

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

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**Arkansas Memories Project**

Margaret Moore Whillock  
Interviewed by Scott Lunsford  
March 2, 2017  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

## Objective

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

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

## Transcript Methodology

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

The Pryor Center transcripts are prepared utilizing the *University of Arkansas Style Manual* for proper names, titles, and terms specific to the university. For all other style elements, we refer to the *Pryor Center Style Manual*, which is based primarily on *The Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition*. We employ the following guidelines for consistency and readability:

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

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

### **Citation Information**

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**Scott Lunsford interviewed Margaret Moore Whillock on March 2, 2017, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

[00:00:00]

Scott Lunsford: Margaret. Today's date is March the second, 2017. So we're kinda doing the second shift . . .

Margaret M. Whillock: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . on our time together, and—uh—we're still at the Pryor Center. I'm still Scott Lunsford. You're still . . .

MW: [*MW laughs*] Margaret.

SL: . . . remarkable Margaret Whillock.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And so—um—it's okay that we're continuing this . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . and—okay.

MW: Yes.

SL: That's good. And I think where we wanna pick up—where we wanna start this morning is your time in Little Rock. And this . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . this comes after being—um—uh—in—um—um—oh, Altus, right?

MW: Yes.

SL: And then Fort Smith.

MW: Yes.

SL: And then—um—to Ozark?

MW: To—a couple of years, uh-huh.

SL: Couple years in Ozark.

MW: Uh-huh.

SL: Then back to Fort Smith?

[00:00:52] MW: No, and then to Fayetteville.

SL: And then to Fayetteville.

MW: Yeah.

SL: That's right. I'm sorry.

MW: Okay. Then to . . .

SL: Fayetteville.

MW: . . . Fayetteville.

SL: Okay.

MW: Uh-huh.

SL: And then—a—at this time—um—after a while in Fayetteville . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . Carl enters your life, is that right?

MW: Yes. Yes, uh-huh.

SL: And then out of Fayetteville, do you go to DC, or to . . .

MW: No, we go . . .

SL: . . . Little Rock for a . . .

MW: . . . we go to ASU, to Jonesboro.

SL: Oh, that's right, Jonesboro.

MW: And we did that. We . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: Uh-huh. Yeah.

[00:01:15] SL: I didn't really—uh—quiz you a whole lot about . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . Jonesboro.

MW: Well, that's all right. The—I mean, you know, I think—we weren't there long, and . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: . . . and we covered the highlights, I think.

SL: But you had a kind of a new role in your life as—as far as . . .

MW: Oh . . .

SL: . . . as expectations . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: The [*MW laughs*]*—th—wh—the . . .*

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . duties that . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . that a president's—of a university's . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . wife is . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: And you rolled right into that.

MW: Oh . . .

[00:01:39] SL: You enjoyed that, didn't you?

MW: Oh, yes. It was lots of fun. We had a good time, and we did some good things. I told you about the investiture and all . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . and the week of scholars we had and how, you know, we wo—worked hard on that. And there was—there was always something going on around the university. You know how that is.

SL: Yes.

MW: So.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: So.

SL: Um . . .

MW: And then we went to Little Rock, though. We weren't there long.

[00:02:04] SL: Okay. So let's get us to Little Rock.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Then.

MW: And I told you bout working at the Arts Center, I believe. And that I was on the board at the Arkansas Arts Center. Did I tell you this?

SL: I don't think so.

MW: Well, all right. Okay. Well, when—well, when we first went to Little Rock, one of the most interesting things I did that first summer is I did work with Mack McLarty and Dick Herget and others on—um—Bill Clinton's s—uh—second campaign for governor. He lost to Frank White. Now I told you that, didn't I?

SL: Yes.

MW: That I had worked there. Okay. And then I stayed at home for a while, and I went back to work, and I went to bett—worked for Betty Bumpers. And we covered that.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: Very well, I think. [00:02:50] And then I went to—um—I was on the board at the Arkansas Arts Center.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: And they asked me—I'd done Tabriz, their big fund-raiser.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: And they asked me to come and work in the—uh—foundash—their foundation office and raise money.

SL: Uh-huh.



MW: I should say development office—and organize it, hire staff, organize it, raise money. And I did. And I really, really enjoyed the arts world. It was a very interesting job. And one thing that it led to—while I was working there, I was asked to be the commencement speaker for the School of Architecture here at the University of Arkansas.

SL: Wow.

MW: And that was pretty amazing in itself, you know. I was—I could not believe that the—uh—they asked me, but they did. And it's—course architecture's a small school, and that's even before my daughter was a student there. Or—well, she had graduated. That's right. She had graduated by then and gone on. But that was interesting.

[00:03:52] SL: That—that was—uh—during John Williams—uh . . .

MW: Yes. John Williams and Murray Smart . . .

SL: . . . chair.

MW: . . . were there.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: And Fay Jones was still there and all.

SL: Yes.

[00:04:00] MW: And then the other thing that I wanted to bring up about the Little Rock years maybe I hadn't—uh—Carl had

worked as a young man, I told you, for the congressman from the third . . .

SL: Trimble.

MW: . . . congressional . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . district. And he had worked with the ways and means committee and been a member of it some way. And so he was invited back to Washington to the ways and means committee 100th anniversary.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: The committee was a hundred years old. I believe it was 1989 or someth . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

[00:04:31] MW: I don't know when. But anyway. And so he went back up there. And hi—and I did not go with him. They had a big dinner. They had a seminar, you know, all that. And he ended up with his picture in *Newsweek*, and he's pointing his finger at George Bush, the first George Bush that was president, telling him a story. And so that Christmas, we had that [SL *laughs*] photograph—we thought we'd never know another president, so we took that photograph and made it into a Christmas card and sent it out, and it said, "George, I think

you'd be happier in the Democratic party." [*Laughter*] And so that was—and I haven't brought a copy for the video.

SL: Okay.

MW: You know, for the pictures in the video and all.

SL: Hey, let's—um—let's—uh—pause just for a moment.

MW: Okay.

[00:05:20] SL: I wanna—I wanna ask about Mack McLarty.

MW: Oh, sure.

SL: And you getting to work with him.

MW: Yes. Uh-huh.

SL: Um—what an amazing mind.

MW: Yes.

SL: He has.

MW: Yes. Yeah. He had. De . . .

SL: Um—what was the—I mean, are there any stories that you can tell about your involvement with Mack and—and . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: . . . getting the stuff done that . . .

MW: Well . . .

SL: . . . needed to be done?

MW: In—in the early days, of course, when I first met Mack—Carl knew him when he was a student in Fayetteville. And then he

was elected to the legislature when my brother, Rudy, was. So that's when I first knew him. And they became great friends. They had a really good times together.

SL: Uh-huh.

[00:05:57] MW: And they worked on Bill Clinton's election campaign together, the first one that—when he ran for governor.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: And Mack was very involved with Rudy in that. And they worked hard and had a lot of fun in that one. They worked with Hillary. And Rudy did a lot of work with Hillary. And—uh—that's what Mack always said. [*SL laughs*] And s—uh—Mack just has—then I came back and I—we worked in that 1980 comeback campaign for Bill Clinton. And of course, Mack was very competent and very meticulous about—to detail, that kind of thing. And we had some good times together. He came and went. I believe he was treasurer because he was—um—uh—running his businesses at the same time.

SL: And these were car dealerships.

MW: Yeah, it—well, he'd a—seemed like he had another business before then.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: Have you ever interviewed him?

SL: I have not. We ho . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: We had him scheduled in at one point to do an interview in his Little Rock office, and he got called away to China.

MW: Yeah. You ne—you ne . . .

SL: See, he's got a car dealership oh . . .

MW: You ought to do that. But it seems like he did something else before he got so many car dealerships.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: But I really—he has a number of different, you know, interests financial and all. [00:07:14] And then of course, we knew Donna. She was always a big part of that.

SL: Yes.

MW: And—uh—we [*SL laughs*] all worked together. Gosh, in those Bill Clinton campaigns, there were always just kind of the same background of people. And when he ran for president—go ahead.

SL: Um—well, Mack grew up with Bill Clinton in Hope.

MW: Yes, he did. Yeah.

SL: I mean, they were . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: Went to school together at . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . public schools there together.

MW: You've seen that famous kindergarten picture of 'em.

SL: Yes.

MW: Together.

SL: Yes. Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

[00:07:43] SL: Um—and so there was—uh—a really close trust . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . between . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . Bill and Mack.

MW: I think so. Mh-hmm.

SL: Um—and I just got the impression that—uh—um—in my brief conversations with Mack . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . that he knows so much.

MW: Oh, he does. He does.

SL: And he's so good about . . .

MW: He knows where all the bodies are buried.

SL: He does. [*Laughter*]

MW: If—he wouldn't tell you. And . . .

SL: Yeah.

[00:08:09] MW: But—uh—when my brother died, he called me that morning—when Rudy—and he called me the—the day of the ser—the day before the service. And you know, he said he was so sorry he couldn't be there and all this sort of thing.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: Which I certainly understood. And—uh—then he showed up at the service. And he said, "You know, Margaret, after I talked to you and we talked about all the fun we had over the years and Rudy's involvement and what a good friend he was, I thought, 'I'm goin' to Fayetteville.'" And there he was. Wasn't that nice?

SL: It is.

MW: I was really touched.

SL: It's a thing from the heart.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yep.

MW: I was very touched by that.

[00:08:46] SL: Well, if—uh . . .

MW: And I can't—you know, he was—always we were in and out of people's lives and homes over the years and all.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: And then in Washington, when we went to Washington in

[19]97, Donna McLarty had the most wonderful party for me, a ladies' luncheon, a really large one, in their home up there.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: To introduce me to some of the people, the wives of some of the people in the administration and all. And they helped me get better acquainted—to learn about DC and all. Like they gave me a list of places to go to get my clothes cleaned or, you know . . .

SL: Well . . .

MW: . . . to buy special gift for someone, that kind of thing.

SL: Well . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . yeah, the stuff that it takes to . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . live somewhere.

MW: That's right. [*SL laughs*] And so—and then I, like I said, we'd just been in and out of one another's lives over the years. I have a—I was surprised when I went through my papers getting ready for this how many letters I have from him. [*Laughs*]

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: So.

[00:09:49] SL: Well, h—not only smart, he's just a thoughtful person. He . . .



MW: Yeah.

SL: It seems like he's just . . .

MW: He is.

SL: . . . really—uh—careful.

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: I mean, he's—it seems like he's got a—a clear direction of—of  
how he wants to live but . . .

MW: That's right.

SL: And but he seems to be very careful about how that affects  
everyone around him.

MW: Yeah, and . . .

SL: And that's . . .

MW: And he succeeded. He . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: He and Donna are just a really remarkable couple. Yeah.

[00:10:16] SL: Well, next time you talk with Donna . . .

MW: Oh, okay.

SL: . . . remind her that she assured me that we would get an  
interview with Mack.

MW: Okay, I . . .

SL: That she would . . .

MW: I will [*SL laughs*], sure. I'll be glad to.

SL: We—we wanted to do it at his house . . .

MW: All right.

SL: . . . and he wanted to do it in his office. And . . .

MW: I probably can talk . . .

SL: . . . it's a beautiful office.

MW: . . . to Mack real quick here about the video, so I'll tell him if you want me to. [*Laughs*]

SL: Okay. Okay. Well—um . . .

MW: But.

[00:10:37] SL: We even went so far as to scout his office.

MW: Uh-huh.

SL: And it's a beautiful office.

MW: Yeah.

SL: The problem with the office is there's so much glass.

MW: Yeah.

SL: We have—we'd have to put up black drapes everywhere . . .

MW: Mmm.

SL: . . . to cut all that light 'cause that light . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . changes through the day.

[00:10:50] MW: You know, Mack ran Arkansas Western Gas company for a while. Remember that?

SL: Yes, I do.

MW: And when Ben, my son Ben that you know . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . was a boy—uh—in high school, he worked for Mack in the summers. And he loved it. He had the best time. And the first day he came home, and his eyes were this [encircles eyes with fingers] big. [*SL laughs*] He said, "You know what they have?" And we said, "No, what?" Said, "They have a refrigerator full of Cokes and Sprite and anything you want to drink, and you can just go get one whenever you want it." [*Laughter*] That really impressed him at the age of sixteen.

SL: Yeah. Well . . .

MW: So. Isn't that funny?

SL: . . . that is good.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I love that.

MW: Hmm.

[00:11:27] SL: All right. So—um—let's go back to Little Rock and the Arts Center.

MW: Okay. Mh-hmm.

SL: Um—now I—as I remember, you did speak briefly about the Arts Center, and then . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: . . . when they asked you to—to come on the board and . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . and th . . .

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: They gave you two assignments. One—one was—uh—to raise money.

MW: Uh-huh.

SL: And for you to get enough money to pay your salary.

MW: No, that was another job. That . . .

SL: Oh, that was a different job.

MW: . . . wasn't that—that was one I told you about here in Fayetteville. That was the symphony. But no . . .

SL: Oh, the symphony. Okay. That's right.

[00:12:04] MW: The Arts Center gave me the job of organizing the development office . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . and raising money.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: For it. You know, they had a set program every year of exhibits that were coming. They were booked three years out. And finding sponsorships for those and raise membership, that kind

of thing. It was a great job. Townsend Wolfe was head of the Arts Center for years. And Townsend was very good to me. He sent me to a number of—uh—national art meetings for people working in art museums.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: And—um—I got to hone my skills in development work and just did a lot of really good things, and we had a good time.

[00:12:45] SL: He was very popular, wasn't he, Townsend Wolfe?

MW: Yes, he was. The—he got along well with the board and the business community.

SL: And—um—but hi—he—d—didn't he end up committing suicide?

MW: No, no.

SL: He just died of . . .

MW: He just died last winter.

SL: Last winter.

MW: But he was very—in the last five years, four years of his life . . .

SL: He was very ill.

MW: Yeah. Mh-hmm. Hmm.

SL: Okay. I don't know where I thought he—thought I heard about that. That must've been someone else. But—um . . .

MW: Someone else.

[00:13:17] SL: Okay, so . . .

MW: But I met a lot of people, of course, through working at the Arts Center. That was my base of friends in a lot of ways . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . the years I was in Little Rock—um—you know, I did a lot of things with my children's school and—oh, I was on a lot of different committees and all in Little Rock, like the—oh, that society to prevent blindness committee the—uh—I was on the cerebral palsy nat—board for the—Little Rock.

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: That's the years I was on the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission and . . .

SL: Uh-huh.

[00:13:53] MW: I was one of those—the—which commission with Mack? The vo-tech commission, I think, I was on with Mack and that kind of thing. But—uh—I spent a lot of time raising children in Little Rock. And then after I took a job at Baptist Health. And I loved that job. I cannot tell you what nice people they were. Uh—Russ Harrington was the CEO, and Allen Smith, and I was—uh—the only woman in the—a certain level, and so we had some good times together. And they were all good to me. I was about the only one that wasn't a Baptist, and [SL laughs] they used to kid me about it all the time. I s—always told them I was

born and bred a Methodist, and I'd die one. And they'd say, "Oh, but there's hope." [*Laughter*] "There's hope." And—uh—you know, that was a huge operation. It's the largest health care provider in Arkansas, and it was then, too. And—uh—we also had the hospital in Arkadelphia at that time. The one in North Little Rock. Now since, they've picked up more, but I—I was responsible for those places. So I met a lot of people in Arkadelphia, especially, through my association with Baptist Health, like Jane Ross, the . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . woman—the Ross Foundation, which was such a mover and a shaker down there, and . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . all th—and the Cabes. The Cabes are from Gurdon? I'm—the . . .

