

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

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Arkansas Memories Project

E. Boyd Alderson Sr.

Interviewed by Kris Katrosh

January 26, 2009

El Dorado, 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 files, video highlight clips, 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;
 - annotations for clarification and identification; and
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.

Citation Information

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Kris Katrosh interviewed E. Boyd Alderson Sr. on January 26, 2009, in El Dorado, Arkansas.

[00:00:00]

Kris Katrosh: We'll go ahead and get your—uh—get your name on camera. If you could just tell us your name and spell it for us. Can you go and . . .

Edwin Boyd Alderson, Sr.: You ready?

KK: Yeah, go ahead and tell us.

[00:00:08] EBA: I'm E. Boyd Al—Alderson. Ninety-four, January the fourteenth . . .

KK: Hmm.

EBA: . . . 1915.

KK: Uh-huh.

EBA: Just about used completely up.

KK: [*Laughter*] So your first name is—is . . .

EBA: E—Edwin.

KK: Edwin.

EBA: E. Boyd. That's the way I go.

KK: Right.

EBA: E. Boyd Alderson.

KK: Okay, and that'd be *E-D-W-I-N* . . .

EBA: And he's—Edwin's . . .

KK: Uh-huh.

EBA: . . . Jr.

KK: Okay. And I just wanna get this on the record. It's *E—
E-D-W-I-N.*

EBA: *E-D-W-I-N.*

KK: Uh-huh. And then *B-O-Y-D.*

EBA: *B-O-Y-D.*

KK: *A-L-D . . .*

EBA: *A-L-D-E-R-S-O-N.*

KK: Uh-huh.

[Tape stopped]

[00:00:45] KK: We are at the Boyd and Jewell Alderson home in El Dorado, Arkansas. It's January 26, nine—2009. It's a cold winter day, but we're havin' a good time. And we're interviewing Edwin Boyd Alderson. And, Mr. Alderson, is it all right if we record this interview and save it at the—save it at the Pryor Center for other people to hear? Is that okay if we record this? Is it okay if we do this interview? Are you okay with that?

EBA: Oh, yes, it's okay.

KK: Okay. Good. Good. You—you good?

EBA: I don't know what you wanna do with it but . . .

KK: [*Laughter*] Well, we wanna share it with other people, so they know—uh—what it was like to be born in 1915 in Arkansas and grow up here.

EBA: Uh-huh.

[00:01:28] KK: What's your very earliest memory?

EBA: Uh—my birthday. [*Background voices*] I was four years old. My daddy came in and said, "Wake up, son! You're four years old. You got to help me with the killin' the hogs." And we got up—I got up and went out, and Daddy had some hired hands and usually had six or eight hogs in the pen that he'd been feedin' for several weeks, gettin' them in good shape. Uh—he started killin' the hogs. At first he used a hammer—hitted them right in the head and then a knife goin' right into the heart.

KK: Wow.

EBA: Later on he used a .22 rifle, but still had a knife goin' into the heart of the hog. You want me to follow up the hog business?

KK: Sure. Yeah, that's great.

EBA: Uh—he always had several wage hands on hand, colored people that lived on the place and farmed part of the place. Well, hog-killin' day—they had a big washpot with boilin' water.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: They had a barrel with the top of it cut out . . .

KK: Okay.

EBA: . . . cut at a angle—buried at a angle in the ground. They'd take water out of that washpot and pour it in that barrel, and then they'd—Daddy would feel it—he didn't want boilin' water.

KK: Hmm.

[00:04:23] EBA: He set the—set the hair on the hogs. He wanted it right at boilin'. He'd reach in and feel it, and then they'd take the hog—they'd put the head in first and—and pull it out. And the colored people and Daddy and all'd be pullin' hair off, then they'd switch ends with the hog. Put the rear end in the barrel and pull it out—pull all the ha—hair off. And then they'd lay that hog on some boards that they had layin' down there, and they'd finish gettin' all the hair off of the hog.

KK: Mh-hmm.

[00:04:03] EBA: Then they'd cut in the hog's leg right back there above that leader and put in the gallopin'—gal—and—stick. They'd put it in one end in the hog's leg. Then they'd pick him up and put him over this rack . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . that they had built. Put him down where they could get the other end in. Then they'd open the hog up. Take the intestines, the liver, and all that out. Cut the head off.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: And—uh—uh—the colored people wanted the intestines.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Uh—mother never would cook chitlins. They called it chitlins, and they'd use—Mother'd use some of the intestines. She'd turn 'em wrong side out. We'd have the help scrape 'em and stuff sausage . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . in the intestine. That was smoked sau—uh—sausage in that. Later put it in the smokehouse . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . and smoke it with—now I did—I need to follow up a little on that hog killin'.

KK: Yeah.

[00:05:27] EBA: They killed the hogs, take the intestines out, and cut 'em up—hams, shoulders, side . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . and all—put 'em in that—on the table and let 'em cool—let the meat cool overnight. The next mornin' they'd rub salt . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . in this meat. Then he had a big box that he'd put 'em in—put the—uh—meat in—covered with salt.

KK: Oh.

EBA: And as well as I remember, he'd leave it in that salt for around a—a month or twenty days or somethin' like that. Then he'd take it out. He'd always have the hot—uh—water—hot water in a washpot—he'd wash the—the salt off . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . and put 'em on the—put 'em back on the table and put wires in this leader right here, and we hang it up in the smokehouse.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Then after he got 'em all—all the meat hung up, he'd start a little fire. Didn't want a big fire.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Just a little fire to hickory smoke—to smoke the meat. And that was the way he processed the hogs.

KK: Man, that was a lotta work.

EBA: Yeah. A lotta good meat though.

[00:07:00] KK: [*Laughter*] And how long would those hogs last you when you smoked 'em?

EBA: Beg your pardon?

KK: How long would those last—those—would they . . .

EBA: Meat?

KK: Uh-huh.

EBA: Just dependin' on how many's eatin' on it. [*Laughter*] Oh, it—he had meat almost the year round. Mother'd go out there—those big side—we'd call 'em middlin's—cut off a piece and put in a pot to cook the peas or the beans and . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Uh—but they—they had to be real careful not to let flies get to it—uh—and that smoke would keep the flies—the—the—all away from the—the meat.

KK: So they had to tend to that fire . . .

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: . . . you know, for a long time.

EBA: Not let it get too hot . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . but keep it goin'.

KK: Mh-hmm. I understand.

EBA: That fix you up?

KK: Yeah, that's—that sounds good. It sounds like a good . . .

[00:07:57] EBA: All right. Let's go down to the syrup mill.

KK: All right. Let's do it.

EBA: Daddy always had a ribbon cane patch. That was—they'd plant the ribbon cane down in a moist place—uh—in—in a field. We had a creek runnin' through there, and it'd overflow and keep

that—well, that ribbon cane would grow up, and it came time to cut it.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: They had a big knife, and they'd cut that stalk of ribbon cane off. Before they cut they cut it off, though, they'd strip that fodder off of the—the leaves off of the ribbon cane. It made the finest fodder for livestock.

KK: Oh, really?

[00:08:43] EBA: It was real—real good for 'em. Then they'd take the ribbon cane, and they'd have a day that you could cook your ribbon cane out—all that neighborhood, you . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . sign up a day that you wanted. You'd go down to the syrup mill, and they had a—in the center they had a—I don't know how to describe it—it was three wheels . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . placed together and a big timber over the top of it, and they turn it around and around. And you'd feed this ribbon cane into this mill. It would mash the juice out of it, and you'd catch the juice, and a—a mule would pull around . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . and around it all day till you got through. Then they had the

cook vessel. They had to have a real hot fire. This vessel, I guess, was three feet wide and about four feet long.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: It was built up brick around it. It sat on top of these brick where they could build a big fire under it.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: All right. This vessel had different compartments. The first compartment would—the juice would go in. It would circle around and come on around, and they'd be feedin' juice in all the time and . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . I've forgotten how many circles it would make, but when it got—it made its cycle, it would come out ribbon cane syrup. Then they'd put a lid on it, and you would have a gallon of syrup—whatever . . .

[00:10:56] KK: That was a great way to do it. It sounds like it was, again, a lotta work compared—you know . . .

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: . . . today you just go to the store, right?

EBA: A lotta work to it. A lotta work, but a lotta good syrup.

KK: And that was the only way you could get it, right?

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: Each person—each person in the community would have a certain day that they could use the mill and use the vat to cook. They—they had one man I guess they all hired. He was a specialist kinda on cookin' it out.

KK: Oh, yeah.

EBA: He wouldn't let it stick or—but that's the [*unclear words*] ribbon cane syrup. All right. We'll go to the grist mill now.

KK: Okay. Good.

[00:11:42] EBA: Uh—you would shell—you'd shell your corn and take it to the grist mill.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: The grist mill had stones kinda together, and you'd feed—they'd set the—if you wanted meal, they'd fit the stones up real close.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: If you wanted chops, they'd widen 'em out.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: And you—their pay was—they had so many dippers outta your corn for the use of the mill. And you'd—could get corn—I mean, meal or chops—whichever you wanted, or both . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . at the same time.

