

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

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Arkansas Memories Project

Gordon Morgan
Scrapbooks
February 15, 2006
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 files, video highlight clips, and photographs are made available on the Pryor Center Web site at <http://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.
- Double underscores indicate two people talking at the same time.
- 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
 - standard English spelling of informal words.
- Commas are used in a conventional manner where possible to aid in readability.
- All geographic locations mentioned in the transcript are in the state of Arkansas unless otherwise indicated.

Citation Information

See the Citation Guide at

<http://pryorcenter.uark.edu/about.asp#citations>.

Scott Lunsford interviewed Gordon Morgan on February 15, 2006, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. This transcript presents the conversation that took place preceding the interview, as they looked through Dr. Morgan's scrapbooks and photograph albums.

[00:00:00]

Gordon Morgan: . . . Uh—to Jamaica—uh—where—uh—I was doing something—but—uh—I think they asked me to give a lecture there and—uh—do some other looking around. So I've been there a few times as well.

Scott Lunsford: Mh-hmm.

GM: And—uh—scenes from the countryside and—and—and—and so on of Jamaica—very—uh—interesting. And sociologists at the University of—uh—the main university in Jamaica [University of Jamaica] and scenes from there. Uh—I almost got beaten up in Jamaica with this guy. [Points to specific photograph] [*SL laughs*] Uh—I took a picture of a guy with his mule pulling the wagon and he thought I was gonna [going to] make a lotta [lot of] money on it, so he threatened to get even with me. But I talked him out of it, and I—uh—didn't have any wounds to show. I told him, "I'm just a schoolteacher trying to get something to

show our students street sweepers in Jamaica."

[00:01:17] SL: Now Jamaica has a big—uh—there's a broad—
uh . . .

GM: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . gap between the haves and the have-nots there.

GM: Mh-hmm.

SL: There's still extreme poverty there, right?

[00:01:27] GM: Yeah, and along with the poverty you have some
great—uh—achievements there in terms of economics. One of
the things that I was concerned with was—uh—like, you have
these great housing projects—not housing projects but upscale—
uh—homes in Fayetteville, where you have whole sections like
out on the country club area or . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: East of [Arkansas Highway] 265. And so you could see—uh—
homes of that scale in Jamaica at the same time you could see
this level of poverty. So you're correct. The—the gaps were
quite . . .

SL: Dynamic.

GM: . . . outstanding. Yes, yes. And—uh—in other places, like Haiti
and Trinidad and so on, we could see some of the same things.
Here's a scene from Trinidad in—uh—the British West Indies.

Scenes like this would be very common in the—in the islands and—uh—the great contrasts.

SL: Empty billboard.

GM: Yes, yes. And—uh . . .

SL: So this is still Trinidad.

[00:02:50] GM: Trini—this is Trinidad. All this is Trinidad, and there's—uh—well—uh—you can see the cultural variation in Trinidad—big—uh—sort of Indian population. They came over there—uh—after the fall of slavery. As you know, slavery fell in the British provinces around about—uh—1838.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:03:21] GM: And—uh—after that time you started bringing in Indians from east India into Trinidad and other places, and they set up shop. So you have a tremendous admixture of these east Indians and people in—uh—the islands, especially Trinidad. Here's a trip to—to—uh—Port-au-Prince, Haiti, many years ago. And, of course—uh—all the problems that Haiti has, you still have to like Haiti because they are hanging in there with all of the problems of poverty, et cetera.

[00:04:11] SL: Now what's the story here?

GM: This is—uh—I don't whether you guys remember, but must've been in the mid-[19]80s. You had a big movie that was made

in—in—uh—the Fayetteville area called—hmm—what was it?

SL: *The Blue and the Gray* [Released in 1982 as a CBS TV-mini series].

GM: *Blue and Gray. Blue and Gray. And we were in Blue and Gray.*

SL: I was in *Blue and Gray*.

GM: You were in *Blue*—ooh! [*Laughs*]

SL: I felt like I was best supporting extra in that. [*Laughter*]

[00:04:38] GM: Well, we—we made *Blue and Gray*.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: And—uh—enjoyed it.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: I think we ended up on the cutting floor. [*Laughs*] But that was one of the scenes.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: We—we were—uh—sorta [sort of] servants . . .

SL: I was gonna say this does not look like Haiti to me.

