

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

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Arkansas Memories Project

Grace Heiskell Terry
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford
October 28, 2016
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 <https://pryorcenter.uark.edu/about.asp>. 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; and
 - 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

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**Scott Lunsford interviewed Grace Heiskell Terry on October 28,
2016, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Grace Heiskell. Is that the correct pronunciation? Now,
what is . . .

Grace Heiskell: Yes.

SL: . . . your full name?

GT: My full name is Grace Netherland Heiskell, and
Netherland was a—Grandmother Heiskell's maiden name.

SL: Okay.

GT: John Netherland was her father and they were all from Tennessee.

[00:00:22] SL: All right, now—before—before—this is—this is the way we
usually start.

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: I usually start with when and where you were born.

GT: Yeah, okay.

SL: So . . .

GT: Do I have to tell when?

SL: Well, it's kinda handy.

GT: You have to. You have to, I guess.

SL: Well . . .

GT: It's so—so awful to have to tell it.

SL: No, it's not.

GT: Yeah. Anyway, it—[unclear words].

SL: No, you look fabulous.

GT: Too old to be worried about that.

SL: Okay.

GT: So we'll—we'll begin.

[00:00:48] SL: Okay.

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: So when—when and where were you born?

GT: Uh—I was born February second, 1923, in—in the hospital in Little Rock—uh—which I think it was then considered a first for hospitals. Usually you were born at home. And my sister had been born at home, but I—I was born in St. Vincent's Hospital.

SL: So you grew up in Little Rock.

GT: I grew up in Little . . .

SL: Early years.

GT: . . . Rock. Yeah. And—um—the only ?incident?—oh, there was one incident that I [*unclear words*] you see, I had a—a nurse named ?Molga?, who was Irish. And her name—real name was Margaret. She'd been my sister's nurse, and my sister was seven and a half years older than I, so she was away at school when I was—early on—me. But I remember coming out of the house and across the street

was a car with the shades down. It had a front seat and back seat and shades were down. And it would just be sitting there silently. And ?Molga? would steer me around. Nothing was ever said. And they found out it was a strange woman who had taken some offense at the *Gazette*.

SL: Oh! [*Laughs*]

GT: And she was, I guess, gonna kidnap me. She may have decided after she saw me act up or something and she wouldn't take that on.

[*Laughter*]

SL: It was gonna be too much to deal with.

GT: [*Laughter*] Too much. She give me back. [*Laughs*]

SL: Okay, now, let's . . .

GT: But that—it was strange, though.

SL: That is—that is kinda spooky, isn't it?

GT: And then it was spooky. And that happened when I was little.

[00:02:45] SL: Let me ask you this—um—uh—your father's name . . .

GT: Was Fred Heiskell, yeah. And he was managing editor of the *Gazette* and his two-year-older brother, John Netherland Heiskell, was the editor.

SL: Now, this—he went by Ned. Is that right?

GT: And he is—was nicknamed Ned, always.

[00:03:07] SL: Um—do you know where your father was born and raised?

GT: He was born on—grandmothers came from—uh—a plantation in east Tennessee.

SL: Okay.

GT: And Daddy was born there. Um—I have the name of that plantation in a book that Grandmother wrote it when she was ninety, telling about being brought up in the Heiskells and whatnot. Uh—but anyway, Daddy was born there and then—ah—when the Civil War was over, they—the Heiskells moved to Memphis and lived on Pontotoc Street, which was named after an Indian chief.

[00:03:53] SL: Pontotoc.

GT: And across Daddy and Uncle Ned, there were eight of them—four daughters, four sons. And—uh—Uncle Ned and Daddy were very close—two years apart. And across from them lived the Collier family, and he would—uh—Mr. Baron Collier was exactly Uncle Ned’s age—two years older than Daddy, but he was a friend of Daddy’s as well. And later, Mr. Baron Collier—the Colliers had a very fascinating history in the Civil War and all. But after he grew up, he started an advertising business for streetcars and made a fortune, so he was very well-known and he moved—Collier County in—in—Florida is named after him. But that was the—the kind of person—and then there were the—the Toother family who lived on Pontotoc Street. And in Grandmother’s book she said, “It was the first time I realized what it

was like to be poor. We had one serving [*SL laughs*] for the eight children. [*Laughs*] She'd been brought up on a plantation and . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . it was so different. And she and her sister were educated in Baltimore and—oh, it was—her father was a statesman. Anyway, Daddy grew up to be a newspaperman early on, and his brother, Uncle Ned, did the same. But Daddy went with—when we won the Philippines in the Spanish-American War—uh—then we had six—I think six commissioners and maybe the commissioner general was William . . .

SL: Howard Taft.

GT: William Howard Taft. Right. And Daddy went to—one of the commissioners was—uh—our attorney general from Memphis—from Tennessee—general—and it was called general. You just dropped the attorney. General Luke Wright. So he took Daddy as a—his secretary and he and Mrs. Wright went to—and he—to—uh—Denver. They stopped in Denver and Daddy wrote his mother and father and sisters that they—that—um—people with tuberculosis would just crawl to Denver because they thought they could get well and they were called lungers. Anyway, then they went on and they went to the Philippines, and he was there when they—uh—for about three years and traveled as a young man.

[00:06:32] SL: Let's—let's—um—let's get back to—um—your father's side of the family.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Now, your grandfather—um—was also a newspaperman. But wasn't your grand . . .

GT: Yeah, on my—on grand—on Grandfather Heiskell's side, yes. He was—uh—I think Daddy was named after him. He was Frederick Stydinger, which is Dutch. And Heiskell is Dutch. And he was the editor of a Knoxville, Tennessee, paper and they were—they all were abolitionists. They did—did not believe in—in slavery.

SL: Now, what—was he a part—was it his—your great-grandfather that fought in the Civil War or was it your grandfather?

GT: It was my grandfather.

SL: And he—he was on—he was—he fought for the Confederacy.

GT: Yeah.

SL: That's right.

GT: Yeah. And he came from—uh—Hagerstown, Maryland, and they're—yeah, he—he fought in the Confederacy.

SL: And he was a—an officer, wasn't he, in the . . .

GT: Yes, he was. Yeah. I think—I don't know what—maybe he was a colonel. I don't know what it was. I think he was at least maybe—everybody was seemed to be a colonel who survived.

[00:07:49] SL: It's—it's—um—I—I'm sure you never got a chance to meet him or . . .

GT: No, he had died . . .

SL: . . . talk with him.

GT: . . . before I—Grandmother, I knew, cause she lived to be quite elderly for that day. I mean, she lived to be in her nineties and she wrote this book in her nineties. So . . .

SL: Now, this is the grandmother on . . .

GT: That's Daddy's mother.

SL: Yeah, Daddy's mom.

GT: And—and—uh—Grandfather Heiskell was a lawyer and trained. When he came back after the Civil War to—and they settled in Memphis, he and his brother, who was considerably older than he. I think the brother was John Heiskell. Um—went into practice together—their firm. And then he became a—uh—a judge as years went by. And—uh—they were, of course, you know, being Presbyterian, they saved so that when [*SL laughs*] a cousin from Virginia came and said, "Now, the *Gazette* is up for sale." Mr. Allsopp owned part of it—I thought half, but maybe the—it was a quarter. And the other part was being put up for sale, and so Grandfather—they bought it. Daddy was in the Philippines. [*SL laughs*] And he came back on the ship with Mr. and Mrs. Taft. He liked Mrs. Taft a lot. She—he—liked—Mr.—president—

former—then he became President Taft.

SL: Right.

[00:09:32] GT: And their daughter, who then—when everybody grew up, she grew up and my sister went to Bryn Mawr—was taught history by that Taft daughter—Helen Taft Manning. Isn't that something?

SL: That is something.

GT: I'm just thinking . . .

SL: It's a small world.

GT: I just think that is so great.

SL: So—but . . .

GT: But anyway, we—we—um—then that was when the—the *Gazette* became—and Uncle Ned—uh—and—became the editor and my father became managing editor.

[00:10:05] SL: So when your grandfather let the family know that this was for sale . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . and he was going to buy it, didn't your dad say, "There's no way I have—can afford to . . .

GT: No, he—he had been—he was twenty-three or so and [*SL laughs*] he had been playin' poker the night before. So he said, "Count me out. I can't do it." But Grandfather covered for him and then he paid it, of course, all back—so—eventually.

SL: Okay now, let's—let's talk about your mom's side of the family. Now, do you remember your . . .

GT: Oh, yeah.

SL: . . . your mother's maiden name?

GT: Yeah, she was a—her name was Royston. *R-O-Y-S-T-O-N*. And it was an English name and her Grandfather Grattison—I love the name Grattison.

SL: That is pretty.

GT: And I've only once in Kent, England, in the museum and it was—there was a bishop or something was named Grattison. She—I—her grandfather—grandfather, I think, wrote—Fred can tell all this—but wrote the Constitution for the—with the other people for Arkansas, cause he was a lawyer as well and lived in Washington, Arkansas, which was the old state capital.

SL: Old Washington. Yeah.

GT: I loved Washington.

SL: Yes. Yeah, that's really a . . .

GT: And the Royston house is—oh, I'd love to build a house just like it.

[SL laughs]

[00:11:41] SL: Well, so—um—did you get to know your grandmother at all?

GT: I knew Mimi, Mother's mother. Mother was an only child and—uh—

she—her family had been the second family in the area of—of Little Rock. A Presbyterian minister was the first and then the Watkins family—Isaac Watkins came. And yes, I did know Mimi—not well. I think I was five when she died. I just remember she was—she was very intellectual and—uh—and very—she was—uh—a—an orphan early—mother and father died and she was the only child, as Mother was only—an—an only child. And so she was an old lady who lived by the river—just took Mimi on as her charge and watched her money that she'd inherited and—and—but she used to ask Mimi—sometimes she'd wake her up in the night and ask her to come and read her *Blackstone*.

[00:12:55] SL: What is that? [GT laughs] What—what—what is the *Blackstone*?

GT: A *Blackstone* was a famous writer—English writer.

SL: Ah.

GT: About—what—nineteenth century, I guess. I think—I think he may have—it may have been to do with law. She was very interested in the law, so she wanted her *Blackstone* read to her.

[00:13:19] SL: Yeah, now there was—there was some—uh—when I was reading some of the material Fred sent me, there was a preference by one of your relatives that preferred reading encyclopedias rather than novels. [GT laughs] Is that—I don't know which [unclear words].

GT: But I don't know what—but it may have been—it may have been . . .

SL: May have been Dad, maybe.

GT: Well, Mimi's father was—um—uh—Clendenin. John Joseph Clendenin—and he was a lawyer—had trained—had studied the law under one of our early presidents before he became president—Andrew Johnson, was it?

SL: Okay.

[00:14:02] GT: I maybe—I think it was he. And he came—he was a circuit judge and he came to the—to the territory and would ride the circuit and—and then later became a—a—uh—Supreme Court—Arkansas Supreme Court justice. But he—and she adored him and he died early and her mother, Mary Eliza Watkins Clendenin, had inherited quite a bit of property. And she wanted to see her inheritance over at North Little Rock, which was called Argenta then.

SL: Argenta. Uh-huh.

[00:14:44] GT: So the story is that she rode—she was having Mimi—her only child—and she rode horseback.

SL: Oh, my gosh.

GT: And went through the river and it—the horse's ears stood up, and that was all that was seen—and then came out of the river and the Union soldiers applauded her. [*Laughter*]

SL: That's a great story.

GT: Isn't that a good story?

SL: That's a great story.

GT: They were all encamped over there.

[00:15:12] SL: All right, now—I—I want to—uh—talk about your—your earliest memories and I—I—I think I want to start with your mom.

What is the earliest memory you have of your mother?

GT: Hmm. I just don't know.

SL: It's okay to take some time with this.

GT: Yeah. Um—well, one of them is that her—she had three best friends that they grew up with. They knew—had known each other since—and one was Aunt Lois Hemmingway. She was—her maiden name was Roots.

SL: 'Kay.

GT: And then Aunt Julia House and—and Aunt Julia was—let me see—I can't—I should know what her maiden name was because—oh, Clark. Her—yeah. Her father was a brilliant lawyer and a statesman—uh—represented our state and Aunt Julia was—and her sister lived in Washington. So Aunt Lois, Aunt Julia, and Aunt Marcella Penzell, who never married, and Mother were all four very good friends. And Aunt Julia would come and call—they'd all call on each other.

SL: Sure.

[00:16:44] GT: And they were the best company. So—I mean—I'd be—a

little girl and I would sit and listen to what they had to say just because they were so entertaining.

SL: They probably talked about the neighborhood and who's doing what.

GT: Well, they would talk about—Aunt Julia was, of course, so well-read, and she would talk about books she'd read or they'd tell funny stories or something. And so they were just entertaining. I—I—the Southerners—I've lived for so long in the North—the Southerners are better company than [*SL laughs*] anybody you can find.

SL: Well, they talk slower [*GT laughs*], for one thing, and it's a . . .

GT: They always had a lot to say.

SL: . . . little more lyrical. [*GT laughs*] You have a little more pitch differences and they're . . .

GT: And they can—Southern women can live anyplace. They could—you could put 'em all in the Gobi Desert and they'd find—or they—the Sahara [*SL laughs*] and they'd find a Bedouin to talk to or something.
[*SL laughs*]

[00:17:44] SL: Well—so growing up in—in—in your house, do you remember—what's—what about the earliest memory you have of your father?

GT: Uh—well, I remember—um—we'd always have a formal meal in the evening . . .

SL: Okay, I want to . . .

GT: . . . and I would sit at the table with them as I—when I could sit there and whatnot. And he was very funny and so much fun. And he could—he was very artistic, too. He could sketch and I liked it. But anyway, I said to him once—he said, “I have to leave.” And I said, “Why? Why do you have to leave?” And he said, “Because I have to put the paper to bed.” He was the managing editor. So that was kind of a nice way of putting it, and the paper would go to ?sleep?.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, so . . .

[00:18:48] GT: There—there—I never—did I—he died, you see, of a heart attack when I had just turned eight, so I have just flashes . . .

SL: That’s all right.

GT: . . . of a memory of him. But I have a searing memory of some history. Uh—I was four years old, but I’m—I’m—I don’t know whether it was late in the year that I was four, when I was about to turn five that this happened. But I was in the back seat of the car. Daddy driving, Mother sitting next to him, and we went from Second Street across Chester to Third Street. And as we got there [unclear word] I heard a lot of noise. I thought it was a parade, but it was dismal, dismal noise. And Daddy said, “Get down on the bottom of the floor,” and I did. And it was the last lynching they had in Pulaski County. Maybe they—it was the last lynching in the state, but I doubt it.