SL: That sounds right.

MW: That—I'm not quite sure where. But anyway, I met a lot of interesting people with that job. We used to travel out a great deal. I had a very good staff. And it was just—they were very thoughtful of their employees. And I learned a lot from them, too.

[00:15:36] SL: Tell me a little bit about Allen Smith.

MW: Did you know—yeah, there's several Allen Smiths. This is the  
Allen . . .

SL: Well, of course, there's P. Allen Smith.

MW: No, no.

SL: Yeah.

MW: I do know P. Allen Smith. I met him when he first came back  
from England.

SL: Okay.

MW: He's a nice guy. No . . .

SL: He's a nice guy.

MW: . . . this is another Allen Smith. Yeah.

SL: That's what I thought.

MW: Mh-hmm.

[00:15:53] SL: And what—was he—I'm tryin' to think what he . . .

MW: This Allen Smith was—uh—the—I guess he was one of the vice  
presidents of two at Baptist Health.

SL: Okay.

MW: And he and I worked together quite a bit. I'm not sure how he—  
what his exact title was.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: He retired from there.

SL: Okay.



MW: And—uh—the—then a young man was head of the hospital, Doug Weeks, and he's still in that job today. So. He stayed—you know . . .

SL: He must be good.

MW: They're good to their employees, I'm telling you. [00:16:27] But we did things like—we did a big fund-raiser every year. And—uh—I had a board member that wanted me to ask Adrienne Vittadini to come. That's when she was in her—the height of her career. The designer.

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: Are you familiar with her?

SL: No. Talk to me about her.

[00:16:45] MW: Well, she was a very famous designer back in the [19]80s, and she was from Italy. A beautiful, beautiful, high-caliber woman. And—uh—and this board member kept after me to ask her to come to our spring luncheon at Bolo Bash. We had a fashion show and all. And I thought, "Oh, okay. So I'll write her a letter and probably never hear from—it'll go in the black hole, you know."

SL: Right.

MW: Well, I wrote her a letter, and I will never forget it. I was in my office one cold December afternoon about four o'clock, and the

phone rang, and it was for me. And I always took my calls if I could, and I answered. And this voice said, "This is Adrienne Vittadini." And she came. She came to Arkansas. She brought her crew. She did our fashion show . . .

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: . . . for us, and everyone was amazed she came. [00:17:34]  
And then after that—we'd hit gold once, so we had a lot of big-name designers. The next year, we asked Marie Gray, who was head of St. John Knits, you know. And . . .

SL: No.

MW: Well, you—the women in the world would know . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . who that was.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But no, what St. John Knits are—they're still going strong. We had—um—Nicole Miller, who was a big name then, and we had another big name that is still—um—doing well today, and that was Carolina Herrera. The woman from Argentina that you see has dressed all the big names all over. So—and then I—I can't remember. Seems like we had one more before I left. But I retired from Baptist Health, basically. But it was—i—that was fun, you know.

[00:18:25] SL: So—um—when you got the—the first—uh—um—  
um—Italian designer . . .

MW: Yes. Yes.

SL: . . . um—w—did the attendance start to . . .

MW: Oh, yes.

SL: . . . blossom . . .

MW: People were just . . .

SL: . . . for your . . .

MW: Yeah, we sold out every year . . .

SL: Mh-hmm.

MW: . . . after that. There was a scramble for the tickets [*SL laughs*]  
after that, you know.

SL: It becomes the thing to do.

[00:18:44] MW: So—yes, it was—and—uh—do you know Kathy  
Maitlin?

SL: Hm-mm.

MW: They're active with the universit—Kathy and Mike Maitin.

SL: Hm-mm.

MW: And she worked for me. I—like I said—when—we had a lot of  
fun. We used to write grants together and—um—you know, just  
some people you have good rapport with.

SL: Right.

MW: And all. So.

SL: Well, that's exciting.

MW: Well, it was fun . . .

SL: I mean, you—you . . .

MW: . . . to have all those designers decide to come to Little Rock, you know.

SL: Well, you—it sound like you . . .

MW: We were really surprised.

SL: . . . raised the level uh—of involvement.

MW: Yes, we did. We did a lot. And we raised quite a bit of money.

[00:19:16] When I left, they were getting ready to run the—um—to—uh—build the new hospital in North Little Rock, and we had—uh—millions of dollars out in grant money. And they did raise a lot of money. And of course, that's been—those grants paid off. You know, you don't always hear the results for . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . six weeks or six months, sometimes, and all. But we had funny things happen. Like one time I got this phone call from this woman. And you could tell—well, at first it was the switchboard that called me and said, "Miss Whillock, there's someone that would like to talk about giving some money to Baptist Health, and we thought you should take the call." I said,

"You're right." [*Laughter*] And so . . .

SL: Good call.

MW: . . . I—yeah. And so I talked to this woman, and you could tell—she was very hesitant. You could tell she had not had advantages, maybe, some of the rest of us had had. But she told me on the phone that she really would like to talk to someone about making a donation to Baptist Health, and would I come out and see her and her husband? And I said, "Sure, I'll come see"—you know. And so to make [*laughs*] a long story short, we got—you know, I got the info. We made the time and—and we g—it was way out in the part of the county that really was close to the city dump. And it was a lot of unpaved roads out there. I'd never been out there before, to tell you the truth. And I said—I s—uh—I took Kathy with me. She said, "Are you sure you wanna do this?" And I said, "I said I'm going, we're going." [*Laughs*]

[00:20:50] SL: Right.

MW: And so she said, "Okay." And off we went. And we got out there, and we went down the last gravel, dirt road, from gravel to dirt. And there was a trailer, and that was their home. So we went in. And you know, they were such good, kind people. They had no family. They had no one—they had very few

friends. They'd worked all their lives. They'd saved their money. They'd inherited a little farm. They'd bought some land. She gave us a half a million dollars.

SL: Gosh. [*MW laughs*] And was that—I mean, as a percentage of their wealth . . .

MW: That is . . .

SL: . . . that was probably most of it.

MW: Yea—well, and she had more. We—sh—you know, she gave more in later years, too. I think that land they had had really paid off. But they—they both were—they were just the nicest people. And the—I think they were lonely. You know, we tried to—we en—we'd invite 'em to things. Sometimes we'd go get 'em. But they never changed their lifestyle. Isn't that interesting?

SL: That is interesting.

[End of verbatim transcription]

[00:21:50] MW: She had always wanted to be a nurse. And she'd always wanted to go to nursing school.

SL: And never could 'cause she was workin' all the time.

MW: Yeah. Right. And it was a different world then, too.

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah. You know. And so anyway, I just—that was my classic

fund-raising story. You just never know, you know. And one time we were going to see a—really someone very, very wealthy to ask for \$25. And I said, "Kathy, we aren't gonna ask her for twenty-five. She got way too much money. We're asking for fifty." So we did, and we got it. [*Laughs*] Kathy sa . . .

SL: Fifty thousand.

MW: Yes.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yes. Said what I—yeah. And I had some good experiences in fund-raising. And of course, you had those people you could always count on that always did things for you. [00:22:37] But another time this couple contacted us, and they wanted to give us some money and asked us to come to their home. And we did, and it was over in Jacksonville. And he was retired military man from the navy. And they lived in a rather small house with a green shag carpet and [*SL laughs*] Danish modern furniture, you know, that they'd bought when they were young. They had one car between them. They had two adult children. And they ended up giving us over a million dollars eventually. And it's just—but they had made—they had bought Walmart stock . . .

SL: Ah.

MW: . . . early on. And they had saved it. They had never spent it.

And they—you know, it just kept . . .

SL: It just kept . . .

MW: . . . growing over the years.

SL: . . . doubling and doubling and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . splitting and splitting.

MW: And they'd bought more of it over the years, too. And so you never know, is what I used to try to—I used to—you know, we'd give seminars. They'd have somebody come talk or something who'd been in it a while. And I always said you should look for the hidden money. [*Laughs*] I mean, everybody knows to ask the utilities.

SL: Right.

MW: And that kind of thing. But I enjoyed that work.

[00:23:48] SL: So fund-raising, though, is—can definitely be—feel the effects of whatever's happening politically and socially at the time, right?

MW: Mh-hmm.

SL: I mean . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . if you're affiliated, say, with Bill Clinton in some way, then the folks that don't like Bill Clinton are probably . . .



MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . not gonna want to give money to the organization that they feel that . . .

MW: Well, I never did try to—I never talked politics with anyone. I was—you know, that didn't—your professional life is separate from your personal life, I think, a great deal. And yes, I've—I know we had people that did not like Bill Clinton, probably, that gave us money. But you know, I never did get—people were really nice to me. I never did get into that with people. In all the years I raised money, I only had one person stiff me.

[Laughs] You know, people make a lot of pledges.

SL: Yes.

MW: Like the—you need \$40,000, and you get four people to donate ten each. And sometimes they promise the end of year. And usually everyone will pay up. I only had one person who didn't pay up. So you never know, do you?

SL: Yeah.

[00:25:06] MW: And it was someone who had the money to pay it, probably, just—I don't know. Whatever.

SL: Well, it's—aren't those things usually—until there's actually a check, it's usually just by handshake.

MW: Yes. Yes. Especially . . .

SL: And so you . . .

MW: . . . then.

SL: . . . go on someone's word.

MW: Then you didn't do as—now they do more, you know, they sign more papers and making that more legal, like everything else, it's become more, what, legal, I guess.

SL: Regulated, I guess.

MW: Yeah, regulated. Yeah.

SL: Or they feel like they need to track what's . . .

MW: Right. Right.

SL: . . . what's going on.

[00:25:39] MW: But you know, it's interesting. You just never know.

I forgot to say when we went to the trailer, those people had one of those huge dogs.

SL: Oh.

MW: Those dogs like you'd have if you lived in a castle.

SL: Yes.

MW: You know, they're this tall.

SL: Danes.

MW: And it put its chin on my shoulder, and I almost got up and left then. It was [*laughter*]*—I went—you know.*

SL: Well, that's so great that there's . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: And . . .

MW: And I hope I made friends with those people. I think I did. You know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: They were—I was in touch with 'em after I went to Washington, even. They di—two of 'em died while I was gone.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Well, what great heart they had.

MW: Yes. Yes. You never know about people, do you? Yeah.

SL: You can't judge by . . .

MW: No, you cannot.

SL: . . . how they are.

MW: I know. You can't. So. [00:26:31] So anyway, Baptist Health was good to me. And I left out an important thing. In those years, of course my children were all grown. But we had a granddaughter named Caroline Elizabeth Carter. And her mother died. It's a long, sad story. And anyway, she came to live with us when she was two. With . . .

SL: Okay, you've mentioned this.

MW: With Carl. And we just had a wonderful time with Caroline. She

is just like my own child. When she was ten, she went—I guess she—ten or—I'm not sure. But anyway. She went to live with my daughter Jenny because Jenny had twin boys just her age. And when Carl and I used to wanna travel or we were doing something, she would go into Oklahoma. They lived in Norman, Oklahoma, and she would stay there. And I knew it would—Carl was like seventy-five years old by then. And so I knew—we knew it would be better for Caroline to be with a young family that would do so much for her and wanted her so much. They did not have a daughter. And so she is their daughter.

SL: And it all worked out. I mean. . .

MW: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. [00:27:45] Caroline is a college graduate of OU. She's married. She's twenty-five years—twenty-six, pardon me. And, you'll love this, she works as a fund-raiser for the Oklahoma Medical Scientific Research Foundation.

[*Laughter*]

SL: That is—I do love that.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And so we have a lot in common, you know . . .

SL: Yeah. Well, sure.

MW: . . . there, too. But Jenny and Edward provided her with a

wonderful life. They had a great set of friends. They went skiing every year the same place, you know. They did a lot of things like that for her. They took her on trips galore and educated her, gave her a beautiful wedding. And she was Theta at OU and . . .

[00:28:31] SL: Gosh. You know . . .

MW: There's a special place in heaven for men that raise other men's children.

SL: Yeah. I wa—I think that's probably true.

MW: And that's my—two of my son-in-laws. I—Caroline had sisters and a brother, and they went to live with my daughter Melissa in Canada. So isn't that wonderful?

SL: That is wonderful. I mean, you know, Margaret, I—we've had three kids.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I can't imagine six. [*Laughter*] I just . . .

MW: Oh, well.

SL: . . . can't imagine six. That . . .

[00:29:05] MW: They were—well, I was lucky to have six children because I liked 'em. Do you know, I taught kindergarten for a number of years. I probably didn't go into that, but children did not bother me like they do some people. I was always glad to

have them and glad they were a part of my life and all. So.

SL: Well, it's—just carving out time for each child.

MW: Well, yes. Yeah. That is.

SL: Is a challenge.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Because I mean, yeah, they're with you, but . . .

MW: I know.

SL: . . . there's also life all around you that's with you . . .

MW: Going on.

SL: . . . that you're havin' to . . .

[00:29:37] MW: Yes. And they're trying to, you know, fulfill what

they need and all. But those were good years. I enjoyed it.

And then it was like icing on the cake. I laughed and said,

"Caroline was my chance to correct all my mistakes [*SL laughs*]

with the other ones."

SL: Doin' it wrong till you got it right.

MW: Right. Right. Yeah. That's right.

SL: Well, all indications are . . .

MW: And then her sister in Canada that grew up in Canada from first

grade on through high school ended up coming here to the

University of Arkansas, which pleased me to no end. [00:30:09]

And she is a very wonder—Melissa and Keith did a wonderful job

with her, and she worked for Mark Pryor when she got out of college. And she was with him his last campaign.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: Yes. And then she stayed in Washington, though, and now then, she's doing something she always wanted to do. She's working in like a—I don't know the exact name. It's a world hunger program.

SL: Okay.

MW: Helping feed . . .

SL: Food bank.

MW: . . . people in other . . .

SL: World Food Bank.

MW: . . . countries. It's with the Department of Labor.

SL: Okay.

[00:30:40] MW: But—is it—you know. And then Austin was trained as a chef in Canada. And he is—he's still single, but he does very well, too, so we're lucky.

SL: Who is it that was friends—that was also a Fulbright staffer. David that worked with Lee Williams, and I've interviewed him, and I can't think of his last name.

MW: The Fulbright staff. Oh.

SL: Yeah, David . . .

MW: Not David Williams.

SL: No.

MW: No. Not David . . .

SL: I'll think of it in a moment.

MW: Oh, Lambert!

SL: Lambert.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yes.

MW: One of our best friends.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: Love David Lambert.

SL: What a great guy.

MW: Oh my gosh. We had so much fun with him. We went to see him Rome like four times. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, he was part of the World Food Bank, right?

MW: He—uh-huh.

SL: Food Bank.

MW: World Hunger Program.

SL: Yeah. So did your . . .

[00:31:32] MW: You want to hear that story now or later? [*Laughs*]

SL: No, let's hear it.

