. We got that one married, and then we had her for a while. She stayed with us in the house for a while, and then she said, you know—when her little girl was, I don't know, two, she said, "Maybe I need to get on my own." So Alan helped her buy a little townhouse so she and the little girl lived there. Very close to us. And then she met, in Starbucks—she was at Starbucks one day, and she had been running, so she had on shorts.

SL: Right.

[02:56:32] GA: And she was—she's very shy and was never a flirt. But she met this guy that—because he was in line by her. And he made some comment about, "Wow. If I had legs like that, I'd show 'em off, too," or somethin' like that. She said, "It's the normal thing I would turn around and slap the guy for saying something like that."

SL: Right.

GA: But she said, "I kept thinking, 'No, no. No, be nice.'" So she said, "I ended up sitting down with him and having coffee." And they've now been married for [*laughs*] long time. They've got a twelve year old. So that worked out beautifully in that sense. And they got married on the bluffs by our house 'cause we live right on the Chesapeake Bay.

SL: Right.

GA: And so there's a grassy area just around the corner from us, and then it's bluffs down to the bay. I mean, the bay is in front of us, but there's no—there's just a road and no place to be.

SL: Right.

GA: And so most of the guests stood. Three members, including me, of my madrigal group—we sang songs that she picked out specifically. The harpist and the flute player played the music that was needed. And we had some vases of flowers. And they arrived from the house in a fancy car. [*Laughs*] And then they walked out, and the kids were—the two little—his—he had two children from a previous marriage.

SL: Oh. Okay.

GA: And the little girl, who was maybe seven or eight, and then her little girl, who was by this time about four—I made their dresses, so they were dressed alike.

SL: Yeah.

[02:58:01] GA: And then his—then the children all were participants in it. And my son, the one from California with his Japanese wife and two children, came. And they were really little. And they were there. There was no wedding party as such, it was just the children that were . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . in the family. And it was small. And then they had their reception on a boat in the bay just going—it was catered by a company in the—on a big boat in the Chesapeake Bay. And that was for the evening. And that's—I jumped ahead because in the meantime, my next son—that one went to—sorry. She went to the University of Delaware, and then she transferred to Virginia Tech, graduated from there, and then she went to the university of Maryland for our grad—for master's degree in kinesiology.

SL: Oh.

[02:58:51] GA: And she is now the department head of the therapeutic massage at the community college in Annapolis. And so that's worked out well. Her husband works for NSA and—National Security . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . Agency. Okay. And then—there—tha—his two children have both graduated from college, the previous ones, and then her—the one that was born right after her father died has just graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, and is going into speech pathology.

SL: Wow.

[02:59:20] GA: And she's goin' to graduate school starting this fall.

And then the son married—let's see. He graduated from Stanford.

SL: Right.

GA: He was given a full ride . . .

SL: At. . .

GA: . . . to North Carolina State.

SL: . . . North Carolina State.

GA: I think you've already heard that.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And chose to go to Stanford, lost the scholarship because he dropped out of engineering, so they wouldn't keep him in ROTC.

SL: Right, he didn't feel like he could . . .

GA: He just—well, he just . . .

SL: . . . keep up.

GA: He didn't like engineering, I don't think.

SL: Oh.

GA: Was the other part. But anyway, so he majored in human biology thinking maybe pre-med, and went the full four years there. And then decided he wanted—didn't wanna go to work. [Laughs] He wanted to do something different. So he went to look in this one building at Stanford, and he got this place—Volunteers in Asia. And they hired people to go . . .

SL: Se . . .

GA: . . . to eng—to Japan and teach English.

SL: Second language. Yeah.

[03:00:19] GA: And so he went to Obihiro, Japan on the northern island of Hokkaido immediately on graduation. And he taught mostly teachers that—people that taught English. So he had—most of his students were adults. And he would teach them in the evening or maybe even on Saturdays.

SL: Right.

GA: And among those students was a young woman that was studying her English because she majored in English in college, but she didn't learn how to speak it. She just read it. You know . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . she read all the Shakespeare and all the stuff that you read, but they don't really learn to speak conversational English.

SL: Right.

GA: If they do, it's British anyway. It—you know, you get that . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . a different accent. So when he was there, he was supposed to be teaching American English. And he taught in—he did teach in a junior high school, where he would go to the school just to

give them the flavor of an American. And it was funny because when we went to visit, he let us go with him to this school. And so when we got in the school, we had to take your shoes off, even in the school.

SL: Right.

[03:01:22] GA: And they had these little sl—like slides that—just slough thing. Looks like a house slipper you put on.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Except they were made out of vinyl. So your feel almost slid out of 'em very easily. So we're going down the hallway trying to get where he was going in his classroom, and we're sliding s—you know, scooting along. And you could see the students all sticking their heads out of the classrooms looking, and they were grinning, and they were trying not to laugh because I'm sure we looked like idiots. [*SL laughs*] In fact, I had on stockings, which of course are slick, and you start tryin' to walk in those slick things, and you know, you lose—a shoe flies across the room and you have to go [*laughter*] get it. But anyway, we finally got to the classroom, and he started his lecture with—on the blackboard. "This is the United States." So he drew this really rough thing . . .

SL: Outline.

GA: . . . of the United States.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Outline, you know, and he had Florida comin' down here. And it was really strange, and he said, "This is where I live." This—and—talking bout California. "And over here is where I grew up." And then he said, "And that's a long way from here." And he was tryin' to say—he was always terrible on directions. I mean, he—I don't know. When he was learnin' to drive, he'd get lost even in town, you know. [*Laughs*] He couldn't remember where he we—he never paid attention to where we were going. Are you okay?

SL: Yeah.

GA: Okay.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so anyway, he taught that class. It was really funny. [03:02:42] And then he had—one of the teachers that he taught was—her husband was an elementary school principal, I think, but she was a teacher, and English teacher probably, in the lower school.

SL: Right.

GA: And so they had invited us out to dinner at supposedly a—celebrating the Fourth of July.

SL: Okay.

GA: 'Cause they'd heard of that. So we went to this very elaborate restaurant. I think it was a French restaurant. But it was in this northern Japan.

SL: Right.

GA: And we had this many-course meal.

SL: Right.

GA: And then they had—the chef came out to talk to us, and then they had—the dessert came out, and it was a—like an American flag. It was an American cake because Japanese cakes are not like American cakes at all. The texture is very different. It's more like a macaroon sort of thing.

SL: Oh.

GA: It's more of a chewy sort of a . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: Moist. Real moist.

SL: Yeah.

[03:03:33] GA: Anyway, he had made this as—the chef had made this cake look like an American flag in celebration for us. And you know . . .

SL: That's neat.

GA: . . . you felt really . . .

SL: Sweet.

GA: . . . really bad. And they had a daughter that was quite a piano player, and she wanted to come to Peabody in Baltimore, you know, part of Hopkins . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . at Peabody music.

SL: Right.

GA: And—to major in performance. And she kept asking us and our son what did she have to—what did—you know, what she had to do to do that. And of course, first of all she has to do is pass English as a foreign language.

SL: Right.

[02:58:51] GA: And that was gonna be no problem. But she was gonna be a concert pianist. And I think both my son and us asked—not—you know, that's wonderful. It's a goal. But what if she doesn't qualify as a concert pianist, and she's just a marvelous pianist? Well, there was no question. She would. And they wanted help or wanted us to put in a word for her, which of course, we didn't [*laughs*] know anybody at . . .

SL: Right. At Peabody.

GA: . . . Peabody.

SL: Right.

GA: We do now, but we didn't then. But anyway, so I have no idea if she ever made it or not, but they were just so gracious to us. And every place we went in homes that we were invited into that were students of his—you didn't dare compliment anything because they'd try to give it to you. Even a piece of furniture. If you said, "Oh, this is beautiful," you know, with some artwork carving or something on it. They couldn't [*laugh*] give you the piece of furniture, but they gave us other things. I can't remember, but we commented on some stuff and I—it was just—it was almost embarrassing, but you know, in this country, you're nice guests if you talk about how mu—how nice something is. And then to have 'em try to give it [*laughs*] to you is a little embarrassing.

SL: That's . . .

GA: We learned pretty quick.

SL: . . . unusual, isn't it? Unusual culture.

[03:05:27] GA: Yeah. But we had a lot really good experiences there. And one of the students was this one girl. And he sort of lost track of her a little bit, and she did go on and become—they call 'em flight attendants or cabin attendants, I think.

SL: Right. For the airlines.

GA: We call 'em airline—yeah, for ANA, All Nippon Air.

SL: Right.

GA: She did do that, and so—but she initially couldn't fly internationally because of—without the English. She had to have better conversational English if she was gonna fly internationally. So she was still flying in Japan. But from Tokyo and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . up to the northern island Sapporo and everything. And so after he came back from there, he went to graduate school at San Diego—UCSD—University of California San Diego.

SL: Kay.

GA: And—in international business with Pacific Rim studies. And of course, then he had to choose a language, and he chose Japanese, having . . .

SL: Oh my god.

[03:06:26] GA: He spoke not a word when he went over there except to say good morning and thank you. By the time he came back, he was reasonably fluent. I mean, two years in that—and nobody spoke any English to him much, you know.

SL: Right.

GA: He had to learn it, so he was pretty fluent. And ruined his eyes tryin' to read the dictionaries. The dictionaries that he had to study with in grad school were so tiny. Just minute. And all

those little characters that he had to learn, you know, the
little . . .

SL: So it was . . .

GA: . . . curly . . .

SL: . . . Japanese to English dictionary?

GA: I—he probably had both.

SL: Right.

GA: Because he was—had to learn the other way, too.

SL: Right.

GA: And this was, of course, international business, I mean,
involved, and he would end up with an MBA when he graduated
with his master's. But in the meantime he started writing to
the—this girl may have written him first. We never knew what
came first.

SL: Right.

[03:07:15] GA: But anyway, they corresponded. And in the
meantime, he had dated girls at Stanford, and he brought some
home every once in a while, and he just hadn't found anybody.

SL: Right.

GA: And you know, time was running out. He was gettin' older. [*SL
laughs*] And so he started writing her more and more, and the
next thing we knew, she—let's see. I think she came to visit

him, maybe. 'Cause she could fly for free. You know . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . on ANA, you know, standby. And anyway, he—at one point he wanted to give her a ring. And he did—you know, he was a grad student, and he didn't have any money. So he said, "Mom, can you help me out?" And so I had a ring that had been mine. My parents had given me like a dinner ring that he'd given me when I was in college. And it had no big stones at all in it, but there were two little bigger than the others, and then there was a row of little, tiny ones around the edge.

SL: Right.

GA: So I took—went to a local jeweler that we knew through the Rotary Club, I guess. He was with Alan. And he—we designed this ring. And so within the little V, was the way it went on her finger, and the point of the V was one of the bigger diamonds, and then the sides were all of the little tiny ones. I mean, you know, it maybe was a \$300, \$3- or \$400 ring . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . but that was more than he could've afforded at that point.

SL: Right.

[03:08:49] GA: So he had decided that he was going to fly back to Japan, and he was gonna give her the ring. Ask her to marry

him, give her the ring. And he knew that she was going—her grandparent—grandfather had passed away, and there are certain years, one year, three years, fi—I don't know what it is, but anyway—in Japan when someone dies, on the anniversary of their death, they have a big—like a celebration almost . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . of their life. And so she was flying back to her hometown on Hokkaido on this specific date for this event when—from her grandfather's death.

SL: Kay.

GA: And our s—David knew this, had found this out. So he arranged to be on the same flight.

SL: So did—was he tryin' to surprise her?

GA: Yes. Yes.