[00:19:56] SL: It was on—was it on Markham in downtown Little Rock,

wasn't it?

GT: Yeah. And they dragged him up Third Street and my sister when she came back from college, et cetera, and living in New York—went down to the library and looked it up. It was before Internet and anything—and found that they had gotten the wrong man.

[00:20:21] SL: Yes.

[End of Verbatim Transcription]

GT: And that the real culprit had escaped to—through the bayou. Gone.

SL: That's a dark moment.

GT: That was a . . .

SL: . . . in Little Rock history.

GT: . . . dark moment. And . . .

SL: And you could sense that.

GT: Oh, gosh, I knew there was something wrong, but I did not see.

Anyway—but Mother said that—told the story that after the *Gazette* was threatened, because the *Gazette* had said, "He should be tried by a court of law." And they were threatened by a mob. Daddy, putting the paper bed, said—which meant he had to work there for a couple hours—said to everybody in the newsroom, "If any of you are afraid for your family—fear that they're—and you can't sacrifice that, go, because I understand." Nobody left and they put—everybody had a gun on their desk. It was serious stuff.

SL: It was. And actually, it still is.

GT: Is it still?

SL: Yeah. I'm afraid that there's some of that stuff out there. And it's unfortunate, but—and we can talk about . . .

GT: That later.

SL: . . . the desegregation and all that.

GT: Yeah, but . . .

[00:21:37] SL: But you know, the—we'll talk about that and the role the newspaper—the starring role that . . .

GT: The starring role. Yeah.

SL: . . . the newspaper paid—played and . . .

GT: That was—and, of course, I wasn't here when that happened.

SL: I know. You know, but I want to get back to the home life.

[00:21:55] GT: The home life was wonderful. We would go—I mean, for instance, every Sunday—oh, you went to Sunday school, of course, and then we would have a wonderful noon/mid-day meal. Fried chicken and just the most delicious food. I'd—I just can't get over the memory of delicious food. And then we would get in the car and go to Whisperwood, which was seventeen miles out of town and it had been built—Daddy and Mother's country house.

SL: It was acreage out there.

GT: There—we had a thousand acres he had bought and a stream and

woods. And . . .

SL: The Little Maumelle River.

GT: And Little Maumelle River and Daddy had met an Englishman named Mr. Petter. Mr. Jack Petter, who had moved—come to Arkansas somehow. After he had built adobe houses—?rammed? earth houses in Central America and he said, “I have these houses I’ve built,” and described what they were. So Daddy—after he’d bought this house and acres, he came to Mother and said, “Now, we can build a traditional house with columns and Southern—or we can try something new.” [00:23:29] And she said, “I want to try something new.” So they put up boards that were about—I don’t know how tall—they looked very tall to me then—five feet or over—wooden boards like a fence. And then the workers just rammed the earth into it. Pounded it. Pound it and pounded it. And then that earth dried and then the plaster was put over it. And then tiles—beautiful—a dark tomato-colored red tiles were put on the top and Mother had a wonderful sense of color and she called it—she wanted to paint—it was—you opened a door that was open with columns and little columns and filigree. And there was a courtyard and then you walked down to the house right there, but the courtyard had—and a little pool in the middle with tile and it was so pretty with wisteria and it smelt good. Everything looked pretty. And then—but they had—Mother and Daddy

really designed this garden through the woods up by the creek, but she was working with a painter and he was mixing. And she said, "Stop! [*SL laughs*] That's the blue I want." So we called it the Whisperwood Blue and Daddy named it Whisperwood because you could hear the trees whisper in the morning.

[00:25:06] SL: It was a Spanish style . . .

GT: It was Spanish.

SL: . . . house.

GT: Yeah, it was.

SL: Very unusual for . . .

GT: Yeah, very unusual and it was so warm—and they were so nice about— if a couple they knew or who was marrying and didn't have a lot to go on a honeymoon, they would just give it to them. Say, "Go out and have—spend time there." It had a Delco machine enclosed for the electricity.

[00:25:44] SL: So it was like a generator that . . .

GT: Yeah, it was a generator—Delco generator.

SL: Wow. [*Laughs*]

GT: And the water was just filled with iron and I remember Mother saying that Dr. ?Dimral? said that that was so good for us. [*SL laughs*] You could drink all of the water you wanted.

SL: Sure. Sure. Yeah. Well, that's the way it was done in the country.

GT: Yeah.

SL: It was well water.

GT: Yeah, well water and generators.

[00:26:11] SL: Generators. Yeah. Yeah. So back at the home—now, were you in North Little Rock—Argenta?

GT: Oh, no, we lived on 1000 West Second Street.

SL: Oh, that's right. That's right.

GT: All of the houses had been built by—well, jailbirds. They were inmates.

SL: Inmates?

GT: They were in jail and they came and they were—and it was designed by the superintendent. I don't know who designed the houses. They all had the same design. You entered. There was a staircase that went up and back and then the living room here. Mother just took this house and made it so charming. Built ?case?—bookcases and the fireplace was—course, there was fireplaces everyplace.

[00:26:59] SL: Sure.

GT: [Unclear word] And the staircase had a niche in it. She put a pretty sculpture. But then Mother's house—our house was there at the corner of Chester and Second Street. And, of course, Daddy's office was on Third Street. And on Second Street and—no, Third Street and Main—that was where the *Gazette* was.

SL: Right.

GT: The office and—he had all kinds of friends. The story was he had a clown [*SL laughs*] who was a friend of his.

SL: `Kay.

GT: And the—one time the clown came to town, of course, and the circus and mounted an elephant and rode down to the office and next door to the *Gazette* office was a restaurant with a Greek owner. And the elephant put his trunk in through the door and the owner threw his hands up and ran out the back. [*SL laughs*] He said, “Take the damn place!” [*Laughter*]

[00:28:17] SL: Well, you know, as long as we’ve—talking about your dad’s office—now, is this the *Gazette* building?

GT: The *Gazette* building.

SL: And it’s my understanding that the same architect that did the capitol building did the *Gazette* building.

GT: I didn’t know that, but that’s wonderful. That’s one—it was a wonderful building.

SL: I mean, it actually had the *Gazette* . . .

GT: Yeah, on it.

SL: . . . chiseled into . . .

GT: Oh yeah, it did. It did.

[00:28:40] SL: . . . the stone.

GT: It did. And I remember in 1941 or—I think it was—or [19]40—a summer—and there were—I think four of us—two boyfriends and me and someone else. Or maybe there were six of us, but there were equal amount of boys and girls. And we went past the *Gazette* on a Saturday night and the lights were on on a certain section and I said, “Let’s go and see if the presses are running.” Well, of course, I wasn’t supposed to be in there, but the foreman remembered Daddy and loved him because he was a friend of theirs. And he said—let me come in and bring—and those big presses going just—it was the most thrilling thing I’ve ever gone through. And I said this to a couple were brought to my house recently and she had grown up in Montana and her father was a newspaperman. And she had heard the presses. And she said, “Do you remember the smell?” “Well, it was like Chanel number five. It was the most wonderful smell.” That ink.

SL: Ink. [*SL laughs*] Scott, I wanted to put it behind my ears. [*SL laughs*] Well, that probably wouldn’t have looked pretty. [*Laughter*]

GT: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: That’s fun.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Well . . .

[00:30:11] GT: Now, let me see if there’s anything else. And I can also remember—my memories, you see, are so few because he died when I

was little and—but I can remember—course, Mother never married again—I can remember going—we were going out on our way to Whisperwood and I needed a bathing suit. So we stopped in a store that was on Markham, I think. I remember walking into the store with him and thinking, “Oh, I’m with the best-looking man.” He was so tall and handsome. Hmm. He didn’t know it, either.

SL: [*Laughs*] Yeah, he was . . .

GT: He did not know it. I mean, he was rather timid or shy and Mother said that when he did get off in time from putting the paper to bed, to go to the theater. She loved to walk and you know that moment in the theater when the music is playing and the lights are still on and the curtain is down and they’re about to raise the curtain—she loved walking in to show her good-looking husband off.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, they were theater patrons, then.

GT: Yeah, they were theater patrons . . .

SL: That’s good.

GT: . . . if they could be here.

SL: That’s early, early stuff.

[00:31:29] GT: And they—we all went out to California when I was six one summer to Santa Monica and we took Eunice Roundtree with us, who was part Indian and she was sort of cook.

SL: Okay.

GT: And it was to—so that we would—and rented a house there and we went on the Rock Island Railroad because Daddy was on the board of Rock Island and Eunice went up and down telling the porters that Mr. Fred Heiskell was president of the Rock Island Railroad. [SL laughs] And, of course, he wasn't. And so Daddy had to peel out money in tips cause [laughs] they expected it from the president.

SL: Well, sure!

GT: Yeah.

SL: Sure. You know, that's another interesting thing that I've read—you know, the retiring *Gazette* employees—you know, under your dad's tenure . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . was really before there was any Social Security fund that had built up early on . . .

GT: Yeah. Oh, yeah—none of that.

SL: And I read that he actually kept retired employees on the payroll . . .

GT: He did. Couldn't . . .

SL: . . . after they'd quit working . . .

GT: Yeah, yeah.

SL: . . . just to make sure that they were gonna . . .

GT: Yeah.

[00:32:44] SL: . . . be okay with their retirement.

GT: One of his favorite employees was, course, was one that—I don't know what his job position is, but he was black and his name was James and Mother said that he'd take my dresses that—maybe I'd outgrown them and give them to James for his children and they were very expensive ones that he'd gotten in Chicago and whatnot. But he just—and every time I would visit his sisters—my aunts—there'd always be somebody—well, many people there who were black and they would come up to me and say, "I loved your father. They all loved him."

SL: I heard that. I mean, I read that over and over again.

GT: He—and he ?crossed palms? because he knew they'd had a hard time.

[00:33:49] SL: Back to the home . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: Let's see, now—of course, I've interviewed a lotta folk and in the early years in their homes, many didn't have electricity. But you had electricity.

GT: Oh, yeah.

SL: And you had running water.

GT: Oh, my gracious.

SL: And the streets were paved.

[00:34:08] GT: Well, Second Street and Chester were not paved, but Second Street—I developed pneumonia when I was around—when I was five or something, and it was very serious. They thought I was

gonna die and I can remember the night that I felt so awful. But something was brought up about fruitcake and I said, "Oh, fruitcake," and began to wail with tears. And, of course, I was burning up. They took me—but I remember they paved Second Street in front of us and all—everybody was out skating and I couldn't go. I just hung out and watched . . .

SL: Oh!

GT: . . . 'em. Just—was a such disappointment. But it was good for me to learn a disappointment. Yeah. But Chester was not paved until quite late.

SL: Okay. So . . .

GT: It—but it was paved, I think, in the late [19]30s or something—the middle [19]30s.

[00:35:17] SL: What about ice?

GT: There was no—there were no conditions except in the country that people didn't have running water or didn't have ?sanitating?—sanitation . . .

SL: Right, right.

GT: . . . and whatnot.

SL: What about refrigeration? Did . . .

GT: Oh, you had the ice box . . .

SL: So you had . . .

GT: . . . but that was universal.

SL: Right.

GT: And you had ice delivered. And a porch that had lattice work over it and screen off the side of the house so that the ice could be brought in.

[00:35:55] SL: And what about a garden? Did y'all have any kind of garden in . . .

GT: No. When you lived in—you know, this looks—our houses—all those houses—looked like Richmond houses. They were right on the street. They had a little yard and lovely iron fences around them. And the Debrulls lived there and one house was the Hayeses—Mr. Hays—I think do remember him, but he—I believe had fought in the Civil War and I don't know how old he was, but he was well approaching a hundred. And he married his secretary, who was much younger. But he died and then in the summertime as I would—Mother's cousin—first cousin—lived at the opposite end where we lived. She lived—they lived down that end of Second Street of 1000 Second Street. And that—I would go down to be with my cousins who lived with their grandmother and I'd pass Mrs. Hayeses house and it would be summer and the shade would be down and the Victrola would be on and she was dancing by herself.

SL: Hmm.

GT: Mmm—mmm.

[00:37:22] SL: So I want—I do want to ask you about technology. So you had a record player . . .

GT: Oh, yeah.

SL: . . . that . . .

GT: We had a record player.

SL: And do you remember some of the records you would listen to?

GT: No, I didn't, but I remembered—out at Whisperwood when I'd be out just tagging along with my sister, who was older, and her beaus. And she had a lot of them. [*SL laughs*] And they would play a Victrola and I'd hear that, but I can't remember what they were—what the machines were—records were.

[00:37:53] SL: We should talk about your siblings. So you had an older sister . . .

GT: Who was—yeah, Fred's mother.

SL: And what was her name?

GT: And her name is—was Josephine.

SL: Okay.

GT: But nicknamed Deanie—*D-E-A-N-I-E*—and when she was in college she was called Jo. [*SL laughs*] As they—so often Josephine is. And she was—we were very close sisters and I think maybe we would've been even if Daddy hadn't died so early, but particularly after he died early

then it cemented us more.

SL: Sure. Sure.

[00:38:32] GT: But he—when she went off to school for her high school years to a school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia . . .

SL: Highly regarded school.

GT: Hmm?

SL: That's a highly regarded school.

GT: Yeah, that is, and that's where she graduated—from Bryn Mawr and she did very—and then she won the *Vogue* Prize. It was first time *Vogue* had tried this and it was to—the first prize was to work six months in Paris and six months in New York, and she won second prize. And she worked there six months in New York and she lived with two sisters who came from Helena, Arkansas—the ?Writer? sisters. But any event, when she went off to school, Daddy wrote her—they—all the Heiskells taught themselves to type and he typed a letter to her every single day to his daughter.

SL: That's beautiful.

GT: It was. Yeah. And then when she came home that spring vacation for vacation, that was when he had a heart attack and died.

SL: He was only fifty-five years old.

GT: That was all.

SL: That's so early.

GT: But you see, that—they've done so much with heart now. It—very few—so many died so young—in their forties and their fifties.

[00:40:01] SL: What about radio? Was . . .

GT: Oh yeah, you—I grew up, you know, listening to a series of stories on the radio all the time. You grew up with a radio.

SL: *Lum 'n' Abner*.

GT: Yeah, right.

SL: *The Shadow*.

GT: Yeah, *The Shadow*. [SL laughs] Of course.

SL: Was—did the family kinda gather around the radio?

GT: No, no, no, just I—because Daddy was dead, and Daddy died, and Mother didn't listen to that. She listened to classical music. Loved it.

[00:40:42] SL: What about—speaking of music, were there any musical instruments in the home?

GT: Piano. Yeah, which—and I was supposed to practice, but I didn't and I wish I had 'cause I loved the fact that I could then have that company of playing the piano.