MW: Okay. Well, David and Carl had been friends for years when Carl



had worked for Congressman Berry and David was with Fulbright and all. And then do you know that David became the head man for Wall Street in Washington for, like, twenty-one years. In other words, their main lobbyist. So he did real well financially. And when Bill Clinton was president, he told Carl that he felt good about his life and his, you know, providing for his family and all, and he would like to do something really worthwhile. He wanted to do something that would benefit other people with his life. And he wanted to—he didn't know exactly what, but he and Carl looked through a book of things that you could do and all. And they—he became interested in the World Hunger Program, which the US government has two offices worldwide. And one is in Rome.

SL: Right.

[00:32:33] MW: And to make a very long story short, David always gave Carl credit, but Carl said, "No, he did it on his own." Bill Clinton appointed him to the World Hunger Program, and he was like the deputy director. The main person was George McGovern.

SL: Right.

MW: And then—before that it'd been Mrs. Boggs. Do you remember who that was? Lindy—her husband had been killed in a plane

crash while he was in congress. And she was a very . . .

SL: Kinda rings a bell.

MW: . . . prominent woman in her day. And then George McGovern did it, and David went to Rome. And of course we went to see him a whole lot. [*Laughter*] We traveled a lot in those years. And we had some wonderful times together. I wa—in fact, he's such a good friend I went to his service in Washington when he died. And he was a remarkable man. He's the only man I ever knew that could quote you poetry either sitting in a chair, talking to you on the phone—he had a wonderful memory for it. And he loved poetry. He wrote a little, too.

[00:33:43] SL: He was so great. I actually traveled to Washington, DC, with a bunch of equipment . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . and hired some folks to be on the crew, and we set up at the—oh, what's the club, the . . .

MW: The sixteen-twenty? Is . . .

SL: 116 . . .

MW: . . . that it?

SL: One twel . . .

MW: One—what—somethin' sixteen in the . . .

SL: 116 Club.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah, and we did our interviews upstairs, you know.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And David Pryor tells the story, you know, that it's a very—the waiting list is long to get in, to be a member of the club.

MW: Yes. Yes.

SL: And he says they refuse to change anything.

MW: Yeah.

[00:34:22] SL: He's talkin' about Lee Williams and David Lambert.

MW: Yes. Carl was a . . .

SL: The shag carpet that . . .

MW: . . . member of that—yes.

SL: Just—it is terrible.

MW: And it doesn't look like that much, does it?

SL: No, and [*MW laughs*] they said the moment anyone s—urges them to change anything, they're out.

MW: Yeah. [*Laughter*]

SL: But we were the first to . . .

[00:34:39] MW: And so you interviewed David? He's on . . .

SL: I did.

MW: . . . here, is he?

SL: Yes. Yes. He's . . .

MW: I need to look and see it.

SL: I believe he's posted as well.

MW: Is he posted?

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: How'd I miss that? Well, I'll have to go back . . .

SL: And Lee Williams, too.

MW: Yeah.

SL: We interviewed . . .

MW: I saw . . .

SL: . . . them both.

MW: . . . Lee Williams. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:34:51] SL: And David was so instrumental in getting us into the  
116 Club and . . .

MW: Yeah. Sure.

SL: . . . allowing us—because they don't allow cameras in there.

MW: Yeah. David had a lot of high ties. He belonged to several of those big-time clubs there in Washington, and he was really remarkable man. And he loved the World Hunger Program. He found him—his true calling. You know, he received—they give a big prize every year in that field, the University of Iowa does, and they gave him the prize one year. And he r—he and Carl worked together with George McGovern. In fact there is—in

Carl's obituary that Ernie Dumas wrote, he talks about it that one time, when we were in Rome, McGovern and Carl and David sketched out a program to help feed girls in third-world countries. Because you know, little girls did not go to school.

SL: That's right.

MW: Little girls did not have food. And—as much. And so the deal was, they wanted—George McGovern wanted a lunch program all over the world, just like we have in this country. And you would get a hot lunch if you went to school. And so they wrote in that girls had to go to school, too. The school had to accept girls. If there were sisters in the fa—you know, the—and so they s—the program is still going on. It didn't expand as they had hoped it would under the next administration, but it's still viable today. I saw something about it in the paper not too long ago, and it still ser—feeds millions of boys and girls every year. [00:36:36] But I thought it was great they put the girls in it, you know.

SL: Yeah. You know, I can't remember . . .

MW: It's called the mcgr—they got Dole on board with it, and it's called the McGovern-Dole act that they passed through Congress. And they had a hard time. They got some pushback on it because of course they were taking money, you know.

SL: Right.

MW: To do this. And Carl really worked with Bill Clinton to get it done. I mean, like I said, he had so much pushback that he set down and wrote Bill Clinton a hand-written letter. He said [*laughs*], "I re—you re—I want you—please, you know, let me talk to you about this program some more. I don't agree with all of this and all," and he—they—he came through.

SL: Pushed it through.

MW: Bill Clinton got it done. Yeah.

[00:37:21] SL: You know, I'm tryin' to remember my interview with David.

MW: He probably told you about it.

SL: I'm tryin' to think. Now what about hi—did he have children?

MW: Yes, he . . .

SL: 'Cause I don't think . . .

MW: . . . has two sons.

SL: . . . I've been in contact with . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . any of his children.

MW: Oh. One is Taylor Lambert, and the other is—I know his name.

[*Laughs*] One lives in Washington, DC, and one lives in California.

SL: Well . . .

MW: They're adults, of course.

SL: I'm still communicate with Fred Williams.

MW: Who is that?

SL: That's Lee's son.

MW: Ah, oh.

SL: And then . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: But I don't think I've had any contact with any of David's . . .

MW: Well, I have David's oldest son's address and phone number.

SL: Okay, we'll . . .

MW: I could get for you.

SL: I'd love . . .

MW: I'd be glad to.

SL: . . . to get in touch with . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: . . . him.

MW: Sure.

SL: Yeah.

[00:38:07] MW: I wa—I guess the boys realize their dad is on that.

I'm sure they do. I don't know.

SL: I—surely they do.

MW: Sure—I hope so. David had very fine character. You know, he

grew up down at—was it Holly Springs?

SL: Mh-hmm. Yes.

MW: He used to talk about it a lot. It was important in his life.

SL: Well, you know, just like we did yesterday and doing today, during the interview we have someone scanning images, and I brought Claudette with me, my wife, to do that. She was a crew member.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And David . . .

MW: Oh, that was nice.

SL: . . . sat with her the whole time during the Lee Williams interview and . . .

MW: Oh, really?

SL: . . . and did all the metadata and told who, what, when, and where like we do now.

MW: I know.

SL: He was just beautiful person. Beautiful soul.

MW: He is. He wa—and we had so much fun. [00:38:54] One thing he arranged for us to do in Rome one time that was very interesting—we went to the—Carl was interested in this, and David picked up on it, and we went to the military cemetery in—is it au—it's A-S-G-O? Something like that.



SL: That sounds familiar.

MW: That—I should've written that down for you. Anyway, he got the man who was head—we were working, both working, with the White House then. And the man who was head of all the military cemeteries in Europe took us to the military cemetery. And I'd never been to one before like that. It was very moving and very pli—very—it really touched your heart. There were eight thousand American soldiers buried there.

SL: My gosh. World War II?

MW: From the invasion—yes—of Italy and during the war. And I've got to find out the name of that. I feel terrible. But the point I want to make is, the reason Carl wanted to go there particularly—one of his high-school friends was buried there, and he wanted to go and we—the—you know, they have—the graves are numbered, and you can easily find whose grave you're looking for. [00:40:12] So we went to the grave of his high-school friend. And it—then when we came back to the states after we'd settled in—back in Little Rock and all, in Carl's papers he had some letters written by the young soldier who was killed that was his high-school friend, and Carl sent those letters to his brother. Their last name was Kemp—who was still in Van Buren County. And then when—after Carl had died and I was going

through all my papers, I found, somehow, a letter from this young soldier. And I brought it to you all. I hope they gave it to you. I told Randy about it.

SL: Okay.

MW: Did he mention it to you?

SL: No, but we'll make sure . . .

MW: It's a—it is a . . .

SL: . . . that that gets . . .

MW: . . . letter written to Carl in 19 . . .

SL: It's a World War . . .

MW: . . . 43 right before this young man was killed that he'd gone to high school with.

SL: That's priceless.

MW: And so I put it—I—'cause I don't know any of the family. I don't know any of 'em that are left in Van Buren County, you know.

[00:41:13] SL: Okay. Well, we'll get it scanned and maybe . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . we'll try . . .

MW: I wanna be sure you . . .

SL: Reach out.

MW: . . . get that. Well, I'm . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: Yeah. I'll give you all that.

SL: Okay.

MW: But—or I'll give it the library. Whatever. [00:41:22] But anyway, that was one of the interesting things we did—it—with David. Although he didn't go with us that day. But the nother interesting thing we did that was fascinating—David arranged for this in Rome—was we went to pope—the pope's—oh, what's the word for it? You know, when they speak in the square.

SL: Yes.

MW: And he blesses all the people.

SL: Yes.

MW: There is a w—I'm not doing well on this part of the interview. I can't get my—think . . .

SL: No, no, no, no, no.

MW: . . . of the right word I want.

SL: But I see the . . .

MW: But anyway.

SL: . . . image. I . . .

[00:41:55] MW: Yeah, the pope speaks and—the square, and he got us a—chairs. Our chairs were on the stage with the pope.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: So we were not real close, but close enough. And the good news

is they interpret in English for you so you can tell what they're saying.

SL: Saying.

MW: You know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And of course, I am Methodist, but I was so—it was fascinating, and he gave a wonderful talk. And there were 99,000 people there. It was right before Easter. And I just couldn't get over it. I said it was a cross between a religious ceremony and a pep—a cheering squad celebration. You know, they would call. People would come out, and the cardinals up on the stage would say, "We have 257 Boy Scouts here from the Philippines," and all those Boy Scouts would . . .

SL: Scouts would cheer.

MW: . . . jump up and cheer, and they'd all wave whatever color handkerchiefs was appropriate. A lot of 'em, you know, they'd all have yellow, green, red . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . whatever. And it was ju—I was so entertained by it.

[00:43:04] There were brides there in their—all their finery, their white . . .

SL: White.

MW: . . . wedding dresses. And they were waiting to be blessed by the pope afterwards. So I felt like it was a wonderful privilege to get to participate and be a part of that. We just had a grand experience with it. And then we even got to go downstairs and go in the catacombs. And . . .

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: . . . that was pre—not everyone gets to do that, but David arranged that for us. And that was fascinating, too. So I was very, you know, very grateful to do that.

SL: So . . .

MW: I always said I've been a better person since.

[00:43:43] SL: Well.

MW: I been blessed by the pope. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, and you were blessed by David Lambert.

MW: Oh, well, that's right. We . . .

SL: You know.

MW: . . . were. We were.

SL: I mean, he made those arrangements.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: You know.

MW: Yes.

SL: He was—I'm sure he thought that you would enjoy it, but it probably—it moved you.

MW: Yeah.

SL: In a way.

MW: Oh, it did.

SL: Yeah.

MW: It did. I'm telling you. And Carl, too. It really did. [00:44:04]

And then we, you know, we—av—eat and have a little wine every evening, and we'd have wonderful places we'd go, all kinds of places. He really learned the city. And one time we went on a trip together out of the city back in the hills behind Rome, they call it, to all the little towns and all. So anyway, enough of—I could talk about David Lambert a long time.

[00:44:30] I'll say this last thing. After Carl had died—George McGovern was a Methodist—is a—was a Methodist preacher's son from South Dakota, Mitchell. And after he died—well, no, after Carl died, they had—he'd helped raise a little money, and they'd raised a lot of money all told. They made—built a library at the old Methodist college where he taught called Dakota Wesleyan. And McGovern had taught there when he came back from World War II. And so—and he still had a home there.

That's where he always went back to. And so I went with David Lambert up to the dedication of the McGovern Library. Or the—no, what—yeah, I guess that called it a library.

SL: President—yeah.

MW: Yeah. Mh-hmm. I started to bring you pictures of that, but I thought, "I just can't keep bringing stuff," [*SL laughs*] and I cut it out, you know. [*Laughs*]

SL: No, we're—we'd be . . .

MW: Yeah. But that—you know . . .

SL: I'd certainly love to have . . .

MW: . . . George—I got to know—we got to know McGovern a little bit. I did bring one program. When he came here and spoke at the University of the Ozarks at—we went with Ernie and Elaine Dumas up to hear McGovern speak. And he recognized Carl and his work in bringing about the McGovern-Dole Program to feed hungry children of the world. Isn't that nice?

SL: That is nice.

[00:45:54] MW: Yeah, and David Lambert spoke to the Rotary Club in Little Rock one time about the World Hunger Program. And he also—I—so many people told me—well, I went, and then—but so many people told me later, too, that, you know, he had recognized Carl and his work in the World Hunger Program. So

that was nice, wasn't it?

SL: Oh.

MW: Yeah.

SL: He was a great guy.

MW: Yeah.

[00:46:16] SL: You know, another Pryor Center interviewee is Ernie Dumas.

MW: Oh, yes. Don't you love her? Ernie and Elaine are more fun. They were good friends. We used to—I still see them some. I haven't in a—probably a year now, but I will. You know, I love to go to dinner with them and hear his [*laughs*] pronouncements.

SL: Yeah, you know, when I—when we line up interviews . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . sometimes the—you know, they're well-known folks or . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . and there's a body of work . . .

MW: Sure. Yeah.

SL: . . . that you can look at. And Ernie was one of those guys when we lined up his interview—I was really nervous about it because he's such a fine writer and . . .

MW: Oh, he is.



SL: . . . such a great . . .

MW: Oh, he's . . .

SL: . . . interviewer.

MW: Yeah.

[00:47:05] SL: You know. I mean, that's who David chose, David Pryor chose to interview him.

MW: Yeah.

SL: He and Roy Reed.

MW: Yeah.

SL: You know, and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . so I felt like I was way outclassed.

MW: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: Going into that interview.

MW: Well, I don't know. Yeah.

[00:47:17] SL: But he was so generous.

MW: Oh yeah.

SL: With his interview, and he was so open and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . patient, you know.

MW: And isn't he—doesn't he tell the best stories?

SL: He tells the greatest . . .

MW: He is so witty.

SL: Yeah.

MW: He is so funny.

SL: He is.

MW: I love Ernie. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah. We've had some good times there with them, too. But anyway. I—as you can tell, we—I mean, we were in Little Rock thirty-four years, so of course . . .

SL: Whoa.

MW: . . . we've had a lot of good friends there. I still do. People I still see on a pretty regular basis. [00:47:50] Mel French, you know. I . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . spoke of her and the McClellands, and I could go on and on. The Deers. It's a long list. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, that—you know, we have spent a lot of time in Little Rock.

MW: Yeah. Well, good.

SL: There's a lot of material there.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Lot of good folks.

MW: I'm glad we talked about David and that you knew . . .

SL: Well, me, too, because . . .

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: . . . you know, here's the deal. I mean, I've got an interview with David.

MW: Yeah.

SL: But I don't have a whole lot of people talking about David.

MW: Oh yeah. Well, he was gone from Arkansas so long, you know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: He w—I think he went to Fulbright right out of the university, and he really never came back. I mean, he came back to visit, but that's different than coming back to live and all. But I think everybody in Washington that was from Arkansas knew him and all.

SL: You know, it . . .

[00:48:41] MW: His service was packed, his funeral service. They had to open up doors, they had to bring in chairs . . .