GM: No, this is [*SL laughs*] *Blue and Gray* out at—out at Lincoln, Arkansas, or somewhere.

SL: Now this looks like Haiti.

GM: Yeah, that—that's—uh—actually Trinidad.

SL: Trinidad.

GM: Trinidad.

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: And the American universities there—they're—I—I can't read that, but it says . . .

SL: John F. Kennedy College of Arts and Science.

GM: John F. Kennedy College of Arts and Sciences. We were trying to buy them off then and—and raise great—uh—schools—a great college in Trinidad.

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: So that was—was that. Trinidad.

SL: Okay.

GM: And—and so on. Uh—I don't now what that is.

SL: What is that?

[00:05:39] GM: National Honor—National Honor Society Golden Key—Golden Key, which is quite a prestigious thing. We didn't have Golden Key in—in—in the school that I had graduated from, which was UAPB [University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff] in Pine Bluff, which was at one time called [Arkansas] AM&N College—Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College. And even before that, it was called Branch Normal College . . .

SL: Yes.

GM: . . . which was a branch. It opened as a branch of the University of Arkansas in 1875.

SL: Wow.

GM: And it stayed a branch of the University of Arkansas until 19—
about 1928, and then—uh—went its separate way and was
reintegrated into the University of Arkansas about 1972. So
that's—but—so I went to the school when it was in a—in a
suspicious position—that is, when it was AM&N . . .

SL: AM&N.

GM: . . . College and had its so-called independent identity.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:07:00] GM: And we did not have Golden Key, but we had the
equivalent of Golden Key. It was called—uh—something like
Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, but it was for the top—uh—
students. I didn't—I was not a member of Alpha Kappa Mu but—
uh—they did have that—uh—possibility. And—uh—some kind
of ball . . .

SL: [Unclear words]. This is pretty recent stuff.

GM: Yeah, this is—this is recent here. This is recent. And—uh—I
don't—this must be—uh . . .

Franklin Evarts [Camera Operator]: John, [unclear words] there.

I'm just getting [unclear words].

GM: . . . somewhere in . . .

SL: Pullman, Washington.

GM: . . . uh—Pullman, Washington. I don't know whether it was for some reason, but I was much younger then than I am now.

[Laughs] And we had Walter Kimbrough, who was president of Philander Smith College [Little Rock], that—uh—uh—was here. Now this—what we did was open the Gordon [D.] Morgan and Izola [P.] Morgan Graduate Fellowship [in Sociology] in Pullman, Washington. We thought that the schools that saw some potential in my ability—she didn't get any degrees from there. But they gave me a chance, so I gave—you know, when I got a little bit successful, decided that we would open a graduate fellowship in sociology at Washington State University. It's been—it's been upped a little bit in terms of money.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: But—uh—it's one of the better ones there, and somebody gets maybe a thousand bucks a year for—uh—a scholarship at Washington State.

SL: That's very generous.

GM: So that's one of the things that we are very proud of. We have the same thing here at the University of Arkansas. We figured that these schools gave us a chance and if we would—uh—we feel that we should put a little something back.

[00:09:22] SL: Let's see what we've got here—this guy.

GM: Now let's see—this—I have no . . .

SL: That's your home now.

GM: This is home—home—where we are now. We've been living in this house for thirty-six years.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: Here's my older daughter, who is still with us, and that's myself at someplace in—in Oklahoma.

SL: Azalea festival?

GM: In the spring—[Muskogee] Azalea festival.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: Uh—we like to know the area that we are living in, so we get around to quite a number of things in Northwest Arkansas as well as in the area. We are interested in churches and—uh—have tried to keep up with the transitions in the African American church community over the years. Some of these are in little places that I'm familiar with—uh—and we—we like to look at—uh—these changes.

SL: Is this in Oklahoma or . . .

GM: No—yeah, this was—this one is in Oklahoma. It was at one time used by the [American] Indians and the African Americans.

[Laughs] They still have it there.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: And—uh . . .

[00:10:44] SL: Okay, now tell me—what's happening here with these folks?