SL: Ah. [*Laughs*]

GA: And so he flew back and flew out there and—to Japan, and he had this whole arrangement. He was going to—he ha—it was near Valentine's day. He had a Valentine's card. And he was gonna give it to somebody on the airplane and it—in the middle he said—in the art—she was supposed to open it, and inside it said, "Turn around." That's what he had written. [03:10:00]
And so he gave it to this couple, and they were supposed to—he

sort of identified what she would look like and i—he said, "I'll let you know when she comes in." And he didn't see her, and he didn't see her. And finally they got ready to board the plane, and he still hadn't found her. He'd already talked to the couple to give 'em—give her the card. And suddenly he realized that she'd been there all along. She was behind a post. She was sitting in a chair over there. So it—he didn't get it in the order he wanted. Because he wanted this to happen before he ever got on the plane, I guess. So he pointed to them, and he—and somehow motioned that this was the girl. So they finally got up there in line to get on the plane. They—and he was behind her at this point in line. They gave—the couple gave her the card and said, "Someone gave me—said to give you this." [*Laughs*] She put it in her purse.

SL: Oh no! [*Laughter*]

GA: He said, "Oh, no. What was Plan B," you know.

SL: Oh, no!

GA: So he got on the plane, and I'm not sure quite what it was, but somehow on the plane he actually . . .

SL: Proposed.

GA: Proposed to her and gave her the ring at 10,000 feet or whatever over Japan. And then they went—he had already

talked to her father and told him that he was coming and why he was coming. And so the—her parents were prepared that he was gonna be coming also. So they were engaged, and then they were married the following June. [03:11:26] And they were married first in Obihiro because in Japan you have—they call a wedding palace. It's not a church, but it's just a great big, fancy building.

SL: Right.

GA: And when you have a girl, at least, you start when they're born. You basically start paying so much.

SL: Oh yeah.

GA: Like paying education. And you paid it for this, and so by the time they get married, you've paid for the wedding, or at least most of it. So they felt she pretty much had to use that, you know. So she—they first got married in June 20 in Obihiro, Japan.

SL: Okay.

GA: We flew over there that—Alan and I, our daughter, her husband, and our younger son all flew over for the wedding. Plus the son that was gonna be the groom. And [SL laughs] we stayed with her family. And you know, their bathtub was this big and this deep. You know, that's the way the bathtub was. So we went

to some local—the—what—they have the baths.

SL: Right.

GA: So you have different thi—anyway, that was a different experience. But it was very interesting because they had a tux rented—actually it was tails for Alan. And I guess then her father, and they told me not—I wouldn't be wearing a kimono. They just told me to wear something, you know . . .

SL: Respectful.

[03:12:45] GA: Respectful. And so I had on a dress. But anyway, I did wear a dress that time. Now I told you I never wear dresses anymore, but anyway, so we went, and while we were there, her father—I was having indigestion problems because I was eating so many strange things. [*SL laughs*] And I was sort of—you know, I had taken something for the indigestion. Just a normal, American, over-the-counter thing. And her father said, through hand signals, basically, because no one was there to interpret in their house at this point. They—the people that spoke both English and Japanese were gone. And I said, you know, I was having indigestion or something. And so he insisted that I take this medicine. And it was something he had, which was fine, but I had already taken something. And this was still in their house. So I took it, and the next thing—and then we ended up at this

wedding palace, and the next thing I knew, I'm sick 'cause it wa—they got together, and it made me sick. But anyway, I—that passed real quickly. But anyway, the wedding started, and they came in together, and he had on the black—the kimono thing, and he had a fan as opposed to a sword. That was what his costume was. And then she came in with a heavy, heavy, white headdress that they wear and a all-white kimono, and the white face . . .

SL: Oh, the . . .

GA: . . . where it's all made up.

SL: . . . traditional white . . .

[03:14:08] GA: Beautiful. Yeah. There's—I have a picture of that in the stuff 'cause it's . . .

SL: Kind of a geisha thing.

GA: Yeah. And beautiful, you know. And they walked, and course you can't walk fast, so the wa—shoes have those thongs . . .

SL: Yeah. Yeah.

GA: . . . and the—or flip—whatever.

SL: Yeah, and the wood. . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . blocks for the . . .

GA: Yeah. And so she—they came in and their—they had sit—there

was a head table for the two of them. And then we were sitting to one side at a round table a little lower, and then her family was at the other side at a lower table. And then there was a big table with a wedding cake on it right by the side of our table.

Big tall wedding cake, you know, like, I don't know, five feet tall.

SL: Wow.

GA: By itself. I mean, it was huge.

SL: Were there that many people?

GA: Well, I'll tell you in a minute.

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: *[Laughs]* You're gettin' ahead of us.

SL: Okay. All right.

[03:14:50] GA: Anyway, so they walked in, and then they had a lot of entertainment. I mean, solos and speeches and all this sort of stuff. And some of the ANA cabin attendants that she worked with had a little skit that made David come out and put an apron on—in effect, whatever they said, I don't know, but I'm sure it was, "You're gonna have to help in the kitchen" or something.

SL: Right, right.

GA: And they also have the tradition that—they were serving beer. Everybody was drinking beer, and they had big bottles of beer that were on the tables, and then everybody had a little glass.

And so the tradition is that they—the guests come up and fill the glass of the bride and groom. And I couldn't see the side with the bride, but they just kept filling. And of course, as soon as it gets down a little bit, they come fill it up.

SL: Yeah.

[03:15:36] GA: Well, there's no way he could've walked out of there if he'd drunk all the beer that came through. So he would sit here, and he would very calmly pretend like take a sip and then he would—like this, then he had a bucket under the table where he's pour it out and then bring it b—because there would immediately be somebody else there to fill it up. And but even at the table with us, you don't fill your own, even though there's a bottle sitting there. Someone else has to fill it.

SL: It's kinda like sake. How . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah. Someone else has to do it. But it was an interesting meal. And this happened all—this beer thing happened all during the thing. [SL laughs] And people kept coming up and bringing these envelopes. They don't have a wedding gifts like we think of wedding gifts in this country, but they have these gorgeous envelopes with all of this ornate work, paper work

and—on the—piping on the outside of them.

SL: Right.

GA: And they put money in 'em. So money is the gifts. And we have many of the envelopes saved. They were so pretty you just hate to throw 'em away.

SL: Right.

[03:16:31] GA: But anyway, they got that. And then about a third of the way through, they left the party. This is in a great big, long room. And they left, and we didn't know what was happening, but we waited a little while. In a little while, he came back in in the same outfit. Still the kimono. She came back in with a gorgeous bright pink all floral embroidered kimono that was—you know, well, that's—the brighter the colors, evidently, the better, at this point.

SL: Right.

GA: And so she then walked in, and then they sat up there and went through the same rigmarole again for a little while. And then they left again. They both left. [SL laughs] And for the third change. I guess it's—I guess depends on how many times she changed clothes is depending—you can change even many more than the three, and that's the wealth or something. But anyway, they changed—they just did the three. They came back in, but

they didn't walk in the same place. Suddenly music got loud, and dry ice smoke came out of the ceiling at the far end of the [SL laughs] hall, I guess.

SL: Yeah.

[03:17:40] GA: And there was a little swing up in the ceiling. Are—pretty high ceilings. And the two of them were sitting on this swing with all this smoke around them. He had on tails. She had on a Western-style white wedding gown with the veil and everything. So down they came, swinging on this swing . . .

SL: How cool.

GA: . . . with all this music and everything. [Laughs] I mean, it was quite a show. And you know, flashes going everywhere 'cause of course lo—everybody was taking . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . pictures . . .

SL: Pictures, yeah.

GA: . . . of this. And then they got down, and then they processed down to come back to their places. And in the meantime, they came to the cake. It was time to cut the cake. [SL laughs]
[03:18:16] So they got to the side of it, and they had a sword there, so David had hold of the sword, and they were gonna cut the cake. And so the minute they put the sword down into the

side—there was a slit, evidently, on the back side, the side—the fireworks shot out of the cake. It wasn't a real cake.

SL: Oh.

GA: And fireworks shot out [*SL laughs*] and lights flashed. I mean, it was just incredible. And we were sitting as close as I am to that camera and I—we just died laughing, you know [*laughter*], because we didn't know if—we didn't think it was serious. It was so funny. But any—and he was actually trying not to laugh, too, because he had said—we didn't—he didn't tell us about what was all gonna go on, if he knew. And anyway, so they got that, and they—there was no real cake that looked like—that was like American cake. There was this Japanese cake things . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . that are very different. But anyway, that was—and then they left, and the wedding reception—oh I forgot to tell you. Alan had to give a speech. The father of the groom had to give a speech.

SL: Okay.

[03:19:18] GA: And he practiced for months to give a Japanese speech.

SL: Oh, no.

GA: And so we were si—standing with his parents—her parents at the

far end back at—underneath where the swing had come down. And he had little cards, but he had gone with a German professor at the naval academy. He'd gone, taken a German course at the community college. And they'd helped him write it and then helped him work with pronunciation. And course, I have no idea what he said, but I'm sure it's that he was happy to have Naomi as his daughter-in-law.

SL: Right.

[03:19:49] GA: But anyway, and her father also said—spoke, too.

That was also in Japanese, so I didn't understand that. But anyway, after the speeches, there was a receiving line as ever—people left. In this country, they always put the bride's parents at the beginning of the receiving line because they, in effect, are giving the wedding.

SL: Right.

GA: They put us at the the receiving line.

SL: Oh.

GA: And that's the tradition, I guess. And so basically I was the first person in the receiving line, Alan was next to me, and I didn't know a word of Japanese. I mean, except to say *arigatou gozaimasu*, you know, thank you very much or something like that. But he knew a little bit, so he said just practice. He—just

say this. So whatever it was, I learned to say that one phrase, and so they came through the line and then eventually got down to the—her family and the rest of our family. But that was quite an experience, I'll tell you.

SL: It is.

GA: And then we flew home.

SL: Kay.

GA: The next week . . .

SL: Got married again.

GA: . . . the wedding was in—they got married again. Because that wasn't really a legitimate wedding. There was no preacher, priest or anything.

SL: Right.

GA: But that was a—it was basically just a big reception like a—almost like an announcement you'd have.

SL: Right.

GA: So anyway, they came back.

SL: So, but they were married and . . .

GA: No, they weren't married.

SL: Oh, they weren't married. Not even . . .

GA: No, they weren't legally . . .

SL: . . . in Japan they weren't.

GA No, no. But her father wasn't sure, and so he was very concerned about legally when could they actually be together.

[Laughs]

SL: Right.

[03:21:16] GA: You know. And he was concerned about what we would think, I think is what he probab . . .

SL: Ah.

GA: But anyway, and there were some other social engagements, dinners and things after that. Her father was a—at a very nice Japanese restaurant that he had—well, he'd founded years and years ago. I mean, he'd been in—he'd been there for a long time, so he was a chef, and he was really into this. So we did go to a meal there, and we had things. But one of the things that they gave, some people gave him—just—they'd bring it over to the house. Were melons. 'Cause cantaloupe, melons, are extremely expensive in Japan. And I mean, I thought they were high in England. They were horrendous. I mean, you'd pay fifty, sixty dollars for one little melon.

SL: No way.

[03:21:57] GA: I mean, we'd saw 'em in the stores and I—course I didn't know the translation of money that well, but they were really expensive. So that was a special gift when someone

brought a melon by the house. But anyway, so we flew back, all of us, back to . . .

SL: Annapolis.

GA: . . . Annapolis.

SL: Yeah.

GA: It—the girls from ANA—there was no, like, bridesmaids and groomsmen and stuff at that wedding at all. There was no wedding party.

SL: Right.

GA: Just the families and the two of them. But they came back over to Annapolis. The girls came like the day or so before the wedding. The other wedding was on the 27th, seven days later. And so they all came into Dulles Airport, which is on the other side of Washington.

SL: That's right.

GA: Yeah. And they came . . .

SL: It's a big drive.

GA: Yes, it is. About two hours.

SL: Yeah.

[03:22:49] GA: They came—you know, because they could fly free. They couldn't come into bal . . .

SL: Reagan.

GA: Baltimore.

SL: Or Reagan.

GA: Well, Reagan is downtown. That's not even interna—may—it may be now, but it didn't—it was not an international . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . then. And so we made—Alan made many trips to Dulles because they all came [*laughs*—their—because they were standby, they came in at different time.

SL: Right.

[03:23:11] GA: But they—she had chosen—she had been in San Diego with David, and I'm not qui—that had to be before this wedding. So she must have just come to visit him, and they had gone to—she chose a Laura Ashley house—I mean, dress.