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: . . . people stood in the back. It wasn't his funeral, it was a memorial. Yeah. I was glad I went.

SL: I'm sorry I missed that.

MW: Yeah. Yeah. And . . .

SL: And you know, he passed shortly after Lee passed.

MW: Yes, he did.

SL: It was like one . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . after the other.

MW: Yeah. That's right.

SL: It was a double blow.

[00:49:03] MW: And another thing about his character is my granddaughter that worked for Mark Pryor. You know, she went up there. She was twenty-two, twenty-three, whatever. And David took her under his wing. He mentored her. She had been to Africa on a student program. She won a trip to Africa, and that got her interested in feeding people all over the world. And David even took her to two or three s—receptions at the State Department and one where Hillary spoke, you know. And he made it a point to take her to meet Hillary and to shake her hand and say, "This is Margaret and Carl's granddaughter." Wasn't that nice of David to do that?

SL: It was beautiful.

MW: She was really sad when he passed away.

SL: Me, too.

MW: Yeah. But anyway. So let's see. What else do . . .

SL: Well, we're still in Little Rock.

MW: There's—yeah, well . . .

SL: And there's so much there.

[00:50:03] MW: We need to talk a minute—I wanna tell you a minute about Jim Guy Tucker. Real quick.

SL: Let's do that.

MW: Course we knew them always. But when his—he got in all that trouble when he was governor and . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . the trial and all that. Carl was so taken back at that because he thought that Jim Guy was not really guilty of anything, that they had passed a law that was not in place when Jim Guy had done whatever they accused him of. So Carl always thought he was—and then they put him on trial, and Carl for—he loved the law. And he said something funny for a lawyer. He said that Jim Guy did not—was not tried by his peers. You know, you're supposed to be tried by . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . your peers under the law—because Jim Guy was so well educated and so smart and all, and they had people on his trial jury that had not had those kind of advantages. And it was very hard for anyone to understand the . . .

SL: What was going . . .

MW: . . . intrical financial dealings with the banks and all of that stuff.

But this—and one of the sad results of that was that set the stage for Mike Huckabee to come in, and then the Republicans began their . . .

SL: March.

MW: . . . march. That's a good word. Yeah. So I think that's a—is significant in Arkansas history, don't you?

SL: Yeah, he's another . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . interviewee that we . . .

MW: Have you done him?

SL: We've done . . .

MW: Good.

SL: . . . Jim Guy.

MW: I have to look for that.

SL: And it was a wonderful . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . time with him.

[00:51:34] MW: Yeah. They are a great couple. They—I'd—we didn't see them as much, but I've seen them in recent years and all, too.

SL: Well, you know, that race . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . with David Pryor and Ray Thornton and Jim Guy Tucker . . .

MW: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . was just a remarkable . . .

MW: It was, wasn't it?

SL: Three really great . . .

MW: I know it.

SL: . . . people.

MW: I know it. I know it. Yeah. It was.

SL: And they remained friends.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And they were civil during the campaign.

MW: Yes. They were.

SL: Just as . . .

MW: They were.

SL: Not like it is now at all.

MW: Oh, boy. Not like it is now.

SL: No.

[00:52:05] MW: Another interesting person at that time that was a

friend was Annabelle—let's see, what's her name here?

Annabelle Clinton, she was. And she became Annabelle Clinton

Imber. And she was the first woman on the supre—Arkansas

Supreme Court. And Carl ran her campaign, and we raised money for her and helped Annabelle, and she is an old friend. But I think that is an interesting person that we knew and, you know, associated with in those years, too. And one last thing, I guess—I'll try to cut Little Rock shorter.

SL: No, you don't need to.

[00:52:39] MW: I was on the first board for Garvan Gardens with . . .

SL: Ah.

MW: . . . for—and Mrs. Garvan was still alive then. And I have the most wonderful letter that was written to me about her and about my work with her. And I really enjoyed knowing her. She was such a shy, almost reclusive woman, you know. But she had this dream. And she had this vision. And I mean, it was a long time before any action took place. That [*laughs*—I was on the board. A lot of people were—not a lot, but a number were on it. And you know, it was just slow with the university, of course . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . and the state government had to agree to it, and ah—you know how all that goes.

SL: It's big doin's.

[00:53:25] MW: She left a very—a big, nice, several millions of



dollars of an endowment. And it's so nice to see her dream fulfilled. I wish she'd lived to see it, too.

SL: Oh, gosh. I wish I'd met . . .

MW: Anyway. Yeah.

SL: Met her, too.

[00:53:40] MW: Yeah. So that—so goes life, doesn't it? [*Papers shuffling*] One thing we did that was really fun—Carl and I'd been married twenty years when we lived in Little Rock. So we had—threw a big party at Trapnall Hall, and we laughed and said we invited all of our friends in Little Rock and Fayetteville who said, "It isn't gonna last. She has too many kids." [*Laughter*] And they came. You would be surprised how many came from Fayetteville. But we . . .

SL: Well, now he brought four with him, too . . .

MW: Well, but . . .

SL: . . . to the marriage.

MW: His were grown and . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . and they—I'd—you know, they didn't ever live with us.

[*Laughs*] So . . .

SL: Right. Right.

MW: . . . anyway. That's true. He did. [00:54:16] But then we

had—of course the pro—seeing the Clintons over the years at children's weddings and things like that and just around town and friendship and all. And but we didn't see 'em on a daily basis. I don't wanna give you that impression or anything.

SL: Right.

MW: But we were still pretty good friends through all that. And we did several things together and all. [00:54:41] And then Bill Clinton decided to run for president. And when he—I'll never forget when he called. He told Carl, you know, "I'm run—I think I'm gonna run. What do you think?" And Carl said, "Well," he said, "I think if you could shake hands with every voter in America, you'll win." [*Laughter*] You know. But he—what Carl and I neither one realized was how many ties Bill and Clinton—Hillary had nationally. You know, they had kept in contact with the people they'd gone to school with, and a lot of those were very high-powered people in their own states that were able to help them so much.

[00:55:21] SL: Well, he was also head of the governors conference, too.

MW: Yes, he was. Yeah.

SL: So there's that.

MW: Yeah. There were—that was a good . . .

SL: And that's usually one of the stepping stones.

MW: That's right. That was good, too. But he—we did—we were not really going to the Democratic Convention, and I'm the one who answered the phone, and it was from someone in his office saying, "The Governor and First Lady would like to invite you to come to the Democratic Convention with them as their guest." And what that meant was—and then they called us ambassadors from Arkansas. Do you know about that? And what we did is that we would—we were assigned Massachusetts, Montana, and some other state. And we would go to their breakfasts or their caucuses or whatever we could get into, and we would try to answer questions about Bill Clinton and tell people about Bill Clinton because Bill Clinton had to be introduced to the American public, really. They didn't know much about him.

SL; That's right.

[00:56:24] MW: But that trip to New York was, of course, a fabulous experience. You know, there's one activity party after the other, and I got to meet people like, oh, the big newscaster, Koppel, Ted Koppel.

SL: Ted Koppel.

MW: And talked to him some. He was an interesting guy. And I reconnected with a friend from here that I'd known here at the

university that grew up in Arkansas, but she lived in New Mexico, and she was the New Mexico head of the Democratic party, the state head, for twenty-two years.

SL: Whoa.

MW: So you know, it was nice to connect with her and st . . .

[00:57:02] SL: Now what was her name?

MW: Her name was Mary Gail Gwatney.

SL: Okay.

MW: Do—is—I could spell it for you.

SL: Gwatney.

MW: If I had to.

SL: No, that's all right.

MW: I have her phone number and all, but she—and then the—after Bill Clinton got elected, then she—we were in touch even more. And when she—she used to come home every summer. She still had aunts around North Little Rock, and she'd come home. And but she hadn't been home in a while. [*Laughs*] Or she hasn't called me.

SL: You n . . .

MW: But anyway.

SL: I . . .

MW: That was so nice to reconnect with those kind of people through

the campaign and all.

[00:57:34] SL: What was it about—I mean, Carl helped in so many campaigns.

MW: Well [*laughs*], he did, didn't he?

SL: And so how did that get—I mean, did that start with—while he was with Trimble or—how did he get into that? I mean, it takes a special . . .

MW: Well . . .

SL: . . . demeanor [*MW laughs*] to be able to do that.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And of course, a commitment in the heart . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . to carry that on.

MW: Yes.

SL: But . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . it's so interesting that he was involved with so many.

MW: Well, it is. And I think it's just—you know, he liked people, and people responded to him. And let's face it, he had a lot of knowledge from those—about campaigning and politics, at least in north Arkansas. And that had transcend—you know, transitioned to statewide. And ask David Pryor why did he

choose Carl, you know.

SL: I will.

MW: To head his campaign and all. But he did. He liked people, and he had a genuine interest in them. And I don't know, I think people were drawn to him. He was a quiet man.

[00:58:40] SL: Good listener.

MW: Yeah. Yeah. Real good. Real good. Interesting man. Good mind. You know. I always said the good man—mind will last you through thick and thin. [*Laughter*] You know. That's what I . . .

SL: I believe that, too.

MW: . . . miss the most is having an interesting person to talk with and bounce ideas off of. He really made me a better person 'cause he believed in me. Isn't that nice?

SL: It is.

MW: Yeah. He thought I could do anything. He didn't know I really couldn't. [*Laughter*]

SL: Oh! You know . . .

MW: Until I tried, you know. And so hard. But he did make me a much better person. And my children loved him dearly. He was a wonderful influence in their life. [00:59:23] I have some—a letter that one of my children wrote to him and—or, well, he

wrote it for the school. He—you were to write a letter to the person you admired most in the world, you know. And I have several things like that. And on his seventieth birthday, each one of my children wrote Carl a letter, and I have all of 'em, about what he meant to them.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: You know, yeah. Isn't that nice? That is.

SL: It is.

MW: But anyway, let's see.

SL: But don't tell me about any of the content . . .

MW: We—yeah.

SL: . . . because . . .

[00:59:52] MW: So when he'd retired from the co-op and I'd retired from the—Baptist Health. And this—now we're getting to [19]96. Oh. Well, wait. Okay, we did the Democratic Convention where we ran through the streets of New York. Do you know about this story about Bill Clinton was in the basement of mer—of Macy's? Okay. During—the night that he was nominated w—Bill Clinton went to Macy department store's—their basement. They had a restaurant down there. And a lot of his friends were invited to go with him. And when they were counting the votes, you know how they count the votes state by

state to see if you're—who's gonna be nominated to run for president. Well, while they were doing that, we had all these signs. And they ha—we ran through the streets of New York from—of course, the police had, you know, had gotten the traffic off—from Macy's to Madison Square Garden. And we went in with Bill Clinton and presented him, so to speak, to the—when he was . . .

SL: Nominated.

MW: . . . getting the nomination. So that was exciting. And I brought a picture of that. You know, we were up all night with that. [*SL laughs*] And I had on—you never know about life. I had on a blue outfit, dark blue with white polka dots. And by golly, I wore that thing going home. And I saw a number of people in the airport who said, "We saw you on TV." [*Laughter*]

SL: They recognized the outfit.

MW: It was—yeah. Isn't that funny?

SL: That is funny.

[01:01:28] MW: That is funny. But that was a wonderful convention.

I got to sit by Joe Kennedy at a breakfast once, and he was a charmer, you know, then. That was the first—one of the Kennedys that went back . . .

SL: The patriarch. Yeah.



MW: . . . to congress.

SL: Yeah.

[01:01:43] MW: Yeah. And of course, this is twenty years ago. And then after that, of course, we did Bill Clinton's first inaugural, which was another marvelous opportunity to be with friends and see friends. And one of the better things we did was Carl always stayed at the Washington Hotel. He was in and out of Washington all of his adult life, and he'd always stay at the Washington Hotel, so they all knew him. And we rented the corner room, and it was on the—I—second floor, I guess, and it was where you could see the edge of the White House, and you could also see the parade route. So we had a big party. It was a suite of rooms—and invited all of our friends to come up and see the parade. And that was lots of fun. People still talk to me about that because, you know, we could look out and see—we saw the Clintons get out of the car and walk the rest of the way in. [01:02:38] And then the day after the inaugural—and my brother, Rudy, was at all this stuff, you know. And the day after the inaugural, the Clintons had an open house. And we were lucky and got ticket—someone gave us tickets to that at the last minute. And we went, and Bill Clinton and Hillary were so nice. And Hillary said to me—she said, "Now don't lose touch,

Margaret. We wanna stay in touch with you all. So I want you to call us and—or write us and stay in touch." And later I told Carl—I said "That is so nice." I said, "They're gonna be so busy, we're never gonna see them again." And by golly, in May we got a phone call inviting us to come for the weekend and stay with the Clintons at the White House. So they never forget their old friends, do they?

SL: No. They don't.

MW: It's a wonderful loyalty there. And I was just—we were both touched by that. So we did go. And then Bill Clinton had appointed me to the presidential—the White House commission on—the presidential scholars commission. White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, I think, was the correct name, where we chose two scholars every year just out of high school. And they used to get a great big scholarship to go to the college of their choice, and they came to Washington for a week, and we did activities with them and all. It's kinda changed over the years, but at that time it was a big deal. And it was a lot of fun, too, and work and all. [01:04:11] And one time when we were having a big Presidential Scholars meeting, and it lasted a week, Hillary invited me to come and spend the week at the White House. And I did.

SL: Well, of . . .

MW: Of course. And Carl wasn't going to that. He hadn't planned to, you know. So that was a fabulous opportunity to—for me.

[01:04:29] SL: Let's—talk to me a little bit about staying at the White House. What was that like?

MW: Oh my goodness, it was just—I was—you know, it was—at fir—you were so overwhelmed with it. You were just—it was kinda surreal. "Am I really here? Am I really sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom I've heard so much about? [*Laughter*] And am I staying a week in the Queen's Bedroom I've heard so much about?" And course, everywhere you looked, everything was beautiful. Kaki Hockersmith had helped them decorate not only the state rooms over time on the first floor but the second floor, where the president really lives. He can—they can decorate any way they want to. And Kaki and Hillary had created a wonderful, beautiful, warm atmosphere. A lot of yellows and blues, and that's where the Lincoln Bedroom is, off of the—that main hallway. It's not a hallway. It's a big room. And so is the Queen's Bedroom and other bedrooms, you know. And then the Clinton's rooms were at the end of the building. But staying there was just—everywhere you looked, everything you touched had a part of history to it.

SL: Yeah. It was . . .

MW: Even the paintings on the wall. [*Laughs*]

[01:05:51] SL: You would think that somehow or another there'd be some kind of energy about the place.

MW: Well, I think there is.

SL: 'Cause it's so steeped . . .

MW: I think there is.

SL: . . . in history.

MW: I—to me it was . . .

SL: So many . . .

MW: . . . a reverence.

SL: . . . people.

MW: Almost. It was a . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . it was a reverence. Like you were not motivated for a lot of loud talking and all when you were by yourself there. And you would go in—I used to love to go in the Blue Room and look out the window, and you could see the Washington Monument . . .

SL: Monument.

MW: . . . and the Lincoln Memorial. And oftentimes there would be the helicopter taking one—someone away, too. And you could stand there, and you think that John Adams had looked out of

that window. And you know, Roosevelt had, and Lyndon Johnson, Andrew Jackson, you could just go on and on. So yes.

SL: It's the ultimate bed and breakfast, isn't it?

