

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

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**Arkansas Memories Project**

Ann Rainwater Henry  
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford  
February 14, 2012  
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 highlight 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 recordings and highlight clips, 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 Ann Rainwater Henry on February 14, 2012, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Ann Henry, happy Valentine's Day.

Ann Henry: Well, thank you, and . . .

SL: I cannot bel . . .

AH: . . . happy Valentine's Day [*laughs*] to you, Scott.

SL: I cannot believe we get to have you on Valentine's Day like this.

AH: Well . . .

SL: It's very generous of you. Okay. I'm Scott Lunsford. You're Ann Henry. We are at the Henry residence in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Today's date is February the fourteenth, Valentine's Day. The year is 2012. And we're gonna do a Pryor Center interview today. And before we get into it, I want to explain to you that this stuff is being recorded in high definition, both audio and video. We're gonna preserve it forever. That's kind of the deal. Um—we will send you a raw—what we call a preliminary DVD. And it's everything that we do here today as far as our interview goes.

AH: Okay.

[00:00:51] SL: Um—and we'll want you to look at that. We'll also send you a transcript of this interview, and it's a verbatim

transcript, which means it's gonna read like the way you and I talk today.

AH: Okay.

SL: It's not done for readability. It's done for accuracy.

AH: Oh, okay.

SL: So—and we like that because we think it picks up dialect and regional things, and it's just an added value, and it's—it is exactly what we said. Um—when you look at that transcript and you read it and you look at the video—and if there's anything in there that you're not comfortable with the rest of the world knowing about it, you need to tell us, and we'll take it out.

AH: M'kay.

[00:01:31] SL: 'Cause we're not here to embarrass you or anybody else or get anybody mad, unless you want to get 'em mad. [*AH laughs*] We want it to be your story the way you want it told and the way you want people to find it and discover it. And that's what we're gonna do. Eventually, when you're happy with what we've done, we're gonna post it on the web, and we're gonna encourage people to look at it and to study it. Uh—we have a program with the public schools now we're developing for the Arkansas history plan—lesson plans. And we'll encourage documentarians to look at Arkansas history stuff. The whole

idea is for us, people from Arkansas, to be telling the Arkansas story instead of someone not from Arkansas telling it. So whenever we—we do that—whenever we post it on the web, we'll post the transcript in its final form. We'll post all of the audio in its final form. We'll post highlights from the video, not all the video.

AH: Oh, yeah.

[00:02:34] SL: But just highlights. And—uh—people will be able to download the—uh—transcript and the audio. Uh—they can actually make a little audio book. Just put it on a CD, and now you've got the interview in your car to listen to. So we'll encourage that use and access, and if you're okay with all of that, then we're just gonna keep going here, and we'll—I promise we'll have a good time. If you got any questions, you should ask 'em now 'cause we're about to get started.

AH: I have no questions.

SL: Okay.

AH: I'm ready.

SL: Okay. Well, good answer.

AH: M'kay.

[00:03:08] SL: Okay. I usually—well, first of all, Ann, I need to have your full name. What i—what is your full name?

AH: My full name is—and that's my voter registration name—is Phyllis Ann Rainwater Henry, but I adopted just the Ann Rainwater Henry, so—uh—I just didn't ever want anybody voting for me, and I figured they couldn't ask for my ballot—this is [*laughs*] when I first registered—if I—if I put my first name on there, so . . .

SL: Right.

AH: You know, anyway. I did that.

[00:03:41] SL: Okay. And when and where were you born?

AH: I was born in Fairfax, Oklahoma—uh—November the second, 1939.

SL: And where is Fairfax?

AH: Fairfax is over—uh—outside of Bartlesville . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

AH: . . . in the prairie. Uh—my father was a principal and then later a superintendent at a small—in—in various small towns around there, and—uh—that's where I was born.

[00:04:07] SL: Now what was your father's name?

AH: My father was—uh—Andrew Rainwater, and he was born in a covered wagon in Sallisaw in Indian Territory in 1906.

SL: Wow. [*Laughs*] So did he . . .

AH: The middle of nine children. He had four older and four younger,

of a mother who was raised as the only child . . .

SL: Oh, my God.

AH: . . . and a father who had—who was one of fourteen. I think she liked the idea of having more family. [*Laughter*]

SL: Apparently.

AH: Yeah.

[00:04:42] SL: Well—um—and so what was your—um—mother's name?

AH: My mother was Opal Norma Cohea—*C-O-H-E-A*—and—um—she was born in Ketchum, Oklahoma, which—before it was Grand Lake—uh—you know, in that area. And—uh—she was born in 1908.

SL: And what was the last name again?

AH: Cohea. *C-O* . . .

SL: Cohea.

AH: . . . *H-E-A*.

[00:05:11] SL: And—uh—is that—uh—is that an Indian name or . . .

AH: Uh—no, it's not. Uh—her mother was—came from Germany, and her mother's maiden name was Morain. *M-O-R-A-I-N*. But my grandfather came from out of near Prairie Grove. In fact, there is a Cohea cemetery out near—uh—where Joe Hall lived, you know, out in that area.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

AH: That there—there was a group. His father abandoned the family—left the—and abandoned the family when my grandfather was about probably eighteen. And so he took his mother and—in a covered wagon—and they went to Oklahoma to start a new life. I'm—I'm sure now, when I found out about it, it's the deal with just the shame of—of being abandoned and . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

AH: And he took care of her and probably some of his siblings when he did that.

[00:06:10] SL: Wow. Okay, let's get back to—um—your—um—father. Now, tell me again what were the things that he did?

AH: My dad—uh—he started out in education. There were nine—of the nine children, eight became teachers, and in fact, I think they held the record in Oklahoma for the longest number of years taught by people that came from that family for years and—because they became—uh—you know, in the—in small—my—I had an uncle who was vice-president of Northeastern, and we had public school teachers in—in small towns and then principals and superintendents in other areas, so I grew up in that kind of a—an environment because I had a—my grandmother was very strong willed, and she always had a

family reunion in June on Father's Day. And it was ostensibly to get everybody back to see their father, but really it was so she could get her own kids under her. [*Laughter*] And that—that became one of our traditions, going there. So I played with children whose parents were—uh—my cousins were all—uh—children of teachers, and almost all of us became teachers, too. It's very interesting.

SL: It is.

AH: It was something we all wanted to do—uh—and we felt it was an important profession.

[00:07:32] SL: Now, this is your [*clears throat*] . . .

AH: This . . .

SL: . . . excuse me—this is—uh—your father's mother?

AH: My father's mother.

SL: Mh-hmm.

AH: And she basically had a third-grade education, and she taught them out of the Bible, and she had a lot of common sense—uh—was amazing. Uh—Daddy told about—my dad had a lot of common sense, too. And my—uh—grandfather had a very hot—my great—my grandfather had a very hot temper and Daddy—I never saw my father get mad. I never saw him out of control. I never saw him raise his hand. But that's because he saw his

father getting into fights in town, and he determined that if you had a temper, it would either control you or you would learn to control it. So he learned to control it. And he said when he got mad—and I'm sure Grandmother was tryin' to deal with that too—she said, "I"—if you threw a rock, she put you next to a rock pile, and she made you throw rocks until your arm felt like it was gonna fall off. That was her psychological way of dealing with it, so I thought it was very interesting that they dealt with, you know, the very practical ways in which you have behavior modification. [*Laughs*]

[00:08:47] SL: Well now—uh—Rainwater—is that an—an Indian derivative?

AH: It's actually not. It's from—it's from—uh—England, but I did have an uncle who married a Cherokee princess, and her name was Cherokee—"Cherry." [*Laughs*] And so we had some Indian blood in the family.

SL: Uh-huh.

AH: But not—but the—we were not. It was not an Indian name.

[00:09:08] SL: Well, it just seems like I've—I've heard of the Rainwater family out of Oklahoma kinda growing up—when I was growing up. I don't know. We had a little . . .

AH: Well, there were a lot of Rainwaters, so they're . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: But there are Rainwaters over in Jonesboro.

SL: Mh-hmm.

AH: Weldon Rainwater—I mean, you know, I had—when I was in graduate school, I had students named Rainwater and—but we've never—they're distant because they came out of Tennessee. And if there were fourteen [*laughs*] in Dad—in Granddad's family, and they moved on—just kept looking for a place to—I mean, you know, so they could make a better life.

[00:09:43] SL: Well, so you knew both your—your dad's both—his mom and—and dad?

AH: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

SL: You got to spend some time with them?

AH: Yes, we spent time every summer there. Um—uh—Granddad was fun. He could play the banjo, and he liked to hunt, and he had twinkly blue eyes. He was just—he could really tell good stories. Grandmother was the serious person, and—uh—I remember [*laughs*] every night when we would spend the night there—I mean, there might be fifteen of us bedded down in pallets, but by gosh, you were gonna sit and she—they prayed every night before you went to bed. And sometimes you would be on your knees for—it seemed like when you're a kid, thirty

minutes, but . . .

SL: Really?

AH: . . . probably wasn't. But that was what—she was very serious, and—and—uh—Granddad had the—Granddad had the sense of humor.

[00:10:38] SL: So your father—uh—was brought up with that strict discipline, then.

AH: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

SL: Did he continue that with his family? Did he—did y'all . . .

AH: My dad never—my dad spanked me one time . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

AH: . . . with a switch on my leg . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

AH: . . . for sassing my mother. That's the only time my dad ever . . .

SL: Well, you probably had it comin'. [*Laughs*]

AH: Yeah, and I never sassed Mother again.

SL: There you go. [*Laughs*] Well, now wh—I guess what I'm tryin' to—I—I—I'm—it's interesting that—um—your grandmother—um—or your—your f—um—your dad's mother—um—taught folks out of the Bible. Is that—did I . . .

[00:11:17] AH: Well, they—they learned to read. She learned to

read, and she had—and she taught a Bible class, then that's what she—she would start a church wherever they went because they kind of roamed around in a covered wagon with, you know, eight or nine kids before they finally settled down in Tahlequah and bought a house so that the kids could go to school, because they felt then that education was the thing—the most important thing they could give their children. And they wanted to settle where they could get access to—uh—more than—uh—elementary school. I mean, and we forget that it—for a long time, we didn't have schools much beyond eighth grade.

SL: That's correct.

AH: And—uh—so that's what—that's what she did.

[00:12:01] SL: So their home in—uh—Tahlequah—it—it was in town. It wasn't a farm.

AH: Just about three blocks from—um—Northeastern State College then. It's now a state university.

[00:12:12] SL: Do you remember what Tahlequah was like back then?

AH: I certainly do, and it kind of had a—I had uncles who were in business there, and—uh—you know, it was really—it was an interesting—it was fun because we had a fair amount of freedom to wander around the neighborhood—uh—without getting too far

away, you know.

SL: Yeah.

AH: As opposed to—I mean, you know, we felt—we felt comfortable there, and we went there every year.

SL: And . . .

AH: At least two or three times a year.

[00:12:41] SL: And they had all the—did they have the modern amenities? Was the . . .

AH: They did, in town. They—they did. Not everybody did. My—my mother's mother never had indoor plumbing . . .

SL: Did . . .

AH: . . . until she moved to live with my mother after Daddy—Granddaddy died.

SL: So—um—they had electricity, they had running water, they had paved streets.

AH: Kinda sorta paved streets. I mean . . .

SL: Gravel . . .

AH: . . . gravel more, really, in the early days. That's what I remember.

[00:13:13] SL: And—um—they had—I would assume they had a general store there in Tahlequah, maybe?

AH: Oh, Tahlequah had more than a general store. It had a—it was

kind of the—I think there's—I think it's the state c—is it . . .

SL: Was it a county seat?

AH: I think it was a county seat.

SL: Uh-huh.

AH: And they had a county courthouse and a—you know, they had a small hospital. No, it was a bigger town than where my mother's dad—uh—parents were, which was a very small town. And that, we really had freedom there—you know, when you talk about freedom.

[00:13:45] SL: Okay. Well, I—I want to get back . . .

AH: We'll get there. Yeah.

SL: I'll get to your mother's side here in a moment, but—um—you—you said that—uh—wherever your dad's family moved—uh—they would start a church. Is that . . .

AH: Well, she would start—she would start a—a local church for—with whoever was around.

SL: Uh-huh.

AH: And I don't know how far out in—you know, I don't really understand exactly how they got these people coming around. And Grandmother was a—was a hard-shell Baptist, and so that was—you know, that was where Daddy grew up in that tradition—with that.

[00:14:20] SL: So there wasn't any dancing and there . . .

AH: Hm-mm.

SL: . . . wasn't any . . .

AH: Hm-mm.

SL: . . . drinking . . .

AH: No. Huh-uh. Absolutely.

SL: . . . and there was activities on Wednesday nights. [*TM coughs*]

AH: Yeah.

[00:14:29] SL: And when—when you used to visit them—uh—would you stay for a week at a time or . . .

AH: Actually, I had so many cousins—I mean—a lot of the other children—uh—my dad's—had two sisters who lived there, and he had—uh—two brothers who lived there, and they had children our age. So we didn't stay with Grandmother and Granddad.

[*Laughs*] It was a lot more fun to go to your cousins, and they lived out—they lived out on the dairy farms, and they lived where they had horses, and we used to come—would come and stay a week with them and—uh—you know, that's where we—we learned a lot about living in the country from going out and staying with cousins out in the country.

[00:15:10] SL: You know, I haven't—uh—talked with many folks that got to hang out at a dairy farm. Is that—what was that

like?

AH: Well, what I discovered—one thing—they—it was—they had the—uh—we went out in the barn early in the morning to—I mean, 'cause I wanted to try all of it.

SL: Well, sure.

AH: And—but they reminded you that what you had to make sure—because they would attach the—they had automatic milkers.

SL: Oh, okay.

AH: But they said you have to be careful [*laughs*] that the snakes haven't gotten down in the—I mean, you know, things that you don't think about. But you're right, you know, things do crawl in, and that's one of the things. And the same thing—going to pick egg—to get the eggs because you had snakes that would get in and try to take the eggs.

SL: Sure.

AH: And so I had—I learned a healthy respect for looking—for looking out for things that were—that you really didn't want to run into. [*SL laughs*] So . . .

[00:16:01] SL: Well, so—um—did you ever run into a snake or . . .

AH: I saw one, but I didn't run—you know . . .

SL: You didn't have any confrontations with one.

AH: And I got to ride horses, and the horses ran away one time. And

of course, they did haying. The—you know, when they would have people come in—would—you know, the neighbors would come in and take turns helping each other doing the hay and then help do lunch and put out all the food and then clean up afterwards. I mean, I got—I understood how that worked and—uh—that gives you a sense of really how hard—and the—I have a friend who was a farmer, and he said they're the last gamblers of the world because you think about—they're totally at the—uh—you know, nature totally runs their lives, and they have no control over most of that. So they really are gamblers. They plant seed, and then they—they pray that the rains will come [laughs] and that the sun will shine, and then they set about the harvest. So it's really a—it was a great learning experience, I thought.

[00:17:04] SL: Well—uh—but on the other side of the coin, they're producing—survive . . .

AH: And they lived . . .

SL: There's a way to produce and survive.

AH: And—and that's what, I guess, when we think about the Depression and the difference—some of the things we've been talking about today—the difference is the people who live in the country could produce their own food, and they really ate better.

They did well. They did be—they didn't starve like . . .

SL: Right.

[00:17:28] AH: Like, today if we had a trucking strike for—uh—any extended period of time, most of us would be in trouble. 'Cause you go to the grocery store. You're dependent upon a grocery store.

SL: That's right. Or a restaurant.

AH: We don't grow our own food. Well, I know, but the restaurants can't get there either.

SL: Right, right.

AH: I mean, your trucking carries all those, too.

SL: Yeah. Well . . .

AH: So . . .

SL: I guess the soup kitchens—the soup lines were predominant back during the Depression.

AH: Yeah.

SL: And . . .

AH: Yeah, that's right.

[00:17:56] SL: So—um—did they—uh—did they have hogs, too, out there at the dairy farm? Did you ever see them slaughter a hog?

AH: Um—I saw a hog slaughtered at my other grandmother's and saw the rendering. I—I've experienced that also. That's quite

an experience.

[00:18:16] SL: Well, let's—let's go over to the other side of the family, then—your—um—mother's side of the family. Um—now, where was it that her parents were from?

AH: Granddaddy was from Prairie Grove.

SL: Right.

AH: And Grandmother came originally from Missouri. And—uh—they met—and I—all I know is my grandmother—when they passed, they were both in covered wagons, and they saw each other, and my grandmother is said to have said—this is what she told me—"He's mine, if I never have him." Now, isn't that interesting? She set her cap, and she married him two days before her sixteenth birthday and they then—and then she had her mother-in-law living with her until she died. But they moved to Ketchum, and he was a Republican. [*SL laughs*] He was a small . . .

SL: That was hard to say.

AH: . . . small businessman, and he ran—he had a general store in town, so I also learned about—and he sold on credit—uh—and we loved going there because you could go to the general store, and he had everything. He had coffins in the back room. He had a wood—you know, he had a big stove that . . .

SL: Pot-bellied stove.

AH: Pot-bellied stove, and people came in there. He had a candy counter and he—we went there every Christmas and stayed at least a week or so, and he would let us—let us help do inventory in—after Christmas of all the things. And so we learned to count cans and how many—you know, he did—he did th—he did that. And—uh—so we had a lot of freedom because he'd—their home was two blocks from the main street, and the main street had a general store, an ice cream counter in a—in a—you know, the pharmacy.

SL: Right.

AH: Just like Joyce's Drug.

SL: Right.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:08] AH: It had a place to fix your car. It had a bank. It had a lumber yard, and it had a railroad that went through. And that's why they landed there because they decided—my grandmother was a very good cook, and they decided that they would build a large two-story house a block from the train station, and she took in boarders and rented out the top. They had six bedrooms upstairs. Everybody else was downstairs. She had a woodstove, and she had a great big dining room table,

and she probably had fifty to sixty people every day for lunch,  
and she cooked all of it on that woodstove . . .

SL: Wow.

AH: . . . that was heated with wood, as compared to—and then it had  
a big pot-bellied stove in the dining room, which warmed the  
dining room and the living room. And so she did all her laundry.  
They had running—I bet they didn't have running water in the  
beginning, but they never had an indoor toilet. We had an  
outdoor toilet. So you had—she emptied chamber pots. She  
changed beds. She ironed everything, even clu—her tea towels.  
And she had an incredible energy. She was up every morning at  
five. And after she moved in with my parents after Granddaddy  
died and she was in her late eighties, she would tell Mother and  
Daddy [*laughs*], "You need to get up and get your work done  
early [*laughter*] before it gets hot." And Mother said, "Mama, we  
have air-conditioning. We don't [*laughs*] have to get up at five  
in the morning." But she was still organizing and telling people  
what to do.