SL: Well, did your mom play the piano at all?

GT: No.

SL: Or anyone play the piano in the family?

GT: No, no, I—no one did.

SL: Huh. That's too bad.

GT: Yeah. And Deanie I don't think had piano lessons. But I did from Miss Lillian Hughes. And—but ?there is a story? of Daddy when he—coming back from the Philippines . . .

SL: Okay.

[00:41:24] GT: . . . on the ship with Mr. and Mrs. Taft and their daughter, Helen. He was bitten by a tarantula or a poisonous bug and, of course, he went to the ship's hospital and the ship's surgeon—they didn't know very much and if the gangrene—they would just cut the leg off. That was the answer to solve gangrene. But he had said, "I would rather die than lose my leg." And he kept a gun by him if anybody was gonna try and force him to do this, he was gonna shoot 'em or else [*unclear words*] "I have a gun."

SL: And so . . .

GT: And so he didn't and when Mother saw him, she was in a little buggy going across Main Street and Uncle Ned had already ?comed? for his position as editor. Daddy was on his way. And she saw him crossing Main Street with his white hat on that he wore in the Philippines cause of the sun.

SL: Sun.

GT: You had to wear a hat. And he was—and she said, "Oh," to herself, "that is the new Mr. Heiskell. And he is the best-looking thing I've

ever seen.” And he had a room. It was a very prominent to—you were very much accepted. If you were accepted at Mother’s aunt’s house, which was right next door to where the Roystons were—Grandpa Royston and Mimi, my grandmother. Next to `em was Mrs. Jett and she was a sister of Grandpa’s. And she took in paying guests. Daddy had a room there and so when he would pass Mother, it was at Fifth and Cumberland Street to walk to the *Gazette*. Mother would be out watering the geraniums, and Daddy said he’d never seen flowers that were so overwatered. [*Laughter*]

SL: She was just tryin’ to get [*GT laughs*] up close to the sidewalk, wasn’t she?

[00:43:55] GT: But then it was nine years later that—and she almost eloped with someone and—oh, one of her beaus was very interested in her—was Mr. McWilliams. His name was John McWilliams. He came from Illinois—northern Illinois. He was a farmer. He’d gone to Princeton. He was tall and handsome. And he later was the father of Julia Childs.

SL: Small world.

GT: You know, who wrote the cookbooks?

SL: Yes, absolutely.

GT: And any event, the McWilliams’ owned rice land—farm land in Arkansas.

SL: Okay.

[00:44:39] GT: And he would come down and he had met Mother, but he asked her to come to a house party, which her sisters were the chaperone. They were all at this—on this farm with [*unclear words*] house. And Mother was in a buggy—they were all in it—and I guess—I don't know why she was in the buggy, but she was. It was part of the entertainment. And she was reading a letter that Daddy had written her, and he was so funny that she began to laugh, and she fell out of the buggy and broke her rib. [*Laughter*]

[00:45:19] SL: Well, that's a sign. [*Laughter*] That put a damper on the visit, didn't it—on the courtship.

GT: But he married—Mr. McWilliams married a New Englander—a woman who came from Massachusetts or wherever—and I think she was a woman of means, as he was. And they lived in Pasadena. But she was an invalid, and he'd come to see—it was after Daddy had died, of course—and she was so young then, and she was about forty-five. That's real young now. And he would come to see his land and stop by to see Mother. And they would have a group together. Mother would get a group together and have a little party at ?Westport?. But it was nice because then his son, young John, and his wife became friends and came to visit Walter and me in New Jersey, and it was nice.

[00:46:29] SL: Yeah, so they just kept in touch.

GT: We kept in touch.

SL: Friendly—friendly . . .

GT: He—I mean, Mother said, “I had it all with your father.” And it wasn’t anymore.

[00:46:45] SL: Yeah. Back at the home . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . when you’re growing up, were you ever given any duties at home as far as keeping the home up? Or was that all on your mom and the help?

GT: No, when I worked for Uncle Ned, I was paid board, which I should’ve. And I took the streetcar down to the office. The streetcar ran on Markham Street, and I would come back from the streetcar—on the streetcar. But anyway, I did pay board.

SL: Okay.

GT: That was a—but growing up, I don’t remember. I don’t know. I mean, there was—of course, you know, the Depression—oh, God! I remember Louise Heiskell, my first cousin, saying—she was two years older than I—and I, because I lived on Second Street and Markham Street was a—had developed into a poor area.

SL: Okay.

[00:48:00] GT: I saw hungry people so much more than she did, living on

Louisiana. But she said, "I would rather have an atom bomb kill me then next time than go through the—just—it was torment. Even as a little girl, you'd see somebody—a farmer with vacant eyes, hungry, and he just—it just got you in your insides you felt something. It was just—it was awful.

[00:48:32] SL: And it went across—it wasn't—I mean, it was white and black.

GT: Oh, yeah. Oh, it wasn't just the blacks. And it was the white and the farmers. They were so hit by it.

SL: Would—do you remember any of the soup lines or . . .

GT: No, I remember—for instance, people begging at—always at your door. But you know, I was saying to Fred that having lived in—I lived near Princeton and a friend of mine in ?Peapack?—my area—said that her mother remembers—or she remembers being brought up in Princeton and her mother opening the door and a very nice-looking man just fell through it, he was so hungry. So it was all over, and my husband said bring—being brought up—he was born in the city of New York and brought up there. And you would see long, long lines . . .

SL: Lines.

[00:49:42] GT: . . . of hungry. So I just—and when that—when [20]08 came I thought, "Are we gonna go through this again."

SL: Right. It was scary.

GT: Wasn't that scary?

SL: It was.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: It's really quite remarkable that . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . we're pretty much okay now.

GT: Yeah.

SL: It took a while.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And it's still taking—and we're still not totally recovered from that.

GT: No, no, we're not. But we're not gonna go through what we did in the
[19]30s.

SL: So . . .

[00:50:15] GT: And let me see if anything else that I thought would—oh, a
funny incident with Mother. You—downtown was downtown. You
went downtown to shop at Gus Blass or M. M. Cohn or Pfeiffer's. And
all the Blasses were—lived on Third Street right there at the corner of
Chester and Third. Julian Blass was older than I, but very—and his
older sister, Elizabeth, was so charming and attractive. And his
mother was lovely—Miss Leah. She died early, but she was lovely.
And the Blasses and the—all of them were friends of ours because—
and they all advertised in the *Gazette*. They tell a funny story about—

it was a sale going on at Gus Blass and at Pfeiffer's or someplace. But Gus Blass—old Mr. Blass had said we were gonna have a sale, and an underling came in and said, "It's raining!" And he said, "Well, it's raining in front of Pfeiffer's, too." [Laughter]

SL: [Laughter] Equal opportunity there.

GT: Yes. But they were all attractive people and come—they gave to this community. They really built—helped build Little Rock. But let me see what else I . . .

[00:51:56] SL: Let me ask you about—you mentioned about a formal dinner meal . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . every night.

GT: Yeah.

SL: So you were expected to be at the table . . .

GT: At the table.

SL: All the kids.

GT: Yeah, and dressed.

SL: And dressed.

GT: ?And changed?. Yeah.

SL: And . . .

[00:52:09] GT: And Deanie—and my sister, too—always changed. You always changed your clothes for the evening. And I think Deanie

came home from school and she changed her clothes, and her friend stopped—saw her and said, “Well, are you going out? Why are you changing?” She said, “Because my father’s coming home for dinner.

SL: Dinner.

GT: And it—I still do. It makes you feel better. It’s a difference between and night.

SL: And it’s so—what a great tradition.

GT: Yeah, it is.

SL: Family . . .

GT: Yeah.

[00:52:48] SL: . . . tradition. A time when the family can gather. Now, let me ask you this. Was grace ever said at that meal?

GT: Always.

SL: And did you take turns or was it always your father or your . . .

GT: I think it was always Daddy. And, of course, with—when we went over to Memphis and stayed at Grandmother’s with Aunt Gracie and Aunt Effie, who never took care of them—they stayed—they were the two daughters. They had ?left? Pontotoc Street and gone way out.

Course, the town—the city began to fall.

SL: Grew.

GT: . . . to fall . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . to Highland Avenue and built a house. It was set back. It was stucco and lovely house. Just so many nice memories and wonderful food. I just—I keep going back to this, but it's so true. It's just wonderful food.

[00:53:42] SL: Tell me about desserts.

GT: The desserts?

SL: Yeah.

GT: Well, Eunice Roundtree made the best Karo-nut pie, which is pecan pie, as you call it—we call it now. Then it was Karo-nut. Oh, it was so delicious.

SL: [*Laughs*] She didn't put any bourbon in, did she?

GT: No, she did not.

SL: [*Laughs*] Okay. [*Laughs*]

GT: She was a strict teetotaler.

SL: Okay.

GT: She wouldn't have done that.

SL: All right.

[00:54:13] GT: Now let me see if there are other things that—oh, I was gonna tell you about Haggerty's and I got off the track. I'm sorry.

SL: Oh, you're fine.

GT: Mother was passing Haggerty's, which was at—on Main Street and I think about Fourth and Main on the other side of Main Street. And she

saw two early subscriptions. Their first prescriptions—one for Baby Royston, which was she—and the other for Baby Worthen, which was Mr. George Worthen, and giving their age and it was in the window on plaques holding `em up—I mean, on supports. “Baby Royston, Baby Worthen.” And she went in and she said, “Mr. Haggerty, I’m going to ask you to remove those. You are just advertising my age.” [SL *laughs*] She didn’t want it.

SL: [*Laughs*] That’s good. That’s good.

[00:55:19] GT: Just having her age advertised there for everybody to see.

Oh, there were the—but the *Gazette*—I mean, I just grew up thinking that newspapermen were just second unto the highest. They were just the best because they were. They were all so sort of sweet people.

SL: Well, it’s pretty well-noted that the—that your family raised the bar . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . when they got a hold of the *Gazette*.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And that there was a conscious—a public consciousness . . .

GT: That’s a good way of putting it.

SL: . . . there that . . .

GT: Definitely was.

SL: . . . and it superseded the advertising. I remember there was mention of how all they had—a [*laughs*] lot of ads used to be on the front page . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: And it was a big battle to get `em off the top fold [*GT laughs*] first. And so it became a . . .

GT: Really a good newspaper.

SL: . . . a good newspaper. A newspaper, rather than an advertising rag.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

[00:56:32] SL: And that was your all's doing.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Really . . .

GT: That was.

SL: That raised the [*unclear words*].

GT: That was Daddy and Uncle Ned's doing.

SL: And also that the advertisers did not control the editorial content or the content of the . . .

GT: No.

SL: . . . news reporting.

GT: No.

[00:56:55] SL: It would rather lose money . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . than . . .

GT: That exactly.

SL: . . . cow-tow to the . . .

GT: And when the—Faubus and the—happened . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] Yes.

GT: . . . I remember the advertising fell off from the *Gazette*. And the *Gazette* got hold of a letter that was sent to all the stores to—asking them “to boycott the *Gazette*. If you don’t, we will not advertise in your—we will not buy in your store, but not advertise in the *Gazette*.” And they got hold of the letter—put it right on the front page just so everybody could see it. I thought that was so wonderful. And their—it did get to the very low point and then it went up back again. And that’s when they won two Pulitzer Prizes.

[00:58:08] SL: On—for the same subject matter.

GT: Yeah, same subject matter. One for the coverage and the second for the editorials. But Harry Ashmore was the editorial writer for then. We were talking about him driving down. He was—when he came to the *Gazette*—he’d come from the *Charlotte Observer* and he was the youngest Neiman Fellow they ever had at Harvard, which is the only newspaper, and so he was very well-qualified. But Uncle Ned had a son named Carrick, named after his father, Judge Carrick W. White Heiskell, and Grandfather was named after a famous judge, I believe,

in Tennessee, named Carrick White, so that's how that name comes down. [00:59:09] But Uncle Ned—I was at the hairdresser—this was after I'd finished working a year for the *Gazette* from [19]42 to [19]43, I was at the hairdresser down at the Donaghey Building and Deanie telephoned me and said, "Uncle Ned, Carrick has been killed. He's had a—he was in the—he flew the—he was in the ?IOL?. He was in the Air Force and he flew the hump.

SL: The hump—with suppliers—with supplies. And the—evidently, the plane was overloaded, so he couldn't get any height . . .

SL: Gosh!

[00:59:58] GT: . . . and he crashed in the Himalayas. And she—it was air transport command. That is what he was in. And she said, "Carrick has been killed." And Aunt Wilhelmina has gone to a funeral and Uncle Ned is so afraid when she—at some point somebody will come up to her and say—and tell her and so I said, "Well, I'll go ride out to see Uncle Ned." And I did. And he opened the door and I said, "I've come to help you." And I think—as I remember—I know Bertha, Carrick's wife, was there at a while. I think she was there sitting on the sofa, just crying. And I can't remember whether she was there at that moment or not. [01:00:53] But Uncle Ned sat—took his yellow pad—started writing and said—put his pencil down and he said, "I am fifty years older than Carrick. I did not think I would write his obituary.

Then we heard Aunt Wilhelmina's car come and go down the little driveway into the back where the garage was and come in through the back door and walk up a long hall which was quite dark. You've got a big hall and then this straight hall that was quite dark, and the dining room there and the stairs went [*unclear words*] living room here. And Uncle Ned rose and walked to her and I heard him say, "Hmm. Wilhelmina, your—our son has died a soldier's death." Just kills me. But, of course, so many people could say the same thing.

[01:01:55] SL: A lot. So let's talk a little bit about Carrick. First of all, he was, by all accounts, just a remarkable man—young man.

GT: He was.

SL: That the future was all in front of him.

GT: In—yeah. And so popular. He was sent to . . .

SL: Graduated Harvard, right?

GT: Yeah, graduated from Harvard. He—first he was sent to a very—it was the word that I don't like—exclusive boarding school—but his aunt—Aunt Wilhelmina's sister—younger sister—had married a Mr. Burnett. They lived in Southborough outside of Boston and Mr. Burnett was a wonderful, wonderful, lovely man. I was so impressed with him. And the Burnetts had really founded St. Mark's and it was a small school. And so he would see them every Sunday for lunch and things like that.

[01:02:59] Then he went to Harvard and he was very—and I

remember about ten years ago going up to visit in Newport, Rhode Island. My husband had died in [19]91 and this was well in the [19]90s. And our host and hostess gave us—gave a dinner party for me and one of the guests when he said my accent [*unclear words*] was from Arkansas. And he said, “I only knew one person from Arkansas, and that was Carrick Heiskell. And I knew him at Harvard. How is he?” And I told him that Carrick had been killed. But he was so popular with all kinds. So interested in Carrick. “But the only person I knew was Carrick Heiskell.” And he did have a future and he was in love with Bertha from the moment—she had come to live with an aunt because her mother and father were living in India. I’ve forgotten whether—why—I think her father was in the military or something.