KK: Well, I know what corn meal is, but what's corn chops, for people who don't know?

EBA: Beg your pardon?

KK: What is—what is a corn chop? What do you mean by chop?

EBA: Uh—they—chops, they'd widen the wheels out and wouldn't crash the—uh—crush the corn quite as close . . .

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: . . . as they would for makin' meal.

KK: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. And how would people use the chop as oppors—opposed to the meal? What—was it used in cooking as well? Did they cook with it?

EBA: The tops?

KK: With the chops. Did they cook with it?

EBA: No, you feed chops to your hogs and . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . and chickens.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Turkeys.

KK: That makes sense.

[00:13:13] EBA: [*Laughs*] All right. I'll take you down—my daddy always had a big drove of geese, and he'd use the geese—we'd

eat 'em—and he'd use the geese in the cotton fields. [*Dog barks*] The geese would pick the grass but—outta the cotton, but not the cotton—little cotton sprouts.

KK: Oh.

EBA: And they served a good purpose there. Well, now when the oil field came in in 1921, they thought that if you shut a well in, you'd ruin it. And they dug pits before they drill the plug on a well and swabbed it to catch the oil. Well, these geese—every—when they bring a well in, it would spray all—all over the whole country.

KK: Mh-hmm.

[00:14:17] EBA: The pine trees would be bent over. Why the whole south field didn't burn up, I don't know. But anyway, these geese would get in this oil, and it'd weight 'em down, and it'd kill the whole bunch.

KK: Hmm.

EBA: That oil was everywhere.

KK: Yeah, so—so people had to learn as they went along.

EBA: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

KK: You know, nobody, I guess, really realized . . .

EBA: No . . .

KK: . . . what was . . .

EBA: . . . they . . .

KK: . . . gonna happen.

EBA: They thought shuttin' a well in would ruin it.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: And they'd dam up creeks and pits and everything to catch the oil. And it would—I don't know how long it would flow, but just for a day or two to get the top pressure off and . . .

KK: I—I'd even read in the book that you had to be careful about hangin' your laundry outside.

EBA: Oh, yes. I remember Mother—my mother goin' out and—and seein' which way the wind was blowin' because that oil was sprayin' all over the whole country. It—it was a—a mess, but everybody was so happy. [*KK laughs*] Discovered oil. [*Laughs*]

[00:15:38] KK: So when the well first comes in, it—it blows out the top, right?

EBA: That's right.

KK: So—so that's how it gets all over everything? Does it go up really high?

EBA: Beg your pardon?

KK: Does it go up real high? Is that why it gets caught in the wind?

EBA: Yeah. Oh, yeah, it'd go over the top of the derrick.

KK: Hmm.

EBA: And it'd spread out—fall down.

[00:15:56] KK: And you know how to build a derrick, right? You—
you know how to build a derrick?

EBA: I've helped build a derricks, yes.

KK: Yeah. Yeah.

EBA: A steel derrick.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: Now that—back in those—the first were all wooden derricks.
And the rig builders were the highest paid people in the oil
industry. Uh—they'd order out from the—build a derrick. They'd
send out so many two-by—two-by-twelves.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: So many two-by-tens, so many two-by-eights, so many two-by-
fours. These rig builders knew exactly how many it would take
to make the first gird. They'd have 'em all stacked up there and
the crosscut saw—they'd saw it—saw it out and start up with a
derrick.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: They'd—they'd set the nails in—in the boards before they sent
'em on up to the men on the scaffold.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: They set the nails in the—uh—boards, and all they'd have to do

was drive 'em.

KK: Mh-hmm.

EBA: But if you couldn't put one of those ?spag?—?spakes? down in two hat—two swings of the hatchet—they used a hatchet—well, you wasn't a rig builder.

KK: Ah, so you had to be really strong.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah. And how tall were these derricks?

EBA: Well, they had different—I had eighty-eight-foot derricks. I had a hundred-and-twelve-foot derricks. I believe that was the only two. Uh . . .

KK: Mh-hmm. And . . .

[00:17:50] EBA: But later, the steel derricks came on and—uh—took the place of the old wooden derricks. Now I helped build those—build a few of those steel—uh—derricks, but—uh—I never was very happy buildin' 'em. [*Laughter*]

KK: Was it—it was dangerous, wasn't it?

EBA: Oh yeah. Yeah, so you'd start up with the first four legs and then put a cross, and then you'd put a scaffold board across there. And wasn't a thing that—until they pulled up another piece of timber for another leg goin' on up. But a lotta times you sat on that scaffold board.

KK: Hmm.

EBA: Nothin' to hold to. [*Laughs*]

KK: Yeah. Yeah. No kinda rope or—there was no way to have any safety . . .

EBA: No.

KK: . . . really, was there?

EBA: No.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But I can't—I don't remember anybody ever fallin' off . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . because a man—when a rig builder, when he matured as a rig builder, he was pretty careful and knew what he was doin'.

[00:18:56] KK: Right. Exactly. Well, before you got into the oil business, you worked at the grocery store. Isn't that right?

EBA: Oh yeah. My first job was J. G. Shaw, a stutterin' Cajun. Uh—Jitney Jungle.

KK: Hmm.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:19:18] EBA: It's down there on—it was down there on Northwest Avenue, and he had a grocery store down there. And I went to him—I told him one day after school—I said, "I'd like to work for you." He said, "Do you think you could work?" I said, "Yes, I

know I could work." He said, "Well, we'll see. We'll might need somebody about six o'clock in the morning." Well, at six o'clock that next mornin', I was settin' there waitin' for him to unlock the store, and I worked for him for a long time. And he'd say, "B—b—by God, b—b—by God, you boys are g—g—get to busy." Said, "Front—and the front need to go to back and somethin' in the back need to come to the front. Let's work." [*Laughter*] He was a sight, but he—I worked for him a long time.

[00:20:13] KK: Do you remember how much money you were paid?

EBA: Yes, I remember. A dollar and a half a day—start at six and maybe get off at twelve or one at night.

KK: Wow, that is somethin'.

EBA: And that—was tickled to death to get it.

KK: 'Cause this was around the Depression era.

EBA: Yeah. Yes, Irish potatoes—we'd sa—get 'em—they'd come in hundred-pound sacks. We'd sack 'em up in ten-pound sacks. Ten pounds for nine cents. Ten pounds of sugar—thirty-nine cents.

KK: Yeah, that's amazing. So they—did that eventually become the Safeway? Did that become the Safeway store later . . .

EBA: No.

KK: . . . or is that a different job?

EBA: No, Jitney Jungle never did become . . .

KK: Okay.

EBA: . . . Safeway. Safeway came on a little later.

[00:21:12] KK: Ah, okay. So what made you decide to do somethin' different than the grocery store for a job?

EBA: I didn't decide to do anything different. I wanted to work anywhere I could get a job. It didn't make any difference what it was.

KK: So what did you do next for a job after the grocery store? What was your second job?

EBA: Oh, I worked for the grocery store all through high school, I guess, from my eighth grade—seventh grade on through the twelfth and—oh, I can't think of—mind's kinda slip right . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: I . . .

[00:22:04] KK: Did you work for the oil company after that?

EBA: Yes, I worked for the oil companies. Any time I could get a job that was the best pay job you could have. You'd get five dollars a day.

KK: Good. Do you mind if I put this down? There we go. Thanks.

EBA: Five dollars a day for the oil companies, and you were lucky, though, to get a job—get—even gettin' extra pay. Or extra

work.

[00:22:38] KK: Yeah. So how did you do that? How did you get that first oil job? Did you have to . . .

EBA: I lived out in the south field on—oh, what's the name of the road? Anyway, during the Depression, and Thirty-One Oil Syndicate had some leases on my daddy's place. Woodland Petroleum Company had some leases and had wells, and they needed extra help every once in a while, and I was tickled to death to get it.

KK: No doubt.

EBA: I never will forget the first time they told me to string up. That was to pull tubing. Tube—you have it—in a pumpin' well, you have rods, and then you have tubing. Well, they sent me up on top of that derrick and I—that wooden derrick. And I can remember tryin' to reach over that water table and pull myself up, but I did and strung up three lines to pull tubin'. They had ol' bull wheels. The engine that pumped the well did all the work. I mean, you'd put the—lay the walkin' beam down, pull the rods outta the hole, and then pull the tubin'. Had a—have you seen one of the pictures of the old Standard rigs?

KK: Yes.

EBA: Well, that ol' big bull wheel had re—smaller wheels on the inside

of it, and you'd put those—the ropes on that and that—you could put those ropes in on the other wheel and pulled rods and tubin'.

KK: Yeah. Now that sounds like a dangerous job, too.

EBA: Well [*laughs*], it was if you got at it. [*Laughter*] It—not many people got hurt.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: They—cautious and . . .