GM: Here—these are students in my office. I've had over the years all kinds of students that come into the offices, and we try to have some pictures of them showing their integrations and their activities in classes and try to promote harmony among the students. And it's been a good experience. Some are a little bit alienated and—and—and others—uh—show different—uh—uh—intentions. This lady here was—is a former student of mine that is a professor at—uh—the Lincoln [Memorial] University in [Harrogate] Tennessee.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: And she had—was on the staff here for a while—about six or seven years and moved on. So students are encouraged to not only learn—uh—whatever subject matter we're teaching, but actually to become friends. And we kind of like that, when they become friends.

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:11:59] GM: Uh—so we get notices and—and letters from students at other places—uh—saying how much they enjoyed classes or whatever. That—that one is from somebody, I think,

in Colorado—uh—a letter attesting to what we tried to do . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: . . . uh—for them. And, as you know, this is an old black fraternity house on the campus—Sigma—one of those on—uh . . .

SL: Fraternity Row.

GM: . . . Fraternity Row.

SL: Is that Holcombe [Hall] or Humphreys [Hall] right . . .

GM: Oh—but—yeah, I think so. But they couldn't keep up the bills, so they had to give it up—uh . . .

[00:12:48] SL: Well, population was a problem then.

GM: Mh-hmm. Couldn't have—didn't have the numbers.

SL: You couldn't have enough guys in there. A hundred and fifty. It was . . .

GM: Right, right. So, okay, here we are with some of my family . . .

SL: Okay.

GM: Now, here's Mama . . .

SL: Okay.

GM: . . . and I don't know whether that's a cousin or somebody—a nephew, a sister, my brother, and his wife. And there's myself and my sisters and—and a cousin.

[00:13:26] SL: Okay, now what are your sisters' names?

GM: This is Geraldine Smith, and her name is Bobbie—uh—Dewberry.

SL: Uh-huh. And those are your sisters? [Unclear words].

GM: Those are my sisters. I had one brother and two sisters.

SL: And what was your brother's name?

GM: My brother's name is Thomas. He's a couple year older than I am.

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: And—uh—Mama is still alive. She's ninety-five years old.

SL: And where is she now?

GM: She's in Conway. And—and . . .

SL: Now, this looks like some [unclear words].

[00:14:00] GM: Now this is—this is me—uh—back in the 19—uh—60s—early 1960s at—uh—uh—I don't know whether it was Washington—it must've been Washington State University where I was getting my degree.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: Or . . .

SL: And are—are these your children or . . .

GM: These are my children. This is the one that's a—this is the youngest one. She is at Mayo Clinic in—uh—Rochester [Minnesota], and this is my oldest daughter that is still with us, and this is the son that—uh—lives in—in—uh—the Washington,

DC, area—finished a career in the military and got out with pretty good rank.

[00:14:59] SL: Okay, now—now what are your children's names here?

GM: This—the oldest one is Marsha . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: . . . and the second one is Bryan—third one is Marian, and we had a fourth one [Bryce Lawrence Morgan] that—uh—was nineteen years old when he lost his life on a motorcycle accident.

SL: Oh . . .

GM: So we—we noticed somebody lost his life last night on a motorcycle.

SL: Yes, I saw that in the paper.

GM: I—you know, it makes tears come back to your eyes . . .

SL: Yeah.

GM: . . . from all of that.

[00:15:33] SL: Now is this some kind of trip to the . . .

GM: This—I think . . .

SL: . . . East?

GM: . . . this is when I was in—in—in the military service in Korea . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: . . . many years ago, and pictures from around Tokyo or

Yokohama—some area.

SL: So did you go from Washington State University into the service?

GM: No, I was—I—I left—uh—college with a bachelor's degree in the early [19]50s and went straight to service.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: So I'm—I'm a Korean War person. And—uh—uh—after some time—let's see, one of the happiest certificates I got—is that it up there—that one up there?

FE: This one here?

GM: What does that say?

FE: It's—this one from the president of the United States . . .

GM: Mh-hmm.

FE: . . . Army of the United States?

GM: Mh-hmm.

FE: Uh—"Gordon [*unclear word*] is a reserve commissioned officer, grade of second lieutenant." [*GM laughs*]

SL: All right.

[00:16:30] GM: So I was quite happy about that. It took me a long time to get it, but—uh—uh—I got that and—but the whole military experience is something that I—I could relate to, because it taught—uh—it taught us so much—uh—about yourself. I—I'm not much on fighting or anything, but . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

[00:16:55] GM: I think that's me. Yeah, that's me. I don't know how long ago but some time ago.