SL: Dress.

GA: And we had a Laura Ashley store in Annapolis, which helped. But every bridesmaid was a size six 'cause they were all teeny, tiny little girls, including my daughter who was in the wedding. The rest of 'em were all Japanese. So I went to the store, and I said, "I need"—I think it was six five—six size six dresses in this particular dress. They had to call all over the country to get that many size sixes. [*Laughs*] 'Cause most people probably carry one six and one eight and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: You know.

SL: Right.

GA: Like this. So anyway, we finally got the dresses. And my sister flew in from Texas a day early because we thought we'd probably have to hem 'em all, and I thought I was gonna need some help to sit down and do all these things by hand.

SL: Right.

GA: Fortunately, they were all about the same height, too, so we didn't have to do that.

SL: That's good.

[03:24:16 GA: They all wanted to go shoe shopping 'cause shoes are much cheaper in this country than they are in Japan. And we had told 'em please wear just a small heel. Just a dark navy blue 'cause the dresses were background with a dark blue, with a little, tiny heel. Well, the shoes varied a lot, but that wa—at that point, you didn't care. And the flowers—the dresses were covered in flowers, and so instead of a bouquet, we had them carry long-stem just pink roses, which was very simple against all the thing of the dress.

SL: Right.

GA: So you know—but we per—we specifically said that we would

pay for all of the American wedding, and they would do the Japanese wedding 'cause it was already paid for, basically.

SL: Right.

GA: But her parents then also flew over. And they stayed with us [laughs] with no English. So you know, it was really fun and the—someone took him to the Pennsylvania Dutch market, and he came back with this fish, a whole fish like this, and I walked in and found this thing lying on my kitchen counter [SL laughs], and I didn't know what I was supposed to do with it. I—then he was just—it's already been cooked and you—smoked or something.

SL: Yeah.

GA: You just broke it apart and put it on crackers. But when I saw this fish, I thought, "Is he expecting me to cook the"—I didn't know it was cooked, see.

SL: Or clean it.

GA: Yeah, ugh. It—yeah. But anyway, that worked out okay.

[03:25:32] But and we had a neighbor or actually a friend who had a neighbor that wa—spoke Japanese. Was Japanese. I mean, she's been in this country for years. But we asked them to come please and sit with her parents at the wedding to explain what was going on.

SL: Okay.

GA: And that worked beautifully. You know, because, obviously, I couldn't explain to 'em.

SL: And they probably loved having someone that . . .

GA: Oh, yes. Oh, sure they did.

SL: . . . could let 'em know what was going on.

[03:25:58] GA: And we had asked her mother did wear her kimono.

Her father obviously just wore a suit. But then Naomi wore my daughter's wedding gown because the—for her to have brought the one from over there, since those are just rented clothes, it would've cost her about \$600 to bring the dress that she wore over there to this country. So the—fit her perfectly. So . . .

SL: How serendipitous is that?

GA: It was just perfect. Perfect. So since they were size six, I guess. But it was interesting, the dresses that she had chosen were bare backed. They were high in front, but then they came all the way down to the waist in the back, which meant that the girls could not wear a bra. [*SL laughs*] Well, the—for the Japanese girls, this was very bad. And so they all, I think, gave their dresses to the bride when they left 'cause they weren't gonna wear them. I don't know if she ever wore 'em or not, but if so she had about five or six dresses . . .

SL: Dresses.

GA: . . . just exactly alike. [*Laughter*] She should've opened a store. But anyway, and they have been married now twenty-five years and have two lovely children, a boy and a girl. The boy is a senior at University of Oregon . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . in business. The daughter is in Berkeley in computer—brilliant, brilliant child, and beautiful kids. This—you get the mixtures of the races, and it works beautifully.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Okay, where am I? You want the . . .

SL: Well . . .

[03:27:19] GA: I've got one more child, but maybe . . .

SL: Yeah, yeah, we need to do—let's do—let's go ahead and do the other child.

GA: Okay.

SL: Ah—do we—if—how are we . . .

GA: I don't know what time it is. I haven't been paying . . .

SL: Sarah, how—where are we?

SM: Yeah, we're actually one hour and twenty minutes in, so we should go ahead and take a break, don't you think?

SL: Let's take a break.

GA: Okay.

SM: Okay.

SL: Okay.

[Recording stopped]

[03:27:34] SL: We're talking children now, and we've been talking weddings.

GA: Yes.

SL: Lately.

GA: That's right.

SL: And I would be curious to know what happened to the six other dresses from the wedding in Japan.

GA: I think they all gave them—except my daughter. She kept hers.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But I think they gave them to the bride.

SL: Just gave them—yeah.

GA: Yeah, because they were the right size. And I guess they thought, "Well, she's gonna live in the United States, she can wear 'em." [SL laughs] I mean, they were cute, but I can understand if you're used—and you're very modest, and you're used to wearing a b—I mean, they were completely covered on the front and sides.

SL: Right.

GA: But it was just the center back that was open. So anyway.

SL: That's interesting, you know, that . . .

GA: It is. I was surprised.

SL: . . . she would choose that.

GA: Yeah, I agree. And I'm sure she must've tried it on and k . . .

SL: Right.

GA: You know, in the store in California. But I didn't think anything about it. She chose 'em.

SL: Right.

GA: I dealt with it, you know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So.

SL: Oh, that's interesting.

GA: I thought the problem was having six of 'em. [*Laughs*]

SL: Right.

GA: But anyway. Yeah.

[03:28:34] SL: Well, okay, so you have another son.

GA: I have one more son, yes.

SL: And tell me his story and . . .

GA: Okay. Well, his name is Alan Ray.

SL: Okay.

GA: Named after Alan and his father.

SL: Right.

GA: And he is about six years younger than David. And so he is now married to an Indian woman from Bombay, India. And . . .

SL: How did that happen?

GA: Well, he met her [*SL laughs*] in California. She was getting to the age when they start arranging marriages in India, and she didn't want that. So she said, "I'd like to go to the United States to graduate school." She'd already been to graduate school. She had degrees and everything, and she was in film and advertising, and you know, she spoke, you know, French in addition to English and the **Gajaric** Hindu and . . .

[03:29:28] SL: Wow.

GA: . . . all this. But anyway—Hindi, sorry. She came to the United States and the San Francisco area. Alan Ray had been—well, he graduated from Virginia Tech in—well, technical geography is, I guess, what I call it anyway. And he went to work in Arkansas for Acxiom. And then they—he did whatever they wanted it done, then, and he—whatever he wanted to do next they didn't really need, so they sent him to California as sort of a representative with 3Com and some of the other companies out there, to the Silicon Valley.

SL: Right.

GA: So he was out there. He was initially—I think initially in an apartment, but then this guy he met that was Indian ask him if he—he said, "I'm getting ready to rent a house from my sister," I think, from his sister. And he said, "It's big enough for two people. Would you like to share a house with me?" And they had gotten to know each other through the job, I think.

SL: Right.

GA: And so Alan Ray said yes, and unfortunately, we still call him the double name. Nobody else does. He's just Alan, but he can't just be Alan 'cause I've got another Alan [*laughs*] in the house.

SL: What about A. Ray?

GA: Well, that's—we did. We called him A. Ray a lot.

SL: Yeah. Okay.

GA: Yes, we did, and then we called him Ray. We tried lots, but you know, that's a little harder when you're talking about other people.

SL: Right, right.

[03:30:47] GA: But anyway so he—after he graduated, he went down there, then he went to California. And he was rooming with this man, and he said, "I'm supposed to meet this Indian woman at the airport and sorta show her around San Francisco,

and I'm busy. Do you think you could do it for me?" So our son said, "Sure, I'll help out. Whatever." So he went to the airport, met her—her name is Sheetal. And her name is Sheetal Parikh. And her father was—is a businessman in Bombay. Her parents are divorced, which is a no-no . . .

SL: Big thing.

GA: . . . in India. Her mother now lives with them in California. But initially she didn't. But she was—I guess—I don't know if she was in this country at that point, but she's been in this country for a—quite a while now. But anyway, he met her, and I guess they hit it off somewhat. And her English, of course, is . . .

SL: Impeccable.

GA: . . . perfect. Yeah. And accented, very accented. And sometimes I have a hard time on the telephone. 'Cause I—when I can see her, it's no problem because I know the expression, the facial expressions that go with it.

SL: Right.

GA: But just to see her—not see her and try to understand, I sometimes am not sure what I've heard on the telephone.

SL: Right.

[03:31:59] GA: But anyway, that worked out very well, and they—I guess they dated some. I don't really know quite what

happened in that period of time. But she went—go—went to school again, and she was in the film advertising. And then eventually she finished that, and she got a job in advertising in the San Francis—Oakland area, I think it was. And so that was fine, and he was dating her, and he actually called once, and he said, "I would like to bring her home for Christmas." He said—I said, "Is it serious?" and he said, "No, not necessarily," he said, "I just want—think she should experience an American Christmas." [03:32:37] So he brought her home and they—she stayed about a week. And so we bought something for her for Christmas, not knowing, never having seen her. I said, "How big is she, what size is she? Do I get her something?" He said, "Well, she's tiny." Well, everybody's tiny. That didn't mean—tell anything to me, but—anyway, so she was there, and she was there for about seven days. I found very quickly she would eat chicken a little bit if it were cut up in small pieces, but to give her a chicken breast was a no-no. I mean, 'cause she was not complete vegetarian, but close to it. And that big piece of meat was just not—I can remember sitting down at the dining room table one night, and I had cooked chicken breasts somehow, and each person had the chicken breast. That didn't work. But anyway. So I learned very quickly, you cut it up, and she'll . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . maybe eat it. But they seemed to get along. He showed her around the town, and she participated in everything we did.

SL: Are we talking Annapolis?

GA: Yes.

SL: Yeah. Okay.

[03:33:33] GA: Yes, I'm sorry. Everything that we did. And then she went back, and he proceeded to go on with his life out there and moved around and went to different companies. I'm not sure how many. He went to Oracle for a while. That was the bi—longest time. I think he was with Oracle. And then he—we were out there one time visiting, and he said, "Are you gonna come back for our—my engagement?" I said, "What?"

[*Laughter*] And I said, you know, "The engagement?" I said, "That's between the two of you." I said, "That doesn't involve the parents." Well, evidently in India, it does. But we didn't—we were never told this. So we didn't go for that. And so he arranged to have her ring given to her by a dolphin. They went to this place where you could, like, have the dolphin swim around you.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I don't know if—they must have been swimming in the water

with the dolphins, too, because they had on wet—pla . . .

SL: Wetsuits.

GA: . . . black wetsuits. And so then the dolphin that—she was standing on the side of this pool, and the dolphin sort of flew by and evidently had this little box. I'm not sure he actually had it in his—anyway, somehow it was arranged. The woman that was the teacher for this—maybe she had palmed it and had it somehow. But anyway, then that—then he got on his knees in his wetsuit and proposed by the side of this dolphin pool. He had to outdo the brother that had . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] Of course.

GA: . . . done it on the—in the air, you know.

SL: Yeah.

[03:35:01] GA: And so they had a big celebration at my—at David, my other son's, house, with his Japanese wife. And s—they were sort of standing in for us, I mean, since we weren't there. But the—as I said, we didn't know we were supposed to be there because, you know, it's a different culture. Her mother was there, and I think our son's—the—Alan Ray's best friend from high school was even out there. I think he was working out there at that point. But anyway, they did the various things and put the paint on her face and—on the forehead and—you know,

whatever, that was, as I said, that was quite a celebration that we didn't know about. But the wedding was then set for March—oh, let's see, how many years it's been. Fifteen. About 2003, maybe. And it was gonna be in March. It was gonna be in—they chose Palo Alto in a hotel just on the edge of the pa—of the Stanford campus by—in Palo Alto. So all they needed was a big room. The priest was Hindu, and he was s—used Sanskrit in the ceremony, which of course we didn't understand.

SL: Right.