[00:25:04] KK: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. So that paid better than your grocery store job.

EBA: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Five dollars a day. Man, that was somethin'.

KK: So that was a big increase in pay. Did that change . . .

EBA: Oh . . .

KK: . . . your life?

EBA: . . . yeah, but that was just extra. I'd—you'd get a day every once . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . in a while.

[00:25:24] KK: And then—so later on, you got more of a full-time job, didn't you? Full-time job with the oil?

EBA: Yeah, the . . .

KK: Was that Lion? So when did you—do you remember what year you joined Lion Oil?

EBA: Hmm?

KK: Do you remember what year that was—Lion Oil?

EBA: No, I don't. I guess it was, oh, 1935 or somethin' like that.

KK: About how old were you? Do you remember?

EBA: Twenty. Twe . . .

KK: So you were still very young.

EBA: Yeah. I married when was I was twenty.

KK: Well, there you go. [*EBA laughs*] So you needed to get a better job, didn't you?

EBA: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

KK: Was that part of the reason you tried to get a different job, was being . . .

EBA: Huh?

[0000:26:08] KK: When you got married, did that make you wanna try to—even harder to get another job or . . .

EBA: Back in that time, you took any kinda . . .

KK: Ah.

EBA: . . . work you could get. You don't—you wasn't choicely.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: Just let me work and pay me whatever you'll pay me. That Depression was somethin'.

KK: Yeah. Tough.

EBA: But we—nobody fussed. It had—everybody was hit by it. I didn't know any better. [*Unclear word*] better term for it.

KK: I mean, that was just the way it was.

EBA: Yeah.

[00:26:44] KK: Yeah, I understand. So what gave you the opportunity to go to Lion Oil?

EBA: [*Dog barks*] I was workin' for Safeway for assistant manager and makin' sixteen dollars a week, and they promised me eighteen dollars a week if I'd stay on. And they decided they couldn't pay that much, and I went out and talked to Mr. J. B. Rogerson out at Lion. I's still workin' extra at Safeway and told him—I said, "Mr. Rogerson, I sure need a job." He said, "Boyd, what do you think you could do out here? Are you a boilermaker?" I said, "If you show me a boiler, I'll try to make it." [*Laughter*] And he said, "You wanna work, don't"—he said, "Well, you got a job." And they gave me a job, and I worked with Charlie Montgomery. And he was a insulator. And we were insulating those towers, and I've swallowed enough—what's that . . .

[00:28:02] Edwin Boyd Alderson, Jr.: Asbestos.

[Editor's Note: For the remainder of the transcript, EBA represents Edwin Boyd Alderson Sr., and EA represents Edwin

Boyd Alderson Jr.]

KK: Was it asbestos?

EBA: Asbestos. I'd come home and spit it out, and my clothes would just be—I could hit—a powder would come out of 'em. We didn't think anything of it, and it hadn't killed me yet. [*Laughter*]

KK: Well, I guess you're tougher than it is. [*Laughter*]

EBA: Yeah, but I . . .

KK: Good for you.

EBA: When we didn't have any towers to insulate, they always had some insulation they had torn off of different things and had it down there in a little room and made me a little paddle, and I'd beat it up, and that would make—would mix it in water and use it to insulate the *Ls* and *Ts* with a trowel and . . .

KK: Man, that's some hard work right there.

EBA: Oh yeah. It was wonderful, though, to have a job.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: You didn't [*laughs*] complain.

[00:29:05] KK: Yeah. Yeah. W—do you remember when you met Jewell?

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Tell me about that.

EBA: I sure do. That black-headed, beautiful woman. [*KK laughs*]

She sat right in front of me in study hall. And that black hair would—back over—and I'd kinda pick it up [*laughter*], and she'd look around, and she didn't fuss, but—and then I had a lotta sentences you had to diagram. You know, you'd draw a line—a adjective or negative—and what good that did, I don't know.

[*KK laughs*] It hadn't helped me out. And I'd get her to diagram my sentences for me, and we got acquainted, and I asked for a date. And she had a steady fellow, though. I had a lotta competition.

KK: Oh. Yeah. Well, I guess you worked hard at that like you did everything else.

EBA: Well, I did work mighty hard at that. [*Laughter*]

KK: Well, you succeeded. That's really great.

EBA: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:30:12] KK: So I understand that you got married in her parents' house. Is that right?

EBA: Her parents' house. Yeah. A picture is out there on the wall in . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . in her parents' house.

KK: It's a very . . .

EBA: Mr. and Ms. Murphy were so good to me—Mr. O. G. when—I

think he liked me before we even married and . . .

KK: Well, that helps.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: That's always good.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: 'Cause if he didn't like you, that woulda probably been hard.

EBA: [*Laughs*] Yeah. He told me—said, "Son, you're gettin' a Jewell."

I said, "I know it. Thank you ever so much." [*KK laughs*] And I did.

[00:30:51] KK: Well, that's great. So tell me about your first—the first place you lived as a married couple.

EBA: ?Orphans? apartment, number seven. Clark Sample was Ms. Murphy's brother. He lived in Longview, Texas, but he lived in El Dorado and—oil boom in Texas, he moved on out there, but he owned that omo—?Orphans? apartment, and he let us live in ?Orphans? apartment, number seven. And it was hot, man. The only thing we ever bought on time was a fan. We—the Arkansas Light and Power—you could pay it out on your utility bill. [*KK laughs*] We'd sprinkle water on those sheets at night and turn that fan on it. That number seven ?Orphan? apartment was right down there in the corner and two brick buildings on each side. And there's no way to get any breeze or anything.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: You could, I think, bake bread in it. [*Laughter*]

[00:32:02] KK: Well, that's a—I guess that was a common beginning
for a lotta young couples . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . was to be in a hot apartment like that.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: But you got through it.

EBA: Oh yeah.

KK: And it was nice to start out with someone helpin' with the
rent . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . as a young couple, I would think. [00:32:21] So where did
you go next?

EBA: I went to Lion. I worked for the Lion and the insulator
department. And after that, the Schuler field—Jewell and I were
married. The Schuler field came in—Jones sand and, boy, that
was somethin'. And Mr. Murphy, her daddy, was president and
manager of Marine Oil Company. And he came to me and said,
"Son, would you like to go to work for Marine?" I said, "Yes, sir,
I sure would, if I could go to work for Marine just like you'd hire
anybody else, but not as your son-in-law." He said, "Well, that's

the way I want it." And I worked out in the field, and a lotta those people in the roustabout gang knew that I'd—and they were gonna burn me out. Gene ?Kingery?—I never will forget him—same age I was and about the same build, and we were layin' a three-inch line across the bottom down there in the ?Phelan?, and he told some other man—said, "I won't work with him." Said, "I'll burn him out right quick," and we were puttin' a line—the pipes on our shoulder. Well, they were heavy, three-inch pipe, and we were carryin' about two joints to everybody else's one. And after a while, he says, "Let's slow down a little bit." [*Laughter*] But I wouldn't let him know I had knots on my shoulder as big as my fist, but . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . he didn't know it. [*Laughs*]

KK: Yeah, you made sure he gave up first.

EBA: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

KK: Good for you. So you didn't have any more trouble after that, right?

EBA: Hm-mm. No.

[00:34:33] KK: Good. Good. So you learned a lot of different things about the oil industry . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . as you went along. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

EBA: Well, down at Sandy Bend, it's a Meakin—a Nacatoch sand formation that reaches down from seventy-five to a hundred feet in depth—a little lens of sand and a big lens of shale. And it'd give up about two or three barrels a day, and that's all. I mean, it—but the next day it would give up that much. And Virgil ?Enlow? with Dow Chemical came to me and said, "Boyd," says, "it's a new thing come out. Sand frackin' a well." I said, "What do you mean, sand?" He says, "I mean pumpin' sand down a well to open the porosity up." I said, "I've spent half of my life sand pumpin' wells, gettin' sand out of a well." [KK laughs] He said, "Well, if you'll furnish the well, Dow Chemical will furnish the materials and the pump." I said, "Well, let me see." I went talk to Mr. O. G. He said, "Boy, have at it." And we sand fracked the first well that was ever sand fracked in south Arkansas. A well would cam—come in flowin' fifty or seventy-five barrels a day for several days—I say several days—maybe a week or ten days. Then put it back on the pump, and it would pump twenty-five or thirty barrels of oil for a good long time. And then they'd drop back down to two or three barrels a day. But in that time of that flu—we call it flush production—it paid for drillin' the wells and all the expense you'd been to, so we

drilled a lotta wells down there and sand fracked 'em.

KK: Wow. So . . .

[00:36:56] EBA: And they're still producin'.

KK: Really?

EBA: Yeah.

KK: And so that was sixty years or seventy years ago almost.

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: And they're still pumpin' oil.

EBA: Yeah.

[00:37:07] KK: Man, that is amazing. You know, I think a lotta people would think that after the oil boom that it was just stopped, but it kept going.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Well, that's great. That's great.