[01:04:10] SL: Well, there were—let’s see—I’m tryin’ to think—I know that.

GT: Did you know why she was living in India? Now, she came to live with an aunt and go to school here.

SL: Okay, I don’t know why, but I thought I did. But I think I was confusing the time in the Philippines with Howard Taft . . .

GT: No.

SL: . . . rather than . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: So no, I don’t know why she . . .

GT: Oh.

SL: . . . was in India.

[01:04:34] GT: But anyway, Bertha then married—this was all after the war, of course—long after—married a man from—who was a lawyer from Fort Smith—Heartsill Ragon.

SL: `Kay.

GT: And I think that ended in divorce and she did marry someone else after that, and I think, produced a daughter.

SL: M'kay.

GT: No children with Carrick.

[01:05:05] SL: Well, so we're talking about the war years now.

GT: Yeah.

SL: World War II.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: What do you remember of Little Rock during the war?

GT: Well, one of the things that was striking to me—and maybe it—I figured—I think others may have noticed it—was that before the war everybody was comfortable, but there didn't seem to be the flow of money that—and after the war, everything changed. Bang! Change comes so quickly and people who came—all colors—who came back from the war went to college. There were . . .

SL: G.I. Bill.

GT: . . . no more caddies at the club. There were no more this and that. Mother's wonderful Ella was—had been with her forever—so she wasn't going anyplace. But all that changed. And that is for the better in some ways and—I mean, certainly, was from the point of view that suddenly we all felt richer, for some reason.

[01:06:23] SL: Well, was—there was rationing during the war.

GT: Oh, very much so. Yeah.

SL: So you could only get so much . . .

GT: And so much . . .

SL: . . . stuff.

GT: . . . gasoline and . . .

SL: Right. Yeah. So you remember that.

GT: I do remember that. Yeah.

[01:06:34] SL: So were y'all issued rationing?

GT: Yeah, you were. And I—course, I didn't pay much attention to it cause Mother was taking care of that side of it with—and we had Ella and whatnot. And—but there were some good times and, course, there were—people were—who were stationed at Camp Robinson were—if they had—if anyone knew—had known somebody from Little Rock, they were sent a letter. They came with a letter. So that introduced them, which was the case with Walter's brother, two years older. He had two brothers older.

SL: This is your husband's . . .

[01:07:22] GT: Mh-hmm. My husband, Walter Terry. His brother was stationed here with his wife and children. In fact, they have a son who was born here, so they have good memories about it. Anyway—and a cousin of Mother's had gone to school and been a friend of a friend of the Terry's and they—Maine. And she said, "I'm going to write Hildegard Wright and tell her that Barbara and Baldwin are there. So I met Barbara and Baldwin Terry through a beau that I had and then they, in turn, asked me—and I asked them to Mother's for dinner—and they, in turn, asked me to come when—at Christmastime with the beau. And I walked in and Walter had been sent to a camp and was on a certain assignment and was on his way back to Oklahoma where he was stationed and he stopped over to see his mother and father and his brother and his brother's family. And I walked in and his mother—I mean, his father and Baldy and Walter were all standing in front of the—I thought I—"Besides my father, there's the best-looking man I've ever seen." [SL laughs]

SL: So you were struck.

GT: I was struck. Yeah.

[01:08:53] SL: I bet he was, too.

GT: Struck. Well, he was. Well, his brother—his brother was a friend and liked me and his wife. They were both friends and his brother

encouraged it, I think. Anyway, that's how—people were all—and there were so many people from the East came here and had never thought of Arkansas and liked it so much that they lived here after the war.

SL: Well, sure.

GT: They came back.

SL: Well, it's a wonderful state.

GT: It is.

SL: It is.

GT: And I'm—it's still badly—it's getting better, but it's—I am a self-appointed secretary of state of the state of Arkansas. [*SL laughs*] But it's still not quite the pitch I want.

SL: Yeah.

[01:09:45] GT: There's still some very ignorant Northerners who do not know what the state is. They've never been here and so . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . they assume.

[01:09:54] SL: Right. Okay, let me think for just a moment. What about—you mentioned going to visit your cousins down the street . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . and playing with them.

GT: Uh-huh. Yeah.

SL: What sort of things did you all do? What did . . .

GT: Well . . .

SL: What did you do to play? What . . .

GT: Well, then I—course, across the street I had a friend who was two years older and then over here I had a friend, Jane Smith, Mary Addie Davis, and then the Bryans lived down on the corner. Oh, I don't know. Well, we—during the—you know, those early years when you—the Depression—I remember there was a family called the Brooks family. They lived on Markham and Chester.

SL: Okay.

[01:10:44] GT: And we collected—they were—there were a whole lot of children and Mr. Brooks was struggling. I don't think he had a job. And I remember collecting my cousins who were younger than I, and I and every—all of `em that I could get together—we sold anything we could from Mother's house, even antiques. We would take down to the river and sell to people to raise money for the Brooks. And then we bought a—filled a whole box of canned goods and we took it down for their Christmas and that—but in those days I remember Mrs. Brooks never failed to get a permanent—you know, hair.

SL: Sure.

GT: Five dollars was a perm.

SL: That was big.

[01:11:42] GT: That was big.

SL: Lotta dollars . . .

GT: Yeah, big.

SL: . . . back then. Well, there's something about dignity and . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . self-worth.

GT: But she had—and we drove the Brooks children, who were at Eastside Junior High School—John Smith would drive us—Mother's wonderful man of everything. He could do anything—would drive us. And the Brooks always went—and Juanita Brooks, who was the eldest, had more poise than anyone you would ever meet at that age of eleven, twelve. And I—I'm just wondered—always wondered what happened to Juanita. I just think she had so much poise. I'm sure she's married to an executive.

[01:12:30] SL: Well . . .

GT: And I hope so.

SL: [*Laughs*] Me, too.

GT: If she's happy.

[01:12:35] SL: Okay now, I want to ask you—how are you doing? We usually take a break about every hour.

GT: Well, I—I'm gonna run out of . . .

SL: Oh, no.

GT: . . . stories.

SL: No, I'm . . .

GT: No?

SL: No. Uh-uh. We'll—you'll have plenty of stories yet.

GT: Okay. Well, let's stop.

SL: Let's stop and take a break.

GT: Yeah, take a break.

SL: It's—I wonder—they may be doing—Sarah, how are we? Can we take a break now?

GT: If you think so.

Sarah Moore: Now?

SL: Yes.

Josh Colvert: Scott.

SL: Yes.

JC: Lunch will be here in about twenty minutes if y'all want to just go a little bit longer. Then we can break then.

SL: Okay, we'll spend another ten minutes.

GT: Okay, let's do.

[01:13:12] SL: And then we'll break. So yeah, I mean, you know, all the stories about your father and the *Gazette* and the . . .

GT: Oh, yeah.

SL: . . . role it played for the state and the community—that's all valuable

stuff and it's . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . priceless for us. But I'm very interested in your life. So—and that's really kind of the . . .

GT: Oh, I—let me see if I can . . .

SL: So that's kind of the bent that the Pryor Center goes with in these interviews—these long interviews—is that . . .

GT: Yeah.

[01:13:43] SL: . . . I'm interested in the things that you have seen and experienced first-hand.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And so—and that's why I was interested in the sort of activities you had as a child with the neighborhood kids . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . and relatives.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Because that will paint a picture of that time.

[01:14:04] GT: Well, you know that the Depression really just covered my childhood. We were all conscious that we—there were people who were hungry. And that was such a nice feeling after the war, when you just didn't see people hungry.

SL: Yeah, you know . . .

GT: I wonder why?

SL: Well, my parents . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . went through the Depression and it permanently affected the way they felt about money.

GT: Yeah, it did.

SL: And . . .

GT: It does.

SL: . . . very careful with money.

GT: Yeah.

SL: No longer . . .

GT: Yeah. Exactly.

SL: And if you didn't have to have it, you saved it.

GT: Right.

SL: And . . .

GT: You're right.

[01:14:47] SL: And they were very leery of making investments that they . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . weren't . . .

GT: Exactly.

SL: You know, they wanted it to . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . be in a savings account or a bond . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . or maybe a piece of real estate if it looked like a good . . .

GT: I remember Uncle Ned telling me that with the tax laws after the war, he said, of course, we—his philosophy the way they would—the Heiskells were brought up was that you saved and you owned your own business was the best thing you could do—the building.

SL: Right.

GT: And he said—we were—we owned the *Gazette* building, but with the two tax laws, it is less—you save money by renting rather than owning.

SL: You could write it off.

[01:15:37] GT: Yeah. Isn't that something?

SL: It is something.

GT: So it is . . .

SL: Now, there is some depreciation, but then again, the market raises the prices so . . .

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: It's complicated.

GT: It is complicated.

SL: Mh-hmm. Mh-hmm. Well, but I would say most everybody that I

have ever interviewed that lived through the Depression . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . are fiscally conservative.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Just careful.

GT: You—yeah. You are and you . . .

SL: For good reason, because they . . .

GT: Yeah, for good reason, because you were affected by it.

SL: Mh-hmm. And everyone around you was affected by it.

GT: Yeah, everybody was.

[01:16:11] SL: It wasn't just . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . personal, it was also public.

GT: And I remember thinking about there was something called the
Marathon, but it was a dance marathon where they danced until the
last couple . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] Yes.

GT: . . . remained. And they . . .

SL: I've seen films of those.

GT: I went to see one once and it was just awful.

SL: Well, yeah.

GT: Because they were so tired and so [*SL laughs*]*—they were just—and*

they would collapse. And then the last one maybe was given the money, but they took `em a long time to recover.

SL: Right. But . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . that's how desperate everyone was.

GT: And that was out—that was one of the entertainments. There were all sorts of—and the circuses weren't as much fun when they came because we didn't have enough money to decorate the Main Street and it just—but then you see when the auditorium was built, that was built just before the war was declared. And that was very gay and lively and . . .

[01:17:33] SL: Was that a war projects . . .

GT: I don't know.

SL: . . . construction?

GT: It must've been.

SL: Must've been.

GT: I don't know how it happened. It must've been.

01:17:46 SL: Let me see—well, I'll save that for later. But what about your early schooling? Do you remember kindergarten?

GT: [*Unclear words*] Remember—I do. I—Miss Grace Boyce and she took in—she was the only private school and for pre—and I remember going and I remember her going and playing—whatnot. And some little boy

said that Miss Grace went into the bathroom and found that somebody had thrown up. And some little boy said, "Well, look at Grace's face. She has"—I had chalk on my face [*SL laughs*], and Miss Grace got me up on her knees and said, "Now, you did do it, didn't you? And didn't"—and I was so embarrassed I said, "Yes, I had."

SL: Just to get out of it.

GT: And Daddy said, "Did you lie to Miss Grace?" And I said, "No, I didn't." And so he took me right out—put me in Peabody Public School. That was that. And I'd go to the—Miss Grace was with the First Presbyterian Church, and she would look at me every time. "You know you did that." [*Laughs*] And Miss Grace was—she had . . .

SL: She was kinda uppity, huh?

GT: She'd never married. I doubt she ever had anybody who wanted to marry her. [*SL laughs*]

SL: That's—well, I hope we don't have to retract that.

GT: That was the main thing. [*Laughter*] Nobody asked her.

[01:19:25] SL: Right, right. So you went to a public school.

GT: Then I went—yeah. That was the only school there was, was public.

SL: And it was called Peabody?

GT: Peabody was the nearest one to me and our principal was named Mr. Means. He was part Indian, I think.

SL: Okay.

GT: That was why he had the name Means, for some reason.

SL: Hmm.

GT: I don't know why that would be Indian, but anyway—but Mr. Means was—oh, then we—I went to East Side Junior High School and then I was sent off to the same school that Deanie went—graduated from and it was too tough for me. So after two years I just couldn't do Latin and I didn't know French, and so I just . . .

SL: So was that Bryn Mawr that . . .

GT: It was Shipley School.

SL: Shipley.

GT: Preparatory for Bryn Mawr.

SL: Okay.

GT: So I went to a school that had been in—oh, it'd been going since the middle of—about 1870 and it was called the Miss Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, New York—outside of New York City. That was a nice school for me.

SL: So do you . . .

GT: But anyway . . .

SL: Go ahead.

GT: Well, there was a thought that I had about . . .

SL: Peabody? I was gonna ask you if you had a favorite teacher at Peabody.

[01:20:51] GT: I don't remember. Oh, I remember—I want to tell you about—what was his name? Mr. Tuttle.

SL: Okay.

GT: He taught science, I think it was. And he was evangelical, I guess, but I remember his taking—I was on the front row or the second row—front row, I think it was, and he looked right at me, took the Bible, and said, "All newspapermen are drunken bums."

SL: Oh, my gosh!

GT: And Daddy had died—I just was horrified. And now I realize Mr. Tuttle was poor. It was the Depression. You had nothing. Nothing as a teacher. So little to live on, and yet my Uncle Ned's eldest daughter, Betsy Heiskell, said when she was married early in the [19]30s or maybe the late [19]20s, that you could live well for a dollar a day. A loaf of bread cost five cents.

SL: Yeah.

[01:22:13] GT: So—but I don't know. Uncle—I just think Mr. Tuttle was poor and he thought I was rich, and I wasn't.

SL: Well, it's difficult—I think it's difficult for evangelicals . . .

GT: I do, too.

SL: . . . to relate to the world if it's not out of the Bible.

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . for direction or for inspiration.

GT: And newspapermen were known to say expletives sometimes.

SL: Well, there's that, and also . . .

GT: They were just . . .

SL: . . . they tried not to be leaning one way or the other, including religion.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: I mean, it's—they're . . .

GT: Exactly. You—it's your own right.

SL: The religion thing is a personal thing.

GT: Oh, gosh, it's so personal.

SL: And the stuff that's going on in the community is a public thing.

[01:23:02] SL: Yeah, exactly.

SL: So it's a fine line. Do you remember seeing any—as a Presbyterian, I doubt that you ever attended, but the revival tents or . . .

GT: Oh yeah, they—I remember there was a tent put up at Markham Street and Chester down where the Brooks used to live. I think their house—I don't know what happened—where the Brooks went. But then I don't—I think maybe I'm wrong on this, but maybe the Brooks house was still there. But anyway, there was a time—Amy Semple McPherson—do you remember that name?

SL: I kinda do remember . . .

[01:23:43] GT: She would . . .

SL: . . . that name.