SL: Now what's happenin' [happening] here? [References a photograph of GM]

GM: Uh—in the associations in different occasions, you have to give speeches. I—over my career I've been asked to speak at a number of schools—in special occasions at other colleges and some universities. This is one—I've forgotten where, but that's the kind of thing that that was. So when I was much younger we got a chance to, you know, give speeches. They would ask you to give, like, speeches during black history or something like that. This is Mama and her brother. He is now deceased.

SL: And where is this at?

GM: This is in Conway, Arkansas.

SL: Okay.

GM: Mh-hmm.

SL: So she still lives there?

GM: Mh-hmm.

SL: And is—is this her house or . . .

GM: This—this is the family house. It's still standing. And this was kind of activity for—in—in honor of her and her brother.

[00:18:14] SL: Uh-huh. Um—what's going on here in Delight?

GM: Delight?

SL: Or is this Marianna?

GM: Uh—we have tried over the years to have students bring in pictures and make studies of their own home communities, and—uh—the—some student was bringing in material from Delight, Arkansas . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

GM: . . . and we incorporated those. But—uh—as far as Marianna is concerned, we have actually years ago studied in Marianna—at Marianna and tried to make sense out of its impossible sociological situation.

[00:19:04] SL: Okay. So now what is your mother's name?

GM: Her name is Georgia.

SL: Georgia.

GM: Georgia Morgan. I think all of this must be the same dealing . . .

SL: Yeah.

GM: . . . with that event. Yeah.

SL: Uh-huh. Well, it looks like a nice spot—all those trees.

GM: Mh-hmm. Yeah, we bought that house in 1947.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: Uh—that was the second one that we had. The first one was

bought in 1942 and—uh—we lived in this bad place for about seven or eight years, and then bought a fifteen-acre spot just, at that time, outside of Conway, which we retained. But it's getting away now, being sold off. *[Laughs]* Sold it down to an acre and a half now.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:20:05] SL: Are these more student photographs?

GM: Think so. I think so. Some of the children's friends, I believe.

SL: Okay, Houston, Texas. What are you doin' down in Houston . . .

GM: In Houston . . .

SL: . . . on Thanksgiving Day?

GM: It was some kind of—I don't know—some activity we had down there, but it was quite a notable activity. I've forgotten exactly what it is. Must have been back at . . .

SL: This is your fox out in your back yard.

GM: Fox in the back yard.

SL: Raccoon.

GM: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm.

[00:20:43] SL: Rochester, Minnesota.

GM: Mh-hmm.

SL: What's happening up there?

GM: That's where the daughter is some kind of technician, yes. So

we'd get a chance to go . . .

SL: Oh, that's right. At the Mayo Clinic?

GM: Yeah. Mh-hmm.

[00:20:56] SL: Did you ever meet any of the Mayos down here—Joe
or Ned or . . .

GM: I didn't know . . .

SL: . . . Alex?

GM: . . . no. Were they in here?

SL: Yeah, the grand—the grandchildren.

GM: I didn't know.

SL: Yeah, they're down here.

GM: Uh-huh.

[00:21:07] SL: Looks like we've got some that are missing.

GM: Well, I think there may be—I think she bought this at a garage
sale . . .

SL: Oh, I see.

GM: . . . for twenty-five cents or something.

SL: I see. Y'all just used it.

GM: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: Okay, that's good.

GM: And this [*References the magazine Arkansas: The Magazine of
the Arkansas Alumni Association*—I think it is—I can't see the

date on it. Must be 2003.

SL: I remember when that came out.

GM: Did you do that?

SL: I did not do that, but I was in that shop.

GM: But we were honored, I was, with that—being on the cover of the Arkansas thing. Now there's 'papa's'—no, no, that's another one outside of Lincoln, I believe, outside of Prairie Grove that looks a little bit like St. James [United Methodist Church].
[Pause in conversation while flipping through magazine]

SL: Yeah, y'all finished that tower back, didn't you?

GM: Yeah, thanks to Gary's [Lunsford] efforts.

SL: Looks good.

GM: Uh-huh.

SL: I was kinda [kind of] keeping up with that.

GM: And, of course, that is a part of the alumni journal that they got out. Okay, let's see where we are here. I've been interested in the Ozark Mountains, and as you can see from 1979, been—I've been making my reports from the Ozark Mountains, trying to understand the whole thing.