EBA: I—oh, Lion Oil—Phillips Petroleum Company had a lotta leases out there that Schuler—where now is the Schuler oil field. And they drilled a well down to forty-five hundred and didn't find anything, and in the meantime, Jones drilled Justice No. 1 on Marine Oil Company's lease, and we found that—they found—that was before I worked for 'em—found that sand at fifty-five hundred. Well, there's—that little well is still producin', I think. Anyway Phillips went back to Lion and said, "Now y'all got to

deepen that well on down to where they've got that Justice Well." And they did, and then the deal was, "You've got to take it on down to the Smackover lime." And the—you've got three producin' sections—just two out there and—well, three—out there in the Schuler field. And Edwin M. Jones drilled this well down lookin' for that Morgan sand and missed it. It wasn't at precedent. This was on the flank of the field. So he took that well on down and discovered the Jones sand—a hundred feet of rich, oil sand. Then Phillips went back on to Lion and said, "Now you got to take that well on down to earn your farm out." And so they did. They took it on down and went—the deal was they had to go to the Smackover lime, which is the next formation under the . . .

EA: Jones.

EBA: . . . upper sand. Can't call the name of the formation right now. Anyway they had to take it on down to the lime, and they—it was on top of the structure, and it made a good Smackover lime well. And then they had to drill another one to the Jones sand.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But that Schuler field has been a wonderful field. Still producin'.

[00:40:29] KK: Tell me a little bit about—the oil is in the sand, so how do you separate the stuff out of the oil that you needed to

get at—you know, so you can get to the oil?

EBA: Well, it—you have what you call bottom-hole pressure. When you release whatever's got it trapped there, why, the oil comes right on outta the sand.

KK: Just squeezes out . . .

EBA: It's caged in. Just like our water wells here in El Dorado. It's producin' from the sand. The water comes through that sand and . . .

KK: I see. Okay.

EBA: Cotton Valley is a formation. You have the Travis Peak and the Cotton Valley and Smackover lime and Jones sand. Morgan sand.

[00:41:27] KK: Let's go back to when you were really young for just a moment. Do you remember when the very first well came in?

EBA: I sure do.

KK: Tell me about it.

EBA: Back before the first oil well came in, somebody—Constantin Hill was over on the west side of the main field, and they drilled down and set pipe and didn't get a cement job, and they drilled the plug and wall—gas came up around the producin' string and came right on up to the surface. It affected ever water well—everything out in that community. My Aunt Julia—Jul—my Aunt

Julia Wood had a dug well, and that gas was just bubblin' up in that dug well. If you struck a match—well, to make a long story short, some people from Camden came down, and this gas was comin' up outta these ditches and wells and everything, and there was always jealousy between Camden and El Dorado. And their bunch came down from Camden, and they wanted to—one of the girls with 'em to strike a match and show 'em that this ol' gas—they was gonna take a picture. Well, it burnt up—well, she died. She burned.

KK: That's horrible.

EBA: They found out it would burn. [*Laughs*]

KK: That's horrible.

EBA: They took her to my Aunt Julia's house and wrapped her in sheets, but . . .

[00:43:35] KK: Yeah. So they didn't do the well the right way? Did they not do the well correctly?

EBA: No—the mechanical failure.

KK: Oh.

EBA: They'd pumped the cement down, but it channeled on 'em, and it came up around the outside of the pipe, and when they'd drilled the plug, well, it just came all up and the well was outta control. Then—that was at Constantin Hill. It never did make a

producer, I don't think. Then the Busey Well came in or drilled—
Mr.—ol' Dr. Busey. He took up money. Wong Hing, a Chinaman
here in El Dorado—they still got the laundry down there.

Several put up money to drill a well, and it made a producer,
and all of 'em got their money back.

[00:44:55] KK: But do you remember as a child when that
happened? Do you remember seeing it?

EBA: Oh, yes. My mother had a lotta geese, and my daddy used the
geese in the cotton fields. Have I told you this before?

KK: Yeah. Yeah.

EBA: But the—all the streams were full—covered with oil. We had to
draw water for the cows and horses outta the water well because
all the creeks and all were covered in oil—to water the stock.

[00:45:34] KK: But still, everyone was excited about the oil.

EBA: Huh?

KK: Everyone was excited about the oil, though, anyway, right?

EBA: Oh, yes. Real excited. Nobody was fussin'. [KK laughs] But
those geese—I didn't finish the story on them—those geese were
used to goin' down to the creek and . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . they'd go down, and they're covered in oil, and they'd die.

KK: Yeah. So after the Busey Well, then a lot more came in, right?

EBA: Oh, yes. A lot more.

KK: Do you remember . . .

EBA: The boom was really on. Hambigger—Hamburger Row. That was down on—you've heard about that, I guess.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: The population of El Dorado—I've forgotten what the figures were, but it just went up from, I think, about three thousand to twenty or thirty thousand just in weeks' time. People would come and beg to let 'em sleep on the front porch. There wasn't any place for all these people to sleep.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: I remember one night I counted over a hundred—you could see lights on the derrick—over a hundred wells all around, drillin' wells.

KK: Yeah.

JA: They were—the boom was on.

[00:47:02] KK: Yeah. And I understand that—you know, you talked about Hamburger Row, and that was—describe what that actually was. Describe what that actually was—those restaurants.

EBA: Well, it was several little ol'—we called 'em little joints. Places that had a hot plate or somethin'—cook hamburgers or

somehin' else, Irish stew, to serve all these people. There was several of 'em up and down that street. They could get most any price they wanted to for a hamburger or a bowl of soup or chili or somehin'. I never did get any. [*Laughter*]

KK: Well, it sounds like it was kind of expensive.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: So you had to be makin' money on the oil rig to be able to pay for it. [*BA laughs*] So how did this . . .

[00:47:57] EBA: They used wooden derricks. I didn't finish tellin' you about that. Operator would call the lumber company or saw mill and tell them to send me out lumber for a 88- or 112-foot derrick. And they would send out—they knew exactly how many lumber, and they would stack it up. And then the rig builders would take a crosscut saw, and they'd saw each pile of lumber for each section goin' up, and then they'd set nails in these and then pull 'em up to the men on the scaffold to nail together. They could put a derrick up pretty quick.

KK: Really? How fast?

EBA: Oh, they'd build one a derrick—one a day.

KK: Really?

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: That's really fast.

EBA: Well, maybe two days sawin' the—sawin' it all up, but they'd put a derrick up fast. If you couldn't drive that nail in two swings of the hatchet, you wasn't a rig builder.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: They all used hatchets.

KK: So they used the back [*claps hands*] side of the hatchet as a hammer?

EBA: No. Uh-uh. No, the front or the ball part . . .

KK: Gotcha.

EBA: . . . where they could really get a lick.

KK: Phew. That's somethin'.

EBA: Tough men. Rig builders got more money in the oil industry than anybody else. They got—their pay was more. I don't know—well, their work was dangerous and hard and—
but . . .

KK: And you had to know how to do it.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:49:59] EA: Dad, we've talked a lot about the oil-and-gas industry and how they would let these gushers go up and—
thinking that they'd ruin the well if they didn't do that, and
gradually technology improved and there—I think it was the

Schuler field, wasn't it, that brought on the need for regulation by the state? Talkin' 'bout the Oil and Gas Commission.

EBA: Son, I just don't know. I think it—yes, it was. Yeah, it was.

EA: You were—you had been president longer than any living person—or chairman—of the commission. Just tell us about why the Oil and Gas Commission was formed and about your time there.

[00:50:44] EBA: Well, the Oil and Gas Commission was formed for the state of Arkansas, appointed by the governor to regulate these fields—not let all this energy go to waste and set allowable on wells—well—whatever the capability of that well was, you could produce if it wouldn't injure the formation of the well—say, you produced fifty barrels a day from that well—not open it up and let it flow and waste a lotta oil and waste a lot of energy. And that was why the Oil and Gas Commission was formed, because you always had jokers that would try to take advantage. And especially in the oil-and-gas business. And the Oil and Gas Commission was formed, and they had spurs on. They can—could—they could—the governor gave them authority to control these things. And if a well came in, and it had too high a gas/oil ratio—boo—producin' more gas, usin' up more energy than it's producin' oil, well, we had to have 'em cut it way back or maybe

squeeze it off and perforate lower in the formation, where it would be drainin' the formation, wastin' the energy. And spacin'—Oil and Gas Commission had authority to space wells out at Schuler, Jones sand, two wells, forty acres; Morgan sand, one well to ten acres; Smackover lime, one well to forty acres. And we had authority to control the oil operators and what allowables they had and see that the oil/gas ratio was in line, not wastin' energy.

KK: And you said that was libels. Is what they called it?

EBA: Allowables. Yes.

KK: A liable. Okay.