MW: [*Laughter*] Well, yeah, I guess.

SL: I mean . . .

[01:06:50] MW: Do you know the president and First Lady then had to pay for their own food and their guest's food?

SL: No.

MW: Now if they had a state dinner, they got to eat that free. They didn't have to pay for that. But their food that they ate in their private quarters, they bought and paid for and their guests.

Isn't that . . .

SL: That's interesting.

MW: Aren't the laws interesting in this country? They are. And to go out on the Truman Balcony—sometimes we'd eat out there. What a wonderful experience that was. I always wished my mother and grandmother and Aunt Sallie were still alive, and my daddy to see all that, you know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: They would've been as touched as I was. It was a very humbling experience. And I'd—every morning when I went to work after I started working there, and you looked up, and you

saw that American flag when you went in the gate was just—pull at you. Your heartstrings, you know. It was exhilarating to—it made you want to be a better person, to work harder. [Laughs] Do good.

[01:07:59] SL: So your job there had to do with the tours of the White House.

MW: Yes. My office—let's see—or were—have we—I guess I've covered those early years. We did a lot of stuff I could bore you with. Like they invited us one time, and the Olympic torch came running in. We went to the congressional picnic. And this is all before we moved to Washington. And then when we moved up there—you know, I had not planned to go to work. I had Caroline, and we had leased a house and—in a good school district, one of the few, and put her in the second grade. And I was—laughed and said I was reading good books, and going to museums, and doing things with Caroline, leading a good life, and I volunteered at the White House. And I would see—and then we went to Hillary's birthday party. Have I told you this?

SL: No.

[01:08:52] MW: Okay. All right. I d—I volunteered at the White House some. I told you about the Lyndon Johnson daughter deal. And then we did other things while I was a volunteer. And

I saw Hillary one day, and I—she was surprised to see me, and I said, "Oh yeah." I said, "You know, I'm having a good time reading books and going to museums and—with Caroline, so call me if I can help you." And then we went to her birthday party in October and saw her again. And she asked me again about what I was doing. And I said, "Well, if I can do anything for you, call me. I'm free." You know. And lo and behold, she called me then and offered me what was—she and Nancy Hernreich—I talked to both of them and said, "Come and talk to Nancy about this job." And so I did go and talk to Nancy, and they said, "We want you to come work for us." I mean, they told me that on the phone. And I was to take the place of Carolyn Huber, who had worked for them for so very long. Ann McCoy was—I really—I guess I took Ann McCoy's place because Ann McCoy moved up to Carolyn Huber's job, and then I took Ann's job. And what I did—my office did all of the tours at the White House. Any tour that came had to be facilitated through the Visitor's Office. And we did the Easter Egg Roll, 32,000 people the year I was in charge of it, on the lawn of the White House. We did—every year the Easter egg roll, the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, which is called the Pageant of Peace, which is a bigger deal than you'd think. And we did the Fourth of July

celebration. We did all the arrival ceremonies, you know, when heads of states come, and it's very formal and all that. And we did all of those, too. And then sometimes we would have as many as 6,000 people at Christmastime that would get in line and walk through the White House be—to see the Christmas decorations before noon. The tours were—people would get in line—if you got in line by seven thirty in the morning, you got a walk-through tour of the White House. And so a lot of people would at Christmas. And we would have thousands of people. We facilitated over a million and a half tours, people, a year through the White House . . .

SL: Whoa.

MW: . . . for a couple of years.

SL: It's like a national park.

[01:11:21] MW: Yes. I used to think the house, especially at Christmastime, wasn't gonna hold up. [*Laughter*] Really. I'm serious. You know. Honestly. The tours would start—now sometimes we—something would happen. I believe we closed 'em during Christmas a lot of times, the seven-thirty tour, you know, because the Clintons invited, you know, all the military people. They would invite every hospital that dealt with disabled people. We would have all those people come. We would have



peep—we had people even come on stretchers at times, certain tours.

SL: Wow.

MW: They'd have tours for all the ambassadors, you know, and their families, and sometimes a reception for them. We had a—oh, gosh, there were so many beautiful Christmas receptions, you know, day and night. And then—but the tours sometimes went on. Sometimes they'd come at seven thirty in the morning, and you'd still be there at ten at night, and they were going on.

*[Laughs]*

[01:12:25] SL: I got to go travel with the basketball team when they won the national . . .

MW: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . championship.

MW: Yeah. Wasn't that fun?

SL: It was fun.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Were you on s . . .

MW: N—I was . . .

SL: That was during the first . . .

MW: . . . not there then.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But we went—we were in—Charlotte and I took Ben and Larry, and we went to—Larry came up and met us. He was working in New York, and Ben was in college, and we went there. And Bill Clinton was there when we went. And he sent the secret s—he saw us. We were clear across the arena, I guess. But somehow he saw us, or maybe he'd seen our name on a guest list.

SL: Right.

MW: And he sent some Secret Service guy up to get us out of the crowd and take us over to see him. Wasn't that nice?

[01:13:05] SL: That's really beautiful.

MW: I mean, that's wha—he's so wonderful about things like that, and thoughtful. My gosh. But yes, I know they went. That was a great time, wasn't it?

SL: It was a great time, and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . he was there to . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . congratulate 'em and . . .

MW: I know it.

SL: . . . gave a little speech and we—it was very hot that day. We were outside and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: But they were serving lemonade and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . cakes and stuff.

MW: Good. Good.

SL: It was good. Yeah.

[01:13:27] MW: Yeah. That—and did they give you a tour?

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Good. Good.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Do you know, the tour guides at the White House—I could do the tours. I learned to do it for special—you know, there were a lot of private groups that—the Secret Service are the people giving the tour guides. Did I tell you this?

SL: Yes.

MW: The men dressed in the navy-blue coats and all? Yeah.

SL: In the jackets were actually Secret Service.

[01:13:48] MW: And but we did tours, you know, for bands, for choirs. Every year—did I tell you Hillary—Hillary's old debate coach came [*SL laughs*] with the—his group from her old high school. You could count on it. And she always would see 'em.

She always saw him. I wanna tell you what she said to me when I went to work at the White House 'cause I don't believe I've told you this, and it's what I kept telling all those people that came to interview me about her this summer. I think what people overlook about her personality is when I went to work, she said, "Now Margaret, I want you to—one thing I want you to do is I want you to go to everything we're having if there's room for you." She said, "If it's a forum, symposium, whatever we're doing," she—"receptions." She said, "You come, and you pick out the person in the room that is not having a good time, that is not—does not have anyone to talk to, and you make them feel good about being in the White House so when they are—leave here, they're happy they came."

SL: What a great . . .

[01:14:57] MW: Some—and it was a great job. I loved it. I mean, you could walk in the room. You could go to those receptions. I met a Indian chief that way. I met a world-famous soccer player. You know, you could see 'em. They'd kinda be standing in the corner sometime like . . .

SL: "Why am I here?"

MW: . . . "What am I doing here?" you know.

SL: Yeah.

[01:15:16] MW: Or they might be looking out the window for too long, you know. They'd have their backs to the crowd. 'Cause they didn't have anyone to talk to. And so that was a nice assignment for me. [*Laughs*] You know, that was . . .

SL: That—and that's very thoughtful. I mean, I . . .

MW: Yes. For Hillary.

SL: That she would think in those terms.

MW: See, that's what I said. People—and that's before she was running for anything [*laughs*] at all.

SL: Yeah.

MW: That—but she realized that there were people who were uneasy at being there, who weren't comfortable, who weren't having a good time. And so I do—I was happy to do that, of course.

SL: Well, yeah.

[01:15:50] MW: And every morning I would get up and go in. Sometimes other people would do it, but I did it a lot of the time. We would go in, and when the tours started—I think the guided tours started like at eight thirty or whatever. And I would go in, and I would welcome people. I would say, "Welcome t—on behalf of President and Mrs. Clinton, I welcome you to the White House. It is your house and their home for a little while. And we hope you have a good time while you're

here." And I'd answer any questions they had, or somebody might need to put their coat away or do something like that. They all came through the same reception room if they had a guided tour. And they all signed the guest book. Now all those hundreds and hundreds of people [*laughs*] did not all sign the guest book . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . you know. But anyway.

[01:16:42] SL: So you know my nephew, David Pryor Jr.

MW: Yes.

SL: Dee.

MW: Yeah, I know him. Sure

SL: Was . . .

MW: And his wife, his lovely wife.

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah, she's so nice.

SL: Judy—Judith.

MW: Judith, yeah. Yeah.

SL: Judy. He was a su—assistant chief of protocol.

MW: Yes, he was.

SL: For the state department.

MW: With Mel, wasn't he?

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah.

[01:17:03] SL: And I've always loved the photograph of him waiting with an umbrella, a black umbrella, and Bill Clinton is . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . kind of in the shadows of the arch there where the . . .

MW: [*Laughs*] Oh.

SL: . . . cars would drive up.

MW: Oh yeah.

SL: Not—it didn't look like the front. It looked like a different . . .

MW: It sounds like an arrival ceremony or something. No, it's down on the lawn. It's on ground level.

SL: Yes.

MW: And all. And you walk through the diplomatic reception room to get out that door. Yeah. I know right where he was.

SL: Yeah. And—well, anyway. That's one of my favorite photographs.

[01:17:39] MW: Well, and in those days, I read everything I could get my hands on about the White House. You know, that helped me with the tours and all. Like the Clintons had put in a painting by the first African American artist to have it—a—something hanging in the White House, you know, a piece of art. And it

was in the Green Room. And they put in a Georgia O'Keeffe, a prominent woman, which was a little—you know, it wasn't that traditional, traditional, but still, it fit in . . .

SL: It was modern art.

MW: . . . just fine—yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And most people were so respectful. I took people on a—I said, "I can give you a twenty-minute tour or I can give you a two-hour tour." [*Laughs*] And the two-hour tour were—some people had the opportunity to go to the Oval Office. And maybe the president would be there, and we'd see him and have a photo. Or maybe he wouldn't be there. If he wasn't there, I'd take 'em in to see the Oval Office. And I can tell you about all the things in it, then, too. You know, the paintings, blah, the . . .

SL: What'd he choo—I mean, are—is that—that's—but that's not part of the residence, right? That's . . .

MW: No. No, it's not.

SL: That's official . . .

MW: Yeah. You've got to walk over to that—it's a wing that was built, I think, during Teddy Roosevelt's time. But . . .

[01:18:53] SL: But did—so does the president get to choose what paintings are on the wall or . . .



MW: Yes. And he gets to redecorate that. Kaki Hockersmith decorated it for Bill Clinton. Had beautiful draperies that were a deep gold, and a beautiful, beautiful shade of blue rug. And in the center of it, the seal of the US with all the stars for the fifty states—everything had meaning. Everything Kaki did. The chandeliers. The works. The Blue Room really got a lot of attention. And I have all kinds of photos of the furniture at the White House the—with the flowers. I loved the florist shop. You know the White House has its own florist shop.

SL: No, I did not know that.

MW: That's what I was gonna tell you. My two-hour tour, the people who got to do that—I would take them to the florist shop, which was quite wonderful. Every day—I used to love to go down there to just see, if we were having a big party, the flowers come in. They were so gorgeous. And if it was a big party, a big state dinner, they would put up like a little tent on the side of the building for 'em to work in. And there just wasn't e . . .

SL: Enough room.

[01:20:03] MW: The White House is not that big. And you would be amazed at how small the kitchen is. And the sh—they have the kitchen that does the regular food, like your entree and your dessert—well, entree and appetizer. Then upstairs there's

another kitchen, a pastry kitchen. And that was Roland. Walter Scheib was downstairs. And Walter and I got along fine. They—everybody was good to Caroline when she used to come to work with me some. But anyway. And then Roland, the pastry—they—I believe they called him the pastry chef, but of course he did all the wonderful, fabulous desserts. And he had a little room the size of a small bathroom, I guess, that was like a refrigerator. And like for the Indian, the country of India state dinner, he made all—hundreds of these white tigers that were out of white chocolate, and they were painted on with the black stripes, you know.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: And they were lying down. And they were about five inches long. Is Ann—Ann McCoy and I kept one forever. [*Laughs*] We said we were—but finally, I said, "We got—I got to throw that thing away, you know. It's deteriorate"—but I have pictures of it. [01:21:20] But he did the most fabulous creations out of spun sugar. Sometimes the things on the mantelpiece were made of spun sugar. The decorations, you know, the stars. One year he did a stack about three feet tall of—two and a half—of Christmas packages like they were all wrapped up. And at first you thought they were the real thing, and they were made of

spun sugar. Isn't that m—amazing?

SL: Amazing.

MW: He's a real artiste. He retired and wrote a book. He came down to the Clinton Center, so I went to see him, of course. And you know, the first thing he saw me, he said, "Where's Miss Caroline?" He was from France originally. He's written a book about—I read about his life. He came from a very poor background. Isn't that interesting? And made it. So such . . .

SL: Ended up in the White House.

MW: . . . the height of his profession. Yeah. Yeah. But anyway. [01:22:17] Back to where—oh, my office. But we did a lot of other things. We worked—we'd work—like the State Department might have someone special coming in that they wanted a special tour for. Sometimes I would take people just—Cal Ripken—Cal ripkin the . . .

SL: Ripken.

MW: . . . big—Ripken—I'm not saying it right. The baseball . . .

SL: Baseball.

MW: . . . player—came. And he stayed almost all day. We just ha—and I was in charge of him. You know, and I saw that he was fed and that he got to meet different people, and he got to go see the president and all that. And he had a—his wife was with

him and I b—both of his children, I believe. And they were lovely people. [01:23:02] And people like that. And then you know who Ricky Martin, the singer, is?

SL: Yeah.

MW: He came one time. And I got this phone call from the social office. And they said, "Margaret. We want you to do this tour. But we don't want you to tell a living soul about it. [*SL laughs*] And you're to tell him—take him to have a picture made with the president at a certain time." I said, "Okay." And they told me—they said, "And we want you to do it 'cause we know you won't tell, and anybody else will." I said, "Okay, I'm not gonna tell." Well, it was Ricky Martin. And I didn't tell anyone he was coming. I just—you know, I—at the last minute I got him waved—we call it waved in the gate. Got his—and all that with his entourage. He had his lawyer, and he had his agent, and I ca—his pulist—you know . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . he—there were about five men all in suits and ties. And he was a charmer with a great smile. And but whenever he came in—I had him down in the—a reception room signing the book, the guest book. And all of a sudden this door—well, you could hear this noise. I could hear one of the military aides, a woman,

goin', "He's here! He's here! And Margaret's got him." And she burst right in the door. And someone had seen Ricky Martin come in. And that girl was so excited. [*SL laughs*] Peek—to see him. I was embarrassed for her. It was just awful, really. But he was very gracious, you know, and she did back out and say, "I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry. I didn't dream he was here. I didn't dream he was with you in this room," you know. She was looking for her friend. [01:24:35] But he is—it was amazing. We were getting ready for a big dinner up on the state floor. And they brought in extra help, you know, for those big dinners.

SL: Sure.

MW: And when—I'd never seen this before. Everybody who had a job at the White House was told that you don't, you know, you don't drop everything and . . .

SL: Don't fawn over someone.

MW: Yeah, you don't get someone's address, you don't gawk . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . at 'em and that kind . . .

SL: Right.