[00:23:07] SL: Did you come here in 1970?

GM: I came in [19]69 . . .

SL: Sixty-nine.

GM: . . . [Nineteen] sixty-nine and had been involved all the time. Now this one we keep because this is our boy that was lost in the motorcycle accident. At that time he was going through scouting. Both of my boys turned out to be Eagle Scouts, and I'm quite proud of that.

SL: Good reason.

GM: Mh-hmm. We have been trying to carry on research in the department in the—you know, trying to not just be a teacher, but trying to be active in writing books and so on. So here's one that's called *America Without Ethnicity*. I think it was published in the early [19]80s, but we were trying to make the case that if America's gonna [going to] go anywhere at all [*clears throat*], it will go there without the emphasis on ethnicity that we have. And the history of the University of Arkansas is captured in *The Edge of Campus [A Journal of the Black Experience at the University of Arkansas]*, with my wife being the—helping to author that. I think that book is somewhere down here.

SL: I—yeah, I saw—it's in this stack here.

[00:24:40] GM: Mh-hmm. Yeah, *The Edge of Campus*. Talking about our contribution to this area from 1875, basically, up until about 1990. We're all influenced by different scholars that we are able to have along the way. This guy, Oliver Cromwell Cox,

is the one that kind of turned me on to sociology, although I did have a Ph.D. by that time—by 1963. And by the time I started working with Dr. Cox, the two of us were teaching sociology at Lincoln University [Jefferson City, Missouri] in a room. We had offices in one room about this size, and so I could shout across the room to Dr. Cox and get his ideas. But he is perhaps the most outstanding scholar in the field of race relations and capitalism that we've had in the past fifty years. And I worked with him for four years in the department that we had at Lincoln University. And it was only in the fourth year—the year that I was getting Dr. Lee [Interviewee edit: Dr. Oliver C. Cox] that I learned that he was from Trinidad. [Laughter] Now, talk about not knowing anything. But he didn't even—he didn't have an accent. He didn't have—he didn't behave like West Indians or anything like that, but that's where he was from. 'Course [of course], he came over here when he was eighteen years old. [00:26:34] And—but I learned a great deal of sociology from Dr. Cox 'cause he had a good handle on that. If I had a role model, it would be Professor Cox. In—must've been seventy— [19]91, Washington State University asked me to come back and be a member of their faculty for a semester as a distinguished visiting professor. And, of course, among other things, I

enjoyed, as I do now, singing in the choir, although my voice is not good. But I did participate in the choir in one of the—I think it was Simpson Methodist Church in Washington state. And we—we try to keep up discussions and argumentation and thought about different issues at the university and in the community. [References newspaper articles in his scrapbook] I do make—write articles occasionally. And, in fact, quite often for the local media, and have been doing this for many years. This one, "What Causes Prison Riots?" was in 1983 in the *Pine Bluff Commercial*, and you see the discussion about . . .

SL: Football.

[00:28:10] GM: . . . UALR [University of Arkansas at Little Rock] should have its football team. It's hard for me to believe that a community of two hundred thousand people cannot have its own football team. But we get into the politics of athletics. And there's my friend . . .

SL: Keith Black.

GM: . . . Keith. Is that Keith Black? But he looks so much like Governor [Orval] Faubus of Arkansas.

SL: Oh. [*Laughs*] He does, doesn't he?

GM: Mh-hmm. I had Governor Faubus's son in my classes. Of course, Governor Faubus's son committed suicide.

SL: You know, I didn't remember that.

GM: Yeah, I remember it. But . . .

SL: Was he in your class?

GM: He was not in my class when he did it, but I recall he was in a class that required great participation, and he didn't participate that much. This must've been back in the mid-[19]70s or some year like that because he was either in law school or out of law school or somewhere. He was a mature guy at the time.

SL: Hmm.

[00:29:26] GM: But I'm—I was very interested in Governor Faubus because Faubus was not a person who was as racist as we claim. And as a student at the university in 1955, I had a military obligation. You got outta [out of] Korea—you had a military obligation of so many years, so I needed to fill that out. So I went down to what is now—what was then known as the 142nd Field Artillery [Brigade]. That was my branch, and that was a unit they had here in Fayetteville. So I went down there to join, and they told me, "Well, we have not had any black people to join." It could've been the National Guard. I think it was the National Guard. "We haven't had any black people to join, and we don't know what to do. So we need you to go down to Governor Faubus office and ask if it is okay for you to join." I

thought that was a little strange.