[00:21:53] SL: That's a—you know, my mother used to iron the tea  
towels, and I guess for people that don't know what a tea towel  
is, that's . . .

AH: That's what you wash—that's what you dry [*laughs*] your dishes

with.

SL: Dry the dishes with. Yeah.

AH: Mh-hmm. And ironed her pillow slips and . . .

SL: Yep.

[00:22:07] AH: And she had a place where she put up—you know, she had—she put up canned things. They had a huge garden. Granddaddy was a great gardener, and he had wonderful fresh food and canned food. And we—and he had—first apparently, he had started a candy store, and he was a great candy maker. But he decided he'd better get into somethin' that sold a little more to everything as opposed to candy. And my brother still makes some of his candy recipes just as a means of connecting himself with his grandfather.

SL: We might need to get a copy of that recipe.

AH: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: Is that a family tree . . .

AH: Well, that becomes kind of a joke at some point because how they—while [AH edit: what] they named the candies then is not politically correct today. So [*laughter*] . . .

SL: Oh, okay. I understand.

AH: And—but he did. He got into that for a while. That was fun.

[00:22:59] SL: Okay, I won't ask what the names were . . .

AH: No, I—let's just . . .

SL: . . . just now, but I can imagine. So—well, that's pretty—so really, on one side of the family you have a lot of teachers, and on the other side you had kind of a hardscrabble—but at the same time, a general store owner.

AH: Yeah.

SL: You probably learned some management skills there . . .

AH: I don't know that . . .

SL: . . . early on.

AH: I don't know that I learned management skills there, but he let us wait on people, and we learned to write up tickets. He gave us a lot of—an opportunity to be responsible. And Grandmother would send us to the store. I think she'd send us to the store to get us out of the house sometimes [*SL laughs*] to work up there, to have Granddad, quote—"enjoy our company." But you know, I spent two or three weeks sometimes with my grandparents in the summer. And I . . .

[00:23:53] SL: Well, now how many—you had brothers and sisters?

AH: I have a sister two years younger, and then I have a brother that's two years younger than that.

SL: So all three of you would . . .

AH: We were never all there at the same time, unless my parents

were there.

SL: M'kay.

[00:24:10] AH: But I got to—I was the oldest, and Grandmother and I were great friends so—and she [*SL laughs*—you know, she—I remember she saved her money, and she wanted to buy a new refrigerator. And she took with me—to—with me—took me with her to Vinita, Oklahoma, and [*coughs*] I'm sorry, I've got a . . .

SL: That's okay.

AH: I may have to get some water.

SL: Okay, do you want . . .

Trey Marley: Do you wanna take a break and get some water?

AH: Let's stop.

[Tape stopped]

[00:24:40] SL: Okay, Ann—we had to take a little break there.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Had a little a frog in our throat, so . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: We—we'd been talking about your mom and dad's parents for the most part. And I think I was making a comment that one side of the family was a lot of teachers, and then the other side seemed to be more of a pioneer kind of a thing going on and more rural and smaller town and . . .

AH: Mh-hmm.

[00:25:15] SL: So I—and it sounded like to me you had a great time in both places.

AH: I had a great time both places, and it was interesting because it allowed me to experience really a large—a slightly larger town and a way of looking at things. And then my grandmother on my mother's side—she had a third-grade education. She and my—I think she and my grandfather both did not have much more—a third- or fifth-grade education, and yet—and that was the interesting thing to me. She knew the answer to everything, and you know where she got those answers? She—the government used to print all kinds of pamphlets, and she read those, and basically, she followed those directions. She learned to can. She learned to do lots of things with those government pamphlets. And she had such a faith in that that was very interesting. [00:26:18] And Granddaddy apparently was active in Republican politics because at some point after my mother—they sent Mother away in the ninth grade. Their school only went—a little tiny town only has through eighth grade. So they sent her to get an education. They—everybody understood then, if you didn't have one, you were limited. You could do some things, but they wanted their children to understand the

importance of that. So they sent Mother to Vinita, and she lived in a boarding house with some other young women, and she graduated from high school there in Vinita and then went on and became a legal secretary. She came one summer to Northeastern—and this is where she and my dad met. He was a—and you've probably seen the pictures of her. [00:27:08] She was an absolutely beautiful woman, and my grandmother made sure that she was dressed well and that she learned—she painted, she sewed. She was raised to. She learned the things that my grandmother felt she needed to learn. And she went to Northeastern, and she went in to get her books at the bookstore, and that was where my dad was working, in the bookstore and at the counter. And when she bought it, he wrote down her [laughter]—she paid by check, and he went after her. And it was—it took seven years [SL laughs] for them . . .

SL: Oh, my God.

AH: . . . to be able—because he was in school. And then he helped raise two more of his siblings. He put them through school. Each one put the other one through school, and he had decided before he could ask her to marry him, he had to have a car because they were plannin' to go and, you know, get a job. But he was already teaching a one-room school full time, but he

wanted to be able to marry and take Mom with him and go somewhere. And he bought it, and his seventeen-year-old brother wrecked it.

SL: Oh!

AH: So they started over again.

SL: Oh!

AH: It's kinda like the story of [*laughs*] Leah and Rachel, in a way. You know, it's just like it's seven years, and they finally got married. And he left, and everybody was educated. At that point they all got what they needed, so it was interesting. But they supported each other.

[00:28:44] SL: So those government pamphlets—that—was that part of an extension service with the federal gov . . .

AH: I think it must've been because—I mean, you know, you can still get those from the extension agency now, if you're interested in—you know, you got a problem with certain things, and I have a brother-in-law who's an expert in everything, and he says they're not worth anything. But that's because he thinks he knows everything. [*Laughter*] I shouldn't say that, but . . .

SL: That's all right. We may keep that one in.

AH: That's right, that's right. So.

[00:29:19] SL: Well, so I guess there was a pretty good contrast

between the living conditions between Tahlequah and Ketchum.

Is that right?

AH: Yes.

SL: And the . . .

AH: And the food, in particular.

SL: And the food?

AH: Mh-hmm. My Grandmother Cohea was a fabulous cook. She could bake, and she could do anything. In fact, the one thing I wanted after she died was a biscuit bowl because I was always fascinated to see her get this bowl out, and she'd just pour stuff in and mix it up and do it and roll it out. And we'd have fresh biscuits. And she could just put food together, and it was just amazing. [00:30:00] On the other hand, my other grandmother [*laughs*]*—*we had a lot of bread pudding. And it's probably the difference in income. They just didn't*—*she just was not a very good cook. And Mother tells the story that when she went to their house before they married, Grandmother asked her, "How do you like*—*how did you like your main course?" And Mother said, "Well, I don't think I know what it was." [*Laughter*] And it was possum.

SL: Oh.

AH: And Mother said when she told her what it was that she had to

go up [*laughs*] and go outside and throw up. I mean, she said it was greasy, and it just didn't taste very good. And when she found out what it was, she couldn't keep it down. [00:30:45] But Granddaddy hunted and they—you eat what you kill. That's—that was . . .

SL: Now . . .

AH: . . . what Daddy grew up with.

SL: Now this is the granddaddy . . .

AH: My Granddaddy Rainwater.

SL: Okay.

AH: When—you know, he hunted coons and—you know, anything that he could—I mean, he loved hunting and they—that's how they lived. And they had a garden, too. But Grandmother just—maybe it's havin' to feed that many people—but she—or maybe that just wasn't her priority, but she was not a—we didn't like to go to her house to eat. We liked to go to her house to play with cousins, but for the eating we liked to go the other grandmother's, and she was a lot . . .

[00:31:25] SL: To the one in Ketchum.

AH: Yes, and they were active members of the Methodist church there, which was a block away. And we always went to church, and my grandmother always took care of people in the

neighborhood. And I learned all about tryin' to help other people in need by my grandmother's example. We would cook, and then we would take it to the lady across the street, who was sick and couldn't get out of bed—that kinda thing. I mean, you know, Grandmother—they just got little—they took care of each other. In fact, the women were the ones who—they didn't have a funeral home. They dressed the bodies when they died, and they did it and got 'em ready to take to . . .

[00:32:07] SL: Did you ever—I mean, what—I've heard that they would have the funeral at the home, and you know, the coffin would be in the living room, and if it was . . .

AH: I never attended that, but I've—I did go to the woman across the way who was sick. And she was such an interesting person. She called my grandmother Oriole because she was busy and bright and always had a cheerful tone in her voice. And so I thought that was kinda an interesting analogy about Grandmother. But Grandmother and Granddaddy were both very—you went to church, and you sang in the choir. We sang in the choir when we didn't even live there. I mean . . .

[00:32:50] SL: Now is this the Methodist side?

AH: The Methodist side. Mh-hmm.

SL: So you had pretty . . .

AH: I don't—and that's the other . . .

SL: . . . staunch—Baptist on one side . . .

[00:32:56] AH: Well, and you know, they—I don't remember going to church with Granddaddy there, but that maybe that at that point they were old enough that they weren't going to a church. And when they had the family, they stayed at home, as opposed to going to church—when she had all of her family there. But with my grandmother, you were at Sunday school and church, whether you knew anybody or not, and you pretty well got to know people after that. So . . .

SL: Well, yeah.

[00:33:24] AH: It was great. It was a great little church. And my experience for the first time—the—they had a woman minister when I was little. Now, that is something . . .

SL: It's unusual.

AH: . . . that is very unusual. And that is part of the reason I guess I like the Methodist Church because they always acknowledged, and there just weren't that many people—many women who went into that. And many churches wouldn't accept 'em anyway if they—you know, you couldn't become what you might—you couldn't become a priest, and [*laughs*] you couldn't be a deacon in the Baptist Church. I mean, there were a lot of restrictions in

terms of what women could and could not do. And that, to me, was an eye-opening experience to see a woman preacher, and Grandmother just loved her. [*Laughs*] And if she had her over and we got to—you know, we got to know her, that was fine, too.

[00:34:16] SL: Did—in your visiting, did the—did you ever get to participate in a revival? Did you ever see one or . . .

AH: Oh, yes. Absolutely. But I'm tryin' to think—oh, growing up in the Methodist church in Springdale, we were always havin'—I mean, you know—tent revival—I think we only did that maybe one time. Maybe with cousins or something, but that . . .

SL: Over in Oklahoma?

AH: In—over in Oklahoma. But no, ours were—the churches we went to were indoor churches. And they—if they had a revival, they had it in the regular church kinda thing. But you would have preachers come in that were supposed to—I also saw Elmer Gantry, so I have a little bit of a [*laughs*—I'm somebody who sees both sides. The gifted ones who are—who talk the—who talk it, but can't live it.

SL: Right, right.

AH: I preferred a—I prefer the people who . . .

SL: Who lived it.

AH: . . . kinda live their walk.

SL: Yeah.

AH: So . . .

[00:35:25] SL: Well, now which grandparent was it that taught in the single-room school?

AH: My grand—my daddy taught. He had a single-room school.

SL: Is that right?

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: And . . .

AH: And he had kids older than he was in that one-room school. And he rode his horse. He lived in a cabin out in Camp Egan. I don't know whether you've ever heard of that. It was a Methodist camp outside of Tahlequah, about twelve miles, and he lived in a one-room cabin and taught the school out in that area. But it was first through twelfth, and the twelfth graders were—some of 'em were in their twenties. And they could whoop him if they wanted [*laughs*] to, but he understood how to do classroom management.

[00:36:09] SL: Well, that's just so remarkable. So what grades would be in that one classroom all . . .

AH: They're all there.

SL: . . . one through eight? One through . . .

AH: But they organize 'em through—they organize 'em—he would organize 'em by who could do what, and they could try to teach some of the younger ones. And he would try to let them use their knowledge they had to teach some of the younger ones because you couldn't do it all yourself.

SL: Right.

AH: You can't—you have to do it in small groups, and that's what he did.

[00:36:39] SL: So how long were you in Oklahoma?

AH: I moved from Oklahoma—let's see, Daddy left the teaching profession when it wasn't paying at all. And they had another child and they were expecting another child. And so they made the decision to move to Tulsa. And he took a job with Texaco as an accountant, and he worked downtown in the Philtower Building, and we lived not too far from downtown in a rent house for—I don't—I guess—my brother was born in Tulsa, so that would be 1943—we moved there. And then in about [19]45, we bought a house across the street from my mother's brother and his wife and their child. And so I grew up with another cousin and had relatives right there, which is fun. That was nice.

SL: Still in Tulsa?

AH: Still in Tulsa, and went to Springdale School—it was a public

school about, you know, a mile away. We walked to school, and it was fine. And I had just entered junior high in Tulsa when Daddy announced that we were moving to Springdale, Arkansas.

[00:37:52] SL: Well, now so what year was that when you left Tulsa?

AH: [Nineteen] fifty-two.

SL: [Nineteen] fifty-two.

AH: February of [19]52. On a rainy day we drove into [*laughs*] Springdale, and I had never been there. And I had gotten a set of encyclopedias for my—for Christmas that year, and I'd already looked it up, and it said the 1950 census—it had 3,219 people in Springdale. [*Laughs*] And I thought, "Oh, my life is over!" [*Laughs*] 'Cause Tulsa was—you know, I was very happy there, and I was thirteen, and I knew better than anybody—anything else. And I just told Dad, "I'm not going. I'll just stay with my aunt and uncle." And he just . . .

SL: So . . .

AH: . . . smiled.

[00:38:38] SL: So you really liked Tulsa—a big town—really big town, and it was a big oil town . . .

AH: Big oil town.

SL: . . . back then. And . . .

AH: Bus—good bus system. I could catch the bus right behind my—  
Daddy and my aunt caught the bus every morning and went  
downtown to work. And I learned—we belonged to Boston  
Avenue Methodist Church, which was downtown, and I learned  
when I was about nine to take the bus downtown, and I'd—we  
were in a choir—and my mother let me go. We would go down  
to choir by ourselves. We'd change buses, too. Now today, I  
don't know of any—I mean, even here in Fayetteville—they  
wouldn't—they would think you're just—you know, you're a—  
child abuse. [*Laughter*]

SL: If you just let 'em go.

[00:39:30] AH: But it gave you—it gives you a confidence that you  
can do all these things. I mean, you were in a choir, you got to  
do some other things, then Daddy generally came down there,  
and he would catch the bus and ride home with us then. So . . .

SL: Well . . .

AH: It was fun.

SL: A huge difference for your dad from teaching in a one-room  
school to goin' downtown to be an accountant for an oil  
company.

AH: Wearing an oil—wearing a suit every day. And then to make  
ends meet so Mother—they didn't want Mother—they made a

decision they didn't want Mother to have to work. She did keep her—my nephew. I mean, her nephew to—and they paid her to keep him after school. He had to take another job, so I only saw my dad on Sundays.

SL: Really?

[00:40:12] AH: Because he rode the bus home and didn't get home until after we were in bed at night. He was back up and going back downtown on Saturday morning to work downtown till it closed at five-something. And so we saw him Saturday night and then Sunday. And Sunday we drove back downtown [*laughs*] and went to church, but he had two full-time jobs that pretty much—eight to five and five to nine.

SL: Golly. What was the second job?

AH: He worked as an accountant in an office-supply store downtown. And Mother stayed at home and made our clothes and stretched out the income as far as it would go. She was amazing.

[00:41:00] SL: So did you learn to sew from your mom?

AH: I tried. My mother's very good [*laughs*], and I'm not. But I can remember we would buy a sweater or two, and then we would go downtown to Brown-Dunkin. One of the funniest things you remember—kids don't know about this today, but—well, you know, you go to the bank, and you [*laughs*] have the chute that

goes up. Brown-Dunkin had a whole set. That was a big department store downtown, and you could take your sweater, and you'd go to the fabric store. That's all we would go to the fabric area and look—try to match something so you looked more or less like other people when you would start—at least—you know, sixth and seventh grade . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . down there. But she would make our skirts. She made our dresses. She was a very good seamstress. And I made an A in sewing when I went to Springdale. My mother was so mad because I made a dress, and it just looked great, but you had to cut it off of me to get it off. I don't know how I managed to get the zipper in. And she said, "How could you get an A in a course and not even be able to wear the dress?" And we're just havin' to take the scissors—so she was very upset [*laughs*] because it was wasted—for her, it was wasted money, you know.

SL: Oh, yeah.

[00:42:11] AH: Cute dress. Wore it . . .

SL: So you think that . . .

AH: . . . once. [*Laughs*]

SL: So you know, first of all, you don't hear these days about a parent having two full-time jobs or nearly full-time jobs or

anybody. I've interviewed some people that were doing that and maybe even another job on the weekend.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: So nearly three jobs. But were the—I mean, y'all had obviously modest means there in Tulsa. I mean, you weren't . . .

[00:42:46] AH: We had a one-bedroom, two-bath—I mean, one bedroom, two—two-bedroom, one-bath house.

SL: One-bath house.

AH: And we managed to—yeah, no washer or dryer.

SL: So you hung the clothes out on the line?

AH: We hung the laundry out. Yes.

SL: And you had a wringer on top of a tub. Put it aw . . .

AH: Uh-huh. And that you had to bring it inside and connect it to be able to have a wringer and a rub—and a scrub board before we finally got that. That's how—that's what I remember. And then hanging them out. It wasn't bad in the summer or the [laughs]—it's those winter sheets that would kill you, you know, when it was so cold.

[00:43:23] SL: Yeah. Well, so—now how long were in Tulsa?

AH: Well, really until about [19]43 to—well, nine years.

SL: Nine years.

AH: And we—and everybody else was in the same bo—I didn't really

have a—I never felt that I didn't have what anybody else didn't have. Mother did it—you know, may not have been the—I wanted a ready-made dress, but I got one for Christmas one year. Once, I got a ready-made dress.

[00:43:57] SL: Did you feel guilty about it?

AH: No, I didn't feel guilty, but the other thing—Mother wanted my sister and me to dress—she would make these things alike and then, course, we didn't look alike and we—our [*laughs*] body types weren't the same. And I just remember one year I wanted a pair of shoes. We only had one pair of shoes. We had to wear them the year round. I mean, you know, you had to wear some for everything, so I wore—I got brown leather Oxfords, and that's what you wore with your Sunday school dress, which was really ugly. [*Laughs*] I didn't know much about fashion, but I knew that was really ugly. But I wanted a pair of white Mary Janes at—to wear with but we didn't get it.

SL: Well, you know . . .

[00:44:39] AH: I got a whole set of encyclopedias, though, which I read from cover to cover.

SL: And that's a big deal because that was . . .

AH: Oh, it was a big deal.

SL: That was . . .

AH: I'm sure that was on the layaway plan . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . you know. But I loved—that was just the best gift I ever got.

SL: Oh, they were wonderful. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing. We got some when I was a child, and big, big doors opened.

AH: Absolutely. You could just find out all kinds of things.