[00:53:26] EBA: Allowables. The—a well'd come in and had a capability of producin' quite a bit. You would say, well, fifty barrels a day is enough to pull for this well and not damage the formation. Not just up and waste all that energy.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: And the Oil and Gas Commission had control of that and also control of the gas up in Northwest Arkansas. Spacin' and regulatin' the allowables on those gas wells.

[00:54:11] KK: Well, when the commission first started, how did you enforce these new rules? How did you make operators do the right thing? How did you make 'em do it?

EBA: We had authority to shut 'em down if they didn't do it. And we did shut a few down.

KK: And how did you do that?

EBA: Hmm?

KK: How did you do that?

EBA: Well [*laughs*], one time we like to had a regular war. Sent the commissions out with chains and locked the wells in. Lion was gonna cut 'em off, but they decided they wouldn't. But it was tough time. Lion didn't think—I say Lion—I think it was the Lion. I'm pretty sure it was. They didn't think the Oil and Gas Commission had that authority.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But they found out we did. We shut 'em in quite a while. Oh, I say a while—not—made 'em pay a penalty.

KK: And then they started doin' it the right way.

EBA: Right. Right way. Yeah.

KK: Yeah. Well, that's good. Sounds like it was very beneficial for everybody.

EBA: Oh, it was—very beneficial.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But, you know, some people tried to take advantage.

KK: Right. Right. And that short-term gain, it hurts everybody.

EBA: Yeah.

[00:55:38] KK: Yeah, I understand what you're sayin'. So how did you get on the commission in the beginning?

EBA: I was appointed by the governor.

KK: Which governor was that?

EBA: White was the . . .

EA: No . . .

KK: Do you know which one it was at first?

EA: Yes. The first one that appointed you was Rockefeller. You've done a . . .

EBA: Was who?

EA: Rockefeller. You've been . . .

EBA: Yeah, Rockefeller. Yeah.

EA: You've been appointed by Rockefeller, Bumpers . . .

KK: Pryor.

EA: . . . Pryor . . .

KK: Right.

EA: . . . White . . .

KK: Clinton.

EA: . . . and Clinton. [*Laughs*]

KK: Right. Right. So Rockefeller was first. So was the . . .

EBA: He was a Republican. I don't know . . .

KK: Yeah. Yeah, he was an unusual person . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . to get that job.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: So did he help start the commission?

EA: No.

EBA: Hmm?

EA: No.

KK: No?

EA: No, that was . . .

KK: Happened a long time before that?

EA: It—I think the commission was formed in [19]39.

[00:56:43] KK: Oh, okay. So it was around a long time. So he appointed you to the commission, and then how did you become president or chair?

EBA: Seniority.

KK: Hmm. Okay. So you were there long enough . . .

EBA: Yes.

KK: But I mean . . .

EA: That's humble.

KK: I was about to say you . . .

EA: It was a lot more than that.

KK: . . . must've—they must've thought you would be a good . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . chair. And they must've appreciated it because they kept you there a long time.

EBA: [*Laughs*] Yeah.

[00:57:12] KK: Did you enjoy working on the commission?

EBA: Oh, yes. I enjoyed it. I—always interested in the oil-and-gas business and . . .

KK: So in a way, you got to use a lot of your knowledge being on the commission.

EBA: Yeah, I gained a lotta knowledge, too.

KK: That's good. And did that help . . .

EBA: You had—we had engineers and geologists and operators from all over the state come before the commission with their case.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: And gained a lotta information and a lot of knowledge from 'em.

[00:58:00] KK: Now were you also working in the oil industry during that time?

EBA: Yes. Marine Oil Company.

KK: And did you ever get past settin' lines and doin' other things? Did you start doin' other things for the Lion? You started out carryin' the pipe and workin' on the rigs, but did you do other

things later? Did you have other jobs with them? Like did you . . .

EBA: I worked for the Lion for quite a while and then Marine Oil Company.

KK: I'd read that you used to do samples—take core samples.

EBA: Oh yeah.

[00:58:41] KK: Did—tell me how that worked.

EBA: Well, it's changed up a lot now. We have the Diamond Core Barrel now, but back in those days we had the Hughes Core Barrel. They had two different bits: a hard-formation bit and a soft-formation bit. You'd go to a place drillin' this well—go to a depth and wanna take a core—you pull out the drill bit, the drill collars and put on a core barrel and go down and cut a twenty-foot core or a ten-foot core, whatever you wanted to. And sometimes you got good recovery, and a lotta times you didn't. It was a hit-and-miss, but it was better than nothin'. Pull those cores out and lay 'em down on the—and you could look at 'em, break 'em, smell 'em, suck 'em.

KK: [*Laughs*] Really?

EBA: That's right.

KK: Really?

EBA: Yeah—to see if it had permeability. And later on they had the

company come in that would take the cores and make core analysis on 'em. They had machinery and all, which were a lot better, but I could still look at a core layin' out there on the walk in a core by—in a core box and tell whether it's good or bad.

KK: That's just from your experience.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah, it's hard to replace that knowledge.

TM: Kris, we need to change tapes.

KK: Okay. Good.

[Tape stopped]

[01:01:51] EBA: Dr. ?Rushin? had some leases down there in the Sandy Bend field, and he had quite a bit of production out in the Rainbow field. And I went to him and said, "Doctor, you don't wanna fool those little ol' wells down to Sandy Bend." Says—it was—deer season was comin' on. [KK laughs] I said—he always liked to go out to west Texas deer huntin'. That was before we had so many deer around here. And he said, "Oh, Boyd, I don't know. I don't"—I said, "Well, now think about it. You don't wanna fool those little ol' wells that have to sand frack and all." He said, "Well, come back tomorrow." And I went back tomorrow. He said, "I'm gonna let you have a farm out on there." Now I've forgotten what it was—a sixteenth or

somehin'. And I was later told that I was the only one that was ever able to make a deal with Dr. ?Rushin?. [*Laughter*] He was a character.

[01:01:43] KK: So you made a deal to get some . . .

EBA: Get his leases. Give him override. Override—you know, the landowner, unless they sell, has a quarter—I mean, a eighth. And if you—if I owned the lease and I wanted Dr. ?Rushin's?, well, I had to give him part of my seven-eighths. And I pay all the expenses, and he pays nothin'. But I get his lease.

KK: Right. Gotcha. Gotcha.

EBA: Make sense?

KK: Yes, it does. So the landowner gets their one-eighth, and then the rest of it is up to you.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: You do—you take the risk, but you get the biggest part of the reward . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . if you're successful. [*Voices in background*] So did you get good at figuring out where and when a well would do—did you get . . .

EBA: Fig . . .

[01:02:47] KK: Did you get good at figuring out when a well was

gonna do well and when it wasn't gonna do?

EBA: Oh yeah. After you drill a well and core it, [*footsteps in background*] you can more or less figure out what it's gonna do.

EA: He's all right.

[01:03:05] Jewell Alderson: Hello.

KK: So . . .

EBA: A lot of times . . .

JA: Whe . . .

EA: Let's . . .

EBA: What?

EA: Mother is lookin' for her dog. [*KK laughs*]

JA: Every time that Prescoll runs through . . .

EA: You're missin' . . .

JA: . . . she runs out. [*KK laughs*] One day we'll get . . .

EA: We're not far from through, Mother.

Bruce Perry: Here, why don't you get this door right through here?

EA: Okay. And is the other door shut?

BP: Yeah. It's closed.

EA: Okay.

JA: Thank you.

EA: Sorry.

JA: [*Unclear words*]

EBA: The oil . . .

EA: Doin' what damage control we can.

KK: Sure. Yeah, yeah. So did you . . .

EBA: The oil business is really a interesting business. You can win or lose quick. [KK laughs] And lose a lot and win a lot.

KK: And you learned a lot over the years about the business.

EBA: [Laughs] Yeah, oil experience. [Laughter]

[01:04:02] KK: Did you—did he talk enough about the Dakotas for you?

EA: I don't re—you might try—Dad, tell us about when—with Marine, you went up to—up north—what you did up at Poplar, mon—you went to—when you were with Marine, you went up—several winters you spent up in . . .

EBA: Oh yeah. Up in Montana.

EA: . . . in Montana.

EBA: Yeah.

EA: Do you mind tellin' a little about that?

EBA: Well, Murphy Corporation—Marine owned 17 percent interest in those leases up there. Murphy owned 15 percent. Murphy—it found a little structure up there. It never did, I don't think, ever amounted to too much, but Murphy wanted to operate it because they had more leases further down, and so Marine agreed to let

Murphy Corporation operate it. But I went up there one time right in the dead of winter, and I got outta that little ol' plane, and it looked like somebody—I mean, it felt like somebody cut my ears off. I mean, it was so cold. The frost—you had to bury lines up there six feet under the water—or six feet under the ground . . .

KK: Wow.

EBA: . . . to be sure that they don't freeze up. It was altogether a different operation from down south. Had to insulate those heater treaters, the tanks, and everything to be able to operate the year round. It was altogether a different story from down south.