SL: Yeah.

[00:30:52] GM: So I went down to Faubus's office in the state capitol, and he interviewed me, and then he sent me over to a man that had two stars, a Major General Sherman Klinger. [*SL laughs*] And Klinger—well, Faubus had been an artillery person himself, so he had asked me a lotta questions about gunnery. And then General Klinger asked me all kinds of questions. Sent me back to Faubus, and Faubus says, "Well, Morgan, I'm gonna tell you, I'm gonna send you back to Fayetteville, and you tell those people, and I'll send them a note, that it's okay with me if you join the National Guard."

SL: Wow.

GM: And I [*SL laughs*] came back, and he says, "If the guys in the Guard want you, that's okay. But as far as I'm concerned, you are okay." So I came back to Fayetteville. I went down to the Guard, and they called a formation or whatever of these guys, and they basically said, "Everybody wanting Gordon Morgan to join the National Guard, raise your hand." Not a hand went up. [*Laughs*]

SL: Oh, man!

[00:32:31] GM: I couldn't believe what I was reading—or seeing.

Since when do you have to have a popular vote to get in service? So I didn't . . .

SL: Well, so you didn't serve?

GM: . . . I didn't get in.

SL: That's so strange.

GM: It was strange. But I didn't worry about it. So we have been—have tried to be active in various kinds of activities in the state and in the campus—on the—and in the community. Here's St. James United Methodist Church [Fayetteville], celebrating a hundred and seven years in the same location, and we are very happy about that 'cause we don't intend to move. [Laughs]

SL: Yeah. I love that place.

[00:33:25] GM: Yeah, so it's kinda strange. You'll have to visit us sometime. That is . . .

SL: Well, I do every once in a while.

GM: . . . talking about eastern Arkansas. Was a friend of mine that was at Washington State University named William [Julius] Wilson that became "Mr. Sociology." He's at Harvard [University, Cambridge, Massachusetts] now, but he wrote a book in 1978 called *The Declining Significance of Race*, [Blacks and Changing American Institutions] in which he said this whole thing is gonna head south. [00:33:59] And I was reading my

notes, and I said—I had said the same thing six years before Wilson's *Declining Significance of Race*. But being where you are doesn't help. If I had been at Chicago or Harvard or somewhere . . .

SL: It would've gotten out and your . . .

GM: It would've gotten somewhere.

SL: Yeah.

GM: Yeah. That was the Ayatollah Khomeini trying to . . .

SL: Did you do that drawing?

GM: Yeah, I try to scribble a little, sketch a little.

SL: Did you have some art training?

GM: No, I never had any. I never had any art training in my whole life.

[00:34:38] SL: Okay, now what's happening here?

GM: Now, this is my wife's brother, who had a little business fixing airplanes and tearing down airplanes, et cetera.

SL: Refurbishing—recycling.

GM: Mh-hmm. Yeah. Mh-hmm.

SL: And this is his son and . . .

GM: I think so. Yeah.

SL: Okay.

GM: And some artwork that I tried to do just to—what I discovered is

I might've had a little more talent than I ever knew because even though this is not good, I'm quite happy because when I was a youngster I didn't believe I could do anything like that. [00:35:22] But it's amazing what can happen once your mind gets uncluttered. So I'm kinda happy about things. . .

SL: Yeah . . .

GM: . . . like that.

SL: . . . I like those.

[00:35:32] GM: In the two hundredth—was it two hundredth anniversary of the country? Diane Blair and Jim Blair—I think she was Diane somebody else.

SL: Kincaid.

GM: Kincaid at that time—and Jim Blair and others—a whole group of people at the University of Arkansas had some kind of grant for discussing the American experience. So I was the sociological representative and had to give, like, a public lecture on the American experience. And I was trying to make the case—it is not a complete experience. It is a process that was—in 1977, and some booklet over there has those speeches in there. So we have all this business. Here's Gorby [Mikhail Gorbachev]—when Gorby . . .

SL: Gorbachev.

GM: . . . went capitalist, I guess. Brilliant. So we tried to analyze why he was doing what he was doing. Now all these essays and so forth are just evidence that we've been trying to do a little bit of thinking as we have moved along the way.