[00:45:08] SL: So you know, it's a common refrain in the interviews when I'm talking with people that they may have been poor or of very modest means growin' up, but they weren't really aware of it.

AH: Oh, we didn't have television . . .

SL: That . . .

AH: . . . so we didn't know what other people had. I remember we got the first television—my uncle got into television repair as a second job, and he had a set that big, but it had a big round screen [*laughs*] to make it bigger looking. And I can remember the laugh we got because Grandmother—my grandmother—my mother's mother—didn't get that it was—remember Gorgeous George? Well, you don't.

[00:45:50] SL: Sure.

AH: But he was the wrestler, and she . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . didn't get that a lot of that was faked, and she would just sit there on the edge of her seat watching this TV, and she'd say, "They just ought not to allow them to do that. They just not"—I mean, she just [*laughs*] was so upset over the slamming and the—you know . . .

SL: Sure.

AH: . . . it's the—what she saw . . .

SL: Throwin' around the ring and jumping from the . . .

AH: Yes, yes, she really got—and we would get tickled because we would know, but I don't know, Gorgeous George and *Howdy Doody* never did very much for me on TV. And we didn't—there really wasn't anything to watch. But . . .

[00:46:22] SL: But you had radio, right?

AH: We had radio, and that was what we used to listen to at Granddaddy's. He had a big ol' radio at my Granddad Cohea in Ketchum. He had a big radio, and we listened to all of those mysteries, you know.

SL: *The Shadow*.

AH: *The Shadow* and—oh, my gosh.

SL: [*Laughs*] "Who knows?"

AH: Yeah, and to me, that was terrifying. I mean, I would . . .

SL: Yeah, sure.

AH: You know, 'cause you're all in the room, and the lights are kinda down, and you're listening to that, and everybody's listening to it—that, and . . .

SL: *Lum and Abner*?

AH: *Lum and Abner* and a lot of Harry Caray and the Cardinals, 'cause they were huge Cardinals fans.

[00:47:01] SL: That was a great—those were great broadcasts. And what about—oh, what about prize fights? Do you remember the . . .

AH: You know, I had an uncle who was into boxing and backing boxing people and that kinda thing, and I just never—uh-uh—nope.

SL: So would . . .

AH: I saw the bad side of that. I didn't really . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: I've never been interested in boxing.

SL: I—that was just one of the common radio broadcasts back before . . .

AH: Was it?

SL: . . . television that—you know, you'd hear the bell ring and . . .

AH: Oh, I remember the bells and things like that, but . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . I wouldn't—I had a book in my hand, and I would go read,  
so . . .

[00:47:42] SL: Well, was the radio kind of a ritual? You would—it  
would be off and then you—one of the parents would turn it on,  
everyone would gather like a . . .

AH: Well, we always—the dining room was a big room, and then the  
living room where the—you know, and—in fact, the dining room  
was a whole lot bigger than the living room. And after supper  
and after the dishes were done and after everything—well, there  
was nothing else [*laughs*] to do, you know. I mean, you know—  
and we would go in there, and then Granddaddy would turn  
the—but he knew what time the game started, or he knew what  
time the program started. So Granddaddy pretty well controlled  
that, and we were—may as well do that because you couldn't—it  
was—there was no heat upstairs, so you never wanted to go to  
bed early.

[00:48:28] SL: Oh, so you had an upstairs?

AH: At Granddad's house we did.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Yeah. We—and they were all feather beds, but you froze . . .

SL: Now, is—was this the boarding house kinda place?

AH: The boarding house place.

SL: Next to the tracks.

AH: Yeah, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Yeah.

[00:48:42] SL: Well—and I'm assuming that business did well, I would guess or . . .

AH: It did, and later on, after the—then, of course, the train—you know—live by the train, die by the train.

SL: Yeah.

AH: They closed it. I mean, you know, the trains went out, and so then . . .

SL: The town shriveled up.

AH: . . . she had a—the town was smaller, but by then Grand Lake had come in and people were coming in. And so they had a high school there then. And so teachers would rent from Mother—Grandmother—and they could eat, and they lived upstairs. So that cut out of part of our bedrooms part of the time. And then it got so that—I mean, you know, things change, but Grandmother—she was getting a little older, but still, she was goin' strong.

[00:49:27] SL: Did they ever get running water and electricity?

AH: They got running water, and they had a shower in the back part. They had a great big—what she called a shower room. And you had running water in the kitchen and in the shower room for the shower. But you trudged to the back of the . . .

SL: Yard.

AH: This great big garden [*laughs*], and she had beautiful flowers and great big asparagus ferns—you know, asparagus and then the ferns . . .

SL: Sure.

AH: . . . would grow up. And you went back out there to the outhouse, and there's where you learned about a lot of things, like wasps and snakes and [*SL laughs*] and cold and all that stuff.

SL: Yep.

AH: When you got old enough you had to go outside. So I don't remember how old old enough was, but you had to go outside.

[00:50:26] SL: Well, so let's get back to your house in Tulsa that you were growing up in. How far were you from a movie theater?

AH: Well, you know, Tulsa is like any other city. There are neighborhoods, and this was kind of the Springdale School District, and there was a kind of an area where you could—

grocery store. Movies—actually, I was traumatized as a young child, about probably six or seven—Mother didn't get a sitter. I don't know how—who took two of them, but they took me to see *Double Indemnity*, and I got the murder. I got that, and I was terrified. I never—in fact, I was probably fifteen before I ever went back to the movie. I missed most movies. I just wouldn't go. I couldn't separate out the . . .

SL: Reality.

[00:51:12] AH: It seemed so real to me, and it was so terrifying that I just decided that I would rather read than to go to a movie. And not until I was probably eighth or ninth grade, when the peer pressure of going to movies, and you would all go together—I finally couldn't handle it [*laughs*] any longer and finally started going. But I'm still not much of a moviegoer today just because it's hard for me . . .

SL: That initial trauma.

AH: . . . because of the—because it's just hard to separate out. And then Morriss is not much of a movie—he says he has—he deals with people who have so many illnesses and so many other challenges in life that he doesn't want to go see a sad movie. He listens to sad stories all day [*laughs*] long. And you just can't hardly find a musical anymore and [*laughs*] they . . .

SL: That's right.

AH: He wants to see somethin' happy, and that's hard to find these days. So we're together on that. I mean, you know, it's not like I'm saying, "We're gonna go to the movies." And he's, "No, I don't want to."

SL: Right.

AH: He's lucky. He married somebody who [*laughs*] really . . .

[00:52:13] SL: So back at the house, were there any musical instruments in the house in Tulsa?

AH: Oh, we had a piano. We all took piano lessons.

SL: How was that?

AH: Well, my nay—my teacher was two doors away, and she was interesting. She didn't have any children, so that was kind of interesting. But she was two doors up, and we all took—and I took through high school, I guess. I still play the piano for my own enjoyment now, but all my children were exposed to it, but nobody plays but me now.

SL: So it . . .

AH: So I have some grandchildren I think that are takin'—that are interested. But.

SL: And your brother and sister—were they—do they . . .

AH: My sister can play the piano, and she has a beautiful voice. She

sang—she actually went to—when she went away—she went away to school. She didn't want to come to the university, and I didn't think I could go anywhere else 'cause I knew—my parents didn't have that much money and—you know, "Where are you gonna go to school?" I didn't even consider out of state—a private school. And she went to Centenary. She found out about a choir down there, and she auditioned and, by gosh, she got in. And she sang with the Centenary choir, which traveled, and actually lived one summer in New York City and sang at Radio City Music Hall. So she . . .

SL: That's great.

AH: She moved and left no forwarding address. Not really. I mean, but I'm [*SL laughs*] sayin' that she . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . never came back to Arkansas.

[00:53:45] SL: So did you do anything with the piano in the church?

Did you ever engage with the church in your . . .

AH: I sang in the church choir from the time I was—when I moved to Springdale. They—you know, they want young voices, and so I sang in the choir all the way through high school.

SL: Okay.

[00:54:05] AH: And I played the piano for Sunday school classes

and—I mean, you know, I always used it that way. I'm not somebody—I can follow music, but I can't—I don't memorize well.

SL: M'kay.

AH: That's another—you know, those traumatic—you know, your music—your recitals—that was another traumatizing experience. And so I said, "Give me the—if I can read the music, I can play it, but don't ask me to memorize anything." [*Laughs*]

[00:54:34] SL: Well, now you've talked about how great your grandmother—what a great cook she was. What about your mom? Was she a g . . .

AH: She was a great cook, too. Oh, she—you know, it's just amazing. She could—I found things that—in hers that she put—she made her menus out for color, and she had a recipe. You know, she planned, and she cooked and did everything. Well, I never had—I no more had time for anything like that. But she was living in a very small town and wasn't working, and she was at home all day, and she didn't really know anybody because she was the principal's wife. So she had plenty of time to plan menus. There wasn't anything to do in the town, either. So I guess it's those large blocks of time that you can have, and you can do with it what you want. And she was an excellent cook.

I've been a good cook at some point, and I was blessed to marry a man whose mother didn't cook and was a terrible cook, and so he is happy with anything that he gets. [*SL laughs*] I mean, really, they're the blessings in life and that is you want to marry somebody who's a good cook. But you don't want to marry somebody whose mother was a great cook [*SL laughs*] 'cause you'll never come up to her standard . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . you know.

[00:55:48] SL: Right, right. I can understand that. [*Laughter*] All right, so . . .

AH: I lucked out in that regard.

SL: . . . in Tulsa, did you have neighborhood friends that you . . .

AH: Oh, yes. I—you know, we were—we wandered there. And we were in a subdivision where the houses, of course, were close to each other—you know, they're all alike—not all alike, but lots of houses in that area. So we had a lot—and I was in a Girl Scout troop. And we could go door to door selling cookies in those days, you know. Your mothers never would go sell the cookies for you. [00:56:21] And so we did that, but the one thing that I can remember was that there was a huge—I learned to play baseball. My uncles—I had two uncles that both played minor-

league baseball, so we were baseball people. And I'm left-handed, but I—they couldn't teach me to bat. I bat right-handed. They taught me and we all—we'd play sandlot because there was this great big field that was undeveloped behind the subdivisions, so that's what we would do. But the interesting thing to me was the gypsies are coming. We would have, in Tulsa—they would have the gypsy encampments . . .

SL: Neat.

AH: . . . where they would come in their bright-colored clothes and all their little trinkets and the—you know, the little wagons and all that kinda stuff. And that's when all the parents said, "You cannot go outside until the gypsies leave because they will kidnap you." I mean, because that apparently—there might have been some—you know, it's like anything, but it was interesting. I just can remember—we—of course, we went right down there to look at it . . .

SL: Well, sure.

AH: . . . because we weren't supposed to.

SL: Absolutely. And it was great.

[00:57:29] AH: And it was great to see all that, but we went as a group. We wouldn't go by ourselves. We protected ourselves by going with a group, so . . .

SL: The gypsies are coming.

AH: Well, and they were. They took over that whole field. It was really interesting to see.

SL: So how big an encampment was it? I mean . . .

AH: Oh, I'd say there'd be a hundred or so people there.

SL: Really?

AH: And they may have come with a—course, we didn't know about—it could be that they came with a, you know, a fair because they tended to run—you know these . . .

SL: The same circuit things.

AH: Some of the same circuit things and maybe run some of the attractions. But that's just something that stuck in my mind. And then I hear—you know, when we were traveling—they had gypsies still in Europe, and they've got the same things going on where they teach the young children to go and distract you while they pick your pockets. [*SL laughs*] That would've been a bigger thing, but we had nothing to take, so . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . they just are sure that—their biggest treasures were their children, and so they didn't want their children taken. So—interesting.

[00:58:42] SL: Okay, we'll probably get back and forth on the

neighborhood and your neighborhood activities, but . . .

TM: Hey Scott, let's go ahead and change tapes.

SL: Okay.

[Tape stopped]

[00:58:49] SL: Okay, Ann.

AH: Okay.

SL: You're about to start your second hour . . .

AH: Okay.

SL: . . . of being a Pryor Center victim here.

AH: Okay, it's not a victim. [*Laughter*]

SL: Well, you know, we're spending a lot of time in Tulsa. It's not Arkansas, but what I—you know, I'm very interested in Tulsa because Tulsa had an effect over here in Northwest Arkansas. I mean, it was the biggest town.

AH: Oh, absolutely.

SL: Nearest big town, and everyone went to Tulsa out of here. And also, if we can kinda look at Tulsa really hard here right now, it'll give us a good contrast of what happens when you get to Arkansas. So—and also, I have this belief that the first early years of your life is when you are given the foundation and the building blocks that you're gonna use the rest of your life. And I think it's fascinating that you knew both sets of grandparents,

which is not always the case.

AH: That's right.

SL: So you were very blessed that way. And they were very dynamically different in many ways, and I think that's awfully interesting. So you had a—you had kind of a dose of business sense and academic sense and farming stuff.

[01:00:11] AH: No, I saw a bigger picture than a lot of people do, I think, because of the background there. And I was very blessed to be—I thought Springdale at that time had—I mean, Springdale School where I went in Tulsa—Tulsa had a very good school system at that point. And I got a very good foundation. I was so lucky because when I was in the second or third grade, my music teacher was a member of the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra. [01:00:40] And one of the things that we got to do, which made—two big things came out for me out of Tulsa. The—going to see an orchestra, going to a concert hall, learning and getting to meet members of the orchestra, learning the instruments, which we learned in class, and then getting to go to a concert. That is huge to me, and that's what I see the Walton Arts Center doing today is bringing students into the Walton Arts Center to experience something that if it were just their circumstances—we could not have afforded a ticket. We couldn't

have afforded to have done any of that. So that was really, I think, big. [01:01:19] The other thing that we had—we didn't have a library—we didn't have a—but we had a mobile library. And I will tell you, once I got my library card, and my mother would take me down, and they would let me check out ten books at a time. I just thought I died and gone to heaven because the library—the bookmobile opened up reading and worlds that you never knew existed. That's why I wanted my own set of encyclopedias. [*Laughs*] You know, but I'm saying that that was something that got my interest in a library because I saw—experienced first-hand—how much a library and having books available, which you could not afford to buy, but to be able to get as a resource and to open up your eyes to a world that existed outside where you were. [01:02:08] And mine was—Daddy took the bus. Mother had the car, but our trips were planned because we didn't have money to—we didn't drive around. I mean, a big night out for us was going to the A&W root beer to get a root beer. A fro—you know, a cold . . .

SL: Float?

AH: Not a float, just . . .

SL: The root beer?

AH: No, that was . . .

SL: Straight-up root beer—on the rocks.

AH: Root beer in those frozen glasses.

SL: Yeah.

[01:02:33] AH: You know, when they put that—that was somethin' that was really big for us. And I can remember—I think we ate out twice when we were growing up, and it was fried rabbit both times. Now I do not know why we went to this place, but that's what they served. And it was good. It was kinda like chicken. People just—I don't think people went out that much. But there may have been a class of people that [*laughs*] went out all the time, but I didn't know about it. And so those were the two, I think, things that have made a difference in terms of opening up to a cultural experience that I never knew—and then a reading—introducing you to far more things than you would've had if I had just lived like where my mother did, in this little tiny town where it was—you know, a one-horse-town thing. It had one of everything. [01:03:23] But it was far enough from everything that most people [*laughs*] shopped there, as opposed to going into—but if you wanted a real funeral, you had to go—they had to call those people from Vinita to come and get your body, and then I guess they'd do the funeral there. But I'm just sayin' it's just a difference in terms of—and I think that's what—to me,

that's what technology is doing today for Arkansas—taking education and—you know, that's why I like PBS. That's why I like all these things because they take the best of our culture out to kids that don't get much of a best-of culture in their town because they don't have anything, and their parents can't afford to do anything. And their parents may not be interested at all. Fortunately, I had parents who were interested in education—my father, more than my mother. But my mother's father—essentially, when I got to college he—when I started the master's he said, "Well, what do you want to go and get a master's for? I think it's just time you got out and got a job and started earning your own money." I mean, his was definitely a different—well, he was a different kind of person. But I learned—you're right, I learned some business things from him, and I learned—well, and that's a service, in a way.

SL: Sure.

AH: I mean, you know, we met lots of different people and lots of—learned a lot of different things by working at that grocery store and taking inventory. And it taught you—it taught you about things you wouldn't have—most kids are not gonna think about that, you know.

[01:04:56] SL: Let's go back to the two major things out of Tulsa—

the—getting to see a symphony—and your music teacher was a member of the symphony, is that—and . . .

AH: The Philharmonic—uh-huh—Tulsa Philharmonic was a . . .

SL: Philha—and what—and your music class—were you just studying music, or were you learning to play an instrument?

AH: Oh no, we were just studying—I mean, she told you, you know, the sounds different things made, and she explained to you about how an orchestra worked. And then we got to go and do a see and tell—I mean, you know, actually experience it. But she prepared you for the experience. It's not like just takin' a kid somewhere and they don't have a clue about . . .

SL: How they're doing it.

AH: . . . what the different instruments sound like or how they can—how they fit in. And that's what she did, was explained that everyb—it's really a—it's a story about life, how everybody has a part to play, and when you all play your part well, you can make beautiful music. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yes.

[01:05:52] AH: But if you don't—if you want to be the star [*laughs*] it'll be a dissonant kind of thing. So it's—I just thought she did a wonderful job of preparing us with all those sounds and things. And then—and would play music for us and teach you about the

different kinds of things, and then you actually got to go to the symphony. And they must've done a day concert because it wasn't a night thing, but they took us on buses downtown, which is just a great thing to do.

[01:06:21] SL: Was it just a—first of all, what was your music teacher's name? Do you remember?

AH: Mrs. McConnell.

SL: Mrs. McConnell. And what was the music called that you went to see the symphony in—the philharmonic in? Do you . . .

AH: I think it was just the Tulsa symphony hall.

SL: And were the—when you went with the school children—was the hall filled with children?

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Do you think it was a concert . . .

AH: It was a children's concert.

SL: . . . for the public schools?

AH: Yes, and so—and I don't remember the actual—you know, I don't remember what they actually played. That was not as important to me as actually getting to go and sit and listen to an actual orchestra perform something and to be able to understand the different sounds and who was playing what. I mean that just, to me, was amazing. So . . .

[01:07:07] SL: It is amazing, and it is quite a gift that you were given.

AH: You listen to the radio. You don't see that.

SL: No, no.

AH: I mean, you have to have some exposure and some teaching, or you have to have a real passion for tryin' to figure out music and—you know.

[01:07:25] SL: You know, the other major interest or thing that you took away from Tulsa was the library. Now, I think I've only heard bookmobile mentioned a few times. And I know that David Pryor knew something about bookmobiles and stuff. We've talked about 'em. But tell—was that a—do you know if that was a federal program or was that a state program?