MW: I mean, you don't get their autograph, you don't gawk at 'em.

[01:25:02] Well, with Ricky Martin—when I took him up there and those people in the dining room that were setting the tables

up saw him—I've never seen 'em react like that. There were a lot of Hispanic people. And they grabbed napkins. They gra— one of them grabbed [*SL laughs*] a paper-doily-type thing, and they all brought it to him to sign. Well, I am so glad we were kinda at the end of the tour because his agent finally said to me—and they all talked to him in Spanish. And his agent finally said, "You know," said, "we've gotta get him out of here because he'll stand here and talk to 'em as long as they wanna talk to him."

SL: Right.

MW: And I said, "Okay." So you know, I just said, "Oh, so sorry. We have an appointment with the president. We need to move on now." And of course, that worked, and everybody went back to work. [01:25:50] But I just thought it was so interesting. I had a lot of other famous people. Princess from Sweden, Princess Victoria, I believe. And I see her so—occasionally in the news, now. And people didn't react to anyone else like they did to him. Isn't that funny?

SL: Well, he's . . .

MW: It's interesting.

SL: . . . a hero for the . . .

MW: Yeah, he was.

SL: . . . Hispanic folks.

MW: For his people and all, you know.

SL: And you know, he sings. Sings to them.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: So . . .

MW: Yeah. For his people.

SL: Yeah.

[01:26:19] MW: But so I had the op—you know, I've met all kinds of people. I met—one time I got a phone call, and it said, "Margaret, are you strong today?" And I said, "Sure. What you need?" And they said, "We want you to take this woman through who was"—had—wounded in the bombing of an abortion clinic, and she had all this shrapnel in her skin and all.

SL: Oh.

MW: And they said, "Can you—can—will"—and I said, "Sure." And she did come, and she was lovely. And she had—she was there to testify or something on the Hill, you know. And she had her husband with her, who was wonderful to her. And we did give her—I did give her—them a tour of the White House. But that was . . .

SL: That's an emotional thing.

MW: Those—I mean, the Clintons reached out to everyone. I mean,

that was very kind to bring her in there. And another time we had a couple with their six—d—come for a tour of the White House. And I took them. And their daughter in the first grade had been shot by another first grader. And they had come to testify on the Hill. And they had asked to see the White House. They were asked if they wanted to do anything. And so of course, the Clintons would always say yes to those kind of requests. And those were private tours, you know. [01:27:42] But most of the tours were happy. I had a great job. I made people happy. [SL laughs] I got to do nice things and meet interesting people, you know. Part of my tour besides going to the kitchens and the florist shop—we would also meet Buddy and Socks if we could because they were available a lot, you know.

SL: And they were famous.

MW: Oh yeah. They were famous—every—I've got more peep—pictures of people with Buddy and Socks [SL laughs], including my own grandchildren and children, you know. People loved Buddy and Socks. [01:28:15] When the administration was over, Socks the cat went home with Betty Currie. And one year at the—the second year after we were home for the Christmas parade, they invited Socks the cat to come to Little Rock and read—lead the Christmas parade [SL laughs], and he did. And I



had a party for Betty Currie and Socks at my house in Little Rock. And I—Phyllis Brandon came and covered it, and she loved it. She said, "I've never . . .

SL: I . . .

MW: . . . "covered a" . . .

SL: . . . kinda remember that.

MW: . . . "party for a cat before." [*Laughs*]

SL: I think I remember her pictures of . . .

MW: Probably do.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Probably do. [01:28:53] But anyway. Nancy Hernreich was a big player at the White House. Do you know . . .

SL: Let's talk about Nancy. I—you know . . .

MW: Oh, she's marvelous . . .

SL: I . . .

MW: . . . to talk about.

SL: I upset Nancy when Bill was here.

MW: Oh.

SL: At—speaking at Old Main. I'd gotten a . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . Secret Service pin, and I was kinda the fly on the wall with the camera. I was . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . following him around everywhere through . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . Old Main and the campus, and so I went downstairs to get the shot of him coming out of Old Main and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . walk—and so . . .

MW: Sure.

[01:29:27] SL: I'm not part of the press corps.

MW: Yeah, you're with the university.

SL: So all the cameras . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . that are gonna be shown on TV are . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: . . . back here.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And she got so upset with me 'cause I'm ahead of the president shooting up, you know.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Like I'm in front . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: I'm between him and the cameras. [*MW laughs*] And she just

came and said, "You've got to get out of the way! You've got to get out of the way!"

[01:29:47] MW: Was that before the—when was that? What was the—was he—do you remember—he came through here in [19]92 right before he got . . .

SL: I think it was [19]92.

MW: . . . elected. 'Cause he took Carl with him. Carl . . .

SL: I think it was [19]92.

MW: I could not—I was working at Baptist Health, and I could not get away. I had a board meeting or something. But Carl came up here because—one thing Bill Clinton had invited Carl to go with him when he left to fly with him on his campaign tr—plane and all. And I have some great pictures of that. You may have taken 'em. I don't know. It's Rudy and . . .

SL; Well, I was video. It was moving image but . . .

MW: . . . my brother, Rudy, and the Henrys, and the Ferritors are all in a receiving line, and Bill Clinton is shaking hands. And I believe he's shaking hands with Carl in one. You know, nobody'd seen him for a long time. [01:30:37] Oh. I forgot an important part. We—Carl and I went as Arkansas Travelers in [19]92 to Iowa. [*Laughs*] You know about that.

SL: I know about Arkansas Travelers. Dee was an Arkansas

Traveler. Barbara and David.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Too. But not about Iowa. This was more about New Hampshire, I think.

MW: Yeah, that was . . .

SL: That I know something about.

MW: Yeah. Well, I—we deci—Carl decided to take a week off from the co-op, which wasn't easy to do. And I took a week off in October before the election. We were there the week before the election. And he bounced eight points in the polls when we left. And it was so well done, Scott. I cannot tell you how much I admired the people in the campaign. There were like forty-four of us, approximately, and we had four vans, eleven in each van. And cell phone—we had a cell phone, but they weren't so common. They weren't—they were awkward then.

SL: Right.

MW: But we would get a cell phone call, and it would say, "This question came up about what Bill Clinton believes in keeping libraries open," or something like that. "And here's your answer when you go to the next stop."

SL: That's organization.

MW: "And here's where you pick it up." So they would tell us the

problem that had arisen. They would fax us the answer that we'd pick up at the local headquarters, and then we'd read it, and we'd go out. And they had us organized. Like they had Carl always go to the utility people. They had someone else who was school principal go there. They had someone who was a good speaker to go to the radio stations. I mean—and those little towns. We covered those little towns. And it was introducing Bill Clinton to the country.

[01:32:27] SL: Let me say this so folks watching this understand.

Arkansas Travelers were made up of people from Arkansas.

MW: That knew Bill Clinton.

SL: That knew Bill Clinton. And they were deployed strategically as a group.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And they were a force to be—you know, no one had ever . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . done anything like that before.

MW: No.

SL: I don't know whose idea that was, but . . .

MW: I'm not sure, either. Sheila Bronfman gets a lot of credit. Sheila really organized it. She got those faxes, you know, those phones, the faxes, the—all of that. She always would get the

vans. She did it all. And we paid our own way.

SL: Yeah.

MW: It was not paid by the . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . campaign at all.

SL: Right.

MW: And even the gas for the tru—vans we paid for. [01:33:19]

And we did not eat. We were there like seven days. And we only ate one meal with our feet under a table, I think. Because, well, you know, you'd come in, and it'd be eleven o'clock at night, and maybe you'd have a—you'd had a pizza or something in the van, or we'd gone through a hamburger place and picked up a burger and eaten it in the van 'cause we were workin'.

[*Laughs*]

SL: Warriors.

MW: Yeah, that's right.

SL: You guys were warriors.

[01:33:43] MW: We had a cause we believed in. And it was a

wonderful time. We had all kinds of people in our van. That was so interesting. If you looked at it from a—I don't know what perspective, but we had older people. We had a woman—bear in mind this is twenty years ago—who was about eighty. And we

had young kid still in college. We had rich people, poor people, all kinds of people. So it was a great opportunity for us.

[01:34:13] SL: Okay now you've mentioned two names. Te—talk a little bit about Nancy Hernreich.

MW: Oh, sure. I love Nancy. She's great. You just—you saw her—she's very protective of Bill Clinton.

SL: Yes.

MW: I'll tell you something. She had a little office that no one could see. It was off of Betty Currie's office, it was off of Bill Clinton's office.

SL: So she was close.

MW: And she ran his office. She was in charge of Oval Office operations. And she—if you wanted something done, Nancy was the person to see. And then on the side, Nancy was a lot of fun, too. We did things like—she loved to cook, which I know you don't believe. She's so slender and looks so gorgeous, you know. She just a beautiful woman. But she loved to cook.

[01:35:05] And one time we all went to New York together for something. There—we were in a van. And Nancy will sit there, and she's looking at these food magazines like *bon appétit*, and she's tearing out pages and . . .

SL: Recipes and . . .

MW: . . . stuffing 'em in her big bag on the floor, you know. [SL laughs] "We're gonna make this. We're gonna cook this." And sometime we'd go—one time I particularly remember because of what happened. She called me and said—everybody was going to her house that night. It was a Friday night. And she called and said, "I'm—I have to work late. And you know where the key is. So you go ahead, you go in, you get the key, you get it started. And here's what we're having." And she gave me—she'd sent down the recipe and all. So I go and, you know, get the key, and we get everything started. [01:35:49] Maria Haley comes. Lenora say—all—and their gentlemen. You know, Carl was there and Maria was with this guy named Alfred then. And we all had a wonderful times together. And so we're cooking the meal. And we're making a cake. It's someone's birthday. And we're making a new [laughs] kind of cake. And it had three layers, and it was a citrus icing. So we made the three layers. We cooked 'em. We cooled 'em. We ate very late. [SL laughs] And when we put that cake together—by this time, Nancy had come home. And we put that cake together. And I will never forget it. There were three layers, and it just started this way [uses hands to indicate cake sliding], and . . .

SL: Aww.



MW: . . . it slid all the way off the table. And we stood there and laughed. We just could not get ourselves together. There wasn't anything to do but laugh about it. Our cake was gone. But anyway. And we did a lot of fun things like that. We all went—a group of us went to New York a couple of times together for a play or different things. We knew people there. You know.

SL: What's . . .

[01:36:53] MW: And Nancy—I wanna say—the—she's smart. She could get things done. And you know she met the man she married in Washington.

SL: No, I did not know that.

MW: Oh, we just—I—we had the—we loved Louis. She married Louis Bowen, a native of Forrest City, Arkansas. He's Montine McNulty's brother.

SL: Okay.

MW: And Lewis—but—he—as a young man, he'd worked in Philadelphia or someplace. He graduated from the U of A, and then he went off to Wharton, and then he had a job somewhere in the East. And they said, you know, "We're sending some of you to one of these three or four countries. If you wanna go, choose one." So he signed up to go to England, and they sent him to Hong Kong. And that was in [19]78, and he was still

there in [19]93. But of course, he was back and forth all the time, and he and Nancy met and it—they just—they had an interest—in—you know, an instant contact. They were a wonderful couple. They still are today. I saw 'em. They came to Little Rock last fall, and I went down to see them and all. But she had a daughter that was in high school and going to college then and all.

[01:38:07] SL: Okay, so the other name was the lady that kinda ran the . . .

MW: It—debelle . . .

SL: . . . Arkansas Travelers.

MW: Yeah—n—oh. Sheila Bronfman.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah. Sheila is an interesting personality. She is a hard worker. And she is a true believer, too. She has told me in the past that her first political job was with my brother, Rudy, that she was a young, single girl there in Little Rock out of college, I guess she meant, and she decided she'd go volunteer in Bill Clinton's campaign. And she went down there on a Saturday afternoon, and there was no one there but my brother, Rudy. And he said, "Come right in." And he said, "Can you do this?" and he put her, you know, to work right away typing or whatever. And she said,

"I never went home." [*SL laughs*] She said, "I just kept working in that campaign and just kept doing more and more with the Clintons." And course Bill Clinton really relied on her for those Arkansas Travelers. And then you know, we all went out for Hillary, too.

SL: Yeah.

[01:39:06] MW: I went for Hillary in [19]90—what—2007, I guess that was. And I went last spring and last summer in 2016. In the spring I went to the—well, the end of March I went to phillad—Pennsylvania. And then at—right—the week before the election here, I went to Missouri.

SL: So how was Pennsylvania?

MW: Pennsylvania was good. Hey, I had a w—it—I had a good reception. I only had one bad reception. People were pretty nice. Hillary's dad grew up in Pennsylvania, and her grandparents were from there. And we were not—we flew into Pittsburgh, but then we went out to the small towns. We really weren't there much. And but people in those small towns knew that, you know. We went like—is it Jamestown? Where'd they have that great flood up there?

SL; That's Jamestown.

MW: And they were from—people knew, for one thing, that they—it

was her area. Now people—sometimes people were kinda snarly about the job thing. I mean, it was obvious in some of those towns. We were in op—we—I saw on the river twelve closed iron mills where they had made iron.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And they were sitting there rusting.

SL: Yeah.

MW: You know, they'd been closed twenty years or more. And that's really sad. And you could tell they were all in decline. Their houses weren't as well kept. [01:40:31] Like one man who came to the door. He was voting for Hillary. I talked to him quite a while. He was retired from the mills. But he said, "I wish you could've been here when my daddy was alive." He said, "My daddy and I both worked in the mills." I mean, you know, and he talked about how glorious it was, and he said "Everybody's house was painted and" . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: And those people were hurting. In fact I came home and wrote her a letter and told her that. And she answered me. But [*laughs*] anyway. I—they needed to be offered hope.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And we did meet one or two. I met—we met—and I just moved

on. Like we had one guy that came to the door and he—these were not always the best neighborhoods, you know, and he came to the door. I had a partner. You went with a partner.

SL: Sure.

MW: And Brenda Gullet and I were doing it together. This one man came to the door, and he was fairly young, and he said he was a veteran of Iraq. And he said, "I'd never vote for that woman." He said, "She doesn't like military." And you know, so we just thanked him and moved on. 'Cause I'm not gonna—that's not my style to try to persuade them on the spot or anything. We always said, "Can we answer any question?" And sometimes people would have questions, you know. But yeah.

[01:41:51] SL: Yeah, I was so surprised that Pennsylvania didn't go her way in the end.

MW: In the end. Well, they did for the primary.

SL: Yeah.

MW: See, I was there before the primary.

SL: I see.

MW: It's the general—she lost it just barely in the general election. But it was those—the coal mines—and those people were hurting. The iron and steel mills were shut down.

SL: Yeah, my son went to school at . . .

MW: Oh, did he?

SL: . . . Allentown.

MW: Oh, okay.

SL: At Lehigh.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And that's a big steel town.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

[01:42:22] SL: So . . .

Sarah Moore: Scott, excuse me. I'm gonna interrupt real quick.

It's eleven o'clock, and you guys have been going an hour and almost forty-three minutes now, so I just wanted to let you know.

MW: Oh.

SL: Okay.

MW: Well, we've got a lot more to go. I won't go—I we—I sent a text and said I could not be there today.

SL: Okay.

MW: Okay.

SL: Okay, good. Well, let . . .

MW: I'll try to call again if you got her phone number when we take a break.