GT: . . . stand up—I slipped down there as a child and went in just to see what—she stood in a white dress like an angel.

SL: Angel.

GT: With arms out and would call—and they would just chant and whatnot. It was so strange.

SL: And packed.

GT: Yeah, packed.

SL: The tent was packed.

GT: Packed. Uh-huh.

SL: Their—they came for the miracles.

GT: Yeah. Came for miracles. Well, the—it's still going on.

[01:24:20] SL: It still is going on. Sure. Yeah.

GT: Sure.

SL: And it's going on in—on television.

GT: On television.

SL: . . . and Internet.

GT: Right. Right.

SL: And no longer the big tents. Now they're massive campuses that . . .

GT: Well, some of 'em—what was it—Billy . . .

SL: Graham?

[01:24:39] GT: Graham. I remember Walter's mother—the most

wonderful, elegant-looking New York woman—lady—and her cousin and her sister all went to hear him speak in New York because he—well, he was a higher intellect. Yeah.

SL: He was.

GT: Really, really . . .

SL: Well, and he . . .

GT: . . . good intellect.

SL: He counseled many presidents.

GT: I bet he did.

SL: He did.

GT: I'd forgotten that.

[01:25:09] SL: Yeah, he was a different mold—different . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, I'm not sure how much time he spent in the tents, but maybe he did. I . . .

GT: In what?

SL: In the tents. In the revival tents.

GT: No, no, he didn't really. I think he graduated to big auditoriums.

That's where they all are now—in auditoriums, aren't they? On the . . .

SL: Yes.

[01:25:34] GT: . . . TV they are.

SL: Yes. Yeah. Massive structures.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: Yeah. I don't know—I can't remember the last time I saw a revival tent, but I think I saw a few growing up.

GT: There maybe still some in the South existing in rural.

[01:25:50] SL: So let me look here. We probably have about another five minutes. So . . .

GT: Let me see if I can think about . . .

SL: Tell me about the Presbyterian Church.

GT: Oh, we were the First Presbyterian Church—was--the first one—and this was Mother's ancestor, Mimi Royston's—my grandmother's grandmother. My grandmother's grandmother. Let me see. Yeah.

SL: Wow.

[01:26:26] GT: Marie—she was—her husband was Isaac Watkins and her name was Marie Toncray. *T-O-N-C-R-A-Y* and she came from—she was a ?Hugonaut? She came from Tennessee—uh—from Kentucky. He had come from—Isaac Watkins had come from Virginia. He had loaned a friend some money.

SL: `Kay.

GT: And the friend couldn't pay it back. He had some money left, so he left Virginia and went to Kentucky—met his wife, had two children—a son, George Clayburn Watkins and a daughter, Marie Eliza. Then he

looked and saw that property was opening up. Territory was opening up on the Arkansas River, so they put all their belongings on one barge, attached it to another barge which they were on—floated the river down to the Arkansas River. And he prospered—became a farmer. But on the way down, George Clayburn—that’s the little boy—fell over and they fished him out. And then they came and settled in Little Rock—the second family here. Well, I told you that. Have I told you this?

[01:28:04] SL: No, and still we’re . . .

GT: And anyway . . .

SL: . . . talking about the . . .

GT: And it was his daughter, Mary Eliza, who was Mother’s grandmother.

But what was interesting about—Mother’s—my grandmother and her first cousin, who was like Georgie Watkins, who was just like her sister, was sent to the Springside School which is still in Philadelphia.

SL: M’kay.

GT: Still going.

SL: `Kay.

GT: Their—Philadelphia is the beginning of the South. I—they love Southerners. [*SL laughs*] And I have cousins who live there and I was told by one of my cousins that during the Second World War, the Philadelphia soldiers who went off and married and brought their

brides back—if the brides came from the South, they were accepted. But if they came from the Midwest, they were—it was cool. Oh, too bad.

SL: Too bad.

GT: Yeah.

[01:29:16] SL: Okay now, we were talking about the Presbyterian Church . . .

GT: Oh, the Presbyterian Church.

SL: . . . and the lineage of . . .

GT: Yeah, I—you have to keep me on track.

SL: That's right. That's my job.

GT: Let me see.

SL: I can do that.

GT: Presbyterian Church was the first church here—First Presbyterian Church in this territory and the man—the ancestor, Isaac Watson's wife, Mary Toncray—being a Huguenot family—was very, very serious about her religion.

SL: `Kay.

[01:29:53] GT: And so I'm sure she had it—she helped start that church and she would bury the dead, Mother said. [*Laughter*] Just—you know, there was no light-heartedness there.

SL: Right, right. Well, so every Sunday you would go to the Presbyterian

Church?

GT: Every Sunday. Yeah.

SL: And . . .

GT: Not Dad—I think they—I don't think Daddy would, but Mother would and we would go.

SL: And . . .

[01:30:30] GT: And go to Sunday school. We always went to Sunday school.

SL: Right. Do you remember your Sunday school teacher?

GT: No, but I can remember their—who was it—who was brought back from the dead? What was . . .

SL: Lazarus?

GT: Yeah. I can remember their showing a little model of a house that would be in Jerusalem that was, course, made of stucco. It was hot and showing—and you'd look—and you took off the roof and you could look in and they had the little figure of a—Lazarus so that you could see how he was brought back. And the Presbyterians, you know, went right to it.

SL: [*Laughs*] They did.

GT: Right to it.

[01:31:24] SL: They did. Well, now—so it was on Sunday after church is when you had the wonderful Sunday meals.

GT: Yeah. Always.

SL: Is that right?

GT: Always.

SL: Do you ever remember the pastor coming to any of your meals?

GT: No, I don't remember that. I can remember coming out and Dr. Van Lear . . .

SL: 'Kay.

GT: . . . patting me on the head and telling me I was a fine girl.

SL: [*Laughs*] Well, that changed everything for you. [*Laughter*] That's good. Well now, is that church still standing?

GT: Yeah, it is. It's still . . .

[01:31:59] SL: It's a magnificent building, isn't it?

GT: Well, it—it's—I think it's kind of an ugly church. The beautiful church, of course, is Trinity downtown. But . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . our churches are suffering when they're downtown cause everybody's moved out of town.

SL: In the suburbs. That's right. That's right.

GT: So I—they—it's the same thing in the city of New York. Everybody's moved and so it's hard to get down to that part.

[01:32:30] SL: I'm trying—I had a question about—oh, now in the home . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . did y'all have a Bible in the home at all or do you remember it . . .

GT: Well, I—oh, Mother had a—read a Bible verse every single night.

Every single night, and she could recite from the Bible.

SL: So was that by her bedside?

GT: Yeah, by her bedside—every night and all through life it kept her going. And she could recite, you know, we—she'd—we would love—we'd laugh over this one. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. A broken spirit drieth the bones." [*SL laughs*] And it's true. If you've got a . . .

SL: That sounds like Old Testament.

GT: . . . broken spirit, you—it is.

SL: Is that Old Testament?

GT: Yeah, it is. When you're so down and everything happens to you, you pick—you could go out and get a cold then. Mh-hmm.

SL: That's good.

GT: Uh-huh.

[01:33:31] SL: Okay, we're gonna take a break.

GT: All right. That's good.

[Tape Stopped]

SL: Grace, we're starting our second part of this interview. We went for about an hour and a half before we had lunch, and so now we're

coming off our break and we're coming back in. And I just realized that when we first started, I didn't tell everyone the day and the year and where we were. First of all, today's date is October twenty-eighth. And the year is 2016—almost Halloween—and we're at the Pryor Center in downtown Fayetteville, Arkansas, in our relatively new home. So you're kind of an early interviewee here at this facility. I don't—I think we've only done two or three other interviews inside this room. So . . .

GT: That's an honor.

SL: It is.

GT: Yeah.

[01:34:27] SL: I can tell you that it's a great honor to be sitting across from you.

GT: Well, thank you.

SL: It's true. I mean that.

GT: Thank you. It's an honor to be here.

[01:34:35] SL: So you know, we—we've covered a lot of topic areas and got a lot of great stories from you, but I want to go back to your work as a secretary. Now, whose secretary were you?

GT: I was secretary to my uncle, J. N. Heiskell, and he was the editor-in-chief of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

SL: Okay.

GT: Oldest newspaper west of the Mississippi.

SL: That's right.

GT: And it was a—he needed a secretary. His secretary had gone and I came back from taking a course for a year in Boston at Catherine Gibbs, which gave everything to do with secretarial work. You knew shorthand, you typed, you could do printing on—course, you had those copying machines that were carbon copies that you . . .

SL: Right.

GT: That was the only printing you had. But Uncle Ned that summer—I had—when I'd come home from Catherine Gibbs, I had worked for a man who was running for Congress. And he—we worked at, I think, at one of the hotels downtown and he—I worked there and then Uncle Ned called me and said, "I need a secretary. Mine has left and I wonder if you would like the job." [01:36:13] And I said, "I would." Well, it was like having a year at—in college. [SL laughs] You learned. And I couldn't spell. I could—I remember spelling queen—Q-W-E-E-N. That spelled queen to me.

SL: Hmm. Well, that's phonetic.

GT: And [laughs] I would bring in—I would take down the editorial. He'd dictate all right, but I'd go in to transcribe it, and when I'd bring it in he'd—once I brought it in, and he said, "What is this gibberish [SL laughs] that you've given me?" And then he said, "I am going to

send—ask the superintendent of schools to come.” And I was living in my mother’s house with my mother on Second Street—going to ask him to come at night and give you a—sort of a—an hour of showing you how to spell and giving you tips and testing and strengthening you in spelling.” And then he said, “You do not have an awareness of words.” And I said, “I do, I do.” “No, you don’t. You’re too much a society girl. You need [*SL laughs*] an awareness of words.” [*SL laughs*] Well, I have it now, and I have had it ever since I’ve worked for him because it—and then the superintendent did come and I didn’t—he was a nice man. I didn’t want him because Camp Robinson was there and I had some soldiers who asked me to go out, but I couldn’t go out because I had to do spelling lessons.

[01:37:55] SL: Kind of put the quietus on your . . .

GT: Yeah, it does.

SL: . . . social life . . .

GT: It does. [*SL laughs*]

SL: . . . didn’t it?

GT: It—any kind of popularity was snafu then.

SL: Let me say this about the secretarial work. In—back in the day, if women were gonna have a professional career, they were kinda relegated to being secretaries.

GT: Or teachers.

SL: Or teachers.

GT: Yeah.

[01:38:22] SL: So . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . it was like one or the other.

GT: One or the other. And now they're gonna be presidents maybe.

SL: Yes.

GT: Or . . .

SL: Madam president.

GT: Madam president, Supreme Court Justices.

SL: Yep. CEOs.

GT: They're already that. What else?

SL: CEOs.

GT: Oh, CEOs. But they really are not rewarded the way men are.

SL: That's right. Still inequality . . .

GT: That will change.

SL: . . . there.

GT: Yeah. There is a difference in it.

SL: Well, I think they . . .

GT: But not, of course, on the Supreme Court. They're all paid the same thing. But . . .

[01:38:58] SL: Well, I mean, early on, the mother—the wife . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . was to take care of the children and the house.

GT: And—yeah. Exactly.

SL: And then actually getting work outside of that realm . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . was kind of—it was unusual.

GT: Mh-hmm. It was.

SL: And suspicious that . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . you know, they're hiring her to . . .

GT: Except for teaching.

SL: Except for teaching.

[01:39:24] GT: Oh, that was . . .

SL: Which is a noble . . .

GT: That was very accepted.

SL: Considered very noble.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: And then eventually nursing, I think.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: But now . . .

GT: Now it's wide open.

SL: It's too—and it—it's getting where it should be.

[01:39:36] GT: It is. It is. And I—more and more women are going into engineering and that kind of thing and architecture, but I—and newspaper—I mean, there were newspaperwomen, like Nellie Cotnam and was a friend of Mother's and she ran—she wrote the "Cousin Kate" column. And this is, I guess, children or teenagers—they would send in—she'd have essay contests and they'd—and then it'd be a prize for it. Or she'd have book reviews that they would send in. It was really a very active column, but that was daytime and reporters for the—a morning paper came in the afternoon, after lunch, and then worked at night until they went—then he'd go home.

SL: Well, they're—you know, during—it seemed like during the war . . .

[01:40:46] GT: During the war there were women correspondents.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And actually, women took on even some of the manufacturing jobs . . .

GT: Oh, of course they did.

SL: . . . that had been run . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . by men. So . . .

GT: Yeah, and flew transport planes—transported across . . .

SL: Yeah.

GT: . . . this country.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Oh, it was—it is interesting that we have gotten that. Of course, there are astrologists and they're—they fly to the moon. They do everything now.

SL: Yeah, yeah.

[01:41:20] GT: But I think there were—it was fun, though, to be there.

Even though it was war, there was still the older newspapermen were there—came—put the paper out. And women helped. Very good reporters, too. They were.

SL: Okay, I want to get back to your earlier years and your schooling . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: . . . in Little Rock.

GT: In Little Rock. Up unto the tenth grade, and then I went off to school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia at a school called Shipley, which was far too tough for me. First of all, the girls who were there—they had day students and boarders. And the boarders—many of them came from the city of New York and they had gone to very tough schools and they had governesses who were French, so they spoke perfect French. [*SL laughs*] I understood all the idioms—everything.

SL; Oh, my gosh.

[01:42:38] GT: And the French I had had was because of Madame Heamans. Madame Heamans was English. She had—I don't—Aunt Gracie and Aunt Effie were introduced to Madame Heamans in Memphis, Tennessee. Somehow she got there from Memphis and then Mother and a few other mothers of my friends who were friends of Mother's got together and brought Madame Heamans over here to Little Rock. She got her settled in an apartment and she taught us all in—after school twice a week—gave us French lessons. But we—she didn't make us study, so we didn't learn very much.

SL: This was probably . . .

GT: So I was . . .

SL: . . . vocabulary and some . . .

[01:43:36] GT: And she had a very interesting life. She was so generous and so kind, and she was about the homeliest person I've ever seen in my life. [SL laughs] And I'm sure she looked like her father—big nose and she evidently came from a very aristocratic family background. She had an aunt who was a member of the peerage, and she left to go to France to become a nun, and her father disowned her . . .

SL: Hmm.

GT: . . . because he was Church of England, and then she didn't [*unclear words*] do it. So she retired from—before she became a nun—got out of the program and she put an advertisement in the French newspaper

to meet a man.

SL: Okay.

[01:44:36] GT: She did. Married him. He took her money. Left her the next day, I guess.

SL: Oh, gosh!