AH: I have no idea what it was. All I know, it was a big trailer thing that—you know, and it was lined with books, and you had your checkout system. Course, that was the checkout system was you had your little card, but you were limited in how many you could take. And then once you brought 'em back the next—it came weekly, and then you could go and get more books, and so it's just like a never-ending resource of things to read, so it was great. It was great fun.

[01:08:17] SL: So you—did you—I mean, not all children were that

hungry to read books where they . . .

AH: Probably not, but . . .

SL: I mean, you . . .

AH: Don't a—I mean, you know, you want—I had no idea what—I just—to me, it was—the things that were out there that were so interesting [*laughs*] to learn—I just—once I discovered reading, it was just—it was great. I loved it.

[01:08:45] SL: Do you remember any of the early books that you read?

AH: Nope. Not a bit. [*SL laughs*] I cannot remember. No, but one book that—I know my mother gave me a book. I mean, I read books at my grandmother's, and so I think my grandmother must have tried to encourage that, but they didn't have a library in that little town. But one of my favorite books—you know, people talk about, "Oh, don't be a Pollyanna." But you know, why not? I mean, really, I read that book at Grandmother's one summer, and it just made a big impression on me that—you know, and I guess that's still kind of how I look at things.

[01:09:22] In a way, people feel sorry for themselves, but you know, I've been so blessed to be married to somebody—I've done a lot of hospital rounds and waiting at the hospital and being there—and if you are out and around, you're gonna believe

that [*laughs*] whatever challenge you have is nothing compared to what other people have to deal with. And really, sometimes you—and each time I think you learn from everything that comes your way. You'll get—you'll learn something from it. You learn and really—just like movin' in the seventh grade. I thought my life was over. I was seventh—I was thirteen, of course, but it turned out the very best friends—you know, I made friends, and the people I got to know in Springdale—I mean, it was just an incredible experience to grow up in Springdale in a small town where everybody knew and looked after you, and you knew a lotta people, and you could impact, and you're kind of isolated, in a way, as compared to—Tulsa just went from one subdivision to another, and it's—I don't know that I would've felt I could've made an impact living in a bigger city. But living in a smaller city—the smaller area makes you feel as though you have a say-so.

[01:10:43] SL: Let's get back to the Springdale school system over in Tulsa.

AH: The Tulsa system named Springdale.

SL: The Tulsa system.

AH: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah, in Springdale. And so do you remember, besides your

music teacher, any other teachers that . . .

AH: I can remember my principal, Mr. Marsden, and he was just a wonderful person. And you know, in second grade we were moving from class to class. We did not stay in one room. And you know, when I moved to seventh grade here, we were moving class to class. But my brothers and sisters, when they were—they were in a room. You know, they didn't move for various subjects, but I thought that was pretty progressive to think about that in an elementary school at second grade, moving. You were in your room—for first grade you were kinda there. But by second grade, you're moving to the art class and you're moving over to the science class.

[01:11:35] SL: That is—that's somethin' else.

AH: And for kids that size.

SL: Yeah, 'cause I didn't get that. Through high school. Yeah.

AH: Well, that's what I'm sayin', because it's—and besides that, you're talking about having a science room equipped . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . and an art room equipped, and you didn't have that here.

SL: No, I didn't. And so that's . . .

AH: You had a shelf for art. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah. Yeah, a corner.

AH: Yeah.

SL: And so that's a pretty big difference between school systems,  
but . . .

AH: And I think that's probably Tulsa because I think Tulsa tried to  
establish itself as a cultural center to begin with. We were  
talkin' about the Phillips people. You know, Phil—the . . .

SL: Sure, Phillips Museum.

AH: The Philmont—not Philmont—well, Phillips—that Philmont is a  
Phillips home . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . out in the West that they gave to the Boy Scouts. But the  
mu—the art museum over there was a home of one of the  
Phillips that was converted to an art museum.

[01:12:32] SL: Is that the Gilcrease?

AH: No.

SL: Gilcrest?

AH: Phil—what is—we were just talkin' about . . .

Joy Endicott: Philbrook.

AH: What?

JE: Philbrook.

SL: Philbrook.

AH: Philbrook. Philbrook.

SL: Oh, thank you, Joy.

AH: Thank you. [*SL laughs*] Philbrook Art Museum, and it's just—it was beautiful. And you know, the connection—the reason I think this—because Kansas City—you know, the beautiful Spanish—what is that area of shopping up there in Kansas City? It was a part of . . .

SL: Joy would know that, too.

AH: . . . what they called a City Beautiful move, and that was done by the developers—helped come up with this idea for Philbrook. I mean, you know, for this. They wanted their downtowns to be beautiful. They wanted it to attract people. They wanted to be a cultural center. And so all of this area in—and I know that Waite Phillips was—all these people who have such money—they're together, but it's not unusual for a family to decide they want to be known. In other words, "This is what I want my life to stand for," if they want cultural opportunity. And I think they were probably the underwriters of the symphony. They were the—just like we have in this area. You have the underwriters of the symphony. You have the art museum. [*Laughs*] You have all these things, as opposed to just a cultural wasteland kind of thing.

SL: Right.

AH: And I think that they understand that to get a diversity and the different—the kinds of people you need to have together in a community make a really good community. They can't all be one kind of person, and I think that that's why they need those amenities to be able to bring in. I mean, there are people always interested in money, just per se, but to show the difference that the arts and music can make in somebody's life and in the life of a city can make a big difference. So—and the same way about, I think, a library. It's a cul—it can be a cultural center.

[01:14:40] SL: So now what year was it that you left Tulsa?

AH: [Nineteen] fifty-two.

SL: [Nineteen] fifty-two. So really . . .

AH: And I was thirteen, so really . . .

SL: Yeah, television hadn't really hit yet in Tulsa.

AH: A little bit. Actually, I think—we went down with maybe a choir or something in Tulsa to appear because they did have a television studio, and they were bringing people in. But it wasn't—and people had TVs. This is just the beginning, though.

SL: Right.

AH: As I said, my uncle had a little TV. So we got to go down and sing and that kinda thing, but it wasn't anything that you sat and

watched. And we didn't get a—I didn't—we did not have a television in our house until I was a senior in high school. Didn't have the money for it.

SL: Okay, so . . .

AH: And there probably wasn't anything [*laughs*] worth watching anyway.

SL: [*Laughs*] It was slim pickin's, I'd say. So was there anything else about—what about—were there student groups within the school system that you belonged to? Were there any . . .

AH: Not in elementary.

SL: . . . clubs?

AH: No, uh-uh.

SL: Any . . .

[01:15:51] AH: We played in the neighborhood. We rode bikes, and we played baseball, and we, you know, did our Girl Scout stuff—Scouts—that was my deal. But I don't . . .

SL: And then the Methodist church activities.

AH: And then Methodist—yeah.

SL: MYF and . . .

AH: Well, no, I wasn't old enough for MYF, and it was downtown. And we were out. That's what I'm sayin', we had to ride the bus or drive all the way downtown. It was not a—it was probably a

good thirty-minute bus ride to get to where that was. But it—  
but that's what we did. And it was fun. And we had blocks of  
time. I read a lot. And that's what I'm sayin', we weren't so  
totally organized. Things—life was not so fast that you just went  
from one activity to another the way it is today.

[01:16:42] SL: As far as the house goes, growin' up, were you  
assigned—were you responsible for certain jobs around the  
house? Were you—I mean, like, did you wash the dishes or dry  
the dishes? Did you . . .

AH: Yeah, we had chores. Yeah.

SL: Had chores. And you had to make your own bed.

AH: Oh, yeah. Sure you did, if it was gonna get . . .

SL: Well, not everyone made their own beds. Sometimes the moms  
would just do that for the children.

[01:17:06] AH: Well, my—no, Mother—my mother liked to paint, and  
she liked to do other things. My mother was a crossword  
puzzle—a cryptoquote kinda person, and she did nothing before  
that was done. So we did our stuff. And as a matter of fact,  
housework was really not her priority. And so my sister and I  
kind of took that on ourselves because when it—when we moved  
to Springdale, she started working part time, and at that point  
we all—she would let a lot of that go, and Jerre and I would say,

"Golly, we [*laughs*] need to clean this place up." I mean, you know, she wasn't—she just—but she sewed. She still was sewin' clothes. You can't do it all, and so . . .

SL: Right.

[01:17:59] AH: I never could sew that well, and so we did laundry and made our own beds, and we learned to cook. And you know, we did everything that—and we had activities, a lot of activities. And so by the time I was in high school—I told my daddy I had—was doing too many things, and I was gonna quit piano. And he said—he didn't say anything. And he said, "Well, I tell you what. I am so sorry you're so busy," but he said [*SL laughs*], "if you're that busy, I think you need to probably quit two things." And he said, "I'm gonna pick one thing. and you can pick one thing."

SL: Ooh!

AH: And I'm, like—and I never [*laughs*] questioned my daddy—he said, "I pick pep club." Well, that's where all my friends were, and you got to go to all the ball games and . . .

SL: Right. Sure.

AH: . . . basketball and cheer . . .

SL: And it took a lotta time, though . . .

AH: . . . that was where it was at. Oh, yeah. True. I mean, it got

you out for every—that's twice a week—basketball. And then football and all this stuff. And he was right. I coulda—but that's—I wanted to be there, and so I decided I had time for piano after all. [*Laughter*] So I kept it all.

SL: That's a smart guy.

AH: He was—that's what I'm sayin'. He had his mother's common sense.

SL: Yeah.

AH: He really did.

[01:19:15] SL: Okay, so before we leave Tulsa and get you into junior high school in Springdale, Arkansas, were you aware of any of the segregation or any—were there ever any signs or did you experience—did you—were you aware that things were set aside for African Americans and then there were things set aside for Caucasian folks? Was there . . .

AH: When I was little—when I grew up—I did see—and that's where I'd say I was interested in things, but I wasn't intellectually curious enough to wonder—to think about the ramifications—colored-only bathrooms and especially drinking fountains, I guess. And I guess my parents just explained that's the way it was or something if I asked anything. When my mother—we had—when she had three small children, we had a woman who

came and ironed for us 'cause Mother's mother ironed everything, and so she has this feeling that things, you know—so she—we would go—I don't know whether she rode the bus and then we took her home. I recognized that there was a difference. But you know, I—Mother had a cousin who was an Indian.

SL: Right.

[01:20:56] AH: Part Indian and he was married to a full-blooded Indian. And really, when I went in—when we went to see them, I saw the difference in terms of where—how they lived and where they lived as compared to where we lived, and we didn't live in a—I mean, our house was tidy and it—you know, we had—our neighborhood was—it was a small neighborhood, but it was a—you know, it was well kept. It was not run down. And a lot of these times when we would go, I would be really surprised at how ill kept the yards were and how run down the houses were. And I didn't really understand that. But we visited 'em anyway because they were—I mean, you know . . .

SL: They're your family.

AH: . . . we visited 'em because they were part of our family. distant part, but we visited 'em because—and I don't remember about Florence—I—what I'm sayin' is there were parts

sometimes in—some Black communities where they're segregated like that, they're better kept than some of these Indian communities. It's really—it's interesting to see. But I wasn't really aware of any of that. She was the only Black person I ever came in contact with.

[01:22:12] SL: Well, when you'd go to visit your cousins . . .

AH: In Tahlequah we saw a lot of Indians because that was a big Indian population.

SL: Yeah.

AH: At my granddad's store, there were Black families that came from Fayetteville. There was a Black family that moved out in the country over there, and they were friends of my mother's. They came to my granddaddy's funeral. So he didn't—I mean, I didn't learn—I'm just sayin' I never learned discrimination from my parents. I mean, they were very accepting, and we never—that was never brought up. That would not have been allowed by my parents to talk about—negatively—about that—about someone based on their skin. But . . .

[01:23:01] SL: So the real poverty . . .

AH: But I was clueless—and then you hit yourself sometimes thinking, "Well, why didn't I think about that?" But not in Tulsa. And I went to school with—there were—I think there were Black

children in my school in Tulsa.

SL: In Tulsa. Really?

AH: I'm tryin' to remember now. It could've just been—it was a huge junior high. I mean, I go from this little thing to—it was a big—it was a really big junior high and, you know, a three or four story building spread out and gym class and the whole thing. And I'm tryin' to remember . . .

SL: Well, now Tulsa had a race riot, didn't—I think . . .

AH: Years ago they did.

[01:23:40] SL: Yeah. So really, the real poverty that you experienced firsthand was at your cousin's.

AH: Was at—it was in an Indian—it was somebody who lived and was in a—yeah.

SL: So what did you—I mean, did you have a good time when you went to visit your cousins or . . .

AH: Well, we just went by—we probably went by—I bet you what we were doing was recycling clothes that we had outgrown because they had children. They had small children. And I bet what we were doing was taking clothes to try to help them out. And I don't remember eating there. I don't really remember staying very long. It's just that I do remember going there and thinking, "Golly, I'm glad I live in my house"—probably is what I thought.

SL: Yeah. Counted your blessings.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Well, that's a—but you know, that's good that your folks took y'all with 'em to see that.

AH: Yeah.

SL: I mean, it may have been practical to have you travel with them, and it was probably—maybe the only thing—the only real choice they had, but at the same time it was . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: In a way, it was fortuitous for you to see that.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: And your brother and . . .

[01:25:00] AH: And that was in a suburb somewhere out in Tulsa. I mean—you know, and so—no, my first experience with—where I experienced that was movin' to Springdale. And I got a job working at my—one of my best friends in Springdale was Virginia Ritter, and her dad owned AQ Chicken House. And so when we were in the tenth grade, her mom knew we needed money, and she suggested I start waiting tables. Well, when I started, there were four of us that started all at the same time. We all thought it was great fun. But what I—I'm working with older women, too and—that are waitresses. And what I discovered in the summer

were families coming through with a Black maid, and they were not allowed in the restaurant. [01:25:55] And they would come in and say, "Well, you know, we have a maid with us out in the car. Can somebody go take her order?" And the response from most of them was, "I ain't waitin' on no nigger." And I couldn't believe it. And I said, "Well, I'll go do it." And so that's when I got my . . .

SL: Dose.

AH: . . . dose of—and really thinking, "My gosh, they're comin' in, eating this nice meal and this woman—and she can't come in and use the bathroom, either." And those were some of the stories I remember reading about with Lyndon Johnson, traveling with his Black staff.

SL: Yep.

AH: And they couldn't eat, and they couldn't use the restroom. And how humiliating that must be to have to—I mean, what do you do? It was terrible.

SL: Goin' down the road.

AH: I'll never forget that. And so I became the person that they, you know, they'd send—they'd let me go out, but they would not do it. These older women that were not gonna do it.

[01:27:00] SL: Do you think that cost you anything relationship-

wise?

AH: Well, if it did, I—you know, the ones that it might . . .

SL: You were oblivious to it.

AH: I'm oblivious to a lotta things because it doesn't—they were not my friends, they were coworkers. And generally, I could make more—as much [*laughs*] or more as they could 'cause I was a—I learned I could support myself as a waitress. I learned right then and there that I could always take care of myself. I can. I mean, I put myself through high school—I mean, through coll—high school and college and spent two summers in New Jersey working on the Jersey Shore. And I had an education there, too, and it was all doing waitress work. And you just met so many kinds of people, and I'd—I just—everywhere I went I just learned so many things and met so many nice people, so . . .

[01:27:56] SL: Well, let's talk about the difference between Tulsa and Springdale Schools. You—by the time you get to Tulsa, you are in junior high school, right? So you're already moving to from class to class.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: But your younger brother and sister . . .

AH: Are in another school.

SL: They're in an elementary school, and they're staying in one

classroom, so that's one difference. I would assume that Springdale High School was—or in junior high was much smaller than the one in Tulsa?

AH: Springdale—oh, yeah. Oh, yes, and the junior high was—well, I guess—I don't know if they've torn that one down or not. I taught there after I finished my master's. I mean, I [*laughs*] taught in the school I went to. It was an old building, and it had a home-ec thing outside, but you could go—and you did go from room to room. I don't remember that the science—there wasn't much of a science curriculum. They had a pretty good math. I took through trig in high school. But in junior high—I just remember probably forty or forty-five kids each room.

SL: Yep.

[01:29:10] AH: I was lucky to come in February because I got introduced as the new student, so they all knew who I was, but I didn't have a clue who anybody else was. But the woman—the man whose—built the house—the only house that was for sale in Springdale [*SL laughs*] was a two-bedroom, one-bath house, and his daughter was my age. And he told her, "Now, you look out. This family is moving here." And she came up to me that very first day, and she introduced me to her three or four friends, and to this day, we are still having lunch maybe once a month

together because we became fast friends, and they were all really good people. And I was just lucky that I came into a group of women, girls, who accepted me. And we belonged to the Methodist church and—well, one of 'em was a Baptist, but most of us were in the Methodist church, and they could walk to school, and they could walk to their church because they lived more downtown. And they took me in, and I just feel—I mean, you know, it just made a big difference in the whole thing.

[01:30:16] SL: Yeah, because you didn't want to have anything to do with Springdale, Arkansas, before you left Tulsa. You . . .

AH: Hm-mm, 'cause I had some good friends in Tulsa but . . .

SL: Now, what was it you told your father when you . . .

AH: That I just was gonna live with my aunt and uncle, and that I would see them when [*laughs*] I graduated from high school.

[*Laughter*] Which were—I remember—I remind myself this when I've got these preteens because they don't care. Your family is not as important to you. It becomes—your friends . . .

SL: Sure.

AH: . . . become your family, and I was just lucky that my friends had good families and they kept an eye—and we kept an eye on each other and looked out for each other and did a lotta things together. And it was really—and they were all focused on

academics.

SL: Yeah, it leaves the . . .

AH: We may as well because we didn't . . .

SL: The girls you met here in Springdale, Arkansas.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: But you had plenty of friends in Tulsa that you'd already had all your life, and you were familiar with that. You didn't want to leave that behind.

[01:31:16] AH: Well, actually just really maybe—you know, eight or nine years, which is not all-your-life kind of thing, you know.

SL: Yeah.

AH: But I did have good friends, and we used to go back and visit them. But you know, Tulsa was then three hours away. We didn't have . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . that bypass and, you know, you had to go through Locust Grove and risk your life and [*SL laughs*—I mean, you know, you think about how windy those roads were.

SL: Yeah.

AH: I rode the bus over every once in a while to see friends, but it didn't take long for me to be totally happy. And my brother made friends, and my sister has good friends.

[01:31:53] SL: Now was the house in Springdale, Arkansas—was it a nicer house than the one you had in Tulsa?

AH: [*Laughs*] It was smaller.

SL: It was smaller.

AH: It was new.

SL: It was new, but it was smaller.

AH: But it was—as I said, there was a bathroom and my parents and my sister and I shared. My brother took the little tiny dining room, and we put bunk beds in there. And he was at the front, and we had a kitchen and a little laundry room, and then there's one big room. That was it.