SL: Okay. Sarah, I wanna ask at least one more question here

about working at the White House. [01:42:51] You know, when you're a non-classified employee at the University of Arkansas, there's really no comp time, but you're pretty much on call 24/7. And so is that—I mean, once you stepped into the White House as an employee, as a staffer, did you feel like your entire life evolved around . . .

MW: The job.

SL: . . . the job and the White House?

MW: Well, I think you did a great deal. I was a little older than many of the people who worked there. You know. [01:43:23] I had the funniest thing happen to me about the third or fourth day I was there. I got a phone call, and it was from this woman, and she was working with the White House interns, the scholars, the—oh, the fellows, the White House Fellows, they . . .

SL: Fellows.

MW: . . . they were an exclusive group. And so they wanted to talk to me. They wanted to know if they could—some of them could come and see me. I said, "Well, sure." I couldn't imagine what they wanted. And these young guys came over. And what they wanted is—they said, "We wanted to meet you." Said, "We've heard a lot about you lately because," he said, "you were chosen to come. The rest of us begged to come." [*Laughter*] They

knew I'd been offered the job.

SL: Right.

MW: Isn't that funny?

SL: That is funny.

MW: It is.

SL: Well, there's a difference.

MW: Oh, well, anyway.

SL: There is a difference. Yeah.

[01:44:11] MW: And it was a lot—it's a young people's job, a young people's thing. But you know, I—of course there were some, like Ann McCoy we—and all. But—and Nancy isn't exactly a spring chicken, but she's younger. I should tell you more about her. She was a . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: She was really good for Bill Clinton and all. And she was especially good to my granddaughter. You wanna hear about that now . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . or you wanna take . . .

SL: No, let's hear about it.

[01:44:38] MW: Okay. My granddaughter that came to live with us— I used to take her to work with me, and when I had a day off—



and I bought a little tiny television just for her to look at, you know, that kind of thing.

SL: Sure.

MW: And I thought it would be a great experience for her. Well, the Secret Service guys were wonderful people, and they adopted her. The—I think the minute I walked in the gate with her—we came through the gate—they would signal the guy. The guy on the gate would say, "Margaret's brought Caroline to work today." And they would come and get her after the tours all started and were kinda underway, they used to go to the Old Ebbitt Grill to eat all the time, to have breakfast together. 'Cause they'd come to work very early. And so they would take Caroline over there with 'em sometimes to eat breakfast at the Old Ebbitt Grill. And I had a friend come back once and said, "Whatever you're doing, stop and walk over to the Old Ebbitt Grill and see Caroline sitting there having pancakes with about seven Secret Service agents."  
[*SL laughs*] Isn't that nice?

SL: She's holding court.

[01:45:40] MW: Yeah, she was. She was. And then Nancy Hernreich was especially good to her. Like one time that—Nancy—she and Nancy had a real bond. And Caroline has seen Nancy in recent years since she's married. But anyway, one time Caroline was

with me—and she—you can hear the helicopter from my office. I was so lucky—I didn't tell you. I had an office a lot smaller than this at the White House, but it had a computer, a telephone, and a door. So I was very lucky, you know. But so Caroline could hear the—you can hear the helicopter warming up the—you know. And she said, "Oh, let's go see the helicopter take off." That was always a nice experience. And I said, "Well, let me see." And I came back, and I said, "Well," I said, "the Secret Service said they weren't having visitors out for the helicopter today, so I guess not." And she wanted to go, and I said, "Well, let me call Nancy." So I called Nancy. And I said, "Can we go," and she said, "Okay, okay. You can go," but she said, "he's runnin' late. He's behind. Everybody's mad. [*SL laughs*] So you and Caroline go stand in the bushes on the left side." She told us right where to stand. She said, "Don't speak, don't holler at him. He's got to get on that helicopter." [01:46:54] So we went out there, and we stood in the bushes. We didn't say a word. And Bill Clinton was just makin' a beeline for that helicopter. And Bruce Lindsey and Podesta and all those guys were following behind him. They were dragging bags with their clothes, you know. And they were dragging briefcases with 'em. And Bill Clinton was leading the pack. And all of a sudden, he

made a left-hand turn. He came right over [*SL laughs*] to where we were, he knelt down in front of Caroline and took her hand, and he said, "Caroline, no one told me you came to work today." [*Laughter*] And he sat the—he knelt down and talked to her for a few minutes. I could just see the steam rising out of everybody 'cause they wanted him on that helicopter. I do not—he must've seen us out of the corner of his eye, you know.

SL: Well, he ma—Nancy may have said something to him.

MW: Well, she might have.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway, he did that. You know, that was so nice of him.

SL: Oh, it's remarkable.

[01:47:54] MW: And there're other wonderful things that happened to her. Like we went to the Methodist church in Washington that the Clintons went to. It's a church—there've been four, I believe, presidents who've gone to church there now. And they had a pew down front. And in the Methodist church when you're in the third grade, you get a Bible . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . given to you by the church. So it was . . .

SL: Yep.

MW: . . . Caroline—yeah, you've got one. Caroline's turn to get the

Bible. And the way the ch—and it was an older church, and the pulpit and all that was up high. So she was kind of up high a little above the congregation with the other children receiving her Bible. And the preacher had 'em all stand in a row and look at the congregation. And Caroline clutches her Bible in her left hand, and her right hand's down at her—and she's waving at someone like that. [*SL laughs*] She doesn't wave. She waves only her fingers. And later she said—and then when she came down the aisle—well, the Clintons, Hillary reached over and grabbed her, and they had her sit between them for a while, and talked to her. I could see—she said they were sayin'—she said, "When I was up there with—they were saying, 'Look, it's Caroline, it's Caroline!'" And she was said, "I knew I wasn't supposed to wave, but I thought maybe I should wave at the President of the United States." [*Laughter*] I said, "Car—you did perfect." I said, "That was just perfect, wasn't it?"

[01:49:16] But you know, the Clintons took a real interest in her, and one Christmas when they were at—we were having one of the Christmas parties, I have a picture of her. She was, you know, at the reception. It was—I think it was after the lighting of the National Christmas Tree, so it was a little later. And there were—mostly adults were there. And Sammy Sosa was there,

and that was when he was in his heyday. The baseball player.

SL: Yes.

MW: And she wanted to meet him. Nancy had told us about that he would be there. And she wanted to meet him. So she got to me—she went u—we got to meet him. And I believe Nancy introduced us, or someone did. Anyway. And all of a sudden, Sammy Sosa reached down and picked her up, and he said, "Would you like to have your picture made with me?" And I thought, "Oh my gosh, she's gonna deck him," because she di—you know, [*laughter*] that was so unlike her to put up with that, but she had her picture made, smiling, with Sammy Sosa.

[01:50:14] And a lot of nice things—the chefs took a real interest in her, especially the pastry chef. More than once he had her up. They started in August making cookies for the Christmas receptions . . .

SL: Whoa.

MW: . . . and freezing 'em. And I have a picture of her helping freeze—make cookies for the cookie reception. And they all did a lot of nice things for her like that, you know. [01:50:39] The White House kitchen dyed about six or seven thousand real eggs every year. I have a picture of myself holding a tray of 'em. It was fun to go down there and see all of those eggs, you know,

that they had dyed. And let's see. What e—oh, one other thing about that happened with Caroline that was so wonderful was—I got a phone to call in my office one day in my office from the Seiberts in Arkansas. And they—it was going to be Arkansas day at the National Cathedral, and they wanted to know if I could come and help participate in the program. And I said, "I'm so sorry. I already have my plane ticket, and I'm going to see my grandchildren in Oklahoma. I can't do it." And then in a little bit the phone rang, and they said, "Well, could Carl do it—and your granddaughter?" They wanted Carl and I both. And I said, "Well, sure." So Caroline—and I have all these pictures someone sent me. I never knew who sent 'em to me, even. And it shows her walking down the aisle at the National Cathedral, and she's carrying a big, a large basket of food. And she's just about eight years old. And she walks all the way down the aisle, and behind her are other people bringing other offerings to the altar. And she walks up the steps to the altar and puts that big basket in front of all the priests there. And that was a wonderful experience for her, you know. And they had a party afterwards for the Arkansas people. You notice in Washington everything had a party or a reception [*laughs*] after it, didn't it?

SL: It did. But . . .

MW: It did.

SL: So do you wanna stop now and take a . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: . . . a little break . . .

[Recording stopped]

[01:52:17] SL: Well, we're still in the White House. And we're  
talkin' about the . . .

SM: All right, we're rolling.

SL: Margaret, we're starting our second segment here on the second  
of March. And we've been talking about the White House . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . and your experiences and the things that you got to be  
involved with in the White House. And all the folks . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . that were around the Clinton administration then and  
how . . .

MW: Right.

SL: . . . you related with them. And how—and you got to see a lot of  
great stuff. Your granddaughter . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . got to be a part of this, too.

MW: She did. She did.

SL: And we've talked—we've told several stories about her.

MW: Yes.

[01:52:59] SL: And if there's more about her, I wanna get those, too. But at some point while we're in the White House, I wanna talk about Carl's . . .

MW: Oh, sure.

SL: . . . role in . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . the White House . . .

MW: We will.

SL: . . . and how . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: And maybe some of the stories that you can relate . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: . . . to us.

MW: Yeah.

SL: To—from that time.

MW: Okay. We will.

[01:53:19] SL: So we can just pick up anywhere in the White House you want to pick up.

MW: Okay. Well, I ca—was telling Susan outside that one of the photographs I have is of Caroline and Carl and Bill Clinton, and



they are in the Oval Office. And Bill Clinton needed to sign the agri bill. And he'd put it off. He'd put it off and put it off because he did not like the budget. It was the budget for the Department of Agriculture for the new year. This is in—I guess this is in [19]98. And he'd put off signing it. And it's a long story, but Carl was baby—Carl and Dan Glickman, the Secretary of Agriculture, were babysitting with Caroline, and they had [*laughter*—so they had her over at the—outside of the Oval Office, and Nancy Hernreich had her in her office, and they all—they were talking to her. And you know, she's a very nice child. And then they went in to see Bill Clinton, and she was gonna sit outside, but Bill Clinton invited her into the Oval Office with 'em. And so she listened to those three men discuss the agriculture budget. And later she—and she was there when Bill Clinton signed it. And later she told me—she said, "Well," she said, "I heard Carl say to the president, 'You just might as well sign this. This is the best we're gonna do.'" [*SL laughs*] And he did sign it. So anyway.

[01:54:44] SL: Let—I wanna make a comment about . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . having a young child around the White House.

MW: I know.

SL: And how—I mean, for me, if there's a child in the room, I'm a little bit more careful about how I act and how—what the [*MW laughs*] things I say and how—I mean . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . I can imagine there'd be heated discussions, maybe arguments.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Over policy . . .

MW: Right.

SL: . . . or over somebody or something that has . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . happened. But if there's a child in the room . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . there seems to be a better decorum or . . .

MW: That could be true.

SL: It elevates . . .

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: It kinda elevates . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: A child's presence elevates a room, I think.

MW: Well, it does. It does. And sh . . .

SL: Especially one that's well behaved and . . .

MW: Yes, and . . .

SL: And . . .

MW: . . . appealing.

SL: Appealing.

[01:55:34] MW: Yeah. Well, that—you know, she wasn't where they ha—the most serious wu—discussion she was in on was the agriculture buzz—budget. But no, we didn't—you know, we didn't have her doing things like that where there were really serious discussions going on, that kind of thing. But one thing that we did with her at Christmas that was lots of fun—she went to a school called the John Eaton School. And I think it was a very good school. And Lenora Steinkamp from Little Rock was teaching there in the kindergarten, so she helped look—she would look after Caroline some, too. But at—every year—we made a—Carl and I made a lot of younger friends through Caroline being in that school. You know, like the Greenblatts, the Koonz, just all these people. And I laughed and said they never knew how old we really were. [*SL laughs*] Because they included us in on a lot of things. And you know, she was in the Cub Scouts or girl—Brownies, and she played soccer and all that sort of thing. So the first year at—every year, in fact, at Christmas, I invited her little girls that she saw on her soccer

team and those places. I invited them with their mothers to come to the White House to see the decorations. And they did. And they were—the adults were more thrilled than the children [*SL laughs*], I think, because they said, "No one ever invited us to the White House before," you know. [01:57:03] And one year I—we all went over to the Hay Adams afterwards for tea. You know, we were big on tea parties at our house, so we had a real tea with the little girls and their mothers at the Hay Adams. And that was lots of fun. And you know, those little girls didn't want tea. And so they were ordering Cokes and that kind of thing. And Caroline said, "Oh, I'll have a"—what is the name of the drink with the cherries in it that children have? You know the one I mean?

SL: Sarsaparilla?

MW: I hadn't thought of this in a long time.

SL: Does sarsaparilla have cherry in it?

MW: No. That doesn't sound right. It's—anyway, it's a lady's—it's a child's drink. It's non-alcoholic, of course. It had two cherries in it and some soda water, I think. And she said, "I'll have one of those." And then the next thing I know, we were all busy talking and having a good time, and I wasn't paying any attention. I was over at another table visiting some people I knew. And all

of a sudden, the waitress came over, and someone said Caroline said, "We'll have another round." [*Laughter*] So we had a big tea party.

[01:58:10] SL: Where'd she learn that?

MW: I don't know. From listening to her grandfather. But anyway, w—so we had a big tea party. Sh—let's see, what were some of the other things that—and of course, the Fourth of July was big and always the national—Christmas was just a special time. It was a magic time at the White House for adults and children, too. And the people in the social office were always very good to me. They were very responsive when I would ask for a favor.

[01:58:42] And Capricia Marshall was the social secretary. Have you heard her name?

SL: Hm-mm. No.

MW: Well, she was there—she came to work in the Clinton's first campaign, and she's still with them today. There was Cheryl Mills, there was—whom—of which is, you know . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . a wonderful person. And all of those people were really always ex—I've en—I don't know if they were—thought Caroline was an interesting child, you know, or—living with her grandmother, but they all were real good to us. So I

appreciated that. And when we left Washington—I love this. The younger couples that—Johnny—that we had become friends with and done things with threw a big party for us, a going-away party. So I said, "They still didn't know how old we were." [*SL laughs*] We were about twenty years older than most of them. [01:59:34] And Caroline made special friends with a couple and their little girl named Joe and Barbara Koonz. And the little girl was Clare. And I cannot tell you for years how many wonderful things they did for that child. The first Christmas we were in Washington, they picked her up for a weekend. They sent a lim—they came in a limo, took her to the airport, flew her to New York, and she and Claire spent a weekend at The Plaza hotel just like that children's book, you know, where the little girl lives in The Plaza hotel?

SL: Yeah.

[02:00:10] MW: And they took her to The Plaza. I mean, it was just—what an experience when—she was only seven then. To ride in a limo the first time and all that. And every summer, they would take her to Cape Cod. They went to ge—they had a home in Cape Cod. She went un—numerous times up there. They'd take her to their house in Florida. They were—they just took her right in and did so many things to her. She missed

Valentine's Day one day at school because she was sick. And they actually sent her twenty-five balloons, a balloon bouquet. Some were little and some were big. We could hardly get 'em in the house, you know. [*SL laughs*] To get well soon 'cause she missed Valentine's Day at school. Wasn't that nice?

SL: Oh.

MW: Yeah.

SL: It was really good. So . . .

MW: Yeah.