[03:36:14] GA: But they have—the thing—before the ceremony, normally, if it's in India, the groom with his family trailing along with him, arrives on a white horse . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . at the bride's home. Well, he—we didn't have a white horse. I think he was on the shoulders of his brother or something, but anyway, he came in, and all of the relatives the—on his side of the family came along with him, and then we were supposed to be making all this noise and all this—I don't know what was going on. And her family—now her father—her parents are divorced, so . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . her father did not come, so he's still in India. But her

mother and all of her mother's sisters and siblings were on the steps going into the hotel and the—this was a big side area like a garden area of the hotel. So we come in, and they're all sorts of little tricky things that happened. One thing that they were supposed to try to steal his shoes. Her parents, her mother, was supposed to steal his shoes, and he had told his brother—he said, "Whatever you do, just protect me. And they're gonna tum—to my nose. Protect my nose." Well, David was standing there. How was he gonna protect his nose? He said the main thing he kept doing was hitting him in the face without realizing what he was doing, you know. So this was really wild and loud, and even the grandchildren that were around were gettin' scared because there was—people were screaming, and they thought they were hurting Uncle Alan, you know, they thought somethin' was happening to him. [SL laughs] [03:37:33] But anyways, you know, the v—the bride's mother tried to—you know, how you do that to a baby's nose, you know, pretend I've got your nose.

SL: Yeah, sure.

GA: It was that sort of thing . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: She was trying to do.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I'm gonna get your nose and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: It was just a lot of fun and games that went on. This was all before any ceremonies or an—I mean, that was a ceremony, but it was before being inside and all.

SL: Prelim.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[03:37:52] GA: And that—now that was early in the day. The night before, they had had this big party—it—and I guess there was a dinner, but instead of having like a calm rehearsal dinner, there was no rehearsing to it. There was a dance they called the broom dan—I mean, the stick dance.

SL: Kay.

GA: And you go in two circles, two concentric circles, and one goes one way and the other goes the other. And everybody has a stick, or two sticks, but—either one or two. But you're supposed to go around, and to the music—you tap the stick of the other person. It's—looks like a sword fight but it's just a click, and so all this clicking is going on all the time through this. Loud, loud music. And all the Japanese—I mean, the Indian women are of

course in their bright colored saris and everything. And it was really . . .

SL: I bet that was beautiful.

GA: . . . wild, and it was very noisy, you know, but it was—and the—you know, they had dinner and everything. But anyway, after this other ceremony, then the wedding ceremony started. And they had all the chairs set up in rows with a little plaque for 'em at the front. And that was where the priest was. And he had a little container that had fire in it. There's—fire is a very important part of the ceremony, and so there was a fire in which he could have an open flame in this small thing. And the—he was sitting on—cross-legged up by—the priest was in a white garb of some kind. I'm not for sure what you call 'em. There are names for all this. [03:39:17] And then our son had—he says, "I wore my pajamas." [*Laughs*] Because his—Alan had him paja—Alan Ray had gotten him this outfit the—for the Indian. And so his—he said, "Looks like white pajamas." [*Laughter*] But anyway, he had that on. My daughter had on a sari that Sheetal, the bride, had lent her, and she also had lent one to David's wife, so the two of them had on the saris. The little girls, the two—our two, little—two granddaughters. One was like seven and five or seven and four.

SL: Right.

GA: And they had on little saris that they had—she had gotten and given to—not—well, I don't know that we kept 'em, but th—we had to adjust them to fit them. And the little one that was—whose mother's the Japanese—couldn't keep her skirt up—her bottom up, and so it kept hanging right here. You know, it was right here. It was so cute, you know, every time you'd see her, her little tummy was hanging out [*laughs*], and it was ready to fall off. But the boy, then, who was about six, too. Also. Had a brown whatever they call the men's, you know, thing. And so he—they were all there for this, and they didn't have a part in the ceremony. But Lynne, our daughter, in her sari, and our son in his white pajamas were in the—on the platform with . . .

SL: The . . .

GA: . . . Alan Ray and the bride and groom and the priest.

SL: Right.

[03:40:42] GA: And so the two little girls in their saris, the little ones, walked down this aisle which—spreading rose petals.

SL: Kay.

GA: And it was—there was a—I—runner. And so they spread red rose petals all the way down to the front. And then we were seated right in the very front. And her mother was also on the

platform part of the time. And we were, too, briefly. But everybody had a part. And it was fun even though we didn't know quite what they were doing. But they had things like they had to walk around the fire seven times, and they had to—they put—we—what we did, there was string of some kind, and we actually put the string so that it was partly over our son's head and partly over his wife-to-be's head so that it was tying them together with this—I'm sure—everything has a name, but I'm sorry, I don't know all the names.

SL: That's all right.

GA: Couldn't remember 'em if I did. [*SL laughs*] And then she wears—she was p—he put—our son put on her a like a string neck—a black bead or string necklace that signifies that she's married. Not the ring that sig—in this country would signify you were married. It's this black necklace.

SL: Necklace.

[03:41:52] GA: And it's—I guess it can be made out of various things. But that was the high point, I guess you would say, when they were—but they did all sorts of—they played little games up there, and she had to put her bare toes on top of something else, and that was another signi—you know, had some other significant. They had another section to the side

that was pictures of her grandparents, so it was like a memorial or a little altar to her grandparents.

SL: So her grandparents were there . . .

GA: 'Cause the . . .

SL: . . . in spirit.

[03:42:21] GA: Yeah. Right. The family, you know. And I mean, there was so much symbolism that went on up there. And the priest had tried to explain some of this, too, to some of us the day before when we had been at breakfast with everybody. But you know, it's hard to remember, and it was hard to understand what all was going on. But it was quite interesting. And so for the ceremony, Sheetal had on—you don't wear white. I mean, I can't—don't know if this is the reason why you don't, but they don't—wedding gowns—or the wedding—are not white.

SL: Okay.

GA: Hers was sort of a rust color, and I think colors of reds and oranges are . . .

SL: The deal.

GA: . . . the popular thing.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so she had a gorgeous thing that she had gotten in India.

And it was sort of a rust color, and it had a shawl, and there is a

picture of her in it, and then our son was in a light brownish tan similar thing with the long—like a dress and then pants that come out underneath it, you know. And so they were pretty handsome-looking couple.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And then when they had the reception afterwards, I had been told that I did need to wear a sari, and I said, "Well, I don't have a sari," and Sheetal had volunteered to get one that would fit me, and I said, "That's fine. I'll wear my own dress." So I had worn a dress, but they had said that the women attendees would all be wearing something different for the reception, where in this cul—this country, we go straight from the rece—I mean, the wedding to the reception.

SL: To the reception.

[03:43:47] GA: So it's always the same. I mean, the bride may take her veil off or . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . her train, but that's it. But Sheetal, then, had on a gorgeous blue about the color of this dress and—with trimmed in gold and metallic colors that was beautiful. And then our son had on just an American tux, you know, suit-type thing. And then I had changed into—from a regular—a dress, you know,

and changed into a long sort of a burgundy dress that had a little bit of jewels in it. But the bri—the—all the attendees with their saris was just—the colors were incredible. And you know, and there were a lot of 'em because her mother is one of six children, and she had two brothers, I think, and the rest were girls, and some of 'em live in California, some of 'em live in New Jersey, some of 'em live in Texas, some of 'em live in Arizona. I mean, they're from all over, and . . .

SL: They all came.

GA: So they all—definitely, yes. [*SL laughs*] And it's a big deal. I mean, here, I think the first thing they did started on a Wednesday night for us. And then the wedding itself was not until Saturday afterno—ended Saturday afternoon.

SL: Big.

[03:45:03] GA: And there's something every day, you know. And the first thing they do a—on this Wednesday night thing, they were painting the hands of the bride with henna. You've seen the designs all over their hands or legs.

SL: I haven't.

GA: Oh, it's—it rea—I didn't have a picture of that either to—but I should've. Anyway, it's little intricate flowers and curls and everything. And you know, the bride may have it all the way up

their arms, I don't know. And sometimes they do it on their ankles. And when it . . .

SL: Is that just for that one day or does it . . .

GA: Well, it lasts for about two to three weeks.

SL: Oh, okay.

[03:45:33] GA: It takes a—it wears off. But it's sort of a reddish brown, you know. Henna color. And so my sister and I both decided to do it. And we had our hands—did we have the palm or the back? I can't remember, but we had—each had our hand done. Some of the people, Alan and Alan's sisters just had it done like an ankle bracelet painted around her ankle. The little kids had it ver—they could choose whether they want—they couldn't have it all over like the bride because it's a special artist that comes and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and does this. And I mean, she spent hours on Sheetal doing her. And she had both of the li—feet, legs, arms, you know, all kinds of things. But and then they wear lots and lots of gold jewelry because gold is the wealth in India. And she had, you know, bracelets all up and down her arms and all kinds of stuff. I mean, that's a—that's one way to transfer money and wealth in and out of India is with gold. [*Coughs*] 'Scuse me.

And I'm tryin' to think what else did she do. Anyway, they got married, and they went [*coughs*—I'm sorry. [*Coughs*] Sorry.

SL: That's all right.

[03:46:57] GA: They lived first in California. Then eventually they went to live in Florida. Alan Ray went to work for Office Depot and—as their tech person at the headquarters in Delray Beach. And then he moved—they moved back to California. And they live in Mission Viejo now, and he is with **Kappa Group Investment Company**. Still the tech person. And they've been married for, I think, fifteen years. They have a nine year old, a little girl, who is beautiful, again . . .

SL: Of course.

GA: . . . you know, you—as I said, the combination of the two races is just really . . .

SL: Stunning.

GA: . . . magnificent. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[03:47:44] GA: And so I think they'll be there for a while. But she takes—Sheetal takes them back—the little girl specifically back to Bombay, not every summer, but almost as soon as school is out, they go back to Bombay for the summer or for a while to stay with her father because there's a lot of activities, evidently,

there for children in the summer. Educational opportunities and art stuff and all kinds of things to do. Our son has gone with them some, and they've taken trips to the Taj Mahal and Nepal and several of those places. But not every time does he go. This summer they did not go. It's the first summer in several years that they did not go. But that child at age nine has been—I don't know how many times she's been to India. They've gone to Australia because Sheetal's brother li—and his wife live in Australia. And then she's been to all the relatives in this country. She's lived in—she was born in Florida but now she lives—and lived there for several years. Now they live in California. And anyway, it's been a very interesting lifestyle for us. Every time we go to visit, we go to one house and have all this beautiful Indian—I mean, Japanese food, and then we go to the other one, and we have all the Indian food. And her mother lives with them, which is built-in babysitter. It's wonderf—and she's a wonderful cook. But I think this is very typical in India for a—the generations to live together.

[03:49:10] SL: Well, so does she have a job or work at all? It's just a . . .

GA: Not now. She worked in advertising in Oakland when they first . . .

SL: Met.

GA: . . . were up there, yeah. [*Coughs*] Sorry. Here we go again.

But no, she—well, she does, but she doesn't go out to a place to do it. She does a lot of managing of stuff.

SL: At home.

GA: She manages all the finances, for one thing, pretty much. And she also has gotten involved in some stuff where they bring in stuff from India for hotels. But it's all done out of her home. In other words, it's not a real business as such. It's either online or that's it.

SL: Well, that's where it's all headed.

GA: That's right. Yeah.

[03:49:57] SL: So have y'all ever met her father?

GA: Yes. Oh yeah. He came to visit us once.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So he comes. He will not come when his wife is around.

SL: Right.

GA: So.

SL: Sounds unfortunate.

GA: Yeah. But he knows the little girl, and of course she spends the summers with him . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . when they go over there. But no, and the—we met the—her brother and his wife have come to visit us, too, here in Annapolis. They now have two children. And they just came to California to visit his sister and Alan Ray this last summer with their two children. And the Indians are big—very social, you now. They have constantly parties of some kind or other. [*SL laughs*] In fact, the last summer, they—the whole—Alan Ray and Sheetal and the little girl, whose name is Saffryn, by the way, like the spice . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . but spelled differently. It's a *Y* instead of an *O*.

SL: Okay.

GA: *S-A-F-F-R-Y-N*.

SL: *Y-N*.