[01:32:21] SL: And so now, what was your father doing in Springdale, Arkansas?

AH: He was the accountant for a new poultry firm that had gotten started by people that he used to teach. And they set about—they decided they were gonna open their own poultry processing firm. And I can . . .

SL: And what . . .

AH: In Springdale, and it was called Springdale Farms.

SL: Right. Kay.

AH: And they needed somebody to do their accounting for them.

They had gotten big enough. So that's the other thing—that I

worked—I went out to that plant. I—we saw—we knew all about chicken processing. [*Laughs*] And then they built a big new plant, which I think eventually George's bought when they sold. But he went to work for them, and Mother went to work for Rudy Moore's dad—Margaret's—Margaret Whillock's dad in the—she was a bookkeeper at the jo—what was Joyce's Drug, and he was the pharmacist there, and he owned it for a while.

[01:33:28] SL: Small world.

AH: So Margaret's—I mean, I've known—Rudy and my brother are the same age. And then Margaret was already—I don't know whether she was in—six—she was probably in college. Just started college when I moved there.

SL: So . . .

AH: I used to babysit her aunt, who lived at home. Her mother took care of them, and so when they went out, they had to get somebody to take care of her. I used to take care of her.

[01:34:02] SL: So I'm tryin' to—so your mother was working for Rudy Moore's father . . .

AH: Mh-hmm. As a bookkeeper.

SL: As a bookkeeper.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: So the accounting side of your family was [*laughs*—both mom

and dad were doing that.

AH: Mh-hmm.

[01:34:22] SL: And I mean, what prompted him to—was it just a better pay over here in Springdale?

AH: I think that he was tired of not seeing his kids and being in—the larger the city, the more your commute time. And I think that he thought by moving over there and being with people that he knew and trusted, that he felt that he could make an impact on a starting business as opposed to being a cog in a huge Texaco thing. And I think he just made a decision that it was probably better health-wise, because he was working so much, and it would give us all an opportunity to experience life in a smaller town, which he thought would give us more freedom. I mean, I think he was happy with some of the things that we got over there, but he didn't see us. And my dad really loved children. He loved young people and I—it was really good for us because, as I said, we didn't see Dad but maybe Saturday night and maybe—and on Sunday. And the rest of the time he was at work. So that's not much of a—an opportunity to do things like that.

[01:35:28] SL: You know, the—really, the only—I think the only thing that we've—that you've kind of semi-quoted—paraphrased

your dad on was this choice of dropping one thing or two things. And I usually ask this a little earlier in the interview. But was there a particular conversation or is there—was there a moment you had with your father that has really stuck with you? I mean . . .

AH: Oh, absolutely. Dad would take me out if he thought I was having—he would take me out for lunch. In other words, we'd go have a private kind of a get together. But all I can—the thing probably that made the most impression on Dad—Dad was always about getting your education. He didn't think you could have too much. And he said—and it took me years—and I don't know why I didn't ever figure that out for a long time—"Get an education. They can't take that away from you." And I'm, like, "Who is they? Why would they want to"—but, you know, then later on it dawned on me. The most at-risk people are women who drop out of high school who don't have an education. They have their children. They don't have an education. They can't get a better job, and they're at high risk of not being able to get a better job, and so they took away—I mean, the husband is gone. They're divorced. The income is gone. They can take your house. They can take your money. They can take your husband. They can do this—they, meaning the court system, I

guess, is what he was talkin' about—but if you have an education, you can pick yourself up and start your life over again. You can do it without an education, too, but it's easier if you have already gotten it. So he was tryin' to teach me, "Make your choices so that you can get your education because that will always stand you in good stead." That was somethin' that was easy for me to buy into because—then I married a man who felt even more strongly. [*Laughs*] So . . .

[01:37:27] SL: Well, you know, he—don't you think he was also—and just in the—maybe a little—this may be a little too ethereal, but don't you think that he's saying that once you have an education—once you've learned something—you don't really lose it. I mean, it . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . stays with you. And it kind of prepares you in ways that would not be available to you without having gone through an education. I mean, it takes a certain amount of stamina and will and focus to get an education.

AH: Yeah, well that's what I . . .

SL: And it's not something you just go out and buy and—you know . . .

AH: No, it's . . .

SL: . . . use it for a while like a bicycle. I mean, it's something that, you know, that sticks with you and serves you well, even—maybe not even in job-related areas. Just in life.

[01:38:24] AH: Oh, it's human relations.

SL: Yeah.

AH: That's what I'm sayin', and I think . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . that is the whole—I learned so much on my—I mean, that was when I was working at AQ. He'd say, "Well, I think I'm gonna come out and have a cup of coffee with you." I'd have a break, a fifteen-minute break, and he would come out. But mainly what he was sayin'—'cause I was makin' good money as a waitress out there, you know, during ball-game weekends. Oh my goodness, you could make a lotta money and—'cause I worked every weekend—ball games on Saturdays and Sundays and, you know, that kinda thing. Long shifts, and it's tiring, but that's how I made my money to go to school and pay my books and tuition. And most of the time I lived at home and commuted. So I think he was tryin' to make sure that I stayed [*laughs*] focused on education 'cause he's seen people get sidetracked by—I mean, they're all—a lot of these women working there, but they wouldn't ever see themselves going to

school part-time. There probably weren't many opportunities, though. Today—my goodness, if you look at the community college and the vo-tech—I mean, there are so many things that people can do. But most people—a lotta people do not think—they don't value education 'cause they don't have—they may value it, but they don't value it the same way that other people do, I guess. And if they saw how much better their lives could be for themselves and their children—many of them are going back with single parent, you know, and that kind of thing. But others get—are just stuck. And you feel bad that they can't get unstuck and help themselves but . . .

[01:40:01] SL: So your father was basically—always emphasized that it was the education thing that was gonna make . . .

AH: And he was always an encourager. He never—I mean, he never—he just was an encourager and soft spoken, and he really didn't lecture that much. Really, he didn't. That's when you say that. I mean, you know, like Morriss has certain things that he says—and the kids, when they were growin' up [*laughs*], they'd say, "One-seventeen. Can we just number it, Dad? We already know this one." [*Laughter*] "Lecture number twenty-two." [*Laughter*] You know, they would—and it would really irritate him, but he just kept repeating. And I'm sure it's the same

thing his dad did—the certain things that they were tryin' to drill into you, and Daddy didn't do that. He did it more by example than he did anything else. So . . .

[01:40:53] SL: Okay. If you think of anything—if you think of or remember a conversation that you had with your dad that was particularly important at the time or that has kinda stuck with you, why, you can bring it up any time.

AH: Okay.

SL: I mean, I'm—we're . . .

AH: Okay.

SL: . . . kinda loosely going in a . . .

AH: Okay.

SL: . . . chronological order . . .

AH: Okay.

SL: . . . here.

AH: Okay.

[01:41:14] SL: But this kinda stuff, the relationships that you had with your mother and your dad, that—I think we can bounce back and forth as much as you want to on that. So now I'm gonna ask you about any conversations or moments that you had with your mother. [AH laughs] And you know, for instance, for me—I always remember my mother in the kitchen. You

know, I mean there was always a cake on the stove. Every day there—she was always doing dishes. She was always feeding people. You know, it was—I mean, I just remember that from the very beginning. What about you and your mom? What was the—what did she do or say to you that kinda . . .

[01:41:56] AH: Well, I think I'm gonna have to say that boys and their moms [*SL laughs*] have a different relationship than girls and their moms.

SL: Well, sure they do. As dads and their boys and . . .

AH: As dads and their boys.

SL: . . . dads and their girls.

AH: And that's what I'm saying . . .

SL: Yeah. Yeah.

AH: . . . that Mother was the one who had most of the—she would try to—she would discipline. But Daddy was kinda like her dad. I can remember my grandmother sayin', "Now, Charlie, talk to the boys. Say somethin' to the boys." And he'll say, "Well, hello there, boys. How are you doin' today?" [*SL laughs*] I mean, you know, she's sayin'—she didn't like their behavior, and she's tryin' to get him to take some responsibility and chastise them, and he just wouldn't do it. He thought it was—she was bein' too picky, I guess. And so Mother had that same tendency because

we tend to do a lot of the same things that our parents did. You know, we can't—"Oh, I am my mother after all," kinda thing, you know.

SL: Yeah.

[01:42:49] AH: And [*SL laughs*] my mother worked—after she quit—I don't remember now when that drugstore was sold, but she went to work full-time for a general practitioner and then another one. There were two of 'em in together. She worked full-time for a doctor, and you know, really, she should've—she could've done it. She could've been a doctor. She was smart. She kept all those—she knew all those drugs. She knew—and honey, it's a miracle we didn't all die 'cause she'd say, "You don't feel—well, here, take"—she'd bring home samples. [*Laughs*]

SL: Sure.

[01:43:25] AH: And—so—I mean, but she worked full-time by then, and so we got along pretty well, but she and my sister were more of a—had more—my sister was much more headstrong. And she and Mother would get into it, and she would say really mean things sometimes. [*Laughs*] And I would say, "Oh, don't talk to Mama like that." [*Laughs*] I guess it's that switching that I got from Daddy. I didn't want that going on. But Mother and I got along well, but I don't remember—my dad was much

more of an influence on me than my mother. Her mother was the influence on me. She rebelled against her mother. I liked my grandmother's organization, her ideas. [01:44:09] She was interested in learning about everything. She had taught my mother how to paint and sew and do all these other things, and I couldn't do any of that. I wasn't gonna compete with Mother on any of that. And so, consequently, I gravitated toward her mother, and Mother and I got along fine. I just told her what a great job she did on everything [*laughter*], and I didn't try to compete with her, so it didn't bother me. She probably was frustrated with me that I—she tried to teach me to sew, but then she'd say, "Oh, just let me do that. I just—you're just not doin' that right." [*SL laughs*] So I couldn't do it to please her and so I—you know, but we got along fine. It's just that I was never—mine was more education, and hers was not, and that's probably the family thing. But I loved her mother because she just seemed to me like she could do anything. She was organized, and she had lots of energy, and she could just—she just went after everything. And then my dad was my influence, primarily, in education and wanting me to—and I—and you know, the teaching was something that I'd always wanted to do, so that was really the—more the influence for me.

[01:45:24] SL: Okay. Now, we've mentioned a couple of things that I want to go back to. First of all, I think we need to spend a little more time at AQ Chicken and . . .

AH: Well, I spent a lotta time there.

SL: Well, you know, it's kind of a remarkable place. I . . .

AH: It was my introduction to politics.

SL: Exactly. I mean . . .

[01:45:44] AH: I waited—I—they thought I was young and dumb and didn't know anything. I was, like, [*laughs*] fifteen or sixteen. And back in The Yard, which was, you know, built later on. You know, they had the main room, and then they had the—this and then they built a glass-enclosed thing, and they had The Roost, this little tiny place over there. Well, I could work 'em all. But that's when Faubus was running, and Roy Ritter, as you know, was an appointee of Faubus to two—he had a ten-year term on the board of trustees, and then he had another ten-year term. And I—it could've been Faubus 'cause Faubus was in so long. And you know, when Bumpers—his twenty years was up, and Morriss was in the legislature by then, and he—I remember so well. He called, and he wanted Morriss to get Bumpers to appoint him to a third ten-year term on the board. But see, he only had an eighth-grade education, so look about what that

meant to him. That interesting.

[01:46:44] SL: That is interesting. So let's see . . .

AH: So I waited on Orval Faubus and Rolla Fitch and all these people that were organizing that campaign, and then I also met Alta—you know, when she had her little braids, and then Dixie Cain was her little friend. I mean it was really interesting. I waited on all these different people. And he had been very involved in poultry politics, and they're—like, in AQ there's a big picture of Alvin Barkley signed, who was vice-president, you know, to Roy Ritter. So he was a self-made man, you know, big guy. And his wife was a big influence on me. She was the [AH edit: Alberta. She was a big influence on me because she encouraged me to work as a waitress at AQ] . . .

SL: World War II veteran, right?

AH: Mh-hmm. Oh, Roy?

SL: Yeah.

AH: Roy never served.

SL: He never served?

AH: I don't think so.

SL: Seems like . . .

AH: Well, you could—I could be wrong. [AH edit: Confirmed Roy Ritter was not a vet.]

SL: I might be wrong on that, too.

[01:47:39] AH: I—he was just the mother—he was just a father, and I can remember he took us one time in his big ol' black car, and we went over to see a man about a dog. [*Laughter*] That's what—men always said that. And it was to go see Rolla Fitch about somethin' over in Huntsville. Anyway, out in his town. So I got to do that, but I also got very proficient. And that's when John Tyler Caldwell was president of the university, and he and his family would come out—remember, nothing was—no food in the dorms on Sunday night. Remember, everything was closed down and . . .

SL: I kinda remember.

AH: . . . everybody lived in a dorm . . .

SL: Yes, I do remember that now.

AH: . . . so everybody went out on Sunday night.

SL: Yeah.

[01:48:19] AH: So I met a lotta people, and many of them were very nice. I also saw church people who were so drunk on Saturday night that [*laughs*] they fell over in their hot—in their fried chicken plate, and I was appalled. It was really—you know, you learn a lot by getting out and watching people and how they live their regular lives as opposed to their . . .

SL: Well, you know, you had . . .

AH: . . . Sunday life.

SL: You had AQ chicken. You had Heinie's, right?

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: There was Mary Maestri's.

AH: There was another chicken place, too, at the other end, and one of our friends worked at the other chicken place. It was at the other end where that—really, more where Sam's was in Springdale, but it's that curve thing, you know, where there was things kinda come together.

SL: Yeah, I'm tryin' to remember what that was.

AH: I don't remember the name of it. You had Heinie's Steakhouse.

SL: You had Mary Maestri's—still—I mean, back then . . .

[01:49:13] AH: And you had—well . . .

SL: The Venesian Inn.

AH: . . . you had the Venesian Inn, too.

SL: Yeah. And that was pretty much the top of the top. I mean, that was . . .

AH: Yeah, people came more to Springdale to eat than they did . . .

SL: That's right.

AH: 'Cause you had only the—we didn't come to Fayetteville to eat, so . . .

SL: Yeah, I'm tryin' to remember . . .

AH: . . . we'd go to Tonitown to the Venesian Inn . . .

SL: Venesian Inn.

AH: . . . primarily.

SL: Also—and here's . . .

AH: It was less expensive. The Venesian Inn was less expensive.

[01:49:40] SL: Number nine, rare. [*Laughs*] Well, you know, the other thing that you mentioned was game weekends. Now that has to be a contrast between your time in Tulsa and your time in Arkansas. All of a sudden you—were you even aware of the Razorbacks when you . . .

AH: Oh, heck no.

SL: . . . in Tulsa?

AH: Hm-mm.

SL: But when you get here, it's like . . .

AH: Well, your life—once you start working in a restaurant, your life is organized around game weekends. And my life has pretty well been organized around game weekends until maybe five years ago when I decided I really didn't care about football.

[*Laughter*] But I mean, you know, I'm just sayin' that—you know, it's traffic. It's goin' to the grocery store. It is people comin' from out of town. You know, but it's—in those times it

was games—people coming. They were still coming then, in the [19]50s—late [19]55, [19]56—somewhere along in there. And huge crowds. And you know, it'd be midnight sometimes before I'd get home—exhausted but—and—'cause that—I—sometimes you'd work a split shift. You'd work in the—some that would come in the mornings and then leave 'cause the game would start at two. And then you'd come back at four-thirty to get ready for what came after the game.

SL: After the game.

[01:50:57] AH: Yeah. And if they won, that's when people—or if they lost—depending on how you—I'm still amazed that people allow their emotional lives to be controlled by [*SL laughs*] eighteen-year-old boys. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, you know, I can't promise you that it's—I'm not really immune to that myself. I mean, I get—I feel for them whenever they lose, and I'm elated when they win.

AH: I know, but there are people that are just . . .

SL: I know, it ruins their day. [*Laughs*]

AH: They—it ruins their week. [*SL laughs*] It ruins their year. I mean—you know, I mean, life is too short to have that happen.

SL: I know.

AH: But still.

SL: They get angry over it. Yeah.

AH: Yeah. That's right. But it's easier as you get older. You can—you get—you learn to temper your [*SL laughs*—I can remember that was—you know, basketball games were my—the way I remained sane when Morriss was in the legislature and I was at home with three kids and workin' full time, man, that could—I said, "You can go and scream and yell and they won't commit you." [*Laughter*]

[01:51:55] SL: So let's see, that would've been—that was Eddie Sutton days, then, I guess, or . . .

AH: Oh, no—in the [19]50s?

SL: Oh.

AH: That was Glen Rose.

SL: Glen Rose. So we're playing in Barnhill Arena with the dirt floor and the . . .

AH: And when we first married . . .

SL: . . . basketball floor brought in . . .

AH: . . . we did go to see some of those Glen Rose games, and there was nobody there.

SL: Right.

AH: When I was in graduate school I did that with some friends and hardly anybody was there.

SL: Tryin' to remember . . .

AH: Lanny Van Eman . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . came first.

SL: That's right. That's right.

AH: Remember?

SL: Yep.

AH: Yeah, and then Sutton.

[01:52:32] SL: Well, it's just amazing how the whole Razorback sports thing—it's a statewide thing over here and it . . .

AH: And it just used to be football.

SL: Right.

AH: So look at it now.

SL: I know.

AH: It is absolutely amazing.

[01:52:46] SL: It is. It is. Well, okay—so you are making good money in an icon restaurant.

AH: Relatively speaking. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, relatively speaking.

AH: But I mean—for—yeah . . .

SL: It got you through school.

AH: Oh, it sure did. It bought my books, bought my clothes—the

whole thing. Sure did.

SL: All right, so let's ta . . .

AH: Gave me independence from my parents, and I paid them rent.

SL: You paid them rent?

AH: I did. I paid them rent. Not much, but I felt like—you know, they were still puttin' two other kids through school and my daughter—my sister was in a—you know, this is when I was in college, I still worked at the—on weekends, and that's when I felt like, "Well, I'm not payin'"—I then learned, you know, the tuition—you know, the—what you paid—I went to Holcolmbe Hall for a year my freshman year . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . and then I moved home after that, and I think I lived one semester after that on campus, and the rest of the time I commuted.

[01:53:49] SL: So you just kind of volunteered the rent to your parents.

AH: Yeah, I did, because I understood that—you know, they're both still working, but my brother would be starting college, and I don't know where he's gonna go. And my sister's gone to a private college, and she's getting some assistance, but it's—it had to be a struggle. My dad never talked about it, but I just

knew enough about money to understand—"Whoa, this is what it costs, and now I'm stayin' at home, but I can still help out this way." So I did pay some, and when I finished my master's I paid regular—the cost of—considerably more, and I went home and lived for a semester.