KK: And I would guess that that was a lot of extra work and expense. Was it more expensive to do that? Did it cost more?

EBA: Oh yeah. Yes, it cost a lot more. Yes.

KK: [*Dog barks*] So there's a lot more risk involved.

EBA: Yeah.

[01:06:16] KK: Yeah. Yeah. Was it hard bein' away from home?

EBA: Yeah, sure it was. I had a mighty good-lookin' woman waitin' on me. [*Laughter*]

KK: That's . . .

EBA: I'm a lucky man.

KK: [*Laughs*] Yeah, I know what you mean. I feel the same way.
So you worked a lotta hours even when you lived here.

EBA: What?

KK: You worked a lot. Even while you were here, you worked a lot.
Was it hard for Jewell? Was it hard for you?

EBA: Oh, yeah. Sometimes I'd be gone. If we was drillin' down in
Louisiana, sometimes we'd be gone two or three days at a time
and—but that was all in it and . . .

[01:07:04] KK: Yeah. Well, tell me a little bit about your church life
because I know that, reading in the book, you took on Jewell's
church.

EBA: Well, I was a Presbyterian, and I married a good-lookin' little
Baptist girl. [*KK laughs*] So that changed my religion from
Presbyterian to Baptist. I felt like a family had to have one
church home. And that's—I did. And I was—I guess, went kinda
high—or not high, but apparently they had a little confidence in
me. In my term as chairman of the deacons, we purchased that
land across from the big buildin' which—called the Christian Life
Center over there now. We purchased that, and it almost
caused a split in the church.

KK: Really?

EBA: I think it was three votes carried it over. [*Laughter*] But it

[*unclear word*] best things that the church could do because they could expand and have places for young people and all. But we had some ol' hardheads that didn't think the church needed that and—but we got it. And then the—what about—you're talk 'bout where the Oil and Gas Commission is?

KK: Sure. Sure, go ahead.

[01:08:54] EBA: Buildin' service and the Oil and Gas Commission was located downtown El Dorado on—I've forgotten—the corner of—I've forgotten the name of that street. But we had a buildin' down there where we'd just outgrown the space in that buildin'. And buildin' service, which is a government regulation—told me—said, "Boyd," says, "you got to get a bigger buildin' or do somethin'." Well, I did a lotta shoppin' around. And Charles Murphy said, "Boyd, I'll let you have one floor of this ol' Murphy building." I went with them—went to buildin' service—said, "Oh, no. That's no good," which it wasn't. But it was a start. And he said, "You got to find a place out where's parkin' places" . . .

KK: Oh.

EBA: . . . "and room for expansion." I thought, "Well, where in [*dog barks*] the world am I gonna do that?" Well, I was drill—drivin' down the Magnolia Road, and comin' back I drove by the old Armstrong estate, and I thought, "Lord, that's where the ol'

Busey well was brought in [*KK laughs*] on that"—I said, "This would be a good place for a Oil and Gas Commission buildin'." So I went to buildin' service and said, "Boyd," says, "we'd pass on that." They had the opportunity to say or not.

KK: Yeah.

[01:10:40] EBA: So I went to Emon Mahony, who was in charge of the Armstrong estate and told Emon we'd like to have—I've forgotten what the spacin' of that lot is, but a pretty big lot—and he said, "Boyd, I don't know anything I'd rather I'd have [*KK laughs*] than to have the Oil and Gas Commission out there on my grandfather's old place."

KK: Yeah.

EBA: He said, "Let me work with my heirs on that." He said, "That isn't—that's not a easy job." [*KK Laughs*] He says, "They've all got different answer—heir." So he went to work on that end, and I went to work on the other end, and before long, we had it all put together and able to buy that property out there. And we built that buildin' that's out there now. The Oil and Gas Commission. Plenty of parkin' place, meetin' room, offices.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: It's—if you hadn't been out there, you oughta go out there. It's an—I think it's a mighty nice buildin'. Then Fort Smith came up,

and we had to build a buildin' up there for the north Arkansas.
And we'd have one meeting—fine to have one meeting—monthly
meeting in El Dorado and one in Fort Smith to equal it all up
and . . .

[01:12:12] KK: Well, that was kinda neat that you built the building
where that first well came in.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: That's a real nice . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . history.

EBA: That's what Emon Mahony—said, "I'd rather,"—said, "I'll really
work on that." And that was somethin' to work with all those
heirs.

KK: Yeah. Yeah. I know that can be tough.

EBA: Yeah.

[01:12:32] KK: Everybody's got a different agenda or opinion. Yeah.

Let's talk a little bit about race relations. Let's talk a little bit
about black and white race relations. I know that you were
involved in the integration of your church, for instance. You
know, there was a . . .

EBA: Well, I'll tell you, integration—I was for it 100 percent in the
beginning. But these old-timers like my daddy—my daddy

said—I—one night at the supper table out at—on Mother and Daddy's—I said, "I'll think we'll be pretty fortunate if our children go to school before it's integrated." My daddy hit his hands on the table. He said, "If it is, his daddy oughta be horsewhipped." I mean, that's how strong that was. Well, the older generation, like my dad, you know—course, that's a big change comin' from slave on up to more or less still slaves, the way were—some of 'em were treated and—but it's all worked out, but it took time. You just don't do that—thing like that overnight. Old-timers have to pass on for new ideas and new progress, and that was progress.

[01:14:13] EA: Dad, tell him about the First Baptist—whether to allow Black people to come to First Baptist. Remember that meeting?

EBA: [*Laughs*] Yeah.

EA: Tell him about that. [*Laughs*]

EBA: Well, we had a—I guess it was a—no, it was a ch—a business meeting.

EA: The church . . .

EBA: A church meeting. And ol' Dr. Green, bless his heart, was a good ol' Christian man, but he was one of the hard, hard shell—he thought a nigger was a nigger and always will be a nigger.

And it came up to vote—if a colored person came to go to church at the First Baptist Church, what would the ushers do? And we voted to let 'em—just let 'em come right on in if they came to worship or if they came to demonstrate or somethin'. And ol' Dr. Green jumped up, and he says, "I'm gonna get every one of these deacons a whistle, and if a nigger comes to the door, blow that whistle, and we'll throw 'em out." I mean [*laughs*] . . .

KK: Man.

EBA: But he would never change.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: And my daddy would never change some of his ideas, although he worked a lotta colored people, and he was good to 'em. But still, a Negro was a Negro and a step below everybody—I mean, every white person.

[01:15:51] KK: And so how—but eventually, Blacks came to your church.

EBA: Oh, yeah. Yes, I . . .

KK: Tell us about when that first started happening.

EBA: Oh, we got a Baptist as a song leader in the Sunday school class—sun—a fellowship class. He's a hard worker and a hard worker and a good Christian. And we've got several families that I think—although I hadn't been able to go to church lately.

And—but I think we have several colored families comin' to church and joined the Baptist church. And it—time helps everything.

KK: Yeah.

[01:16:38] EBA: Some of the old-timers have passed on, and the younger people can understand.

KK: Yeah, more open minded now.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah. I know what you mean. I guess it will be interesting to see how that progresses over time.

EBA: It's no doubt in my mind how it will.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: It'll come right along.

KK: But those were difficult times.

EBA: It was. It was, I mean, fist-fightin' times.

KK: Yeah.

[01:17:15] EA: But I'll tell you this—my brother and I were very, very fortunate. Mother and Dad told us from the earliest moment I can remember that we are to respect Black people and that we were never to ta—speak down to Black people or show them any less respect than anybody else. You taught us that early on in the [19]40s when most families didn't teach

that.

KK: Well, that was—that's good. My parents were the same way. My parents also were the same way. They helped with the integration of the elementary schools and—you know, and all that. And it was a big deal.

EBA: Yes, it was. It was a—it wasn't too long after—well, it was a good, long while after slavery time, but even after slavery time, the colored people still were more or less worked as slaves, and it took a while for 'em to get—gain respect and build up.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But we've got some fine colored people in our church, and I don't think anybody objects to anything now. Poor ol' Dr. Green is dead. [*Laughter*]

KK: Yeah, that's what happens. That's what happens.

[01:18:44] TM: Can you think of any stories that you can remember dealing with race as you . . .

EBA: What? I can't hear him.

TM: Can you think of any stories that—any incidents that happened dealing with race when things were kind of changing? Any particular instances of occurrences or anything?

EBA: Can you hear him?

KK: Did you guys have riots down here or anything like that? Did

you have—you said there were some fights over it, but were those between whites and blacks, or were they between different sets of whites who had different opinions? Do you remember who used to argue about these things or fight about 'em?

EBA: The old-timers argued about it, but the young people, I think, the young people more or less accepted it. They got to—the—their schools were integrated and they—it just gradually came on up. And everybody—I don't think of—I never did even hear of any disturbance in the schools with 'em.

KK: So the kids accepted this.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: It was just the old-timers that . . .

EBA: Yeah. Yeah.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: It's hard to change.