[03:50:56] GA: When they were in India, they went to a wedding of a cousin of Sheetal's. And it was one of those several-day things. And I mean the—it wa—they sent back videos, and it was incredible. You know, the dancing that went on and the singing and the partying and everything, you know. Just constant, and everything was bright costumes with huge headdresses and all this. I don't really—I can't even describe it but i—you don't see the pictures, you don't have [*laughter*] any

idea. But anyway, that was really neat. And so they're settled there. And then we went back to—we talked about Cambridge briefly. Did we talk about our trip in Cambridge?

SL: The . . .

GA: I think we did. We lived in Cambridge, and that's when I came back pregnant with the third child.

SL: Right.

GA: But then Alan di—we went—he had an exchange in Dartmouth the Britannia Royal Naval College.

SL: Okay, now he mentioned something about that.

GA: Okay.

SL: But I don't remember exactly what that was.

[03:51:52] GA: Okay. Well, it's an exchange between the naval academy and the Britannia Royal Naval College, and it's been going on for several years. And it's almost stopped now because it's getting harder to get people to want to go over there and spend a year.

SL: That's right. He . . .

GA: That's what it was. So.

SL: Yeah, because . . .

GA: And he agreed to do it.

SL: And you agreed to . . .

GA: Yes, I . . .

SL: . . . do it because . . .

GA: . . . I agreed. Well . . .

SL: . . . you didn't have any kids at the house . . .

GA: . . . the experience in Cambridge . . .

SL: . . . and they were . . .

GA: . . . was wonderful. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[03:52:14] GA: And so it was great, and we had no children at that point. Everybody was gone in college or whatever. And it was nice because the people in England came and stayed in our house. Used our cars. Used his office. And the reverse was true. And at—we went there, and we stayed in their house, used their cars. And their house was a big old—I guess it was a farmhouse and—I—maybe used to be a bed-and-breakfast. I don't know. But it was way out from the town. And behind it, what used to be the stables was now a bed-and-breakfast. So it was a big U shape behind the house and then w—this house was huge. It had I don't even know how many bed—five bedrooms, maybe, and the kitchen—I think there were almost two kitchens the way it was built. And a sitting room and a living room and a dining room and fireplaces in every room of the house. And it

was old. Let me tell you, it was old. We first got there, and the fireplaces—they had used great big, huge pine cones, like a pile of them—you—when you weren't using the fireplace. That was the decoration in there. And they were covered with this grey soot dust—art—so I decided I should clean [*SL laughs*] the pine cones. That doesn't come off, let me tell you. [*Laughter*] That was the biggest mess I ever tried to do. But it was nice. They left us a cat. And the cat had a what they call a cat flap. We would—whatever—for the dog—the cat or dog can . . .

SL: Oh, I see.

GA: . . . come and go . . .

SL: Dog door.

GA: . . . basically. The cat flap . . .

SL: Or cat door.

GA: . . . was there, and the cat kept bringing us his prizes. And we kept finding little dead mice here and there around [*laughs*] the house. But . . .

SL: Well, better that than just having them running around the house.

[03:53:59] GA: Well, that's true. Well, this cat would've caught 'em, I guess. But it was an experience. It was bitter cold.

SL: Oh.

GA: In the house. I mean, there was not really any central heat. These fireplaces, I guess, did it. And maybe there was some central heat, but it wasn't very warm.

SL: Right.

GA: And I spent the winter wearing those kind of gloves with the tip of the fingers out that you use . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . to see really old people wear.

SL: I wear 'em all the time when I'm fishing.

GA: Oh really?

SL: Yeah.

GA: Okay, well I didn't know you could even buy 'em. I never seen 'em in—over here.

SL: Right.

[03:54:30] GA: But I had those, and I was doing all this needlepoint and handwork while Alan was at the office because, as I said, this house was out of town. And I did have a car. There were two cars, and he took the Boxall, and I had this little Ford Fiesta. And the one I had was sort of old. And so the lane to get to the house was so narrow that it was literally one car wide.

SL: Right.

GA: But it was a two-way street. And so if you saw somebody

coming, you had to go forward or back into a little lay-by that would be there. And because my car was older, everybody expected me to me to be the one that . . .

SL: Got off the . . .

GA: . . . backed up and got off.

SL: Got out of the way. Yeah.

GA: Well, that was pretty tough to do because you were learning to drive and shift with the other hand on the wrong side of the road in a street that was so narrow it wasn't even a street. In fact we have one picture of Alan standing with his legs spread apart and his arms out, and he's touching the bushes on both sides right there. And that was a two way. That—arrows—there's a picture with a sign with arrows going both directions right there by him.

SL: Like hedgerows.

[03:55:32] GA: They were hedgerows. And I thought, "Well, it's just a hedge. You bump into it, it's not gonna hurt." Listen, there's stone behind it.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And all the briars and the roots.

SL: It's not . . .

GA: It's been there forever.

SL: . . . penetrable.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Right.

GA: And so several of his—of our friends and relatives came to visit, and they'd rent cars in London and come down. [*Laughs*] And then they would follow us. Alan would be driving, and they'd follow. And I don't know how many of 'em took off the side-view mirrors. I mean, we did, too. I mean, we took off our side-view mirror. But we waited until the week we were leaving to come back to replace it because [*laughs*] we knew we were gonna do it again. But no, that was a really, really tough driving thing.

SL: Well . . .

[03:56:12] GA: And I would drive into town to go to the shops. I mean, there was no—there was a co-op grocery store, which was really little. Even in Cambridge, there were no supermarkets at that point. That had been previously. And coming to Dartmouth was goin' back fifty more years from Cambridge because Cambridge was a university town. It was a little more upscale. They even had a Pizza Hut . . .

SL: Wow.

GA: . . . in Cambridge. But—and a Wimpy's instead of a McDonald's. [*SL laughs*] But you know, but down there they really didn't have anything much. I mean they—what they would they would

call a supermarket, we would call the little corner . . .

[03:56:48] SL: Mom-and-Pop store.

GA: Yeah. Somethin' like that, you know. I had trouble when we first went to England the first time, I couldn't find tomato paste to make p—spaghetti sauce.

SL: Yeah.

GA: It comes in a tube, like toothpaste.

SL: Oh.

GA: Not a can.

SL: You were looking for the wrong container.

[03:57:03] GA: Sure. I mean, I finally—eventually I found it but—and I had to learn to say haff instead of half when I went for stamps because the amer—the stamp to come to America was a seven and half pence. And so I had to go into the post office and ask for seven-and-a-haff because I tried the seven-and-a-half, and they'd look at me like I was crazy. [*SL laughs*] They didn't know what I was—they didn't—I mean, I'm sure they could've figured it out, unless they were being—just being mean. But anyway, that—there were several adjustments. [03:57:30] And I had to go to the butcher to get the meat, and I had to go to the greeng—actually the greengrocer came to our house. At least, the one in Cambridge, not in Dartmouth. But came to the

house in a truck. So it was like, you know . . .

SL: Fresh vegetables.

GA: Yeah, fresh vegetables right there, and I—someone took a picture of me standing out with a neighbor talking to the greengrocer at the truck in front of the house. But it was different, you know. And there were so many things we couldn't get that my—especially with children. That—when the kids—when we were in Cambridge, we had the children, two of 'em. And they'd want pickles. Pickles in England are very different from pickles in this country. Peanut butter is very, very different. You could get it, but it would be just a different thing. Just like the difference in canned peas and fresh peas or . . .

SL: Oh.

GA: . . . frozen peas, you know, they just. It wasn't the same. It didn't taste the same.

SL: Right.

[03:58:20] GA: But anyway, I, as I said, I learned how to do it, and it was nice in the sense that Alan being connected to the American Navy, we could go to an American Base if we wanted to and go to the commissary. But there wasn't one within about five hour's drive. [*Laughter*] So we did—there were some at two hours from Cambridge, so when we were at Cambridge, we

did go to the commissary maybe twice during the year. In Dartmouth we didn't go very often. And gasoline was very expensive, of course. The liter. I've for—you know, I've forgotten the pricing now. I'm sure it's changed now, but it was much more expensive than it is here. But we did a lot of traveling both places. From, you know, from both . . .

SL: Why wouldn't you?

GA: Oh yeah.

SL: I mean . . .

[03:59:06] GA: I mean, you know, we went to the continent from there. It was easy to get over to the continent. That was before the tunnel was built.

SL: The Chunnel.

GA The Chunnel, yeah. But we could fly from Bristol. In fact at one point, someone from the naval academy called down and said, "We are having a meeting in the Netherlands naval command—naval academy, and we need you to go represent us, since you're close. It's easier for you to go than for us to send somebody all the way to eng—to the Netherlands." So we took an airplane out of Bristol and went to—what was the name? Den Helder, I think it was. Northern Netherlands was where the naval academy was. [03:59:49] So that was interesting, you

know. And they weren't quite used to what to do with me because they weren't used to the women coming to these things. So they went to the meeting and the next thing I knew, all these high officers, high-ranking naval officers from other countries were sitting down here, and I was sitting here by the head of the [laughter] naval academy. And it was embarrassing. I didn't realize it at the time, of course.

SL: Right.

[04:00:11] GA: But I guess there was some resentment that could've gone on. But that was an interesting experience. The man that went from Britannia Royal Naval College on the—to the same meeting was afraid to fly. So he took—I think they must've taken a ferry across to—the Channel and then gone by train. I thi—he must fly now because they've been to this country to see us so . . .

SL: Yeah. Right.

GA: . . . he's learned. But it was sort of interesting 'cause he was, you know, been around for years, and you would think that he would have learned to fly by now living in England, you can't go any place very well without flying or going by boat, but anyway. It was a very enjoyable experience, both of 'em. And we loved—Marks & Spencer's was the big store that everybody goes to.

And we liked the food at Marks & Spencer's, even, in Cambridge because they had grapefruit. Big, Texas, ruby-red grapefruit that they . . .

SL: Love that.

GA: Ten pence apiece, I think they were. After being in, you know, in Japan with the melons being so . . .

SL: Cantaloupe.

GA: . . . expensive, you know.

SL: Sixty dollars.

GA: Right. That was really neat. And all the kids bought clothes there. I mean, it was a really neat thing. I mean, we didn't buy very many clothes. Course, then, in Cambridge, I turned in—turned out pregnant, and that was a different thing. I rented, you know, rented the sewing machine so I could make clothes.

SL: Right.

[04:01:33] GA: But in Cambridge for decorations at Christmas—now this was when the kids were still there. I made balsawood mobiles. I made a mobile of the twelve days of Christmas.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And balanced it with little strips of balsa wood that would be the different things. And it—I still have it. And the little characters are about maybe three inches, two to three inches tall. Painted

'em and—I mean, I had all this time to do this stuff, and that's—
I did all the artwork that . . .

SL: Artwork.

GA: . . . my mother would've liked . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . I guess. [04:02:02] And that was fun. And then I made another mobile that was Santa Claus head. And the first thing is the hat, the white, fluffy hat, and it's just a piece of balsawood like this. And then hanging from two strings, black thread, were two eyes, and then hanging down the middle was the moustache, and then hanging down was the mouth. And you hang it and it's just like a cute Santa Claus face. And I still have that, too, and those—I really had fun doing that. And we didn't actually have a tree that year, but we had fun with all these little ornaments. I made lots of ornaments. And in Dartmouth— [04:02:37] I didn't make any ornaments. What did I make in Dartmouth? I don't know. We were very busy there because the college kept you busy doing things. We played croquet, and when you played croquets, you had pimm's. You know what pimm's is? Well, it's a drink . . .

SL: Oh, I do know . . .

GA: It's a drink, and everybody has their own private, secret recipe

for pimm's. So I never really found out what was in it. But it tastes sort of like spiced tea, is a little—hot—cold. It's cold spiced tea, a little bit. But anyway, and so they served you pimm's, and you played croquet on the lawn in front of the college. We tried badminton. Badminton was rough there.

SL: Yeah.