[00:37:13] SL: That's quite a body of work.

GM: Now here in college—there's one of the early pictures . . .

SL: Okay.

GM: . . . of myself. In college didn't have a—I didn't have a lot to work with but was fairly enthusiastic. So they did elect me as vice-president of the student body in . . .

SL: At A&M?

GM: At AM&N College. It was quite an honor because you had some heavyweights and heavy-hitters there. And here, this is my roommate, and this is kind of a student leader, and we competed for—was it a Fulbright Scholarship or some other scholarship at that time? I've forgotten exactly what it was. It could've been a Rhodes Scholarship, but it was a very prestigious scholarship, and we made the finalist but didn't get the whole thing. But being active in college was quite an experience. And there's my bowing-out speech for giving up the vice-presidency of the student body when I finished.

SL: So you gave that up because you were graduating or . . .

GM: I was graduating.

SL: Yeah.

GM: Yeah. Yeah. And those are my—this one is about—somewhere up in Eureka Springs, some senior citizen was taking a class from me, and she wanted to entertain the class at her house in Eureka Springs on the lake, so it was quite a thing then. So . . .
[00:38:59] [Pause in conversation while flipping through pages]

[00:39:11] SL: So were you—did you sit on the [Arkansas] Parole Board or . . .

GM: Uh . . .

SL: . . . is this the board of corrections?

GM: Yes, I was on—wasn't on the Parole Board, but I was on some kind of prison board that had to make some decisions about various aspects of the prison. I used to teach criminology and was very connected into correctional work and so had to do things connected with the prison system. I wanted to be a criminologist when I was a juvenile getting a master's degree. And, in fact, did an internship with the Federal Bureau of Prisons at a place in Englewood, Colorado. And we had fairly young prisoners. They ranged from about sixteen through about twenty-five. And I recall one year I was—one—during that summer I didn't have a car and was living about five miles—at

the prison—outside of Denver, and I had to walk to Denver or walk where you catch the bus or something like that, and then ride the bus back and then walk a certain distance back to the prison because you didn't have any transportation. So one time, I went to Denver and was walking back, and somebody called the warden and said, "Warden, there's a very strange thing happening. One of your guys [*laughs*]*—one of your inmates is walking back toward the prison. He should be going the other way.*" [*Laughter*]

SL: Oh, man!

[00:41:09] GM: So that's how he . . .

SL: [*Unclear words*]

GM: Yeah, I mean, I was not much ahead of the prisoners [*SL laughs*] in terms of age or anything else, but that was a—*an interesting thing. I don't . . .*

SL: Looks like you've . . .

GM: That was . . .

SL: . . . been actively—or active with the St. James Church.

GM: Yeah, yeah, I've been—even though I'm not a member.

[*Laughs*] Not a member, but that's all right. Here we have some Ford Foundation program at the University of Mississippi [Oxford, Mississippi], where we studied the cultures of the

South. [00:41:52] And upon arrival, they had you make all kinds of pictures and things, but I wasn't dressed that day, but it was all right. We studied the southern experience in great detail. I had to go down every week—I mean, every month for a whole year and spend the weekend at the University of Minnesota—I me—University of Mississippi, studying all aspects of the southern experience. And we usually ended up eating catfish at the worst fish hole you've ever seen in your whole life and never had a single moment's trouble. [Laughs]

SL: Oh! [Laughs]

GM: Not one.

[00:42:44] SL: You mean it was worst in that . . .

GM: Well, you know, the catfish didn't taste like anything, but we didn't have any social problems. [Laughs] Actually, the catfish was pretty good. But we ate catfish in every notable fish hole in the state—I mean, in the—in that part of Mississippi. It was quite interesting.

[00:43:09] SL: This is your son? [Refers to a red ribbon]

GM: Son. I think that's some kind of award that he got.

SL: Uh-huh.

GM: And, let's see, who is this? [President George Herbert Walker]

"Bush's Nomination of Thomas—Clarence Thomas is Anti-

humanistic." We used to have a journal—have a paper in town called the *Grapevine*, and I wrote in that quite a lot.

SL: Yeah, I knew the *Grapevine*.

GM: Mhmm. So that's just about my life story.

[00:43:41 End of Scrapbooks]

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