[01:19:59] KK: Yeah. Yeah, it is. So El Dorado has been through a lot, too. They were—it was agricultural, right? And it would—used to be agriculture and timber.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: And then it went to oil. And I guess it's goin' through more changes now.

EBA: Well, we're very fortunate. We still have a little oil—not a lotta

oil. But we have—I didn't think it'd ever be able to sell salt water, but the Smackover salt water carries bromine. And they've—we've got—had two bromine plants in Union County. One's shut down now. But I think the other one's still goin', and the one over in Magnolia is goin'. Sellin' salt water. That's beyond me. I [*laughter*] told everybody I tried to hide salt water all my life producin' those little wells. It's against the law to turn it loose in the creek, so you had to sneak and turn it loose when your pits got full. And the creek—course, it didn't hurt anything, but it was against the law. You had—later on everybody more or less drilled salt-water disposal wells . . .

KK: Ah.

EBA: . . . and disposed it in upper formation—Wilcox.

[01:21:31] KK: How did the—where did the salt water come from?

EBA: Comes mixed with oil.

KK: It's just down in the ground.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: And so that's a by-product, and you have to do somethin' with it.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: Well, it's just the Smackover lime salt water that has bromine in it. The upper formations don't have it—have bromine but the

Smackover lime is rich in bromine. I don't know what they do with bromine but . . .

KK: [*Laughter*] They like it, huh? I'm gonna have to have you lay that stick down again. It's right in the way. [*Clunking sound*] There you go. Okay, so what are we leavin' out?

EA: I think we've done . . .

[01:22:19] TM: I've got another question. From the beginning of when the oil started comin', how was it—how did it leave Arkansas? How did it leave El Dorado?

KK: Yeah, so how did you transport the oil, in the early days, out of Arkansas?

EBA: We had refineries here.

EA: Refineries were here.

EBA: Cattle Creek Refinery, Ouachita Valley Refinery, Lion Oil Refinery. I believe that's all of 'em.

KK: So you made it into different products right here.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Well, that created a lotta jobs, too.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah. And then how did they get those products everywhere else? Was it on trains?

EBA: Well, gasoline and diesel fuel was the main product outta the—

and always a market for that.

KK: But how did they get it away—how did they get it out to the country? Did it go on trucks, or did it go on . . .

EBA: Oh, pipelines and trucks. Lion had trucks that hauled—Lion Oil had a lotta fillin' stations all over . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . Arkansas. And I think they've done away with, I think, all of 'em. But they'd truck the products to these fillin' stations and the gasoline and oil and . . .

KK: I remember those stations. I can remember when gasoline was very inexpensive.

EBA: Yeah. [*Laughs*] Nineteen, twenty cents a gallon.

KK: Yeah.

[01:23:58] EBA: I lived out in the ol' south field, and the production out there was the Nacatoch sand, and it was thirty-two gravities—a lot lighter oil than the Smackover field—Nacatoch. And after the energy kinda left the formation—put the wells pumpin' and put on vacuum pumps that sucked the oil into the well bowl, and that gas that came off of that would go into the gas line to the gasoline plants, and it would make gasoline. They'd have what they called drips, and this line'd go down—take the moisture outta the gas.

KK: Oh. Yeah.

EBA: And I could run those drips on my daddy's place, and that's all the gasoline I ever burned for years and years. [*Laughter*]
Good casin' head gas. I burnt more casin' head than I bought gasoline.

KK: That worked out pretty well.

EBA: Yeah. [*KK laughs*] They just made gasoline in the colder weather, and so we'd get drums in the cold weather and fill 'em up and put 'em in the barn. Why it didn't [*laughs*] catch on fire—where we'd have gasoline in summertime.

KK: I see. I see. So you couldn't pump gasoline in the summertime through the . . .

EBA: It didn't make . . .

EA: It condenses.

KK: Oh, oh.

EBA: It didn't make gasoline in the summer . . .

[01:25:57] KK: Right. You couldn't get rid of the water . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . I guess. Okay, I'm with you. Yeah, that's somethin'. I had heard that there were people who would tap into those lines and steal.

EBA: Oh, yes.

KK: Tell me a little bit about that.

EBA: Well, this ol' boy that used to work down at Alan's electrical place. He was a electrician down there. He worked on clocks and everything. He was stealing gas and got shot. And that's the reason he was crippled all his life. He was runnin' a drip, and somebody shot him. I think they prosecuted the folks that shot him. I don't know the details. But anyway, he was gettin' gasoline outta one of those drips for his cars—shot him.

KK: So that was some dangerous . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . stuff, to be stealin' that gas.

EBA: Yeah.

[01:27:05] KK: But some people made a livin' stealin' gas like that, didn't they?

EBA: Yeah. Yeah.

KK: Gas and oil.

EBA: Boyd's fillin' station that was out there right across from ?Gaylor's? store. They had—I don't know how they managed to get it, but they'd get a lotta this casin' head gas, and they'd sell it for ten and fifteen cents a gallon. Cars drive up and fill up with casin' head.

KK: I guess anytime you have somethin' like that, there are gonna

be some people who . . .

EBA: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

KK: . . . who get into the criminal aspect.

EBA: Yeah, just like a watermelon patch. [*Laughter*]

[01:27:47] KK: Yeah. Let's see, was there anything else? I sure enjoyed readin' this book. I think we're startin' to get into things that aren't even in here.

EA: I think when this is edited, you're gonna have a . . .

KK: Oh, there's a ton of good stuff.

EA: Yeah, you've got the oil industry.

KK: Yeah, and that's really a huge thing. We got some of the faith stuff. We haven't talked that much about family.

EA: Maybe tell—he could tell a little about his parents and . . .

KK: Yeah.

EA: . . . and a little of Dad's parents if you want to.

[01:28:25] KK: Yeah. Can you tell me a little bit about your parents and your—some generations from the past? Do you have any—can you . . .

EBA: Well, my daddy was a farmer, a cotton farmer, and he had a peach orchard, and he had a dairy. A hard-workin' man. He worked a lotta wage hands—plant cotton and corn and—until the oil boom hit, and that kinda changed up everything.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But Daddy was a hard-workin' boy—man. He wasn't as built as tall or anything as I was, but as tough as a board. [*Laughter*]

KK: Yeah.

EBA: He be say—when he said jump, you jumped. [*Laughter*]

KK: So he commanded some respect.

EBA: Yeah.

[01:29:36] KK: Did you get your work ethic from him, you think?

EBA: Well, I guess so. He always had somethin' for me and my older brother to do. I remember one time he wanted the garden cleaned out, and Hugh and I worked real hard. We thought we—well, we did do a good job and we—Daddy came home and that—I said, "Come on, I wanna show you the garden." He looked at it. He said, "Looks pretty good, but what about all those weeds over in the corner?" He was hard to satisfy.

[*Laughter*]

[01:30:21] KK: Well, that sounds about right. I know how that is.

[*EBA laughs*] So how many brothers and sisters did you have?

EBA: I had two brothers and two sisters.

KK: And can you give us their names?

EBA: Hugh was the oldest brother. He was two years older than I was—am. Walter Earl is five or six years younger. Both of 'em

are passed away. Hugh was killed in a train wreck, and Walter Earl died with a heart attack. And Mildred was the oldest daughter. She's passed away. And Estelle married Joe Hooten, and they had one daughter. That daughter's still livin'. But she was a schoolteacher, and he was, too. And—but both of 'em have passed away. I'm—Jewell and I are the only livin' ones in each one of our families.

KK: I understand. You've lived a good, long life.

EBA: I don't know when they're gonna wring our necks. Both of 'em are ninety [*KK laughs*]*—both of us are ninety-four this month.*

[01:31:36] KK: Well, that's a nice achievement in itself. That's a good achievement. Tell me about your mom.

EBA: She was a Lacy. They were old settlers here. Her uncle was Captain Lacy. He was captain in the Civil War. Watt Lacy was a insure—one of his children—insurance agency. He's passed on. He was kind of a mess. And . . .

KK: So what was your mom's full name?

EBA: Margaret Estelle. They—always went by Maggie.

KK: Yeah. Yeah.

EBA: Eva and—a—Eva and Julia were her two sisters. Both of 'em are passed on.

[01:32:37] KK: Yeah. Do you know anything about how your

relatives came to the United States or when they emigrated?

EBA: No, I don't. I sure don't. And I don't know how they managed to wind up [*KK laughs*] down here in Union County.

[01:33:04] KK: Yeah. So at one time, cotton was a big crop down here.

EBA: Yeah, that was a cash crop. Then you had corn that—for your stock and meal. We used to have a lotta corn bread, and we raised a lotta corn. We'd shell that corn and carry it to the grist mill. And ol' ?Swilley Boy? ran that grist mill, and you could have it ground for meal to cook with, or you could have it ground for chops to feed your livestock and all. And they gauged that by settin' these wheels further in and out. Fine or—and you'd carry your corn there, and they'd take out toll—how much corn you got—well, they'd take out several scoops. That was for grindin' it for you.