[04:03:15] GA: No lawn game like we play here. I think, you know, I think I heard Alan describing this. It's like the Olympics play it. I mean, it's whizzing and fast and everything else. Indoors in a specific court, you know. But we had lots of interesting experiences, and I think that we took advantage of most of 'em. I hope so. When I was in Cambridge we—I was invited to a women's coffee, which was a—not a—it was not uncommon. And this one place I went, the woman's husband was there. And it turned out that he was connected to one of the museums. He was a geologist, and he was connected to one of the nature museums there. And so I was—talked to him, and I guess I acted interested, and the rest of the women that were at—they were just drinking coffee and chatting, and I was visiting with him. So he ended up taking me into his office, and the next thing I knew, he take—took me into the museum and gave me a piece of flint. Still had the little museum marker on it. I guess

that was legal that he gave it to me. So Alan came home that night and said, "Where'd you get that? I mean, looks like you stole it," you know. But anyway, he told me we needed to go to Grime's Graves. And this was a place out from Cambridge somewhere in that part of England. We got there. We took the children. You—it was the hu—a big field, and there were a few places that were sort of mounded here and there. But we didn't quite know what those were, but then there were some that—one that was at least open. And you could climb down in it. And it was a chalk pit. And then in amongst the chalk is all this flint. [04:04:56] And it, you know, just—and so we went down this ladder, which was probably very, very dangerous. I don't know if I was pregnant at that point, but we had two little kids with us, and it was probably not smart. There was no guide, and it was dark, pitch black down there. They gave you a—I think there was a little flashlight or something, but you really couldn't see, and you were literally climbing down almost like a ladder, rope ladder or something, just straight down. And we must've gone down two—fifteen, twenty feet? I—maybe. I don't know how lo—far it was, but it was down there. And when you got down there, it wasn't very big. You know, maybe six feet in diameter. So you could be buried alive very quickly.

SL: Right.

GA: But the walls, you know, were covered in the white chalk with these pieces of . . .

SL: Flint.

GA: . . . the dark flint. Very, very interesting.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so we got out. And there was another couple that came down with us, and we never saw them once we got out. I'm not sure they ever got all the way to the [*laughter*] bottom. I think they must have gotten scared, but you know, we were brave kids and all.

SL: Right.

[04:05:59] GA: And so that was an experience we wouldn't have had if I hadn't decided to be nice and talk to this man that was sitting there bored at his wife's coffee. [*SL laughs*] But and you—we—you just had lots of interesting experiences like that if you just take care of—take advantage of it, and I just feel sorry for people that say, "Oh, that's too much trouble. I can't go anywhere." You know. I grew up in Arkansas, and so did Alan. And if we hadn't taken advantage of these experiences to go to other countries, our lives would have been so . . .

SL: Different.

GA: . . . much—so different. Boring, I think, almost, in comparison. But I mean, we did elder hostels. We did over fifty elder hostels. Most of 'em in this country, but we did two or three in Canada. We did some cruises. Not elaborate, fancy, fancy cruises. We did go to Alaska on one. And then we went to Alaska on an elder hostel a different time and did the train ride all up to Fairbanks and back down. And then we did cruises that went in the New England islands down to Caribbean two or three times.

[04:07:08] SL: So you like the cruises on a ship.

GA: Once I'm on. It—the—gettin' off is the problem. I hope they have now learned how to do it because they end up you're just in line on these stairways and everything for hours, it seems like. Crowded, crammed in, and it takes forever to get you off the boat.

SL: You mean like to go explore whatever port area?

GA: Yo—oh, no, I'm talkin' about when you're leaving at the end of the cruise.

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: No, at—once—in between it's not so bad because only a few people are getting off at each place. But we, you know, we enjoyed seeing Nassau because i—we liked the old post ah—they had the old post boxes from England there, you know.

SL: Right.

[04:07:49] GA: And that was fun. And we went to Belize on one, and that was interesting. The Indian may—Mayan Indian ruins in Belize. We took a tour of Belize. Nobody else got off the ship. Couldn't believe that we decided to take a tour of Belize.

SL: The botanicals there are good, aren't they? All the flowers?

GA: Yeah, well, we didn't get that far from the coast.

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: This was a fairly close to the—Belize was fairly close. But we saw, you know, the common man there. I mean, we saw the poverty, and we saw all that sort of stuff that was there by taking . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and we got on the—behind the buildings a little bit more than we would have. And they had the elaborate tours that left and went into the inner part of the island and to other Mayan—that was a different Mayan cruise.

SL: Right.

[04:08:34] GA: I mean, Mayan ruins. But it was si—it was interesting, and it was just one of those things that we just decided let's try that 'cause we've never been here before, and we'll never be here again. But no, cruising—I don't like to just

sit and do nothing unless I'm reading or doing—working crossword problems or something. But that's the trouble. Alan has a sister and her husband that love cruising. And they did an around-the-world cruise that lasted three months.

SL: Wow.

GA: And I mean, I—tha—and then of course, they're on the ocean an awful lot of the time. And she said, "We just loved sitting and reading." Well, I love to sit and read, but I don't need to be on a ship to do that. And you always eat too much on there. And whatever. That was very interesting, too, but just to see what the—what different kinds of people will come on these things. But I prefer to be in lo—inside of land so that if I want to get off at a stop, I can. And they did some of that, of course, but when they went—I don't even know where all they went, but they really went around—and they're on one right now in Scandinavian countries. They've taken several. And they say they're spending their children's inheritance is what they're doing [*laughs*] on their cruises.

[04:09:43] SL: I know some folks that do the barge cruise on the canals. So . . .

GA: In Europe.

SL: In Europe.

GA: Yeah. That would be—I would like that better. The biggest problem with some of those river cruises is the main thing is the food and the drinks. And so if you're not a big drinker and you're not a big eater and that's not the important part—I mean, the fact that you're there and you can get off all the time, I would love.

SL: Yeah. You . . .

GA: Yeah. And explore.

SL: . . . ride a bicycle and . . .

GA: Yes. Yeah.

SL: . . . go along the . . .

GA: Right.

SL: . . . canal.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: That would be great, yeah. In fact, the one that his sister's on right now is a Viking, which is in—so it must be close to land.

[04:10:20] SL: Yeah. These are—the ones I'm talkin' about are actual barges.

GA: Barges. Okay.

SL: And occupancy—six, eight people.

GA: Oh, and then they send some to be a tour guide with you or . . .

SL: Well, no.

GA: . . . to ride—drive to . . .

SL: There's a captain.

GA: Oh, okay. That's what I mean.

SL: And the crew.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And you know, they . . .

GA: They prepare the food and do the . . .

SL: They prepare the food . . .

GA: Okay, that's good.

SL: . . . and you're just going from town to town, and . . .

GA: Yeah. I would like that.

SL: . . . you're, you know, you're on—in a piece of water that's maybe twice as wide as this room.

GA: Yeah. And then you go through the locks and the—yeah.

[04:10:51] SL: Go through the locks, and they've got bicycles you can . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . get out on the path next to the canal.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And just ride your bike, or you can take 'em into the town. [GA *laughs*] Catch up with the barge a little later.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Or they'll park the barge, you know.

GA: Right. Yeah. No, I would like that.

SL: I'd be interested in that.

GA: Yeah.

SL: I've always felt like the cruise ships were like big hotels.

GA: Oh, they are. And . . .

SL: And I . . .

[04:11:12] GA: The biggest—those—when we were in Nassau this last time about a couple of years ago, we were parked next to one of those new, enormous things that have, what, five or six thousand people on it. I mean, I thought ours was big, and there were two thousand. That's big. But we did a couple of cruises with the Canadian-American line I believe was its—it's changed its name, so I'm not sure what it is now. But they came—come out of Rhode Island. And they are smaller boats. There're only eighty people on the boat I think.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And that includes the crew. And . . .

SL: Yeah, so that's more my speed, I think.

GA: Right. Everybody sits down and eats together at the same time.

It's not a matter of you've got a 2:30 sitting or a 5:30 sitting or

whatever, you know. And that's—that was fun. And we did one that was the New England Islands. We left Rhode Island, we went to all the different major islands. Newport, Martha's Vineyard and . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . up and down in there. That was fun. That was very good. And we got off course and spent basically a day at each island is what we did. And then we did one that left from Chicago on Lake Michigan. Same ships. Not the same ship, but the same ships. And we went to all the way up to Sault Ste. Marie, across Lake Michigan. But let me tell you, if you've never been on Lake Michigan in a storm, don't.

SL: It's a big piece of water.

GA: It is the roughest place I have ever been in my life. That's where we got the nickname Ginger Ale as piano players and piano duet things because it was so rough that pe—everybody was getting sick. And they needed something to distract the people. I mean, you could see the lightning. You could watch it out—it was just incredible. Beautiful, but you didn't really wanna watch it long because, I mean, we were just . . .

[04:13:01] SL: It was disturbing.

GA: . . . like this [moves hand up and down to indicate waves], you

know.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I mean, I was close to being seasick myself, but they finally found out that we played the piano, found out that Alan played by ear, and they said, "Here," gave me the microphone and said, "You play, and you lead us some songs. We need to get people's minds off of this." So we did that for quite a while. I mean, they had nothing planned of course.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, it was—they couldn't go to land anywhere. I mean, you know, it was—we sorta went from Chicago straight across the lake to New Holland, Michigan, and then up that side. We were suppo—to Sault Ste. Marie. And Mackinac Island. We were supposed to come down the Wisconsin side, but it took us so long to get—'cause it took us longer to get up than it was supposed to, plus we lost an engine.

SL: Oh!

GA: And so we . . .

SL: That's not good.

GA: We just had to come straight back across to Chicago.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So we missed the northern part of Wisconsin, then, so we did

another elder hostel later in—up in that part of Wisconsin just to go. But . . .

[04:14:04] SL: I've got a couple of questions.

GA: Okay. I'm sorry. I'm talking too much.

SL: Now there was one—at one point yesterday when I was talking with Alan, he said something about you having an experience that taught you what it was like to be a prostitute?

GA: Oh. [*Laughs*]

SL: What is he talking about?

[04:14:23] GA: Oh. Well, we were in Berlin, and I can't remember how old I was, but I was married at my—oh, I had two children, still. The kids were really little, though. And this was in the days when—the earlier days when the women's dresses were above the knee.

SL: Right.

GA: Not clear up here like they—some are now, but they were . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . above the knee. And that was the style. So Alan went with another professor from the naval academy to some kind of an institute there in Berlin, and I was just left on my own in the city to wander. And I discovered—within a walking distance of the hotel, I discovered the Europa-Center, which at that time was

just a big, tall shopping center.

SL: Right.

GA: I have no idea what—if it's even there anymore. But it was nice, and they had places in there—little more Westernized. I mean, they were—I could get a—go in and get a Coke with ice in it 'cause many places . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . nobody put ice in their drinks. So that was nice. And I was shopping for silver charms for a charm bracelet. And he taught me how to—in German, to say *ein kleine silberanhänger*. And it—but depend on the Germans to call 'em *ahängers*. [Laughter] Instead of charms. But anyway. So I'd go into stores and ask for *ein si—silberahänger*. *Kleine*, meaning little. And so I—he'd look. But anyway, I had on a short dress, and I had, probably, heels at that point, and I had on—had a shoulder bag. And which evidently was not necessarily stylish in Germany. But I found out that all the prostitutes wear shoulder hang—shoulder bags.

SL: Oh.

[04:16:16] GA: Carry shoulder bags. And so I kept realizing somebody was following me. I just had this feeling. And so every once in a while, I'd slip into something, and this man that

I kept seeing was always around when I'd come back out. Not close, and never said anything to me. But anyway, every place I went either in the Europa Center or outside walking around the city, I'd always see this man or someone lo—doing similar things. So I decided later, when I found out that the prostitutes carried shoulder bags like that, why. And I guess I should have been flattered, maybe, I don't really know. [*Laughter*] I was young enough, maybe . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . to still . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: But that was—no, that was what he meant. Yeah.

SL: Okay.

GA: It wasn't really a big deal, but it scared me a little bit 'cause I didn't know the language and I was . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . off by myself, you know.

[04:17:05] SL: Right. The other question I had—you—we've—we really haven't talked about your role in all these books, all these historical fiction books.

GA: A lot. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah, so . . .