[01:54:32] SL: Well, before we get into college, let's talk a little bit about Springdale High School and that culture. I'm sure it was different than—well, you didn't really have a high school experience in Tulsa, but smaller school . . .

AH: Smaller school.

SL: . . . smaller town.

AH: Organized around the football team and the basketball—and a lot more basketball in high school. So there were at least two sports. Women—no sports for women to play. They were not allowed to—didn't have any teams. They did—they used to have a girls' basketball team, but when we were in the eighth grade they did away with that. So—not that I would've played basketball, but I had friends who were tall and wanted to play basketball. But you know, there was a pep squad. There were cheerleaders. There was homecoming. I mean, you know . . .

SL: There was a band.

[01:55:25] AH: There was a band.

SL: Marching band.

AH: I didn't do band. Actually, I used to do the stencils. I worked for the band director, who was my neighbor, drawing—doing the stencils . . .

SL: For the bass drums and . . .

AH: For the—how they were to do their stuff and . . .

SL: Oh.

AH: . . . ran 'em off on the stencil machine so that he could pass 'em out and know, "This is where you stand, and this is how we're gonna go," and that kinda—so I learned how to run a stencil machine, so . . .

[01:55:49] SL: Okay, now wait a minute. Stencil machine . . .

AH: [*Laughter*] You typed on this, and it went through on the other side, and then you put it around this big drum thing.

SL: Yes.

AH: And it had ink—you inked it . . .

SL: Yes.

AH: . . . and then you had your paper down here. And you ran it around, and that was the copy machine. It was the stencil machine.

SL: Yes. I . . .

AH: And you could run off . . .

SL: Was it called something else besides stencil machine, though?

I . . .

AH: I called it a stencil 'cause I had to . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . work on it and some—it's typed, but sometimes I had to draw on it. But my neighbor got me into doin' that. But I was in the pep squad, and I played the piano, and I was involved in MYF. And I was a library helper, and I was a—oh, I don't know—had a wonderful eleventh-grade English teacher who took it upon herself to get together what she called—it's interesting—cream of the crop.

SL: Okay.

[01:56:50] AH: I guess they picked the better students. And it happened to be most of my friends. [*Laughter*] And there were two men in my class—I mean, in this class. And they would all kind of—we knew each other, and most of us ran around together. And she took us and wanted to talk to us about furthering our education and goals and that kinda thing. And it was really—a teacher got you together separately outside of class. That made a big impact, I think—at least on me. I still remember Mrs. Castleberry. I still remember that meeting. So again, a teaching moment kind of thing. One of the boys was

Bob Shaw.

SL: Willis Shaw? [AH edit: Willis Shaw was Bob Shaw's father.]

AH: Yeah, I just loved Bob. He and I graduated—and then Dan Moore. He went on to become a physician. And the rest of us did different things, but I would say most of the—our high school class stayed in Springdale. They went into the service. Some went to college. Not many. Many took jobs at the local factories. And so I just feel very blessed that she kinda—not that I—I don't think I would've done that, but I'm just sayin' that she made you feel—my parents never talked about bein' really smart. "You're so smart." I hear parents all the time—"Oh, you were so smart, and you could do"—my parents never told me that. They had high expectations, but they never said—they never puffed you up and made you [*laughs*] feel like you were really . . .

[01:58:18] SL: But you were a good student.

AH: Sure, I was a good student.

SL: I mean, you mentioned that—this cream-of-the-crop idea and—  
or group. You were in a group of friends that were all pretty  
good students. Is that . . .

AH: Yeah, we all studied. You know, we wanted good grades.

SL: It's . . .

AH: We were good little girls. [*Laughs*] All the girls—a lot of the girls—no, not all the girls—some of the girls were out doing other things and—but it's interesting. No, we all made our grades. One went to van—one of my friends went to Vanderbilt and became a nurse. Another one—her parents did not believe in education. She had to go to—"You'll never do anything but be a secretary."

SL: Wow.

[01:59:04] AH: And she was probably one of the smartest ones.

And you know what? After she married and had kids, she went back and went—got a college degree for herself. But her parents both pooh-poohed. "You don't need to go to college."

SL: Well . . .

AH: Which is—you—you're right. You don't have to. You don't need to, but it's a—for us it was a good idea. And then Mary Eidson Tune was another person who—and she went to the university and graduated in accounting.

SL: Ibson Tune?

AH: Eidson.

SL: Eidson.

[01:59:38] AH: *E-I-D*. It was **Eidson Lumber Company** in

Springdale. So then there were a couple of others that went—

and there was a friend of mine that didn't have any money, but she managed to go to the university and graduated and became a counselor. So—and I have one friend who's a funeral director. She married a funeral guy, and she decided that she would become licensed. And so we have a variety of . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] You have a lot of services available to you still.

AH: Services available. Course, she's not here in town, but I'm just sayin' that it's just interesting to see the—what the women went into. And that to me was always so sad. And maybe in a way that made me really appreciate my parents when you've got a—another set of parents saying, "You'll never be anything but a secretary. Women are secretaries. Our mother was and"—I just—that made an impact on me.

SL: So . . .

TM: Scott, we need to change tapes.

SL: Okay. Hour two.

[Tape stopped]

[02:00:42] SL: Okay. Well—so, Ann, this is our third tape. We're starting our third hour, and you're still looking well. Haven't beaten you down too badly. [*Laughter*]

AH: No.

SL: You were just lamenting that in our talk so far we just got you to

age seventeen.

AH: That's right. [*Laughs*]

SL: So—but again, I feel like all this early stuff kinda sets the stage and goes a long way of kind of seeing how you took what you were given and what you worked on and how you got to where you are now.

AH: M'kay.

SL: So I like this early stuff, and I think—also, you have to kinda keep in mind—we really want this to be available to Arkansas public school children [*camera clicks*], high school students and junior high school students and maybe someday first graders. You know, Texas teaches Texas history from first grade through twelfth grade. So you know, we'd like for . . .

AH: Yeah, to . . .

SL: . . . the kids growin' up . . .

AH: . . . move it on down.

SL: . . . to know what Arkansas . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . was like and . . .

[02:01:43] AH: You know, the public schools here are having their students—they interview their grandparents and . . .

SL: Which is priceless.

AH: Which is really so interesting. Twentieth-century class, I think, is what they take in sixth grade now. And I was interviewed by my—one of my sixth graders about my experiences in certain areas. It was really interesting.

SL: Well . . .

AH: It's great 'cause it opens up the discussion about the way things have changed and what they experience and . . .

SL: Well, I promise you, that grandchild will never forget that interview.

AH: Oh, I—well . . .

SL: They'll—that will stick with them forever.

AH: I . . .

SL: I can't tell you how many people come to me and say, "I wish" . . .

AH: Oh, I know.

SL: . . . "that I'd sat down with my parents" or "I wish that I'd sat down with my grandparent and just recorded."

[02:02:38] AH: You know, there are—some families have such a verbal oral history within, and that is the interesting thing that—I think Morriss's family has a—they have a family reunion of five brothers and their descendants from the original—oh well, anyway, from the—when they got started years ago. And I

know that history better than Morriss knows that history. [*SL laughs*] But it's—part of it, we've helped try to pass along, you know, what our family stands for and what we hope to transmit and what our history is, not from the point of view of, you know, being in clubs that go back a long way or something, but . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . just kind of an appreciation for the different kinds of people and for the kinds of things you do and that kinda thing. It's really been a very interesting voyage for me because our families didn't do the kind—when they have a reunion, you know, they have some of the genealogy put together and this kind of thing. And in fact, one year one of Morriss's cousins—they all decided they wanted to go to Scotland and Ireland, because Scotland is—was where his family came from. The Hendry part—kind of thing. And that was just—there were, I think, twenty-five of us that made this trip, all together. It was just so much fun and to get to do some sightseeing. And we went to the Ireland—Erin—the Isle of Erin, which is where they were told to leave. You know, [*laughs*]*—the kings—they take over land and you—and when they tell you leave, you have to leave. And that's when they emigrated to the United States.*

[02:04:26] So it's really—it was very interesting. You found the

old—you know, the old tombstones and on this lovely island, which has a distillery that produces something very akin to Bailey's Irish Cream. [*Laughter*] And they call it Angel something or—it was really interesting. It was a monk thing, you know. I just thought it was really—I would never have known that had we not gone to Ireland and Scotland.

SL: Those monks are good at makin' that kind of stuff.

AH: They're good about makin' a lotta different things, aren't they?

SL: Yes, yes.

AH: So . . .

[02:05:06] SL: Okay, so we had been talking about this one school—high school teacher—Castleberry . . .

AH: Miss Castleberry. Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . that took a group of students that she kinda hand picked and really met with them outside of the school to really kinda talk about life and what they could do with their abilities that she had seen.

AH: Mh-hmm. She really challenged us to take what we had and to use it in a positive way and to go on and get our education and that kinda thing. And it was just a—it was really a—you know, it made me feel very special. Your dad—you know, your parents are supposed to tell you stuff like that. That's why I try to make

a point of telling other kids—other parents' children about their children—tell their children because they—if their parents tell 'em that, that's what they're supposed to do. Not all—they don't always do it but it—I think it means more to come—coming from outside sometimes.

SL: Sure it does.

AH: So . . .

SL: Sure it does—at least initially, it does.

AH: Yeah.

[02:06:17] SL: Yeah. So Springdale High School and Fayetteville High School have always this athletic football—back in the day, football was the big rivalry. And do you remember attending Fayetteville High School/Springdale High School football games?

AH: Yeah, I—I'm sure—yes, I do. We rode the bus, and we would come up here and go to the games. But you know, you're right, it's the rivalry. And then when they would come down there, that was a big—you know, that kinda thing—but we had other rivals, but everybody wanted to beat—I mean, you know, that was what a lotta people really wanted to beat Fayetteville. And part of that is based on Springdale's kind of self-esteem issue that, you know, we're just a chicken town kinda thing, and Fayetteville thinks they're so good with the university kinda

thing. You know, that's a part of it. I mean, definitely, that was—Fayetteville was different, but I was in Fayetteville so little before I—you know, we would come for games, but literally we didn't really come down here and do much of anything.

[02:07:38] Occasionally we might drive down to—hmm—maybe Jug Wheeler's.

SL: Ah, Jug Wheeler's.

AH: Or you know, just—but really, that's where—we were kinda forewarned that those were university people, and you had to be careful, and you know, you didn't get—we kinda went out as a group. We never really—and I never had been to a bar before. Never—I—probably I was in—way in college before I ever even went to the Rockwood Club. So that was just not anything. I was not a—I'm not a carouser. [*Laughs*]

[02:08:13] SL: Well, so you graduate from Springdale High School, and you did well in Springdale High School?

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Do—As and Bs, I would guess or . . .

AH: I'd say—yeah, mostly As, but not straight 4.0, but in the top ten of my class.

SL: Wow, that's quite . . .

AH: But there were only [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Congratulations.

AH: . . . 117 people, so . . .

SL: Yeah, but still . . .

AH: Well, you know . . .

SL: . . . that's still something to be proud of.

AH: But still not . . .

SL: And when you. . .

[02:08:43] AH: But we had the system that if you had all As or, you know, you got a certain percentage, then you didn't have to take final exams. Well, now how do you think that prepared you for college? Not.

SL: Well, yeah, 'cause you didn't know how to take a test.

AH: Hm-mm. Exemption. You were exempt from the . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . finals if you maintained your grades.

SL: Meant the teacher didn't have to grade that paper . . .

AH: Well, it meant a lotta things.

SL: . . . basically.

[02:09:08] AH: But I'm just sayin' that—one year they quit—you could go off campus to get food, and then they took that away. And so there were some kids—older—I was probably a junior—and they organized a protest.

SL: Really? In the [19]50s.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Wow.

AH: And their—and everybody that was in that protest was not exempt. And guess whose name was on that list? Mine. And I wasn't there, but obviously I had made a reputation for [laughter] being not exactly go-along, I guess. Anyway, I went. I still had to take my test, but it really made—I went to the superintendent to complain because I didn't think that was right, because I'm—you know, I said, "I'm not lying. I was not there. I do not know who turned me"—"Well, somebody said they thought they saw me"—kinda thing, and that just—that's an experience that'll make an impression on you, too. So was that an enemy? I never figured out who it was. There's not any way you can do that. But what can you do?

SL: Guilty.

AH: So . . .

SL: You're guilty.

AH: I'm guilty. [Laughter]

[02:10:27] SL: Okay, so did you know your senior year that you were gonna go to the University of Arkansas?

AH: I didn't even apply anywhere else. I just felt like I could—it was

a univer—state university. It was affordable. It was close by. And I applied to the university and, course, I got in. And I s—I got to stay on campus the first year, and I stayed in Holcombe Hall, which was . . .

SL: New then.

AH: It's still there. It was relatively new.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And there was an influx of students, and that year there weren't enough, and they put people in the old Mountain Inn downtown—I mean, not Mountain Inn. What was the name of that ho—Washington Hotel was on the square where GCM Computers and all that stuff is now. And they had students housed uptown in the hotel because they didn't have enough room in the dorms. And that's when they were—they had not built ho—the two big—you know, Reid or . . .

SL: And Fulbright.

AH: Fulbright. Fulbright was . . .

SL: Hotz. Fulbright.

AH: . . . in the process of being built, but it wasn't open yet.

[02:11:33] SL: So this is nineteen fifty- . . .

AH: Seven.

SL: . . . seven.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: So there's all kinds of things that are going on in 1957.

AH: And I was clueless about them because we took the *Tulsa World*, and they didn't really—and I had no idea—I mean, I'm under—why did I not know about the . . .

SL: Crisis in Little Rock.

AH: . . . crisis in Little Rock? And some of the ones [*laughs*—I'm just sayin', I was clueless, and I didn't know that you—I found out you didn't have to go to class. You got three cuts. [*Laughs*] I could not go to—I mean, it's those choices that you get to make, and I made some bad ones, I guess. Because then what happened—there was a flu epidemic. And so if you already missed your three and then you got sick, it—you know . . .

SL: It's trouble.

AH: . . . it's three-no-matter-what kinda thing. So—and then learning to live with a roommate who was a slob and—you know, it was a—really a challenging time for me to adapt to meeting all these new people and living in a dorm. And all different kinds of people from all over the state, and it was really a—and it was just me. I was the only person that I knew in that dorm. I mean, nobody from Springdale was in that dorm. But I met a lotta people, and I managed to survive my first [*laughs*]

semester. And then managed to survive my *[laughs]* second semester. I mean, by managed to survive—I mean, I didn't make—you know, I made probably a B minus, C plus average.

SL: That's . . .

[02:13:28] AH: Not anything to write home about, but that was—part of it was you just didn't have the study habits. You didn't—you know, it was just a whole new thing to adjust to. And taking responsibility for yourself when you've been in a regular mode of, "This is what your schedule is" and having to adapt to a whole new thing and going and studying, and that was really—it was a challenge, and I think it still is a challenge today to people who come from out in the state. I saw that when I was in the dean's office—some young people that had straight As, 4.0 averages, full scholarships, and they'd never been away from school—from a little tiny town, and they just learned to play cards, and they learned to—they learned they didn't have to go to class and the same thing, and they flunked out. Flunked out! Lost their scholarship, you know, the whole thing.

SL: Yeah.

[02:14:21] AH: And I could identify—not totally with that, but I'm just sayin' that it is—it's a . . .

SL: It's hard.

AH: It's hard to adapt and especially—now, we got ourselves up, but a lot of these kids—their parents got 'em up and got 'em movin', you know.

SL: Yep.

AH: And they didn't know how to do that. So I survived. We—I survived.

[02:14:44] SL: So let me see—was the—had the fine arts building just been built?

AH: It was built in [19]52 because I came up here, I think, [19]52 or [195]3. Somewhere along in there because when I was still taking piano, I would come for piano competitions to the university. So I'd been on the university campus, but never in a dorm or any of that stuff.

SL: Well, that was a pretty modern building back then.

AH: Oh, it was very modern. Very modern. And all those wonderful sculptures that were, one by one, dismantled and stolen, I guess.

SL: The Calder . . .

AH: The Calder mobiles.

SL: Yeah. I think they still have some of those, but . . .

AH: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . a lot of them . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . were stolen.

AH: Yeah.

[02:15:29] SL: I'm tryin' to think now—I guess—was basketball—it had—Barnhill had been built. Barnhill didn't get built until later, though, did it? No.

AH: No, Barnhill was built.

SL: It was?

AH: But it wasn't paved—you know, in fact, graduation—when I graduated in January of [19]63—[19]62—was a—like an indoor track. [AH edit: 1963 is correct] That was—it was not paved.

SL: Yeah, it was dirt.

AH: It was mud. It was a dirt-track thing.

SL: Yeah, it was dirt. Yeah.

AH: And they had part of those things. And so you could—we could go—and occasionally we would go to games, but hardly anybody was there. Basket—but football was your main deal.

[02:16:24] SL: And let me think . . .

AH: The tennis courts were across the street from Holcolmbe, and that was when they still had Gaebilee. The—you know, the graduate arts and science . . .

SL: Sure.

AH: . . . education, business, law, and what would the other one be?  
E—engineering.

SL: Engineering. Gaebilee. Yeah, that was a big party.

AH: That was a great big party, and they still had another thing called Religious Emphasis Week, which was—they had a whole series of speakers in the men's gym that would come and speak—in advocating religion. It was a variety of speakers—that kind of thing. That was still—that was still going on then.

[02:17:10] SL: Had the old student union.

AH: Had the old student union. Yeah.

SL: Which was a great place.

AH: It was a great place.

SL: Classes were still in Old Main.

AH: Classes were still in Old Main. Carnall Hall was still being used.

SL: Yep.

AH: The business school was in where history—you know, they had added a business annex thing. It didn't have a separate business school.

[02:17:44] SL: Vol Walker Library was the library.

AH: Vol Walker Library was the library, and that was really a great library. You had to wear—you—we were required to take a gym class, and you could not wear shorts or pants on campus without

a raincoat. [*SL laughs*] And the shorts were here in those days. But I'm just sayin' that you had gym clothes that you had to buy, and you were not allowed on campus without a raincoat covering you. Date call was ten p.m. on the weekdays. Eleven . . .

SL: Dorms, sororities—all the way around?

AH: Sororities were—it was deferred rush. You didn't go till your sophomore year, which I thought was a better system because everybody got to know each other, and then they went into groups. Today they go directly into groups, and there's no cross—there's not the cross-fertilization of friendships that there was available when we were there 'cause I knew people that later on turned out to be in every sorority. You know what I'm sayin'.

SL: Yeah. Absolutely.

AH: And you knew people all across and as—what I went through, now they only know their pledge class and their—it's just very difficult for them to make friends across sorority lines.

[02:19:08] SL: Now, I guess Silas Hunt and George Haley and C. C. Mercer—all those guys had come into the law school earlier.

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: Was there any African American population at all at the

university when you were there?