KK: So you didn't have to pay cash.

EBA: Uh-uh.

KK: Yeah, I understand. I guess there was a lotta bartering—you know, there was a lot of trading that went on in those days . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . because there wasn't a lotta cash . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . to go around.

[01:34:29] EBA: Yeah. Cash was pretty scarce.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: I remember way back there—and I don't know what's happened to it, but when—just a boy—never did see many twenty-dollar bills. But it used to be a twenty-dollar bill that was printed like a twenty-dollar bill now, but on the other side was golden.

KK: Wow.

EBA: And you were supposed to be able to take that gold twenty-dollar bill to go to any bank and get a twenty-dollar gold piece. But [*laughs*] that's been cut out years. [*KK laughs*] I don't think you've ever seen one, have you, son?

EA: No. I sure haven't.

EBA: But I remember those.

KK: That's somethin'. So that was a big deal.

EBA: Yeah.

KK: Yeah. I was—that made me think of somethin' else. I'm tryin' to remember . . .

EBA: We've gone into the killin' of the hogs, haven't we?

KK: Oh, yeah.

EA: Oh, yeah.

[01:35:30] KK: We sure did. We sure did. And I guess chickens,

too, were a big . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: You know, you killed chickens to eat, right? And you had to . . .

EBA: Yeah. [*Laughs*] Chicken ?cookers? like—kinda got—in those days, I guess, you compare it with a deep freeze. You had company come in—I've heard Mama say, "Put on the tea kettle and go out there and wring that chicken's neck." They always had fryin'-size chickens that are cooked, or come on all along. That was the deep freeze.

KK: Yeah. [*Laughter*] Yeah. Well, you didn't waste anything in those days either, right? You used everything you had . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . for somethin'. I noticed when you were talkin' about the hog, you used every single little piece of it and used every little piece of the hog.

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: For instance. And there was somethin' in here about how even a turkey brain was considered—a turkey's brain was even considered something you could eat, right? You—wasn't that in the book?

EBA: No, hog's brain.

EA: No, squir—hog brain and squirrel.

KK: Hog brain.

EA: And squirrel brain.

[01:36:41] KK: Squirrel brain. Squirrel brain. Yeah. I'd never heard of a squirrel brain before as bein' somethin' that somebody ate.

EBA: Yeah. [*Laughs*] Oh yeah, we'd clean those squirrels and duck—get that brain out. My mother was crazy about those. I thought you was fixin' to talk about turkey fries. I's up in north Arkansas and ate in a restaurant, and they had signs all around—"We have turkey fries." And I finally said—asked one of those waiters—a little lady—I said, "What in the world is turkey fries?" She said, "Have you ever heard of mountain oysters?" I said, "Yes." She said, "Well, that's the same thing with a turkey." [*Laughter*] I'd never heard of turkey fries but . . .

EA: Dad, tell . . .

EBA: If you ever are up there, I bet you a—where they raise a lotta turkeys—they have those fields full of turkeys. The turkey fries. That's [*laughter*] . . .

[01:37:51] EA: Tell us a little about Louella Sample Murphy. You knew her before you and Mother were even dating. Tell 'em.

EBA: Yeah, she was—her mother was one of the sweetest people just like her daughter that I'm fortunate enough to have. But she

had a lotta things to take care of. She had one brother that was a alcoholic. She had to take him in and take care of him. And she had a son that gave her a lotta trouble. Had to take care of him, and he married. He had a little girl, and she had to more or less raise that little girl and—but she took it all in stride. And she's wonderful, wonderful, sweet little lady. I remember her in the grocery store when I was workin' for Jitney—for brooks—Brookshires, I guess. She'd buy groceries for one family, and I'd kinda—why, they didn't have the rollin' baskets in those days. You had baskets you put on your arm and carry around. And I'd watch, and she'd get a basketful. I'd take another ba—empty basket down and bring the basket up. And she'd always appreciate it so much. But she was buyin' groceries for two different families and she—we had to keep the ga—baskets separate. But she was—she took care of all of 'em.

KK: So she was like a mom to the whole community . . .

EBA: Yeah.

KK: . . . in some ways. Was she known for that? Did people know—did the people in the town kinda know she was doin' this extra work? Did they realize she was helpin' these people?

EBA: No. I don't know.

KK: Yeah.

[01:40:41] EA: And what do you remember most about O. G.

Murphy, Mother's dad?

EBA: Well, he was a mighty fine fella. A good shot—birds. He loved to bird hunt.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: And always had bird dogs. And he'd go over in Ashley County, over there at what they'd call the cutover. And he had someplace he and Sam Crawford hunted together, and they had a place they could spend the night over there. And they'd kill quail—I mean, just—he said, "While we was lookin' for singles, we'd hit another covey." [KK laughs] And he loved to bird hunt. And he loved to squirrel hunt. He would—he was a mighty fine fella. The—he had a lot to put up with. His brother and his son were both big problems. Big problems. And he was—they'd all come to him. One of his brothers—they always said that he could—his brother could sign a check just exactly [KK laughs] like Mr. O. G., and he'd sign a lot of 'em. [Laughter]

[01:42:19] KK: So when he would hunt quail, would he bring those home to eat?

EBA: Oh, yeah.

KK: Yeah. That seems like that would be a treat.

EBA: Yeah, it was a treat. Big treat.

KK: Well, that's neat. And I didn't really know that—I mean, I knew people ate squirrel, but I didn't know that it was somethin' that kinda everyone ate 'cause everyone kinda ate whatever they could shoot, didn't they?

EBA: Everybody, it seemed. I never did know anybody that didn't like squirrel. They—it was like—that's when they wasn't quite as plentiful as they . . .

KK: Yeah.

EBA: . . . were in El Dorado.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: You had squirrel dogs. You'd go out in the wan—woods and these dogs would tree a squirrel, and you'd shoot that squirrel. But if you got three or four squirrels, you had a big hunt.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But now all—they all [*KK laughs*] over El Dorado.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: But those big fox squirrels—I don't know whether you've ever seen one or not, but they are 'bout twice as big as these little cat squirrels. They're reddish, and there's a lot of them. We used to have quite a few in El Dorado, but somethin' happened to all of 'em.

KK: Yeah.

EBA: We don't have it—fox squirrels, but, whoa, we have these others.

[01:43:44] KK: Yeah. Yeah. And did you guys hunt rabbit, too? Did you shoot rabbit?

EBA: No, never did hunt rabbits. But I trapped a lotta rabbits.

KK: Ah, yeah.

EBA: A box trap and a piece comin' over the top to fasten to the door of the trap and put a piece of apple in the back of it, and that rabbit'd go in there, and it trip him, and you had a rabbit. We'd skin him and cook him. I'll tell you a sad story. I maybe ought not tell it. [*Laughs*] But my Aunt Julia Wood had three sons, and the two oldest ones—one worked for the railroad. The other one in the oil field. But they'd come every once in a while and come stay with their mother. And they'd go out, and they'd gig frogs. Great big ol' frogs. And Mother—Aunt Julia would cook 'em for 'em. They'd skin 'em that night, put 'em in the ice box, and cook 'em—I mean, she'd cook 'em next mornin'. And she said she went outside, walkin' out the back door, and she said she saw a whole bunch of frogs walkin' with their front legs—their hind legs cut off.

KK: Uh-oh.

[01:45:25] EBA: And she threw up her [*laughs*] breakfast that she

had. They didn't—apparently they didn't kill the frogs. They just cut their hind legs off.

EA: Oh, wow.

KK: Oh, man. That's brutal. [*Laughter*]

EA: Oh, that is horrible.

EBA: It turned her against frogs.

KK: Yeah, I'll bet. [*EBA laughs*] Just . . .

EA: Whew. I think we've done well.

KK: Well, I think so, too. Is there anything in particular that we're missin' that you'd like to get?

EA: I . . .

KK: I mean, I think we've covered a lot more than I thought we were gonna be able to . . .

EA: Yeah. Yeah.

KK: . . . do today.

EA: Yeah, you've got . . .

KK: I'm pretty happy about it.

EA: You've got a treasure of some of the early days, I think.

KK: Oh, no doubt about it.

[01:46:07] EA: Dad, can you think of anything else, or have we bout done it?

KK: Son, I believe I've got it as far as I know.

EA: You did great.

KK: Good job.

EBA: It seemed like [*coughs*]*—*but maybe we need to talk a little about the syrup mill.

EA: We did.

EBA: We did?

EA: Yes, sir.

KK: Yeah, that was a good story.

EA: Real good.

KK: Okay.

EA: I'll go get that scooter.

KK: We'll make some room for you.

EBA: Well, thank you, gentlemen. I don't know . . .

KK: Thank you. You're the one that needs to be thanked. You're the one doin' all the real work.

[01:46:47 End of Interview]

[Transcribed and reviewed by Pryor Center staff]