GA: I mean, he does the writing.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And then he hands me, usually, a typed copy of chapter by chapter almost, and I sit with a red pen, and I either change the grammar, I look up the spelling of words if they're not—you know because the trouble is with the spell check on the computers, it changes your word to the wrong word . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . many times. So that—you have to check that, too. And sometimes he just—spelling has not been his forte.

SL: Right.

[04:17:49] GA: And he's—you know. That's just typical, I guess.

You doing—and he—doing—writing it on the computer, you don't always do that. But when we go to Starbucks in the mornings—as I said, we do this almost every morning—he sits down, and he has a notebook, and he writes by hand. He's writing all this stuff. And then he takes it home and goes to the computer, and types in what he's written that morning. And then I get the typed things, usually the first draft of that, and there are many drafts because, you know, sometimes—it just doesn't make sense the way it's being said when you really get the con—the flow . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . of the whole thing.

SL: Right.

GA: Some things—to me, they're more 21st century the way he's saying—wording things than they would have said in the 1920s, I think.

SL: Right.

GA: A little more explicit, you know, and—than you would—than—nowadays it would be very normal for that, but that would not be the way people would have talked or written back then. And I tr—I read an awful lot of books, and so I think—he tends—tended to read technical books . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . all of his life. Math books and . . .

SL: Being the engineer.

[04:18:59] GA: And I don't wanna read math books.

SL: Right.

GA: I wanna read stories and, you know, history and things. So I do that. And then it—all the markings are in there in red, and so then sometimes we go back together with me sitting by him on the—beside the computer. He makes the corrections, or sometimes he says, "What did you mean by this?" Because

sometimes I'll just put a question mark if I can't understand . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . what he meant . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . by something. I mean, the stories are his, definitely. But he's very nice if I decide something needs to be changed. He's pretty good about that. And that goes on I don't know how many times within the course of one book before it gets to the point that he says—and even then sometimes they send us a proof copy, and then I'll go through and read it again. I mean, I've read every book so many times . . .

SL: Five times.

[04:19:50] GA: Oh yeah. And then, you know, you find more things that need to be changed, and so you call them or send them all these corrections. Page number this, paragraph number this. You know, and then I—when I'm doing it, I make a whole list of these things and send it back to them, and then they usually make the corrections. But you know, I feel like I've written the books although I haven't really written the basic part of it. But I've done all the research pretty—not all, but a lot of the research because if he has a question, even while we're sittin' in Starbucks, my iPad is right there in my lap, and there I go.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Looking stuff up. I look up a lot of spellings because we'll come into something, a word that has come up. Maybe he has gotten it—a situation off of the computer, and I think, "You know, we gotta find out what that is before you" . . .

SL: Use it.

GA: Use it, yeah. And so I do that. I do a lot of checking because the printer that we use, or he uses, doesn't do any of that. They—there's no editing there. They make the covers. We tu—give him the picture they want and what wants—what he wants to say, and they do that, and then we have to write, of course, all the things inside, the acknowledgments and the dedication and all that. And that changes depending on what the book is.

SL: Right.

[04:21:09] GA: Sometimes it's almost the same. Sometimes it isn't. The picture on him—of him on the back of the books I took in Starbucks with my phone. They said you needed a picture with a dark background, just the head. So he just sat in this one chair in the corner of Starbucks, and I took his picture, two or three of 'em, and we picked one, and that's been the picture on [laughs] every one. So I guess that's the main thing, and it's— and the research. And then when it was my family's things, my

mother's diaries, I went through those, as I said, with a magnifying glass trying to read all the smudged pencil.

SL: Pencil.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Written things.

GA: And then my father's letters—he had—my grandparents had saved 'em, so I ended up with all the letters. I had typed them up many years ago because I was afraid they were gonna disintegrate.

SL: Right.

GA: And so I had typed 'em up and made a—given a loose-leaf notebook full of the letters—one to my sister, and kept one. My children, especially my youngest one, in junior high and high school, wrote papers using things from those letters many times for classes because he could write about the first World War with some firsthand . . .

SL: That's right.

GA: . . . you know, quotes.

SL: Yeah.

[04:22:27] GA: And as I said, I learned a lot about my father and my mother reading those diaries. And the diaries and the letters. But which was fun. It was enlightening and it—but it was—I

guess I was just as glad that they weren't living. I couldn't go up and say, "Why did you do this?" [*Laughter*] Or why—you know, like my mother, "Why'd you make" . . .

SL: I never knew about this.

GA: Yeah, "Why did you make me come in at ten thirty at night when you stayed out until two?" I always thought that was strange. But no, I—that's the biggest thing I've done, and I've enjoyed it, and I've learned an awful lot about it. The biggest—my biggest problem is when he gets in too technical about the airplanes or some of the SAGE stuff with the air force books. I'm sure it's accurate, but I try to keep him from doing too much of it. This is a fiction. It's historical fiction, but it's still a novel you want someone to enjoy reading.

SL: Right.

[04:23:26] GA: And if I'm the—if I'm gonna go through it, I'm gonna say, "Well, I'm gonna skip this chapter." Just like when I read *War and Peace*, I skipped all the war chapters [*laughs*] and read the peace chapters. [*SL laughs*] I mean, you know, it's just—it's not that it's not interesting, it's just that it can be too much of it.

SL: Right.

GA: And so that's, I guess, one of the other things. He keeps tellin'

me I'm a censor. I guess that's what it is. [*SL laughs*] And if he—the main thing I do is if he wants to have something with a little risqué, then that's when I worry about the time period. Because the risquéness would be fine—it would be fine now. In fact today it's—everything's very explicit. But in 1930, even [19]40, it would not be in this country. I mean, it—depending on who's doing it, where they are . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and their family situation. So it's kept me busy, too.

SL: Yeah, I was going to ask you how long does it take to do one book, usually? Is there an average?

[04:24:26] GA: Well, the first ones went faster than you'd think because he had all these letters. And he had to make up some of the stuff, obviously, to get the dialog and everything in there, but there was so much solid, factual stuff that was there, all these letters from the—you know, before the Civil War and when they first came to Arkansas. But after that, I n—but I still think—I think there was like wu—the first one was published in maybe 2014, and then the next one was 2015. But I think we—the 2014 one wasn't published until we were well into the next one. I mean, it—you know, you kept letting it sit for a little while and then go back and reread stuff because it—the second

time through, it reads differently.

SL: Well, sure it does.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: I mean, it's just like I see people that read novels, and they'll read the same novel more than once, and I think, "How can they read that?" But I guess that's it. You see things the second time that you didn't see the first, especially if it's historical.

SL: Right.

[04:25:29] GA: And then when he got into the Civil War, that was the other place when I sorta [*laughs*] put a kibosh on it sometimes because I didn't want it to get just nothing but war stories, literally.

SL: Right.

GA: Because I knew that that would have a—an audience, but a very limited audience.

SL: That's right. Shrinks a bit.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so you know, he's really good. He takes criticism extremely well, and he's getting used to it. And I say, "If you don't agree with me, don't change it."

SL: Right.

GA: You know. And he said, "No, you're usually right." [Laughter]
And that may be true or it may not be, but anyway.

SL: So you've enjoyed it.

GA: Yes, I have enjoyed it. Yeah.

SL: Well, you should be proud of the work.

GA: I'm very proud of him.

SL: They're very great books.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And I'm so pleased that Hayden turned me on to them.

GA: Yeah, well, I am, too.

SL: And I haven't read through all of them . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . but just what I have read, you get so—I get sucked into it.

[04:26:27] GA: Yeah. Well, and you get to know people. You get to
know us, you get to know Alan, you get to know . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . his family. I mean, to me, the best book there was *Under
Glass*. But that's . . .

SL: Well, that's what I started with.

GA: Yeah. Well, see, that's because it has so much of my family in
it, too, and it relates the two families a lot.

SL: Right.

GA: But—which were so similar, you know . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . in the—in philosophy, religion, which was a big, big deal then.

SL: Yeah.

GA: But not so much anymore. I mean, it's interesting. My sister—course, my sister at ninety-one doesn't—can't get out to go to church. We're not as religious as—I mean, not as faithful as we used to be . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . when we were involved in the music more. But we both sang in the choir for years and—at the new church that we're in. And then we finally said, "You know, this driving out on Wednesday night in the rain and the snow is just not worth it at our age." You know, the visibility is bad, and if you're gonna sing with 'em, you've got to be at rehearsal. And they seldom cancel rehearsals 'cause they figure somebody can always get there.

SL: Right.

[04:27:34] GA: But where our church is, we have people coming from all—I've had—one person in our choir's from bal—north of

Baltimore. She drives all the way down. And you know, she—if she can do it, that's fine. She's had all sorts of health problems, but—and then we have people up the—between Washington and Baltimore out that direction. And then people like—I mean, it takes us a twenty-minute drive just one way to get to the church.

SL: Right.

GA: I mean, 'cause Annapolis is a hard place to get around. It's not big, it's just hard to get around 'cause it's—you know, there're not that many through streets.

SL: Right.

[04:28:05] GA: Because of the water, I guess. But we'll take the water. [*SL laughs*] You know, I ran into somebody—who did I run into? Oh, it was over at the Ray Adams Leadership Center the other day. We ran, and Alan wanted to go in and see the plaques and things in the front and see if they were still there. We didn't even know if the building was still there 'cause we had heard that they might tear it down, but we didn't know. But . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . .so we went over, and it was very interesting, but the man that took us through said, "Oh, yeah, I was in Annapolis last week. Had to be in Washington for something and drove over to

Annapolis and"—you know. We used to—when we first moved there, we got lots of visitors. We don't get very many anymore 'cause everybody that really in interested has come, I guess . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . and gone. But you know, they're always welcome. I have people that say, "We—you were out of town, but we drove by your house." [*Laughter*] Well, just like Sarah said, she looked on the maps . . .

SL: Map.

GA: . . . the Google maps or something . . .

SL: Yeah, it's just . . .

GA: . . . and found where . . .

SL: . . . to see where the house was. Yeah.

GA: Yeah. And in fact, the girl that was in—from Russellville, was my maid of honor when we got married—she told me the other day that she was—they were up there for something in Washington, and that they drove by. They found out where—they drove by the house, but we were out of town. I think we were probably in Arkansas or something. [*Laughs*]

[04:29:20] SL: So tell me about the Ray Adams . . .

GA: Leadership Center?

SL: Leadership, yeah.

GA: I'm not quite sure what they're doing with it now.

SL: I mean, where . . .

GA: It's right ah . . .

SL: . . . is it?

GA: It's right—you don't know?

SL: No.

GA: It's right across the street from Fayetteville High School.

SL: Oh, okay.

GA: Right across the street from the old entrance to the old school.
Now I'm not sure . . .

SL: Oh, so it's on the administration side of . . .

GA: Yes. I guess so.

SL: It's part of the administration building or added onto it or...

GA: I don't really know where the administration building is, so I'm
not much help.

SL: Well, it's right next to the—you know, it's on top of the hill.

GA: It is on top of the . . .

SL: Overlooking the high school.

[04:29:53] GA: Okay, that's about where it is, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And then the—when you're standing at the front of it, if you're
facing the building, the football field is to the right down that

way.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And there's a big parkin' lot here.

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, that's the same building that my painting used to be in.

GA: Oh, really?

SL: From junior high school, yeah.

GA: Oh. You were a painter?

SL: Yeah.

GA: Oh.

SL: I'm an art major.

GA: Are you really?

SL: Yeah.

GA: Okay, that's wonderful. [SL laughs] At Arkansas?

SL: Yeah.

[04:30:19] GA: So you got along with your art teachers better'n I did, then.

SL: Well, I actually started attending the university when I was a senior in high school in art.

GA: Yeah. That's great.

SL: Yeah. It was—it is great. It's served me well.

GA: Yeah.

SL: In my career.

GA: Yeah.

SL: I mean, this video stuff is . . .

GA: Oh.

SL: . . . a lot of it's art.

GA: Perfect, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: That's great.

SL: Makin' pretty pictures.

GA: Yeah. Nice. Wonderful.

[04:30:42] SL: Well, is there anything else that we haven't talked about or that—do you wanna take a break and think about it first before we . . .

GA: Okay, if you want to.

SL: I . . .