GT: Or shortly afterwards. And then somehow through knowing somebody, she came to America and came south. So [*unclear word*]
—well, she really established herself and adopted a daughter who was about my age and ended up teaching at—it was then Little Rock Junior College. Now it's part of the university, and we had the French course there. But I—well, course, then they were in an actual class and they'd . . .

SL: Right.

[01:45:22] GT: And—but doing it after school. But one of my—I was so—my fellow pupils at French class—one was Sanford McDonnell.

SL: 'Kay.

GT: And the McDonnells were Arkansas people—natives. And Mr. Sanford's uncle was the McDonnell who went to St. Louis and started McDonnell-Douglas with Mr. Douglas.

SL: Wow.

GT: So when Sanford graduated from Princeton, he went to—all the McDonnells went to Princeton. He started out working for his uncle

and then—and I don't know what's happened to him now, but others would know.

SL: What a small world . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . it is.

[01:45:22] GT: Just to start—he worked hard. Mr. McDonnell had married late in life, but he just worked . . .

SL: Yeah.

GT: . . . all the time.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Let me see who else that would be interesting. Oh, I wonder—Junie Lincoln and I don't know whether Dave Terry, the son of Miss ?Adolphine? and her—his father, Dave Terry was our congressman years ago.

SL: 'Kay.

GT: I think—he was a friend—a contemporary, but I'm not sure he was in that class.

[01:47:02] SL: Let me ask you about—getting back to the school—of course, back then the schools were segregated.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And really, at the time that you were in the public schools, there really wasn't that much animosity about that, was there? I mean, it was just

kind of . . .

GT: Well, I remember one time at Eastside Junior High School, hearing cat-calls and I looked and there was a very nice-looking black boy and they were throwing things at him. Yeah.

SL: They were threatened by him, weren't they?

GT: Well, they were threatened by him and he was walking on—it was just, you know, common practice to do that . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . if you weren't brought up the right way.

SL: Right.

[01:47:51] GT: But it was—but it was an affectionate—when we'd go to Whisperwood, we always stopped by a cabin and out would come the owner and we called him "Uncle" and Eddie. It was affectionate.

SL: Yeah.

GT: So they were our family. Now, of course, that is demeaning.

SL: Right.

GT: It's considered demeaning. And it wasn't meant to be demeaning, but it can be interpreted that way. But . . .

[01:48:23] SL: Do you remember seeing the "whites only" signs or "colored only" or . . .

GT: Oh, yeah, always you did that. And their—and I remember going over for some reason at Halloween or—no, it wasn't Halloween—it was

for some reason my cousins and I were driven to the bridge and walked over it for to celebrate something, and there stood Ku Klux Klan next to the railing, like this. Scared you to death.

SL: Hidin' behind the hoods.

GT: Hmm. And the mask.

SL: Golly!

GT: Oh, they're just terrifying.

SL: Is that the Broadway bridge or was it . . .

GT: It was the Broadway bridge.

SL: The Broadway bridge.

[01:49:12] GT: Yeah. They were lined up for that.

SL: I wonder what the . . .

GT: Whatever the celebration was, I . . .

SL: Fourth of July, maybe?

GT: I don't think so. The Fourth of July we always celebrated at the club.

SL: Yeah. Gosh, who knows?

GT: I don't know what it was for.

SL: Hmm, that's . . .

GT: But anyway . . .

SL: . . . interesting.

GT: . . . I was tryin' to think of other things that—oh, definitely—yeah, you just kept your distance.

SL: And you know, I hear some stories where—if there was a white lady walking on a sidewalk and there are African Americans on the same sidewalk, the African Americans were expected to step off the sidewalk and—I mean, did you ever see any kind of . . .

[01:50:04] GT: I didn't see that. I don't remember that.

SL: And then what about—we haven't talked about going to movie theaters yet.

GT: Yeah. Oh, the movies. We—because my sister and I were—and I'm sure this happened to the J. N. Heiskell children, too—we were given passes. And my sisters said, "Josephine Heiskell and nurse," which was the Irish ?Molga?, we'd been with her till she was—went off to school. And she used to take ?Bowsie? in as the nurse. They would go [*laughs*] in—and mine said, "Grace Heiskell and one." And I would take my cousins to the movies. Every Saturday afternoon we'd go to the movies. In the summertime there was a big sign out and with icicles which was the air-conditioning.

SL: Oh . . .

GT: And . . .

SL: . . . so that really . . .

GT: . . . go in and we were freezing to death. And you come and this heat would just—like a wall come at you. Oh, it was something. The heat—I remember the heat more than anything on earth.

[01:51:28] SL: Were there—did you start going—I guess you may have gone to the movies early enough—or later than the silent movies.

Were . . .

GT: No, I didn't see silent movies.

SL: Okay.

GT: I was too late for that.

SL: Right. So do you remember the first movie you saw . . .

GT: No, I remember . . .

SL: . . . or a favorite movie?

[01:51:49] GT: . . . going to the movie with Daddy and Mother and my sister. We were all in California and we'd rented a house. We went to see "The Bridge Over San Luis Rey." And it—of course, it was a really tragic story and I remember sitting there thinking—saying out loud after he'd thrown her—the main character had thrown his lover down the stairs. After she'd been thrown down the stairs, I said, "Daddy, does he love her?" Well, obviously he didn't love her . . .

SL: Right.

GT: . . . cause he'd just thrown her down the stairs. But Daddy didn't have time to go to movies and Mother—no, we went with somebody—we'd take us to the movies.

SL: That's interesting that you remember that scene.

GT: Yeah, I do remember that scene.

SL: And that being an early movie experience.

GT: Yeah.

SL: That doesn't sound like—of course, that was before movies were rated, but that doesn't sound like something you'd take the kids to go see.

[01:52:53] GT: Well, it was—we didn't know—I don't—I know it. I think it was just we were in Hollywood and that was . . .

SL: Ah.

GT: . . . what was being shown . . .

SL: Okay.

GT: . . . to us, cause I remember I—there was an actress named Claire Bloom . . .

SL: Sure.

GT: And I remember going in and wondering—I said, "Isn't Claire Bloom here?" And I'd known about Claire Bloom. And they said, "No, but there are her bloomers hanging up there and [*Laughter*]. In those days, they wore—if she had the costume—they wore these big bloomers.

[01:53:30] SL: Right, right, right. That's funny. So what were y'all doing out in Hollywood?

GT: We were—because Daddy and Mother rented—I don't know why they wanted to rent a house in Santa Monica and then, course, we visited all those. But—oh, and I remember at that time there was an eating—

a famous eating place called the Derby.

SL: Yes, the Brown Derby.

GT: The Brown Derby—and we went there and it was just like a hat.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Oh, it was wonderful. I loved that.

[01:54:01] SL: Yeah. Hey, I want to talk to Sarah just a second. Sarah.

Sarah, I think this fill light is a little bit hot. I wonder if you could knock it down just a little bit.

SM: Yes, sir, stand by.

SL: Okay. Can—I can't see what you're doing very—but—so she's gonna turn this light down just a little.

GT: Oh, I see. Okay.

SL: We're so—we figure if we're gonna preserve this stuff forever . . .

GT: Uh-huh.

SL: It ought to look right.

GT: You what?

SL: It ought to look right.

GT: Yeah.

SL: It ought to look good.

GT: Yeah, well it will, I'm sure.

SL: There, I think that's better, don't you?

GT: Yeah, probably.

SL: Does that look better to you, Sarah? I think it's . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . giving me a little more contrast.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Okay, so we're gonna go ahead and go on if that's okay.

SM: Yeah, we're good.

[01:54:51] SL: Okay, good. Well, you know, we're—I'm concentrating on
your . . .

GT: Early years.

SL: . . . early school years.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Number one, because it involves Little Rock.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Your time in Little Rock and the public school system.

GT: Well, I want to tell about . . .

SL: Now . . .

GT: . . . that, too.

SL: So you went through what we'd consider junior high school now . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . through the public schools.

[01:54:51] GT: Till the tenth grade.

SL: Were there sporting events that the schools had?

GT: Well, they had—oh, first of all, it—at Peabody there were a lot of poor children.

SL: Okay.

GT: And the boy in front of me brought a sandwich—two pieces of bread with lard between it.

SL: Golly!

GT: Not butter. I brought home a little girl to my house. We walked back four blocks—five blocks. And she had a lamb chop and a full meal, which is what I had. And then we went back to school. And Mother worked in the cafeteria there to feed the children lunch—make sure they had lunch.

SL: That's nice.

GT: Yeah, she worked . . .

SL: So she . . .

GT: Everybody works at something.

SL: Okay.

[01:56:17] GT: We were all conscious—I really feel everybody through the church or something—that was—and I felt—and I remember once it came up—I think it was at Peabody and there was a very gaunt, thin teacher—woman—and I said I didn't know what the word Depression meant. I just hadn't read it or hadn't paid any attention. I was too young. And I said, "What is"—and this teacher said, "I knew you

wouldn't know the meaning of that word." And you remember that because that was a dig.

SL: Yeah, it was.

GT: And a child remembers a dig.

[01:57:07] SL: You know, I've had several interviewees saying that basically, adults don't know how badly words can hurt a kid.

GT: Yeah, they don't. Some adults don't.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: But it sounds like to me that you yourself reached out and your mother was reaching out and . . .

GT: Yeah, we were. We did reach out. Both of us did and we hated it. Just hated it. And I think I agree with my cousin, Louise Heiskell, that it would be something I didn't want to go through. Rather be wiped off the earth.

[01:57:58] SL: Yeah. So what about the—talk to me about the social activities around the schools then.

GT: There were—I don't remember any sports. Maybe we did have a track day.

SL: Okay.

GT: And if you could run fast and—I couldn't run fast, but anyway—and then they had something called a Health Queen and you were voted

for, and I was voted Health Queen because, pitifully enough, I was the only one that could really count on three meals a day, practically.

There were others. There were others, but a whole lot who weren't.

And my cousin, Bobby Bryan—*B-R-Y-A-N*—lived at the end of the block—was the Health King. But we were just—we had food. And I didn't realize it until—I knew that some of my classmates were hungry, but I didn't realize how extensive it was then.

SL: There was a—the Depression kind of leveled the classes . . .

GT: It did.

SL: . . . a bit.

GT: Definitely.

SL: But during those early years, you kind of became aware of class differences.

GT: Yeah, we did.

SL: Because it was held against you.

GT: Yeah, it was held against you.

SL: You know, everyone thinks that the higher class—it was so privileged that it—that they looked down . . .

GT: Yeah, they . . .

SL: . . . but it was really others not being happy with being—I don't know, there's something about them demeaning your station, even though you just come by it honest. I mean . . .

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: . . . it's not like you did so at their expense, I guess is what I'm trying to say.

[02:00:11] GT: Well, it did level. Definitely. And the war leveled, definitely.

SL: It was great community support and a coming together when it came to the war, wasn't there?

GT: Yes, it was.

SL: It did make America one big community.

GT: It did. It did.

SL: Unlike today.

GT: Hmm. Unlike today, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[02:00:41] GT: But that's the erosion of politics, I guess, more than anything. But it just happens. Anyway, it's a—the war was a great leveler and introduced this country to many people who were narrowly living in their own vicinity and for years and generations and never wanted to get out of it, and they suddenly are thrown out of it and realize that this is a vast, wonderful country.

SL: Yeah.

GT: You know, they—we'd always—in the East they would always go abroad. They wouldn't go West. And then finally they began to go

West and it's so great in coming to Arkansas.

SL: So let me think now. I can't believe that there wasn't football going on.

GT: There was, at the high school. I didn't go to the football games, though.

SL: You didn't?

GT: I don't know. I just never was interested in it.

SL: A fan.

GT: And I wasn't invited, but I wasn't interested it, really.

[02:01:49] SL: You know, it just seems that football was so over-covered early on.

GT: Yeah.

SL: It was on the radio . . .

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: . . . and whenever TV hit, it was on the TV.

GT: Oh, yeah.

SL: And the paper, also.

GT: And the . . .

SL: Sports Section. Now, you guys—your family kind of started dividing up areas of interest. Before, it was just kind of a hodge-podge of stories here and there, but there then became departments . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . to the *Gazette*. Is that . . .

GT: Yeah, I—well, I think that’s right.

SL: . . . right? Am I right on that?

GT: Yeah.

[02:02:26] SL: I remember cartoons were a big thing. Your family didn’t want the paper to be just sold on cartoons.

GT: Yeah, that’s right.

SL: That—I forget which . . .

GT: I remember, though—this was a long time I’d after I’d left. I’d married and moved away, but being shown a cartoon at the *Gazette*, we had a circus come to town and a bear escaped. And the cartoon was—it took them a long time to find that bear—the cartoon was—it showed the Arkansas bear that was just kinda straggly and, you know, his coat was torn and whatnot—standing looking at this New York bear that was in the best-looking suit you ever [*SL laughs*] saw, smoking a cigar. [*Laughter*] With a top hat.

SL: Right.

[02:03:29] GT: So we had a wonderful cartoonist then on the *Gazette*, who could do such political things. *Gazette* has just opened up so much for this state and it’s—the history of the *Gazette* is the history of this state.

SL: It is. And in some ways, the nation. I mean, it really took a bead . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . on what . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . was happening nationally and . . .

GT: Exactly.

SL: . . . how it was . . .

GT: Exactly.

SL: How Arkansas could be a part of that.

GT: Yeah.

SL: And was a part of that.

GT: Yeah.

SL: A voice.

[02:04:05] GT: Exactly. I think maybe I oughta stop.

SL: Really?

GT: Mh-hmm. Are you wanting it—was there anything else that you would like . . .

SL: Well, we haven't really gotten to your husband . . .

GT: Oh, I . . .

SL: . . . and your life.

GT: Yeah, and . . .

SL: And . . .

GT: Is that interesting for people?

SL: Yes.

GT: All right.

SL: Absolutely. I mean—you know, of course, all the *Gazette* stories are wonderful . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . and that's all—that's . . .

GT: That's done that.

SL: I would kind of—although it was not really your career, that's kind of a
,

GT: I was in that . . .

SL: . . . career-oriented thing.

GT: Yeah.

SL: But what gives weight to your memories is us falling in love with you.

GT: Thank you.

SL: And so—and here you are—I know you—how hesitant you were about declaring your birth date, but you are a blessed person to have this life.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: And you have seen so much that all the kids that are coming after us know nothing about.

GT: No, they don't.

[02:05:14] SL: And so there's great value just in the things that you have

seen. Now, I'm sure you've seen many things nationally after you left Arkansas.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: And you have witnessed . . .

GT: The moon.

SL: Oh gosh, the moon shot.

GT: Oh, my gosh. That was wonderful.

SL: The Kennedy years.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: And what about . . .