AH: I think—about—when I was about a junior, I think maybe a Whitfield—there was a Black—there were some Black students that came, maybe my junior year. And . . .

SL: Now, that's from Fayetteville, though, right? The Whitfields.

AH: The Whitfields from Fayetteville that I know are not . . .

SL: Okay.

AH: . . . Black. They're white.

SL: Oh, okay.

[02:19:48] AH: I don't know. I thought they were from Little Rock.

SL: Okay.

AH: But you knew them. They were kind of an oddity in a way, but they weren't in any of my classes. And so—but I never saw any—I never saw anything, and the students generally are much more accepting than the older people. So . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . I don't think that was a problem when they came in the—but this would've been [19]59 or [19]60.

SL: Right.

AH: And—but I don't remember a Black student in any of my classes. I remember in law school—I remember there were a couple. I mean, I knew—I know most of the older Black lawyers in the

state because they were in law school with me.

[02:20:42] SL: So did you have a—when you got to the university, did you have an idea of what you wanted to major in at all?

AH: Yeah. I majored—I wanted to be a teacher, and so I went to education, and I was majoring in education. And I really did not like the—I just thought it was boring. I thought it was irrelevant. I didn't like it, and I decided that I was not being challenged. And I switched to arts and sciences—not that I had any better idea about what I wanted to do there. But finally one day somebody told me, when I was probably a junior, "You have to declare a major." And I said, "What's a major?" [*Laughter*] I'm not kidding. It's just amazing you could get to be that age and still not have a . . .

[02:21:23] SL: Clue as to . . .

AH: . . . clue about anything. And so Dr. Fairchild took me in and told me that I—you know, and he said, "What do you like?" And I said, "Well, I like to read." [*Laughs*] And he said—so he told me I could major in English. So that's what I did. I majored in English and I want—but I wanted to take a foreign language. I wanted to take western civ. I wanted to take the things that I thought were what an education was about. And I was taking classes where I went into classrooms and sat and watched five-

year-old kids and recorded what they were doing. And I really didn't think I would ever get married, and I didn't think that I would ever have children. I wanted to tee—that didn't mean that I didn't want to teach, but I just wasn't interested in any of that stuff. And it just seemed—and the classes I took I made As in with no effort. And I just thought, "There's gotta be more to—there's gotta be more than this." And so I made a decision of my own that I was gonna switch to arts and sciences, and then see if I couldn't get a teaching certificate. You could take hours in education and . . .

SL: Sure.

AH: . . . you know, do that. And so that's what I decided I was gonna do, so that's what I did.

SL: So you were obviously happy to do that. I mean, it was a good decision . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . on your . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . part. Was there a particular—outside of English, did you—I mean, you know, liberal arts education . . .

[02:22:44] AH: I had Anne Riley Vizzier for Western Civ . . .

SL: I did, too.

AH: . . . and I just absolutely thought [*SL laughs*] she was wonderful. In fact, I took a Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday seven-thirty class and commuted so that I could have her again the next semester. I just thought she was a fabulous teacher, and I learned so much about history. We did not have a good history background. I—we had a high school coach . . .

SL: Oh.

AH: . . . for our history.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And he punted, and everybody took a topic, and we had to present it. And you didn't listen—you didn't learn anything.

SL: Right.

AH: Except maybe about what you did. But . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . she was just a wonderful instructor.

SL: She was.

[02:23:20] AH: And so I had her. And then I had Bob Reeser. You know, I took a fair amount of history with my English because that coincided with your English history. And then I had some really good—I had some interesting—I had Ben Kimpel, and I had . . .

SL: What was he . . .

AH: . . . Dr. Rudolph.

SL: What was Ben Kimpel like?

AH: Well, he was just amazing, I thought. He was—he knew everything, and he was erudite and—but he had a good sense of humor and a great big man. He loved to eat. Eat and travel. That was his deal. And I had him just one semester. I had Duncan Eaves—his little cigarette. [*Laughs*] It—there were some really . . .

SL: Now . . .

AH: . . . interesting people. They were all male. I had—the only female teacher I had the whole time I was there . . .

SL: Mrs. Vizzier.

AH: . . . other than my math teacher was Anne Vizzier.

[02:24:11] SL: And so—and Duncan Eaves taught . . .

AH: He taught English.

SL: He did?

AH: Mh-hmm.

SL: And . . .

AH: Eighteenth century, I think.

SL: Let's see, you mentioned another teacher's name that . . .

[02:24:24] AH: Dr. Rudolph.

SL: Dr. Rudolph. You know, we have tried . . .

AH: I loved Dr. Rudolph.

SL: We have tried and tried to get him to sit down and do an interview, and he will not do it. He just won't do it. I don't know—I mean, we've—I've . . .

AH: Well, he grew up here. He went to school here.

SL: I know.

AH: Then he went to Harvard. I mean, you know, he gave me a picture of—I wonder where it is now—it is a picture of pass—a picture that was painted of the—of Dickson Street when it used to have tracks on it—an actual—you know, down there were that Ruble Storage and that kind . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . pictures of trains and that kinda thing. And he wanted me to have that. I really—Leighton Rudolph—I didn't understand—he was really good to me and—because I didn't understand about deadlines. You had to sign up or you didn't get to do certain—you know, like for graduation. I mean, you know, I was still wandering around in a fog having a great time, meeting a lotta people, loving [*laughs*] my stuff, my classes, but not keyed into the big—you have 124 hours you have to finish. You have to apply. They have to make sure that you do—I mean, you know, it . . .

SL: There were rules. [*Laughs*]

[02:25:33] AH: The rules. I was not cognizant of what I needed to do to keep on track, and it's by a miracle I graduated. [*Laughs*]  
And then I went home and tried to figure out—you know, I had my teaching credentials. I got those. I went to Tulsa to interview. My dad had contacts, so I went over there. I didn't get that job, and I was like—I didn't know what to do. I was really kind of—one day—God has been really good to me [*laughs*], I'll tell you—I got a phone call and somebody said, "They're needing an English teacher in Missouri, and the superintendent is down here, and he would like to come meet you." The school called me, and they came to my house and interviewed me and offered me a job. Now that—and I took it because it was the only—I had to have a job. That was the only—and I had no idea, and we went to this little town, Warrenton, Missouri, which is, like, fifty miles from St. Louis. My dad and mother took me up there in my—with my stuff and they dropped me off. And I was teaching in a small, consolidated school. And I was rooming with a woman who lived two blocks from school, a block from the church, on Main Street. Main Street was right down about five [*laughs*] houses. The Lutheran church and the bells were right next door. I mean, like the bells

that chimed all the time. And they left me, and I . . .

[02:27:10] SL: Grew up.

AH: I had—and I grew up. And I had to make friends there, and we ate at school for a quarter, Monday through Friday. And I walked home. I took organ lessons. I got to meet the people next door. I [*laughs*—I mean, you know, you just do things. And then some of the other teachers would take you under their wing, and we would go and do things, and we ate out. We'd go—sometimes we'd go to St. Charles to eat. I still didn't drink. I—they did, but they had to leave town because if you were seen drinking in town, you could be fired.

SL: Wow!

AH: And it was a small town of about maybe three or four thousand people. So—and in town there was one place to eat. And we could go out there and have a—have something at night because we didn't have food. My landlady fixed my breakfast every morning, and for thirty-five dollars a month, I got a room, and I shared a bath with her, and she fixed my breakfast every morning. Pretty amazing. Pretty amazing.

[02:28:15] SL: So was the school a good school?

AH: I loved my principal. Really, it was—you know, it was—it came—lots of Catholic—I mean, lots of German Catholic kids because

they came from around that area. It's really a nice—it was a nice area, and I met some really nice people there that I got to know and some really good kids. Some not so good, but really, the names were very German, and I enjoyed it.

[02:28:47] SL: So was that really your first . . .

AH: That was my first teaching assignment.

SL: And was that your first—I mean, it . . .

AH: And being . . .

SL: . . . sounds so ethnic.

AH: . . . 350 miles away from home.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Yeah, my first time to go away. Now, I had been away in college. I went to New Jersey for two summers, but I went with friends, and that's different. You know, when you're rooming with a bunch of girls and that kinda thing. But . . .

[02:29:11] SL: What'd you do in New Jersey?

AH: . . . you're up there . . .

SL: I waited tables. [*Laughter*] I made even better money up there. But I had a different kind an education up there. So I'm just sayin' when I was in New Jersey in the summers—I did it two summers—there was the YMCA was right next door. So I learned all about that, and there was also a—I worked in a diner,

which really teaches you a lot. And then the police station and the fire station were across the street, so I got to know all those people. And there was thing in town called Forty Girls and a Guy, but the girls were all men crossdressers [*SL laughs*], and the guy was a woman crossdresser.

[02:29:56] SL: So this is in New Jersey.

AH: And they would come in—this is in New Jersey. Asbury Park, New Jersey.

SL: Okay. And they'd come . . .

AH: And they would come in and bring me their pictures of how they looked when they were all dressed up. They were beautiful. They were just—it was incredible. I never knew things like that existed. I didn't know about gay people. I didn't know about—I mean, it was just—and course, they were, like, "You're from Arkansas, and you wear shoes." I mean, it was really very, very interesting. Some of 'em got jobs at upscale places where they made probably better money, but they couldn't have made—they couldn't have learned as much as I did, I don't think, and I walked because I lived next—I walked in the early morning. I would go, and there's a town—it's a square mile. And it's owned by the Methodist Church, and it's called Ocean Grove, New Jersey. And I lived with a Methodist missionary woman and her

sister, and she kept people in her house like a—you know, long-term care. And we had the basement and slept on cots.

[*Laughter*] [02:30:58] But it was fun because, my gosh, it's New Jersey. We went to New York City. We went—different things. It was really fun so—I opened a bank account. I packed all my money away. I made enough money to pay for my books, tuition, and everything else for the next year, and I went back the next year 'cause it was—we went on the train and . . .

SL: It was good pay, and it was fun.

AH: Good pay, fun, education, and you're out of house where your parents are not—I mean, you need that—but I said I went with five or six other girls, and that's the difference. You've got a support group there built in. And you go up there, and you have to make all new everything and have to try to learn to make—it's easy to make good choices. There's nothing [*laughs*] to do in town. And your students would come by at night, and they would tell you the next day, "You turned your lights out at ten fifteen." They knew where you lived and . . .

[02:31:52] SL: Now, this is in St. Louis.

AH: No, this is outside of St. Louis. Fifty miles . . .

SL: Oh, outside of St. Louis. Okay.

AH: It's just a little town.

SL: Yeah, okay.

AH: And these students had cars, and they were—you know, they thought I was young and cute, and so they were keepin' an eye on me.

SL: Well, sure.

AH: 'Cause I had—they were seniors in high school.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And I am four years older. So that was—it was interesting, but I—you know, I learned that up there. And then the major change that came in my life was that December, one day in class I got called out, and my brother had been diagnosed with testicular cancer. And they had sent a plane up for me. And after that, my mom kinda went into a tailspin 'cause he had to have this major surgery.

SL: Yeah.

[02:32:40] AH: And I came back and didn't go back until January, 'cause it was right before Christmas—and sat with him. Somebody had to be with him in the hospital to make sure that things went well.

SL: Sure.

AH: And he had—he was split from here down to there. They dissected out everything and . . .

SL: Gosh!

AH: . . . we didn't know whether he was gonna live or not. He was eighteen. So I made up my mind that I—I learned that I didn't know as much as [*laughs*] I thought I did teachin' ma—and I decided that I would come back home and try to help with him. And I applied to graduate school then for the next year. I finished out my term, but I drove back every weekend to Little Rock [AH edit: Fayetteville]—I mean, to home beca—almost every weekend. I didn't have a car, but I had friends there who lived out at Elkins. They had jobs up there, and they would come, and I came home and tried to help with him. [02:33:38] And my mother really went downhill. She was very depressed, and she was havin' to take off work and take him to Fort Smith for treatment. And so I came home, but in June—I'd been sayin'—remember I told you [*laughs*]—I had—I made \$350 a month, and I paid thirty-five to the church and thirty-five for my room. Well, there really wasn't anything else to spend it on. And I packeted—I put it all in the bank. And I had a friend who lived in Hawaii. She had graduated and was a nurse in Hawaii, and I decided, "You know, I'm gonna go to Hawaii for the summer, and then I'll come back and start school." And that's what I did. And it about killed my mother for me to leave, but I

felt that if I was gonna be there—you know, you have to live your own life, too. [02:34:25] So I went for the summer and had a great time. Got to see things that I just I thought were just wonderful. And we had a two-bedroom apartment with twin beds in each room, and there were five of us. And so the last one in took the couch in the living room. [*Laughter*] Isn't that terrible?

SL: No, it sounds . . .

AH: We had a great time.

SL: . . . great to me.

[02:34:48] AH: And then I came back, and I had a—I got a—I got accepted at graduate school, and I also got offered a position as a graduate counselor. So I got free room and board by working at the Fulbright—the new dorm.

SL: Fulbright. Yeah, sure.

AH: And there were four hundred girls, and I would say that half of those I still run into today because I had—you had a switchboard. I had—I worked the switchboard. Kenny Hatfield . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . was dating Karen Carlson.

SL: M'kay.

[02:35:25] AH: And I also locked the doors at ten o'clock, and so I took the phone calls. I had to work night duty every other Friday night. And then I—just the people that I met over the years that lived on your floor or were—that you met through there that—I've got somebody comin' this weekend that—and her husband—that I've known since we were—since she came—since I went to Fulbright.

SL: And I guess they call them RAs now.

AH: They call 'em RAs now. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Yeah. I had three girls that I'm responsible—was responsible for on the fourth floor. And two of the three are coming here for lunch Saturday.

[02:36:02] SL: Isn't that great? [*Laughs*]

AH: It's just great. It is just absolutely great. And so I came here, and I think it was another year before my brother was able to go back to school but . . .

SL: So he survived.

AH: He did survive. He did survive.

SL: Sounds like a miracle that he did.

AH: It is a miracle. It is a miracle. It's been hard. He's had a lot of other things, but it's really amazing, and he married, and he

actually had—the doctor in Fort Smith who did his cobalt—they did—they shot direct cobalt . . .

SL: Yeah, I remember those days.

AH: . . . in those days. It wasn't targeted. They protected his other testicle, and he was able—they were able to have one child and . . .

SL: Well, that's great.

[02:36:52] AH: And he—and she's living in London with her two boys, and we got to visit them last year—last summer. It was just—you know, it is, it's just amazing.

SL: Well, so that had to be a pretty big . . .

AH: That was a big impact on my life. It made me . . .

SL: Big impact. I mean, you were finally out there on your own and you were doin' well. You liked what you were . . .

AH: I love my life. I've never not loved my life. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

AH: I mean, it's . . .

SL: But all—to make that decision to come back—and I mean, it must've—there—you must've sensed that it was not all about your br—it sounds like to me it was not all about your brother. It was also about your mother and . . .

[02:37:33] AH: Well, it was . . .

SL: . . . her ability . . .

AH: . . . also about realizing that I didn't have enough knowledge. If I was gonna continue to teach in high school, I needed more more background than what I had, and I decided I'd come back and get a master's in English, which would then prepare me more to teach. I still was not looking bigger picture, but that's a part of . . .

SL: Growing up.

AH: . . . how you grow up.

SL: Yeah.

[02:37:57] AH: You don't see the big, big picture in—unless you have somebody who's willin' to take you on and say you could do So I came back here and started takin' classes. And I—the next semester I actually taught a class, an English class. And George Faucette was in my first class, and we've remained friends. I mean, you know, you just meet these people, and I learned a lot, and one of the things I learned was I did not want a Ph.D. in English. I—to me, I had—I met a lotta graduate students, and one of them had just finished his doctorate—doctoral dissertation, and then he killed himself. And I just thought, "You know, something's wrong." And maybe it was him, but maybe it was . . .

SL: The process.

[02:38:45] AH: The process. And I decided I wasn't gonna waste—I shouldn't phrase it that way—I couldn't invest that amount of time in a dissertation—and here was his dissertation the way I remember it—the changes in punctuation between the first and second edition of *Clarissa*, which was a four-volume romance novel in the eighteenth century. And I'm, like, "That's just crap." [Laughs]

SL: Wow.

AH: And I remember Claude Faulkner sayin', "Well, if you don't get a Ph.D., you'll just get married, and you're—you'll just never do anything with your life." Thought that was interesting, too.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Which he probably saw a lotta people doing that.

SL: Well, sure. Yeah—well, I mean, at the time you were probably a viable, worthy Ph.D. candidate in English, and you were a woman, so you know, you were probably out there. I mean, as . . .

[02:39:54] AH: Oh, I just let him know that I wasn't—you know, he was talkin' about—and I said, "I'm not interested in getting a Ph.D." I didn't want—I probably didn't even see myself being competent to be a Ph.D. I've never overvalued my . . .

SL: Abilities.

AH: Abilities. I don't think. You know, I'm not somebody that thinks I can do anything. I know a lotta people think they can do anything without any basis for it [*laughter*] whatsoever. But mine has been—and usually when I've been asked to do something, I [*unclear word*]"Well, do you think I could that?" "Oh yes, you can." And so if I'd say, "Yes," well then, yeah, I could do it. But I didn't realize at the time. I just didn't—you know . . .

[02:40:41] SL: So—but you get your master's in English. Is that . . .

AH: Mh-hmm. Got my master's in English, and I started dating Morriss the fall of—that fall after I came back. Well, I should go back and tell you that in June, before I went—I came home from Missouri, and I had my bus ticket to California.

SL: To go to . . .

AH: And then I had my plane ticket on a big, long—you know, like one of those big, big planes that took forever to get there. When you're in St. Louis you just are looking at the backs [AH edit: The backs of the magazines where the ads are], and it's cheap tickets here and that kinda thing, so I did it all—I planned it all up there. And it's a miracle I made it. Anyway, my dad

said, "You"—I'd gotten contacts the year before, and my dad said, "You have got to have your eyes checked before you leave. Your eyes are much more important than anything—than this trip." Daddy didn't really want me to go. [02:41:37] So I called to make an appointment, and they said, "Well, he's outta town for two months," or a month or something. "But we have a new ophthalmologist in town, and you can probably get an appointment." She—they did, so I went in to see Morriss. And I came home and told my sister, "Well, I've met the man I'm gonna marry."

SL: Oh!

[02:41:54] AH: I mean, he just had the best—had the most wonderful eyes and—but I went and—I took my trip. [*Laughs*] And that's when Mother told me what Grandmother had said. Course, my grandmother then told me, "That's exactly"—I mean, it just hit me, you know. Anyway, so it took him till Thanksgiving to ask me out for a date. I came back in August. Started school. I would see him different places, and then my students knew that I was interested in him, and so they would make appointments, and they would go talk about what a nice person I was. [*Laughter*]

SL: Oh, now!