GA: I have—I had some notes way, way back, but I haven't looked at 'em . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . since I wrote 'em. I might . . .

SL: Sarah, how long have we been going?

SM: One hour and three minutes.

SL: Why don't we take a break.

GA: Okay.

SM: All right.

SL: Reassess where we are.

GA: Okay.

[Recording stopped]

[04:31:05] SL: So I'm glad we reviewed your notes 'cause there were three things that we didn't talk about, right?

GA: Yeah.

SL: And one was an early memory you had.

GA: Yeah, as a child.

SL: Of your mom.

GA: Yeah, as a child when—during the war, when everything was rationed. And sugar was rationed, and so when they could buy it, my mother would buy the five-pound bags of sugar, and she stored 'em in our pantry. And of course the humidity in Arkansas in the South in the summer is horrible, and we didn't have central air conditioning. So these bags of sugar would be like stones, lumps. And so when she needed to get some sugar, she would raise it up above her shoulders and drop the bag on the floor in the pantry, and that was to break it up so she could

get and use the sugar. And that was—you know, I don't remember much about rationing. I do remember the little ration books. But it—you know, it didn't really affect me at—'cause I was only, what, seven or eight years old when the war was over so it—that didn't really affect my life that much. But I do remember that. I remember that bubble gum was rationed, too. You couldn't get bubble gum. Wasn't rationed, you just couldn't get it. And so people got so excited when they could get some Fleeer's Dubble Bubble gum. [*Laughter*]

SL: I remember Fleeer's.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And so that was something that I thought was really neat that I remembered as a child that I think of it every time I open a new bag of sugar. [*Laughs*] Which isn't very much anymore since we don't eat as much sugar as we used to.

[04:32:32] SL: Well, let me ask you a follow-up question . . .

GA: Okay.

SL: . . . about that. Do you remember soldiers coming home from the war or soldiers not coming home from the war?

GA: Not really. I remember my sister having boys that she had dated that would come home shell shocked, and they were not—

that's what they, you know, they used to call it, not PTSD or any . . .

SL: Right.

GA: That's a newer term. But and they would not be quite the same as they had been before. And—but I re—she was the teenager, she was dating, so that would've been her, you know . . .

SL: Her experience.

GA: . . . her—people her age . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: . . . that would have done that.

SL: You were somewhat aware of it.

GA: I, yeah, I was aware, but because of her.

SL: Right.

GA: Not really because of anybody that I was around.

SL: Right.

GA: But yeah, because my parents were older. See because my mother was forty when I was born.

SL: Yeah.

GA: So my parents were a lot older, and since I was not the age that she is, you know, I didn't . . .

SL: Right.

GA: . . . get that either.

[04:33:30] SL: Okay, and then let's see. There was a needlepoint.

GA: Yes. I made the needlepoint . . .

SL: For the cover.

GA: . . . in 1976. I didn't make it for the cover of that book.

SL: Right.

GA: But in 1976 everybody was doing bicentennial things, so I decided to make needlepoint of our life together, my husband and mine. And so I started it with a red schoolhouse in the middle because we had both—he—I had gone to **West Ward** in Russellville. He had gone to—what's the name of the one here? That everybody seems to go to here in Fayetteville?

SL: Elemen—or—you mean Washington?

[04:34:07] GA: Yeah, Washington Elementary. Right. And they were similar in looks at the—of—the beginning anyway. And then I had our wedding date across the top, June 13, 1958. And then I had my initials on one side with my birthday, his initials on the other side, and then I had the initials of each child with their birthdates. And then I had in the bare part to each side, I had the—something that denoted the schools that we—University of Arkansas. Alan went to Purdue. He went to William Jewell, also. I went to Arkansas Tech. He was in the air force, so I have a little radar bubble with an airplane going by.

And then all the—well, and we had—there was a handbell because we had played hand bells through church. We had played 'em. I had directed 'em. So there was a lot of handbells involved.

SL: Right.

GA: There were keyboards. And there's a keyboard there. There were—I think there was a little church, maybe, at one point, with a steeple that looked similar to churches that we had grown up with. And then around the border on one—across one place, I had had all the flags of the countries that we had visited together in—by [19]76. I mean, we've since visited more.

SL: Many more. Yeah.

[04:35:23] GA: But and then I had on the—across the top I had the outline of states that we had lived in together. And then I had a little one stitch in the middle that told—showed where the town was that we had lived in. And then I had a replica of the house, each house, across that top. And then all the way around was just little houses. I think one corner had a watch for—signifying jewelry stores. One corner had a flower. And then on across Ray's, and it had a side that looked like a greenhouse for Alan's father, and then I had one that was Faulkner's for my father's jewelry store. So you know, that—you know, it's been hanging

in our house ever since, but it's . . .

SL: It's a pictorial history.

GA: It has a lot of memories. Yeah.

SL: Pictorial history of the family.

[04:36:11] GA: It was. It was a lot of fun. And I—the other thing we talked about that I thought about was the birds that I carved when we were in Duluth, Minnesota. And we had gone downtown looking around. We'd been looking at furniture. I think we had bought maybe the bed, our bed there or something. But anyway, so we were looking in furniture stores, and we went by an interior decorator shop. And I saw this sculpture of birds, cranes, whatev—herons, whatever you wanna call 'em about at least three—little over three—maybe three and a half feet tall. And it was so pretty, and I said, you know, I think I could do something like that. So we went to all these lumber yards asking for scrap walnut because all of our furniture at that point was walnut. They laughed at us because [*laughter*] there was no such things as scrap walnut. And so we finally got a board—Alan—we bought one board of walnut. And I, in newspaper so I'd have big enough, I cut out the shape or drew the shape of the outside that—of the—what I wanted the birds to be. There're two. One's taller than the other one. And then I

cut out a shape for the base so they could be bolted into the base. And he took them to the air force base and used the hobby shop and cut out the basic thing and then bought me a file, a little round file. And I spent—with sandpaper and files, I spent many, many hours working on them to get them smooth and rounded on the edges and get the beaks and everything. And then even the base was the same, which is a little—not kidney shaped, but a little abstract shape down there. And then when I finally got 'em finished, then I rubbed 'em with linseed until they got nice and moist and everything. And he took it to the—they bought—I guess he went to the base again to use their tools because we were just in a little apartment and didn't have tools. And he bolted 'em up through the base of the two birds. Bolted 'em from the bottom side into the base. And I've still got it. It sits by my—by the fireplace in my house, and I have—one of my kids is gonna get it. My niece in Texas asks me every time I go down there, "Your kids haven't decided that they don't want the birds yet, do they?" [*Laughter*] Because she's—she was an art major.

[04:38:27] SL: Right.

GA: And she's—you know, makes jewelry and everything, and she's really into the art stuff. So I say, "No, I think that one of the

three of 'em is bound to want it." So they better. I'd feel sorta hurt if they didn't. It's like that in all my mother's paintings. You just hope that all that effort is not for naught. So.

SL: I can't believe you did that with just a file and sandpaper. I mean . . .

GA: Oh. Oh, and walnut is . . .

SL: Can you not use an awl or . . .

GA: No.

SL: . . . any . . .

GA: Well, I used . . .

SL: . . . a little chisel or . . .

GA: . . . any kind of a—no. No. Because I would have split it, I was afraid. And . . .

SL: Yeah.

[04:38:56] GA: But walnut is so hard.

SL: Yeah, we've got—I think we have something like eight mature black walnut trees in our yard.

GA: Oh, wow.

SL: And I—and . . .

GA: [*Laughs*] Don't cut 'em down.

SL: No, one of . . .

GA: But if they do, save the wood.

SL: Yeah, that's what I'm thinking.

GA: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, they—they're really beautiful . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: . . . trees in and of the selves but . . .

GA: Yeah.

SL: But they're not very good for gardens.

GA: No, and they make such a mess. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[04:39:22] GA: Yeah, no, the only . . .

SL: So.

GA: . . . problem is—it's like the floors in our house, the house that we're in now in Maryland is built in the 1920s. And the floors of the older part of the house are this crosscut Georgia pine.

SL: Yeah.

GA: And they don't do that anymore.

SL: Right.

GA: So we had a lot of damage from a hurricane, and we decided to take a wall out between two of the bedrooms, and that left a space of about . . .

SL: Yeah.

GA: Yeah, about like that [indicates seven inches]. And so to patch

that, they actually—I don't know where they went, but they somehow, the man that was doin' the floors actually went and found . . .

SL: Crosscut stuff.

GA: . . . a piece of that to go in there. I mean, it's a different color, but it runs the other way also. So it's fine. It—and it's underneath the king-size bed so you don't really see but a part of it. But he did a beautiful job of matching it in there. But you know, one time I wanted to do something else with the floors, and they said, "Well, we could probably get a little bit out of the floors of closets." You know, 'cause there are some closets.

SL: Right.

GA: But not enough to really do that much. And so when we put in hardwood floors in other rooms that were not the original, we had to just put in oak or something else.

SL: Right.

GA: Try to match the color.

SL: Right.

GA: But anyway.

[04:40:37] SL: Well, okay.

GA: Okay.

SL: So this gets us to the point where I ask you to do something for

me . . .

GA: Okay.

SL: . . . even though you've given me your life's story [*GA laughs*]
all day long. We have this thing where—we used to do this with
every interview, and I've been kinda lax on it for the last several
interviews, but we had an idea when we first started this
program that we could stream together all the people we've
interviewed, and we could—it would be very short. They would
just be saying their name and saying that they're proud to be
from Arkansas. And it's really that simple.

GA: Okay.

SL: It kinda ties back to what the perception that Arkansas is kinda
backward, and they're hillbillies, and they're kinda redneck and
all that. And we figured that if we had all these faces of really
beautiful and brilliant and known folks saying . . .

GA: Yeah, sure.

SL: . . . this that it would counterbalance that.

GA: Right.

SL: In some way.

GA: Yeah.

SL: And we'd would use it. But we've never [*GA laughs*] done
anything with it, but I like to have it . . .

[04:41:46] GA: Okay.

SL: . . . in the bank.

GA: Okay.

SL: Whenever we can do it so . . .

GA: We'll deposit it. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah. So here's the deal. For the first time, you don't have to look at me.

GA: Oh, gee.

SL: I'm gonna get out of your line of vision.

GA: Okay.

SL: And you're gonna look at this lens right here.

GA: Okay.

SL: And—'cause you're basically speaking to an audience now.

GA: Okay.

SL: And I'm gonna ask you to say, "My name is Ginger Faulkner Adams, and I'm proud to be from Arkansas."

GA: Okay.

SL: It's just really that simple.

GA: Okay.

SL: Okay.

GA: Just tell me when.

SL: And Sarah will direct you. She'll tell you when she's ready

and . . .

[04:42:20] GA: Okay.

SL: Okay.

SM: Okay, I've got the shot set up, so I'm ready when you guys are, and I'm rolling still.

GA: My name is Ginger Faulkner Adams, and I'm very proud to be from Arkansas.

SL: I like it. Do you like that?

SM: Yeah, it was good, but let's do one more because you went into it really quickly and got out of it really quickly. So if you can give us . . .

SL: Oh yeah, you need to hold your . . .

SM: . . . a few seconds of added space . . .

SL: . . . gaze . . .

GA: Talk more slowly. Okay.

SL: A little bit slower, and hold your gaze for a count or two.

GA: Okay.

SL: After you get done.

GA: Okay. Ready?

SL: Yeah.

[04:42:50] GA: My name is Ginger Faulkner Adams, and I'm very proud to be an Arkansan.

SL: Ah. Let's try it again . . .

GA: You don't want Arkansan.

SL: I want Arkansas in it.

GA: Okay. Sorry.

SL: I wanna be from Arkansas.

GA: That just came out. [*Laughs*]

SL: That's all right. We've got it like that, too.

GA: Okay.

SL: Several people did the same thing.

GA: Okay?

SM: Yeah.

GA: My name is Ginger Faulkner Adams, and I'm very proud to be
from Arkansas.

[04:43:19] SL: Better?

SM: I think that's good.

SL: Okay.

GA: Thank you.

SL: Thank you.

GA: Thank you. And please do . . .

SL: Really.

[End of interview 04:43:25]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]