[02:05:35] GT: And Walter—and my son-in-law's cousin—Georgie's husband's cousin was one of the ones to walk on the moon. He was an astronaut.

SL: That's right.

GT: His name—well, I'll have to ask Georgie.

SL: Well, we can get that.

GT: Yeah.

SL: But . . .

GT: Anyway, he was one of the first moon-walkers. [*Laughter*]

SL: That's a great term—moon-walker, you know? That didn't happen until we walked on the moon.

GT: Exactly.

SL: [Laughs] So there—there's a phenomenon.

GT: Exactly. Yeah, and so that's history, too.

[02:06:18] SL: And where were you here—you know, there's always a question, "Where were you when this happened?"

GT: Yeah.

SL: But what about the—well, first of all, tell me how you met your husband?

GT: Well, I told you that he—his brother was stationed here.

SL: Introduced . . .

GT: And we introduced . . .

SL: . . . in North Little Rock.

GT: And then I didn't meet him through—my sister did—met his wife, Barbara Terry, because of cousin Hildegard having a letter from an old school friend who said, "Look up the Baldwin Terrys." But I met them when we went to—the auditorium brought theater down from New York.

SL: Okay.

[02:07:09] GT: And we bought tickets to go [*unclear word*]. We saw a Broadway theater and it was a musical, and this beau I had, who was stationed at—in Camp Robinson—had a dinner party beforehand. He and another—they'd both gone to—and a great friend of his had gone to Princeton together and found themselves stationed together here.

So they had a dinner party and my best friend was the guest of his classmate at Princeton—and then they asked Barbara and Baldwin because Baldwin Terry was the liaison pilot for the division, which meant he would fly his little plane over the enemy and their guns were not rigged to shoot a plane that went that slowly, so that he was supposedly safe, which he—well, course, he wasn't.

SL: Right.

[02:08:15] GT: And—but anyway, we all went to dinner at the Sam Peck Hotel, which was a wonderful . . .

SL: Oh, yes.

GT: Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Peck.

SL: I remember Sam Peck.

GT: And it was really a wonderful place and I remember—oh, there was a wonderful-looking man—older man—who lived there. He was a widower and he lived there. And he just—and Winthrop Rockefeller had an apartment on the top of it when he came down here and then we went—met Barbara and Baldwin then and liked 'em so much. And then we went to the theater and then they came to Mother's for dinner, and that's how I—back and forth—I met Walter. And we went up to visit him—Barbara and Baldwin and I went up to visit Walter in Oklahoma. And then he would come down to see me and then when he said his division was gonna have to go overseas and he came and

we decided—in forty-eight hours we were married. We had a church ceremony—everything. Louise Heiskell was my maid of honor. My sister was my matron, and it was a lovely—at the Presbyterian Church.

[02:08:15] And then we came back for a little lunch, and rationing was in, but Mother had enough to get a Kentucky ham.

SL: Oh!

GT: And so we had that. [*Laughs*]

SL: That's big doin's.

GT: And biscuits.

SL: That's big doin's.

GT: Yeah, that's a big deal is to have—and biscuits. Wonderful. And then we drove on and went to Memphis to introduce Walter to my aunts in Memphis. Went to Knoxville to introduce them to my daddy's two sisters, who lived in Knoxville. And then spent the night in Kingston, Tennessee, where Grandmother's family had owned—had stayed and owned an inn at one time. And then went on to visit his cousins in Virginia and finally New York.

[02:10:32] SL: So y'all were driving all this . . .

GT: We were driving the whole time . . .

SL: Do you remember . . .

GT: Because he had to leave his car in the East.

SL: And do you remember what kind of car you were traveling . . .

GT: Well, he had an old convertible. I don't know what kind it was. And it was—we left it at Mrs. Terry's. She was in New York, but she also lived in Bernardsville, New Jersey, in the summertime. They had a house. And something—the top deteriorated while he was gone, so we bought a car from the daughter of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Terry's, and she was a decorator and she had this old-fashioned car. It was just a two-seater and a wonderful trunk that could hold the long decorating rolls of material. But it was so low that even I—as tall as I am—could barely see up above the—I don't know [*SL laughs*]. Mrs. Schroeder must've been really tall or she must've sat on pillows.

[02:11:41] SL: Maybe so. [*Laughter*] You know, now you mentioned diabetes at one point, didn't you? Did you—what about tuberculosis? There's some history of tuberculosis and going to Arizona or Texas or . . .

GT: No, no, not me, but Aunt Gracie had that.

SL: Aunt—yeah, the other Grace.

GT: My aunt—yeah, in Memphis. And they—course, they don't—you had to go where it was warm.

SL: Yeah.

[02:12:18] GT: She went down and lived with a family in Texas. And she was devout, devout Presbyterian and—a Christian. That's what she really was. And she taught school at one time and I'm sure—all of the

Heiskells were scholars. I mean, Daddy's family were all scholars. And she got over it. But in Daddy's letters he says that picture of Denver and he, being about twenty-two years or twenty-one, just couldn't get over the lungers, as they . . .

SL: Yeah.

GT . . . were called.

SL: Right.

GT: And just—if maybe—if they could get there, they would have more breath to live. But that would—those things are—we've lived to see that being cured.

SL: Right. Well, it was not only warm, but dry.

GT: Yeah, dry. That was . . .

SL: . . . what you had to have.

[02:13:33] SL: Had to be dry climate. Let me think for a second. When was the first time that you saw a television set?

GT: I can remember going with Walter—was—got out of the Army [*unclear words*] as a captain in the field artillery . . .

SL: `Kay.

GT: . . . with the Rainbow Division, which had been a very famous division . . .

SL: Yes.

GT: . . . in World War I. And anyway, he—when we first moved to New

Jersey—were living there—we moved to a house that was a superintendent's house at one time for a—on the Blair Estate. Mr. Blair was a friend of Mr. Terry's and he—Mr. Terry had asked him if he had any house available that his son, Walter, and his new bride—his bride could—or new wife—could live in and he said, "Yes, my superintendent's house." So we moved into it and that house, I remember, it had coal furnace, course. Everything seemed to be coal. Coal furnace.

SL: So you had a coal bin in the basement.

GT: Oh, yeah, and you had to shovel that coal. And then he came—Mr. Blair was very charming and very gracious. When Mother would come and visit, he'd ask us all for lunch and dinner parties and he asked all his nieces and granddaughters and whatnot to come. But then he came and he said, "My daughter"—he had four daughters—his eldest daughter wanted to take that house and do it over. He said, "She loves to do things—houses over. [02:15:35] And so we moved into a house that some friends of ours were moving away from. They were going back to their Morrystown roots and it was owned for life tenancy by a Miss Emmett. The Emmett family were all very literary and Miss Emmett had seen better days financially, but she was married to—I've forgotten—she'd—her husband had died and she'd married again, and she was living on Long Island. She'd rented this house for seventy-

five a month. But it had four ?coal appliances? And I wall-papered it. I was—Walt—my son was on the way and I was sure he was gonna turn out to be a paper-hanger because I wall-papered it—his rooms and painted—and it was—we had more fun in that house. [02:16:40] We would have parties—dinner parties and just—fireplaces every place. You had to, you know?

SL: Well, is—was it in that house that you first saw a television set?

GT: Oh, thank you. But Walter had said he wanted to—maybe he ought to keep up his Army Reserve and—which meant you had to go to meetings.

SL: Right.

GT: And so we were—he—it was summer. We went over to a meeting in Plainfield. And while he was there, I walked along the street looking in stores, and I saw a television. That was the first time I'd seen one.

SL: A lotta folks saw it that way.

GT: Is that what—you, too?

[02:17:26] SL: Well, no, I remember—I . . .

GT: You had one . . .

SL: The first time I saw a TV . . .

GT: . . . always.

SL: They—well, no, I remember when it came to the house the first time.

GT: Oh, you do?

SL: Yeah, and I remember watching *Ed Sullivan*.

GT: What?

SL: *Ed Sullivan*.

GT: Yes, of course.

SL: Yeah.

[02:17:43] GT: And Walter had a customer at Morgan Guaranty. He was in the investment trust department and it was J. P. Morgan then—had not merged with Guaranty. And one of his, as he liked them, customers, was Irving Gist, who was born two days out of steerage. His mother and father came from—were Russian Jews and he was brought up on the lower east side of New York. He said his mother had a rubber plant that she loved more than her children, and she'd [SL laughs] move it all the time in the sunlight. All day long she would change it. But Irving said to—he told us that he had said to himself, "When I make my fortune, the first thing I'm gonna do is to get a box at the opera and the second thing I'm gonna do is to buy a Rolls Royce.

SL: Wow.

[02:18:47] GT: And he did both. [SL laughs] And he was a friend of Ed Sullivan's.

SL: Ah.

GT: So one night he had an opera party and he had Mrs. Ogden Reed, who

was the widow of the owner and editor of the *Herald Tribune*, and whose son was a friend of my husband's because they'd gone to school together and known each other since they were boys. And he had Ed Sullivan and his wife, who was a pretty—and then a couple who were friends of Irving's and who were friends of Ed Sullivan's wife, too, and Ed Sullivan—and we went to the—sat in the box at the opera, which was right next to the Henry Ford box, right here. And then you—you know, between acts—and they weren't acts—but between—I don't know—scenes . . .

SL: Okay.

[02:20:08] GT: . . . you would go up to the opera restaurant. You had to belong to it. We went up and saw Mr. Chagall.

SL: Oh, the painter.

GT: Oh, he was a—just the most joyful little man. He'd just go around and talk to everybody. [SL laughs] And then Chagall—he had painted, I think, a mural in this—in that room.

SL: I think you're right.

GT: And then we—you know, we'd go back and we'd have champagne during the—between the acts. And—but Ed—afterwards, we went to a nightclub to have—to hear music and it was the most . . .

SL: Big evening.

[02:20:52] GT: Boy, it was big. And it was during the week and, of

course, you were dressed in black tie and . . .

SL: Sure.

GT: . . . long dress—everything. It was really beautiful. And then Irving went to—he'd [*unclear words*]. He had a wonderful Mrs. So-and-so, who was the secretary, and she would call and say, "Mr. Gist wants to know if you'd like his tickets and everything is on him." So we'd ask three or four couples. We'd go and have dinner and do exactly the same thing.

SL: I love that.

GT: Uh-huh.

[02:21:24] SL: What a . . .

GT: That was one of their . . .

SL: . . . kind person.

GT: One of the fun things of being married to a banker. And I thought I'd never marry a stuffy banker. [*SL laughs*] Gosh sakes. [*SL laughs*] I was gonna marry a newspaperman or a lawyer.

SL: I think bankers can be fun, too.

GT: Well, they can be fun.

[02:21:43] SL: Yeah. [*GT laughs*] Well, so let's talk a little bit about Walter. What . . .

GT: Well, then he was brought up with the most perfect home life you can imagine. Mr. Terry's family dated back to—I think that I'm correct—I

read this in a book—that his ancestor was the third royal governor of Connecticut. And Mr. Terry, his father, was named Wyllys—*W-Y-L-L-Y-S*—because there was a Miss Ruth Wyllys who hid the charter of Connecticut under the old oak tree [*SL laughs*] when the English came. [*SL laughs*]

SL: Gosh!

GT: Now, that really is goin' back.

SL: That is, now.

GT: Really.

SL: That's roots!

[02:22:31]GT: That's roots. [*Laughter*] And they were—Mr. Terry and his—that same kind upbringing that Daddy had in Memphis, Tennessee, where you had your—he was brought up in Brooklyn Heights area of Brooklyn. You never lived in New York in the nineteenth century. You lived in Brooklyn. That was the place to live . . .

SL: Okay.

GT: . . . and all of the old families lived there. Then they—gradually, they moved over to New York.

SL: Right.

GT: Yep. But they had this—they all—there were three boys and they were all dressed up and they went to the Episcopal Church every Sunday

and—but Walter said it was like being in a small town. After church they'd—they went and had ice cream or something as a reward, but you'd see people you knew. And you'd stop and talk to them just as though you would in Fayetteville. It was that intimate.

[02:23:26] SL: Yeah. Personable.

GT: Mh-hmm. And then they'd have the—they, again, were brought up with the most wonderful food. [*SL laughs*]

SL: You have been blessed in the food area, haven't you?

GT: I know it. I—yeah, I just . . .

SL: You like to eat.

GT: Well, I like—I just appreciate good food.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Well-seasoned. You know, it takes so much time and . . .

SL: Yeah.

[02:23:52] GT: . . . you have to do it right. But it is so rewarding.

Anyway, they were brought up with the Sunday lunch and they always went to Maine in the summer—the same little place. It was like a little—and it still is there—the [*unclear words*] are still there.

Beautiful. But we never did that. His two brothers had houses in Maine, but we never did. We never—Walter never wanted another house and I didn't, either, cause it takes too much. One is enough. You really do . . .

SL: It's a . . .

GT: Do you have another house? Do you have a lake house?

SL: No, but we're shopping. I'm a fly-fisherman. My wife and I fly-fish.

GT: Oh, so was Walter.

SL: And . . .

GT: Yeah, fly-fisherman. Yeah.

SL: We like doing that.

[02:24:44] GT: Yeah. And so you would like to have it maybe on the—
what—on the Buffalo?

SL: No, there's not—I've—I grew up fly-fishing with my father, but it was
always warm waters.

GT: Yeah.

SL: But I've since developed a love for fishing for trout.

GT: Oh.

SL: So it has to be cold water and the water has to be kind of pristine
and . . .

GT: Yeah, that's what Walter did—trout fishing.

SL: And—yeah. And so we typically go over to the Bull Shoals—below Bull
Shoals dam. There's about . . .

GT: Oh, is that where it . . .

[02:25:16] SL: Well, there's about eighty or ninety miles of trout water
there.

GT: Oh, my heavens.

SL: So there's plenty of places to go.

GT: Are they stocked fish or are they native?

SL: Well, some are native and some are stocked. They've proliferated very well.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: So it's a—it kind of maintains itself, but they still stock it from time to time.

GT: And do you cast?

SL: I do.

[02:25:39] GT: Uh-huh. That's what Walter—it's the most beautiful—
[unclear words] so pretty to watch that. I couldn't—I never can—
could master that. But we used to—he—any kind of fishing—fly-
fishing, definitely, and then salmon fishing—we'd rent his brother and
[SL laughs] a friend of his brother's owned a camp on the—I think it
was called the Little Main River that went into the ?Rooster Goose? . . .

SL: Okay.

GT: . . . in Canada and you'd fish for salmon. And that was wonderful to watch him do that.

SL: That's the trout family.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Salmonoids.

GT: Yeah.

SL: So I had a question . . .