AH: Isn't that terrible?

SL: That is terrible. [*Laughter*] Poor Morriss.

AH: And he said . . .

SL: He didn't have a chance.

AH: Well, he did have a chance. I mean—but it took—anyway—so he finally asked me out and [*SL laughs*—and we dated, but we weren't really—it wasn't working.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And he was dating four or five other people.

SL: Yeah.

[02:42:45] AH: And so I made up my mind that I was gonna go to Europe and teach. See, I did have confidence that I—see, I'd had a year of teaching experience and [*laughs*] . . .

SL: Right.

AH: . . . and I was teaching—and so at semester, I finished my master's—took a year and a half working and doin' that. So I finished, and we had January graduation. In those days you had it in old Barnhill, and you had a graduation. They didn't—they hadn't gone to just one—once a year. So I graduated, and I got a job teaching seventh-grade English, P.E., and math in Springdale at the same junior high where I had started in 1952. So that was ten years later. I was back teaching there, and that

was fun. That was interesting 'cause I still have students that I know from there, you know. And teachers—wives of people that were gettin' doctorates here that are—you know, or law degrees. [02:43:45] So we—anyway, we were dating some, but not very much. And then I made up my mind that I was gonna go. And by then somebody'd introduced me to this man who was from Germany, and he was very interested. And so I thought, "Well, you know, I can go over there, and I can get a job." Don't ask me where I thought I was gonna get a job, but I think God looks after fools sometimes. But any rate, the night before—I had my ticket. And the night before Morriss took me out for dinner, and then he proposed that night.

SL: Oh! [*Laughs*]

AH: And I was really shocked, but I mean, he was sayin', "Oh, you know, I don't know." And—so the next day I went by, and I said, "Okay, now I'm leavin'—do you—did you really mean that?" And he said, "Well, why don't you go ahead and take your trip, and then at the end of the summer, you'll come back." And I said, "I'm not comin' back. I'm gonna go teach over there." And—which is the way I felt. And he said, "Well, no, go ahead and stay." So I did, so I gave my loan back that I had—you know, cancelled my tickets and all that kinda stuff, so we got

married August the first. And that was almost—that's forty-seven and a half years ago.

[02:45:01] SL: Okay, so you got together with Morriss, and it really wasn't working. He was dating other folks at the time. And so you kind of resigned that that was just not gonna happen. You were gonna go a . . .

AH: Yeah.

SL: . . . different direction. And was it just out of the blue that he called you, or had you—you would still see him . . .

AH: We were dating some, but I wasn't gonna—you know, I just felt like he was not interested in makin' a decision, that he was havin'—I think he was tryin' to make a decision, and he was dating five different people. I knew all the other four, and I personally thought I was the better person, but . . .

SL: [Laughs] Well, he did, too.

[02:45:42] AH: But if he didn't see it . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . I couldn't do anything about that.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And so I just decided that it was time to—I've seen people wait around for years and it never . . .

SL: Never happens.

AH: Never happens. And I just decided I had to make my own destiny, and so I said I was leaving. And I thought, "Well, you know, I've got somebody over there willin' to meet me over there, and I can travel around Europe. I've never been to Europe, and that sounds like fun to me. Sounds like that'll be an interesting thing to do." And I went to the bank and got a loan to—I didn't—I maybe—I probably had enough money to buy my ticket, but I did not have a job.

SL: Right.

[02:46:19] AH: And now I'm tryin' to remember where it was even gonna land. I couldn't tell you right now, [*SL laughs*] but he's—he—all night he kept goin' [*gasps*] like he was—I said—it's like he's standin' at the top of a diving board tryin' to figure if he's gonna dive off. And then he finally said it. But I also am somebody who goes in—and I don't want to take advantage—if he just did it, and then he's had second thoughts, I don't want that, either. And that's why I went back the next day by his office and said, "I'm getting' ready to turn my ticket in, unless you—did you really mean what you said last night or do you want to—or what do you want to do?" And by then, of course, he's having second thoughts, and he's hem-hawing around about it. And I just said, "Okay. Fine. I'm gonna go. See ya."

[*Laughter*]

[02:47:08] SL: That straightened him out, didn't it?

AH: And it straightened him out. [*SL laughs*] You know. It may not have been exactly like that, but—I mean, you know—but that's . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . how it occurred—that he had to either tell me yes or no, because . . .

SL: Fish or cut bait.

AH: Fish or cut bait.

SL: Yeah.

[02:47:23] AH: So that's what I did. And that may have been wrong, but . . .

SL: No.

AH: And it wasn't to get him to tell me—it wasn't getting—but he just—I think he just thought about all the people that he was dating and decided that—and he was thirty-two, so it's not like he was—you know, and he'd been—he'd lived in Europe. He was in the service. He'd gone through residency. He'd gone through med school, all that stuff. But—and he probably hadn't dated very much. And there was somebody he'd dated that had been waiting seventeen years for him to come back. That's how . . .

SL: Wow!

AH: You see what I'm sayin'?

SL: Yeah.

AH: And I thought, "Oh, Lord, well, I'm not gonna be that. I'm not gonna be that." I knew about her. I couldn't imagine that you would be hanging around seventeen years later.

SL: That's interesting.

AH: She's a really nice person.

[02:48:17] SL: Well, so let me ask you this—I mean, so far you haven't been—I got the impression you haven't been to any bars. You haven't been . . .

AH: No.

SL: . . . partying much. I mean, did you do—did you go to dances at the university when you were there?

AH: I dated some, but not, you know, not a lot. I mean, I had friends that I knew, and we would go. I was in a sorority, and we would have a dance occasionally. But really, when you work on the weekends, which is what I did, you don't really have much of an opportunity to go. And during the week when you know you're gonna work all weekend, you're pretty well focused on tryin' to get your studyin' taken care of. And I wasn't living on campus. So most people would think I had a very boring life,

but I didn't think so.

[02:49:04] SL: Well, you did mention the Rockwood Club at one point. Did . . .

AH: I did go out. Oh, I did date some people, and that's what—you know, in that scene—that's just never—that's not my deal. It's loud, and it's smoky, and it's noisy, and people are drunk, and that's just not my—I've never felt comfortable in that situation.

SL: Well, did you see Ronnie Hawkins there?

AH: I did see Ronnie. I mean, that's probably—that would be—and probably John Tolleson. I really liked John Tolleson, and he's—it's really nice to have him back in town doing some things. But that's—you know, Ronnie is—I'm just—I am not a party person. Party, party, big crowds, that kinda stuff. I'd rather have a small group of people and—I mean, I've been to plenty of 'em. I can enjoy up to a point, but not a—and large mingling crowds—that's one thing. But with the bands and the rock and roll and the—and all the drinking, that's just . . .

SL: All the craziness. You know . . .

AH: Yeah, that's probably my Baptist-Methodist—I mean, we did not have—we had no alcohol in our house. I probably would—I was married with children before I ever had a glass of wine. I mean, when I was in New Jersey, I went to bars, but I didn't ever drink.

I don't know whether that was a way of protecting myself or . . .

SL: Just no interest.

[02:50:25] AH: Because in New Jersey they have kids in bars. I mean, you know, they take the—it's like a pub kind of thing and I was surprised about that. But I would go with people who did, but just never . . .

SL: Well, I—you know, of course, I mentioned—when you mentioned the Rockwood Club, I like to hear as many Rockwood Club stories as possible. I mean, that's kind of the . . .

AH: The Rockwood Club and the Tee Table—I never got to the Tee Table but . . .

SL: The Tee Table. Yeah.

[02:50:51] AH: And probably—maybe it was just I'm like, "Oh well, everybody's doing it." And there is an interest in being a part of some things that are going on, but I saw enough of the down side of a part of what was goin' on to know that that wasn't anything to . . .

SL: Well, I don't know if there's any question—the Rockwood Club was probably one of the vortexes on the planet of that scene.

AH: Of that scene.

SL: I mean, it was just remarkable the amount of talent that went through there and the folks that supported it and populated it

and took part in it. I mean, it was a—and it was definitely a university draw. You know, my brother Porter bounced . . .

AH: Oh, did he bounce there?

SL: . . . at the Rockwood.

AH: I didn't realize that.

SL: And I think their main competition out there was the Washington County Fair when it would come to town 'cause all the college students would take their dates . . .

AH: Oh, to the fair. . .

SL: . . . to the Washington County Fair . . .

AH: . . . and ride the Ferris wheel and the fast rides and . . .

SL: . . . and reh—win the stuff, you know.

AH: . . . eat all that crap—the crappy junk food.

SL: Yeah, yeah, yeah—instead of going out to the Rockwood Club.

AH: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: And that was probably their only competition.

AH: Well, it's only once a year for a week.

SL: I know, I know.

AH: But still, it was . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: You know—yeah.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Interesting.

[02:52:01] SL: Yeah. You know, Don Tyson was the guy takin' the money at the door.

AH: No, I didn't know that.

SL: [*Laughs*] It's quite a crew out there.

AH: That mighta been a little before my time.

SL: Maybe so. Maybe. Yeah—could—well, I don't know.

AH: He's eight years . . .

SL: Hawkins—Ronnie didn't hit until about your time, did he? I don't think he was out there doin' much of anything before you started going to the school. I may be wrong on that, but . . .

[02:52:34] AH: I know that Tolleson—I mean, I remember John Tolleson and probably Ronnie ha—I know—you know, I remember that. My brother was into some of the—he liked—as I said he played with the Cates Band before they—he dropped out [*laughs*] while they went on. You know, but . . .

SL: What did he play? Do you remember?

AH: I don't even remember. He plays guitar. He plays banjo, too. He did. Now, whether he still is or not is . . .

SL: Yeah.

AH: . . . another issue, but that's what he played.

SL: Small world.

AH: Small world. Little garage band. So . . .

[02:53:15] SL: Okay, so you say yes to Morriss.

AH: I did.

SL: And a few months later y'all were married—three months later?

AH: No, this was June, and we got married August the first, and it was August the first 'cause it was a Saturday, and I figured he could remember the first. [*Laughter*] I'm a very practical person. And I had—and my sister had gotten married the year before, and my mother made all the dresses and my sister—it was a big wedding in our hometown church and with a big reception in the church downstairs. But my sister got an eye infection the day before, and she could not wear her contacts, and she saw nothing in the wedding. And it was very—it was—to me—I guess I've always kind of look at it this way, and I'm totally out of sync with today's world. It is a—you know, it was much ado about nothing. There was so much stress, and she was upset, and she couldn't see. And her eyes hurt, and they were going on their honeymoon, and it was just—I'm looking at all this, and I'm like—so I decided—and as I told one young girl, "Well, do you want a husband, or do you want a wedding? 'Cause a lotta men can't handle that." And this girl decided she wanted a wedding, and she didn't get the wedding, and she

didn't get the husband. He gave her her ring back. [02:54:38]  
But I decided that Morriss didn't want a big wedding, and I decided just to make it easy on all of us, and we would just have a—I had my minister, my sister and my brother, Morriss's dad was the best man. I had a friend who played the piano, and we had it in the chapel at our church. And I had two friends that came from out of town, one from Marianna and one from Shreveport. The only two people I asked. And then . . .

SL: Now, is this in Springdale or Fayetteville?

AH: In Springdale.

SL: In Springdale.

AH: First Methodist in Springdale. And Morriss's grandmother was there. I can't remember whether my grandparents were there or not, but I'm just sayin' that it was a small wedding. And my mother found my wedding dress on—at Campbell Bell, and we got married, and it was a—I loved my wedding, and it's lasted. So I don't think it can be any better than that. And this production stuff today with a—who can have the biggest and the most and the—all that stuff, and in two years it's over, and it's just amazing to me the focus on the—all the other stuff. But . . .

[02:55:51] SL: Yeah, David Gearhart told me one time—it was, like, when he was paying for his daughter's wedding, it was like

driving a Bentley off the cliff. You know, you just—it's . . .

AH: We asked our daughter did she not want to get married at home. No, she said she wanted to get married at Central, and she did, but we set a budget and told her that was it. [*Laughs*] It's terrible, but you can stay within a budget, and she knew exactly what she wanted, and it was a very simple wedding, but it was a beautiful wedding. But it was—you know, it was full, but I was shocked because she wanted a big wedding. But that's what she had.

SL: Yeah.

[02:56:33] AH: And Mary Jo, my daughter-in-law, had the same thing, so and they had a beautiful wedding in Osceola on a Sunday, Father's Day.

SL: Wow.

AH: Isn't that amazing?

SL: That is amazing.

AH: Beautiful. Absolutely—the—every—all the lights went out in the church. The thunder—Diane [Kincaid Blair] was flying in with Hillary [Rodham] from Little Rock [*SL laughs*] on a plane to come to this wedding, and they thought they were gonna die because the thunder and lightning was so bad. That was that wedding, and everybody got drenched and wet and all that.

Still, it's—it was what you remember—it's just—it's all the other stuff that goes with it.

SL: Right, right.

AH: It was fun, but . . .

[02:57:20] SL: So after the ceremony, did y'all go eat or . . .

AH: We went home, and I wrote thank you notes, and we flew out the next morning and went to Mexico for a wedding in Mexico.

[AH edit: Mexico City] I mean, for a . . .

SL: Honeymoon.

AH: . . . honeymoon down there. I'd never been out of the country. Course, I got sick. You know, Mexico.

SL: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

AH: We came home early. [*SL laughs*] But it was—you know, it was fun.

SL: Yeah.

[02:57:49] AH: It was fine, but we came back home, and I started law school because he wanted me to either get a Ph.D. or a law degree. He wanted me to—now I realize, "Oh, he wanted me to be able to take of myself." [*Laughter*] And it was either get a Ph.D. or a law degree. And I said, "Well, I don't want a Ph.D. 'cause they wouldn't hire me if I got the Ph.D. here."

SL: Right.

AH: "And if something happens to you, I want to be able to stay in my town with my kids if we"—you know, so—those days you just had to—I could start—he had already started part-time, and I could go part-time, and I took the GRE—I mean, I took the law school admission test. You didn't have to take it then until you were already in school. And then you had to take it to prove that you could stay there. I had a degree. And remember that was not too long before you could start law school after three years [AH edit: three years in college].

SL: Right.

[02:58:48] AH: So I had a total degree. Two of 'em. I had a master's in English, and so I could write and spell and write legible answers kinda thing, unlike some of the people in class.

SL: Right.

AH: So we took the GRE [AH edit: LSAT] on a Saturday afternoon with the windows open in the law school 'cause there was no air-conditioning.

SL: Yes.

AH: Listening to the game down the hill. It was on a game day.

[Laughs]

[02:59:15] SL: What year was that?

AH: [Nineteen] sixty-four.

SL: So was the law school where it is now in [19]64?

AH: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. It was a new courtroom and the windows were all open. And the law school did not get air-conditioning until after all my children were born. It was [19]71. I was pregnant and had three kids while I was in school.

SL: Wow, Ann!

AH: And I—you know, it was really interesting. We had one bathroom with no place to sit down.

SL: In the law school.

AH: In the law school. It was right across . . .

SL: 'Cause originally you said . . .

AH: . . . from the secretary's office. That was the girls . . .

SL: Oh. Well, originally you had to go across the street. The women had to go across the street.

AH: The girls' bathroom.

SL: Yeah. But—so you were right by the—was it by the dean's office?

AH: Mh-hmm. Right across from the dean's office 'cause that was totally inhabited by females [AH edit: They were secretaries], so they had to—they put in a female bathroom.

SL: Unbelievable.

[03:00:11] AH: And there—and there's no air-conditioning, and I

usually went to summer school, too, so that's—you're carrying a baby, and I had two boys in September, then I went through law school, and I went through August. And Kathy was born in November. I don't think I went that fall. But I took—I got a third of the way through in five years, and then I went full-time and finished up because it was getting to be too much. So my mother came and took care of my baby Mark. And the other two were in . . .

[03:00:49] SL: So you know, back when you're—when you came back from—to be with your brother, you were sayin' that your mother was kinda takin' a nose-dive.

AH: She was very depressed because this is her only son.

SL: But she pulled out of that.

AH: She did pull out of that.

SL: That's good.

AH: She had a full-time—yeah, she pulled outta that . . .

SL: Okay.

AH: . . . and she went back to work full-time. And then at some point—I don't remember now—I guess she came to work for Morriss. She came to work for us and helped take care of Mark. The first year I had a nanny that I took him—I took him to somebody whose husband was in law school. And the kids were

in a—I took the kids to the school on campus.

[03:01:34] SL: Peabody.

AH: And I organized—no, no, not Peabody. These are little kids. I had three and four years.

SL: Oh, okay.

AH: So I have a four-year-old and a three-year-old.

SL: Okay.

AH: So they're both in nursery school . . .

SL: Okay.

AH: . . . next door to the law school.

SL: Yeah.

[03:01:46] AH: And it operated eight thirty to eleven thirty, so as long as my classes were not before eight thirty and didn't go beyond [*laughs*] eleven-thirty . . .

SL: It was good.

AH: . . . I could take all—I can take three classes if I wanted to and then pick 'em up and then take 'em home. So that's what I did. I had an interesting array of classes because you just took what was offered—you know, during those hours.

SL: During that time. Yeah.

AH: Yeah, until it got a little more—you know, a little bit more of a challenge. And that's when Mother—I—then I decided, "I've just

got to—I've got to get this out of the way. This could drag on for years and" . . .

[03:02:23] SL: So how many other women were in the law school at the time?

AH: There was one other person in my class [AH edit: my first class], and that was Betty Speer Jackson from Fort Smith, and she married Tom Burke. Tom was in law school—beginning law school. And then there was a professor who had a Ph.D., and his wife wanted to go to law school, so she used me as—"If she can go, why can't I go?" So she did. She started with me, too. But there were just . . .

SL: The three of you?

AH: Two or three of us. I mean, she didn't start until the next year.

SL: Yeah.

AH: And by the time I finished in [19]71, I think there were about twenty of us. Julie Baldrige.

SL: Yeah.

AH: Julie McDonald, Pam—oh, I don't know—but I'm just sayin' that it was really—and that the most interesting thing is—for me, later on—course, Morriss was already in the legislature by then, but my gosh, I went to law school with all the major—I mean, David [Pryor] was already gone by the time I started—or was

he? He was in law school when I was in—getting my master's 'cause I used to see David in the—you know, in the student union.

[03:03:48] SL: Let's see, I was . . .

TM: Excuse me, Scott. We are gonna need to change tapes or stop. We've got about one minute left.

AH: Okay.

SL: All right, let's stop.

AH: That's a good place to stop.

SL: Let's stop here, and I'll—we'll get back to . . .

AH: I'm tryin' to figure . . .

SL: . . . David in law school. . .

AH: . . . out when David . . .

TM: Stop tape.

SL: Yeah, go ahead and stop tape.

[End of interview 03:04:13]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]