[02:26:18] GT: But he ended up a—I mean, here was somebody who had been just brought up in the most perfect surroundings and sent off to a boarding school that was very, again, exclusive. And to Yale where all the—Mr. Terry had made the longest run in football history that can never be duplicated cause they shortened the course and they shortened where you catch the ball. [SL laughs] So he . . .

SL: So his record stands forever.

GT: Forever. And he made it against—for Yale against Wesleyan in about 1882 or . . .

SL: Oh, gosh.

GT: . . . [18]72 or something.

SL: That's really early football.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[02:27:11] GT: That was old football. But—so . . .

SL: I'm not even sure they had leather helmets then.

GT: Had what?

SL: Leather helmets. I'm not sure they even had leather helmets back . . .

GT: I'm not sure, either.

SL: Yeah.

GT: And yet they—they didn't seem to be nutty [*SL laughs*] from
the . . .

SL: For the . . .

GT: . . .affects. I guess . . .

SL: Well, I think you were . . .

GT: . . . it was more gentlemanly.

SL: . . . more careful with your head . . .

GT: Or—you were.

SL: . . . because you didn't have the protection that they have now.

GT: Yeah, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[02:27:38] GT: You know how it is now. It's terrible on—what has
happened to the football players.

SL: I really think—I may be silly for saying this—but I can't believe they'll
let it continue.

GT: You do?

SL: I don't.

GT: You agree?

SL: I think that eventually they'll move on to a different form . . .

GT: Okay.

SL: . . . of sport . . .

[02:27:59] GT: I think so, too.

SL: . . . rather than banging heads . . .

GT: Rather than that . . .

SL: . . . together.

GT: It's like boxing, too.

SL: And the same with—yeah. There's just somethin' –I don't know. I may be crazy, but that . . .

GT: I agree with you.

[02:28:08] SL: So let me ask you this—what about children?

GT: Well, I have a son who is here in Bentonville—and Walter, Jr., and then you've met Georgie and that's all I have. Georgie's three and a half years older than her brother.

SL: Everyone's healthy and . . .

GT: And then Georgie and ?Reeve?—she's married to the painter—the artist—and they have two children—a son who's three years younger than his sister, and the sister is married, too, and they live in Los Angeles and she got—went—when she first went out there she met someone who said—and they discovered that she did wardrobing for movies and television and whatnot.

SL: Sure.

[02:29:02] GT: And she got Marie interested in it, so Marie has continued with it. She has two children—a Georgia—the name goes down—and a Waller—two years younger brother—and Marie was given an Emmy

last year for . . .

SL: Oh!

GT: . . . the movie "Transparent."

SL: Oh.

GT: The comedy noir, as the *Times* called it.

SL: Yeah. Uh-huh. Neat.

GT: So she's good at what she does.

[02:29:34] SL: And you have grandchildren.

GT: And then I have great-grandchildren. Yeah, that's the granddaughter.

SL: Right.

GT: And then the great-granddaughter is Georgia and Waller. Georgia's only nine—gonna be ten.

SL: You gotta be proud.

GT: I am!

SL: Have you set about spoiling them?

GT: Spoiling them?

SL: Yes.

GT: Oh, they're in California in Los Angeles. I can't spoil 'em.

SL: Oh, my gosh. You gotta get on that immediately. [GT laughs] You have to make that mark. There's no one else that we'll allow to spoil them. [Laughter] Well, good. Okay, so is there anything else you want to say about your mom or your dad? I mean, you . . .

[02:30:18] GT: Well, they were both very committed to Mankind and to improving what it—any way they could—things that came up. I mean, Mother would—when—after Daddy died—during the Depression, again—she would have people come and didn't—somebody who had worked for her outside or whatnot—didn't have anything and wanted some money and she gave it to 'em. But she said, "I don't want you to buy cookies and things with that. I want you to buy what is right." And people would come to her and ask her if she could loan money. She'd say, "I just—I don't have it to do that," because the Depression really—everybody ?adjusted?.

[02:31:15] SL: I know a lot of folks that would just ask for work and then get a sandwich or something out of it.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: "Is there anything I can do for you?"

GT: Yeah.

SL: "Is there any job that you may have?"

GT: Yeah.

SL: "Can I clean up something? Can I do something for you?"

GT: Yeah, exactly.

[02:31:34] SL: It wasn't like they were actually—no one wanted to beg.

GT: No.

SL: They wanted to keep their honor and . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . earn . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . earn their living.

GT: Yeah, earn a living.

SL: And the jobs just weren't there.

GT: They weren't there. They didn't want to beg.

SL: No. Who would?

GT: It was just—that was the bottom that you could do.

[02:31:56] SL: What about—I'm tryin' to think—all right, well, what about—I'm tryin' to think—it seems like there is one other thing about the *Gazette* that we hadn't talked about.

GT: Oh, we're . . .

SL: I know that you're—you may not be comfortable talking about you all selling your share of the *Gazette*.

[02:32:29] GT: Well, this was—you know, the *Gazette* went through a period and I really would like—rather have Fred tell you this than . . .

SL: Well, that's okay. You don't have to . . .

GT: You know—but then he went through a—oh, I remember—know what one of the things that I thought was so interesting.

SL: Okay.

[02:32:50] GT: During the war there was—you had to put money back into

the company or your taxes were so much—some way that you were charged, really, for keeping your profits. You had to put it back into the company. And a disgruntled former employee reported to the tax—to the IRS—that the *Gazette* was not putting money back into the company.

SL: `Kay.

GT: And course, the authorities came and they were going to be fined—I don't know how much.

SL: Okay.

GT: So Uncle Ned testified that that was not true—that it was—they had done it. And the judge said, "Mr. Heiskell—known Mr. Heiskell for I don't know how many years and he has never lied. I know that is the truth." And that was—the Heiskells did not lie. That was it.

SL: That was so good.

GT: Yeah, isn't that good?

SL: That's a great victory.

GT: Yeah.

SL: Yeah, it's almost . . .

GT: It was . . .

SL: . . . almost on . . .

GT: . . . a victory.

SL: . . . principle.

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: Yeah. That's good.

GT: Yeah.

SL: I'd be proud of that, too.

[02:34:28] GT: And—I mean, they came from that kind of stock. Their grandmother tells a—in her book—she tells a story of her father, who was—and she and her sister were just the two of them and the owner of the big—of the plantation and she tells about her life on the plantation. But her father was in the Tennessee Legislature—a member of it. And he would travel to Nashville, which was the capital, for the meetings. And he went—one occasion—he always traveled on his horse. She said you could go by buggy or coach—stagecoach or whatever they went—used—or buggy, actually, or you could ride or you could take the train. There was a train. But he went by his—with his horse and they had the meeting and it was—it came up to change the capital of Tennessee to Franklin, rather than Nashville.

SL: Okay.

[02:35:39] GT: And John Netherland—Uncle Ned's name was John Netherland Heiskell—John Netherland was the decisive vote to keep Nashville as the capital. And there was a legislator who lived in Franklin or near Nashville, and he asked all the visiting legislators to come and stay for the night with him—or two nights, maybe—Saturday

night and Sunday. But anyway—I think it was just—anyway, they stayed over Sunday night. Grandfather excused himself early and said he had to retire because he had some important business in Nashville the next morning—had to get there. And when he came down the next morning Monday, he couldn't find anybody. And he went to the room they'd all been in and opened the doors and there they were all, sitting around the table, but of course he didn't see them gambling, but they had been gambling all night long and he just said goodbye and left. [02:36:50] And there was a very ambitious judge who wanted to get something on the legislators.

SL: Ah!

GT: And he subpoenaed Grandfather to come and testify against his fellow legislators and he sent the message back. "If a gentleman can't be treated like a gentleman, I did not see them gambling. If I can't be treated like a gentleman, then I'll call all my legislators back and we will make Franklin the capital. And Georgie said—when I told her this story—she said, "Well, that was threatening them." And I said, "I'm sure it was. It was tough, and wanted [*SL laughs*] 'em to be tough."

SL: Yeah.

GT: Because that was a terrible thing to do. Anyway . . .

SL: That's so interesting. Isn't Franklin just outside of Nashville?

GT: Yeah.

SL: I mean, it's . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . like a suburb almost . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . of Nashville.

GT: Yeah, but—yeah.

SL: That's so funny.

GT: Then it was further because . . .

SL: Yeah.

GT: . . . you had to go by horse or coach.

[02:37:51] SL: Right, right. But it's gotten so big now, it looks like.

GT: Oh yeah, I bet.

SL: Yeah. That's a interesting story.

GT: Isn't that a good story?

SL: It is.

[02:37:59] GT: Uh-huh. Grandmother's book is filled with—and she tells about—as a child, looking out a window and she said that the blacks who were part of the plantation used to make these little paper cones and perforate them in designs and then put a candle. And this was some occasion—they were celebrating something, so they were going all around the house—walking all around the house with these little lighted cones. And she said to her mother, "What would we do if they

turned against us?" And of course, then there was civil war. They dragged in—the Carpetbaggers dragged in uneducated farmhands—blacks—and made them authority in the government or something in Knoxville. It was near Knoxville.

SL: Right.

[02:39:07] GT: Anyway, bad things happened.

SL: Sure. You start importing your troops.

GT: Yeah, exactly.

SL: Yeah, there's a—there's something else at work there . . .

GT: Yeah.

SL: . . . rather than the community.

GT: Well, Scott, you have done a yeoman's job.

SL: [*Laughs*] Oh, come on.

GT: You . . .

SL: I haven't done anything. I've sat here and listened to . . .

GT: Yeah. Well, then you . . .

SL: . . . all these great stories.

GT: You know, I would have to pay people to listen to me [*unclear words*].

SL: [*Laughs*] That's not true.

GT: It's true.

SL: That is not true.

GT: It's true.

SL: No. Uh-uh.

GT: Anyway . . .

[02:39:44] SL: Well, I—before we say goodbye, is there anything else you want to say. I mean . . .

GT: I was tryin' to think. Now, let me see.

SL: I'm so sorry that we don't have Walter anymore. I . . .

GT: Yeah, I know it, though . . .

SL: He sounds like a wonderful man.

GT: Oh, he was a—he should've been the biggest snob you ever met in your life, and he wasn't.

SL: Wasn't.

GT: And . . .

SL: Well, I don't think you would've put up with it.

[02:40:10] GT: I just couldn't have married a snob.

SL: Right.

GT: Couldn't have married one. [*SL laughs*] And he brought so much into my life, but I brought a lot into his, too, because he needed—he—then—he was very shy. I mean, he was not—the Terrys had beautiful manners and my, it's nice.

SL: Well, sure.

GT: I mean, they would—I belonged to a little club because Mother's Aunt Georgie, whose family came from the early settlers of Isaac Watkins,

who lived in the Philadelphia area on Cheston Hill, outside of Philadelphia. Aunt Georgie belonged to a club called the York Club, which was two old houses put together, made into a ladies' club—and next to the Knickerbocker Club, which is an elaborate club on Fifth Avenue and East—on Sixty-second Street. [02:41:13] And these two old houses—Mrs. MacArthur—General MacArthur . . .

SL: Yeah.

GT: . . . who was a Southerner . . .

SL: Yes.

GT: . . . was a member and had a lot of different members. And they're out-of-town ladies who had a place to stay when they'd go there. And while I was staying there for one night—I—and I'd become a member because I thought it would be a place for me to stay if Mrs. Terry wasn't there in her apartment. And Walter had come to pick me up and he said—he turned around and saw—I saw this elegant lady walking and he said—he went up to her—"Mrs. So-and-so." And she whirled around and he said, "I'm Walter Terry. It's so nice to see you again." And she said, "You boys always did have good manners." [*SL laughs*] And he turned around and left. [*Laughter*]

SL: That's funny.

GT: Walter and his two older brothers. They always had beautiful manners.

SL: That's good.

GT: And it's so nice.

[02:42:13] SL: Okay now, there's one more thing I would like to ask of you, and you don't have to do this.

GT: All right.

SL: But one of the things that we like to do at the end of our interview . . .

GT: Mh-hmm.

SL: About to let you off the hook here.

GT: All right.

SL: Is that I'll get up and I'll get out of this chair, but I want you to look at this camera like it's me.

GT: Oh.

SL: And if you could say your name—"I'm Grace Heiskell . . ."

GT: ". . . Heiskell Terry."

SL: ". . . Terry. And I'm proud to be from Arkansas."

GT: Yeah. Oh, I am.

SL: Cause you're already the ambassador.

GT: [*Laughs*] Yeah, well I am—secretary of state.

SL: So—the secretary of state.

GT: You don't know it, of course, but I am.

SL: Well, I've heard. [*GT laughs*] So anyway, I'll get up and I'll move and then if you'll just look right at this camera and . . .

GT: I will.

SL: . . . say that, then . . .

GT: The interview is over.

SL: Yeah.

GT: Oh, Scott, thank you.

SL: Okay. Okay. Well, let me get out of the way.

GT: All right.

SL: And let them get the camera—are you ready to go in there?

SM: Stand by. We're framing her up right now.

SL: Okay. Little tighter, maybe. There we go. Is that good? Why don't we do it a little tighter?

SM: What'd you say, Scott?

SL: Just a little tighter, I think.

SM: Could you repeat that again?

SL: Oh, just a little tighter . . .

SM: Okay.

SL: . . . on the frame. Yeah, that's good. Yeah, something like that.

That's great. And so let her know when you're ready and she'll do the job for us.

SM: All right, go ahead.

SL: All right. There you are. Right there at the camera.

[02:43:57] GT: "I'm Grace Heiskell Terry. I'm so proud to have been born

and reared in Little Rock, Arkansas.”

SL: Okay, that’s good. Now let’s do one where you just say your name and you just say, “I’m proud to be from Arkansas.”

GT: All right. “I’m Grace Heiskell Terry. I’m proud to be from Arkansas.”

SL: Perfect.

GT: Perfect.

SL: Was that good?

GT: Yeah, the first one you didn’t like “being born and reared.”

SL: Well, we have—we usually do have two or three different versions [of things we do?].

GT: Yeah, and that’s not one. Yeah.

SL: But no—that—it’s not that we wouldn’t . . .

GT: Use it.

SL: . . . use it. But . . .

GT: The other one is what you is what you’re used to.

SL: The other one is common to all of them.

GT: Yeah.

SL: All of our interviews.

GT: Yeah. Okay.

SL: But they’re all . . .

GT: That’s okay.

SL They all have uncommon responses, too, so there’s no rules here.

GT: No, there are no rules.

SL: And there's no . . .

GT: No, I'm sure of that.

SL: Okay.

GT: All right. Thank you, Scott.

SL: Well, we're done.

GT: Thank you!

[End of Interview 02:44:54]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]