[02:00:55] SL: Wh—Koonz? That name is familiar to me.

MW: Well, I'd heard that name here before, too, but they weren't kin.

He was from Philadelphia originally. He has died since. And he was a big lawyer there, and he was with one of the big firms in DC. He—they'd lived there all their lives. And they were an interesting couple. I sti—I talked to Barbara just about Christmastime, the mother, you know. So. They even came to Oklahoma to Clare—Caroline's wedding, the mother and daughter did. And we laughed 'cause they kept saying, "We've never been this far South. We've never—this is so Southern. We've never"—[*laughter*]

SL: And they're in Oklahoma.

MW: And we said, "People in Oklahoma think it's the West." Isn't that

funny?

SL: That is funny.

MW: But they . . .

SL: It is.

[02:01:43] MW: But anyway. So those were really happy times. And aw—I had three babysitters for Caroline. I was very lucky. When I first went to the Visitor's Office, we had a young intern there. And she was just getting ready to leave. And I said, "Katie, I need to get names of some babysitters for Caroline." My biggest worry was that I couldn't get off at the right time to pick her up.

SL: Sure.

MW: You know, in the afternoon and all. I mean, even if I had someone to stay with her, I still needed to be there by five thirty or six. And Katie said, "Don't worry. I'll take care of it." So she lined up two of her friends, and they were all wonderful young girls. They were all students at George Washington. And I could call them whenever I got stuck, and one of 'em would come and rescue me, you know, o—res—take Caroline. They would take her to their sorority place with 'em. They didn't have houses, but they'd take her to meetings and stuff. They'd take her to study in the library with 'em [*laughs*] at jer—at the university.



And they were really great. [02:02:43] And then do you know—you know Don Pederson here in town.

SL: Yeah.

MW: His daughter . . .

SL: Used to work here.

MW: Yeah, his daughter . . .

SL: Finance guy.

MW: . . . Julie was working in Washington then. And she did a lot of babysitting and bicycle riding with Caroline. So that was nice of her, too. And one—she kept her one long weekend, in fact. And she took Caroline—we lived between the national park and the national cathedral and the national zoo on 28th Street, and those two girls biked all the way down to the Lincoln Memorial. And she said, "When we got down there, Caroline said, 'Let's just call a taxi and go ahead [*laughter*] and go home.'" You know. Put it in the trunk. But anyway, so. [02:03:33] Some of the other adventures at the White House concerned people who came, you know. I'm trying to think if I've covered 'em all.  
[*Clears throat*]

SL: It's okay to repeat.

MW: I had the ambassador of Pakistan once who came. And of course, that's before things had gotten so bad—came with his

wife and family, and I've always wondered what happened to him. You know, you just never know.

SL: Right.

MW: Do you? We had the prime minister of some small country, I believe it was Slovenia, that came one time, and they were in the throes of having their government overturned and a lot of turmoil there. Let's see. I'm trying to think if—oh, did I tell you about Julie Andrews coming?

SL; No.

[02:04:21] MW: Oh, that was so wonderful. It led to a lot of stuff.

Julie Andrews came for the Easter egg roll. And that year it was really hot. You know, some years it was hot, some years it was cold. But anyway, it was really hot. And she only had her agent, Steve Sauer, with her. And I could tell she was burning up. And I talked to her a little bit. And I said, "Don't you wanna come sit in my office for a while?" Well, they jumped at that. You know, air conditioning. So I took 'em in to my office, and we just had a wonderful time. We had a lot to talk about. We really hit it off. And I said, "You'll have to come to Arkansas and see us some time." And she said, "Well, maybe I will."

[02:05:08] So when I got home to Little Rock—and I heard from them, you know. People are always good about writing

thank-you letters, and Steve Sauer called me and all this. And then when I got home to Little Rock, I invited Julie Andrews on behalf of the Rep, the Repertory Theatre . . .

SL: Wow.

MW: . . . to come and do a benefit, and she came. We were amazed. I could not believe she was really coming, but she did. And she stayed over—she came in in the evening and stayed a whole day and another night and then flew out the second day. And of course, we put her up at the Capitol Hotel. And on the second day—she came in at night, so that next afternoon she invited me to come to tea and bring my grandchildren. Well, by this time, Caroline was in Oklahoma, so she missed out on that. So I took my granddaughter Rachel, who was about fifteen or sixteen and lived in Little Rock, and then my grandchildren Annie and Jack. And Julie Andrews traveled with her own tea. You know, loose tea. No tea bag. And her own tea pot and all, and she made tea for us, and we had a wonderful time. I have pictures of it.

SL: There at the Capitol Hotel.

MW: Yeah, at the Capitol Hotel. I mean, we did this in her suite.

SL: Right.

MW: We did not do it downstairs and all. And so she—you know, those childre—and Jack was about four years old, close to five.

And Steve Sauer was so funny. He said, "I can tell someone has told you to be quiet and be good [*laughter*] 'cause that's exactly what you are." He said, "You're a handsome boy." And he was. So anyway, I thought it—but she wa—they were all lovely. [02:06:51] She also traveled—there was a third man in their party. I think he was kinda the Jack of all trades, you know. Maybe he helped her fixed her hair. I don't know.

SL: Right.

MW: He got the cars and made sure every . . .

SL: Logistics.

MW: The clock where—I mean, everything ran on time . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . I guess you'd say. And they were all just really wonderful. And of course they were a big hit. I have people wrote me thank-you letters for bringing her. Because, you know, she's such an icon.

SL: Oh.

MW: People just loved *Sound of Music*.

SL: Absolutely.

MW: And *Mary Poppins*.

SL: Yeah.

MW: You know. So and she was so down to earth. And then I'd hear

from her every once in a while. But I—and I'd reach out to her. [02:07:30] And then about three years later—I had a grandson born in Washington named Carl when we were up there. He was born when we were up there. And he was about four or fi—he was about five, maybe. And they had the book fair on the Mall. They have it every year now, I believe. They didn't do it while I was there. It's kind of a new thing. And Julie was coming with her book. So I contacted her and said, "I'd like to bring, you know, my grandson to meet you." And we did. We went down, and she had a private place she could kinda retreat to and had her picture made with Carl, and that was nice, wasn't it?

SL: That's very nice.

MW: Yeah, she's really just a wonderful person. [02:08:12] And then this last year while I was in California, Steve au—Sauer, her agent, always said, "Call me. Call me." So I did. I called him. And he was gonna come and see us, but his sister'd gone to hospice, and he didn't—he was gonna come down to the hotel and have a drink with us.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway. He's been with her about thirty years now. That's a . . .

SL: That's strong.

MW: . . . wonderful job.

SL: That's like a marriage.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[02:08:38] MW: And when I've talked to them earlier, they were in—  
last January—no, last fall, she was in Australia filming a show  
that I understand recently started on—would it start on netflix—  
it started on . . .

SL: Netflix or something like that.

MW: . . . one of those things that I don't get, one of those channels  
called—it's a children's show called the *Greenroom*.

SL: I'll look it up.

MW: Yeah. You know, she had surgery on her throat.

SL: Yes.

MW: And she could never s—really sing again. And she started  
writing children's books with her daughter. She sent me about  
six or seven for all my grandchildren [*laughs*] right after . . .

SL: I love that.

MW: . . . the first one. Yeah. And then of course we—Carl—she did  
one for him, too. That was another one. So she's really gotten  
into the children's world more, I guess you'd say, seem to me.

SL: That's great spirit, isn't it?

MW: Yeah. Yeah. I'd like to see that show.

SL: Loo—one door closes, another opens.

MW: Yes, she . . .

SL: Kind of thing.

MW: . . . did make that, yes. I would like to see that. [02:09:41]

Another thing that we did that was really fun while we were in Washington—and this wasn't at the White House. One reason we went up there is we both like to travel. And I love Revolutionary War history.

SL: Okay.

MW: We don't hear much about the Revolutionary War here.

SL: No.

MW: So Carl and I promised ourselves that we would try to do a weekend out of the month while we were in that part of the world, and we did a pretty good job. You know, we went to places like Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, one weekend. We went to places all over Virginia. Stratton Hall where Robert E. Lee was born. We went up to Pennsylvania, to Gettysburg. And our favorite place to go and take all the children, the whole family, was to go to Longwood Gardens. It's just fabulous.

[02:10:31] SL: Now where is that?

MW: That is in the—on the—right over the state line in Pennsylvania, but you go to Delaware to get there . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: . . . from DC. It's not that far. And it is just a fabulous place. We went to see it in every season. And I did not say that when we got to Washington, my son Ben was living there already.

SL: Oh.

MW: He had gone up, and he worked for David Pryor. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in December, the same time that Bill Clinton was taking office. And he got himself this job with David Pryor, Senator David Pryor. And so he was already up there living with two other boys. And he did marry while we were there in the course of that and had this little boy that he named Carl Whillock Carter. Isn't that a nice name?

SL: That is a nice name.

MW: Yeah. And they got to come to the White House a lot, too.

[02:11:26] My daughter-in-law, Janna, worked for Larry Summers over at . . .

SL: I know that name.

MW: . . . treasury. He was the treasure—Secretary of Treasury, and kind of a controversial guy. Because Janna said he was really a good guy, he just didn't have any people skills. Maybe we



shouldn't put that. He's still living. [*SL laughs*] He was president of Harvard for a while.

SL: Well, I'm sure he's heard it before.

MW: And he's back at Harvard. Don't put that out. But anyway. He—Janna really enjoyed working for him. He had three main assistants. She's a lawyer. And so it was a good experience for her. And then Ben had left David Pryor by the time we went up there. See, he was up there four years before we went. And he had gone to work at agri. So that all worked like a charm, you know. Although he and Carl didn't work in the same area, I guess . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . you'd say. But anyway. [02:12:21] Let's see. What else? Oh. Talkin' about traveling out of the city. We did a lot of trips up into places like Monticello. You know, Jefferson's home?

SL: Jefferson's home.

MW: And the man who was head of Monticello then's wife was from Camden, Arkansas. And used to if you called them and you were going somewhere and they found out you were at the White House, they really gave you a nice tour. And he gave us a deluxe tour of Monticello. We got to go upstairs, even.

SL: Oh.

MW: Which is not open . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . to the public. And that was a treat, you know. We were with Grady and Ann McCoy on that trip. [02:12:57] And then another wonderful trip was we went to Williamsburg more than once. We were so close, and Jamestown. And at Williamsburg, they had something really interesting then for little girls. Do you know what an American Girl doll is?

SL: I do know something about that.

MW: Yeah. Okay. They used to have an American Girl doll called Felicity. And she was a doll that grew up and lived in colonial Williamsburg back in the days of the Revolutionary War. And Caroline had—happened to have that doll. So we went up and did a Felicity day. Carl worked in the hotel room. Caroline and I had a wonderful time. They taught the children how to sew and make a pincushion. They taught them how to draw water out of a well, how to play a hoop game, you know, the . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . that you roll. They taught them how to do a colonial dance. I mean, they had tea, they just did a lot. It was lots of fun. You know, I loved those trips out of the city that we did. So.

[02:14:00] SL: Te—the one place, your favorite place . . .

MW: Oh, Longwood Gardens?

SL: Longwood Gardens.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Tell me about Longwood Gardens.

MW: Oh, well, you know, the du Ponts were so prominent that—I mean, they're still prominent today. But they came here during the French Revolution, as I recall. And they went to the Delaware area. And there are about five major homes or gardens there that come from different branches of the family. Longwood Gardens was created by one of the du Ponts. And it has one of everything. It is very large. It is just well kept up, well run. Obviously they have endowed it, so you know—and I'm sure it's making money today, too. But they had things I'd never seen before in the way of flowers. Like I remember one time when we had the kids—I took most of my grandchildren up the—all my grandchildren came to visit me in Washington at one time or another.

SL: Right.

MW: You know. And they had a—like they had a plant that smelled—it looked like cotton candy, and it smelled like cotton candy. We all loved that plant, you know. And they had things like—in the—they would do a water lily garden. And they had water

lilies that were five feet across.

SL: My gosh.

MW: I'd never seen anything like that.

SL: I've never heard of that.

MW: They were just gigantic. I think—maybe four.

SL: Five feet—four feet.

MW: Four or fi—they were huge, anyway. [02:15:24] [*SL laughs*]

And they—and at Christmas, of course, they had so many poinsettias, and they had a children's garden, they had a Japanese garden, they had a water garden. And sometimes we'd stay, and at night they'd have concerts, and the water was synchronized with the music, and that was always fun, too, so . . .

SL: Sounds like a floral Disneyland where . . .

MW: Well [*laughs*] . . .

SL: . . . you'd wanna spend the . . .

MW: Yeah, right.

SL: . . . whole day there.

MW: Oh . . .

SL: You just don't go in for an hour.

MW: Yeah. Yes.

SL: To . . .

MW: That's right. You do. I recommend it. You need to go with your son up there.

SL: I will. I'll take my grandchildren there. Continue the Arkansas tradition.

MW: That's it.

[02:16:04] SL: That's one thing I wanted to say about Washington, DC, and the influence of Arkansas in Washington, DC.

MW: Yes.

SL: I know it stems back from probably—well, even earlier, but when Fulbright, McClelland, and Mills were ensconced there . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . there was an enormous Arkansas influence. And it feels like to me that even today that's kinda still continued from the old Democratic Party.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Now I don't know about the Republican stuff . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . but . . .

MW: Well, I think it certainly did while Bill Clinton was there, of course, you know. I wish I knew how many people from Arkansas they gave a job to. Or people that—like Carl and myself that wanted to go and had the opportunity to go. It was

just amazing how—like every time you'd look around, there would be someone . . .

SL: From Arkansas.

MW: . . . working—yeah. Working at—like there's a young man named Chris Ensco, and Carl knew his family. They're from around the Berryville area. And his—he came to work. He went to school here. He came to work at the White House for Bill Clinton. He was his body person for a while. But he got a wonderful job at the end of the administration with the Starbucks, you know, Mr. Schultz, I believe was his name. I met him, the Starbucks guy. He came. He was a big Bill Clinton fan. And Chris Ensco from Arkansas got a job with Starbucks, and today he runs Starbucks in Europe. That's pretty good.

[02:17:41] SL: Now was he a basketball player? Or his brother.

MW: His brother.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah. Well, Chris did in high school, I think.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But his brother's more well known for playing. And his brother lives in Little Rock, I think.

SL: Gosh, it's a small world.

MW: Yeah, it is a small world. Hi—their mother lives in Springdale

now. And anyway. But that's just an example of all kinds of—we had all kinds of young people from Arkansas that would come and work a year or two, like Courtney Crouch at Springdale. His grandson—at—wor—came and worked. He worked in my area of the White House, and I got well acquainted with him. He was there a year or two, and then he came back to Arkansas and went to law school and practices law now in Little Rock. So there were just a lot of those people.

SL: As far as . . .

[02:18:30] MW: And we haven't talked about—I know—I got well acquainted with Hillary's mother after a while, too.

SL: Well, let's talk about her.

MW: Dorothy Rodham was an interesting woman always. She's real smart. Real strong. And I think Hillary got a lot of her smarts and get up and go from her mother, you know. And of course, Dorothy was—she was just a quiet woman. She wasn't re—she didn't get out just a whole, whole lot. Enough, but not a whole, whole lot. And she was just the s—very solid. She was someone that you felt like you could talk to about anything, and she would help you in any way that she could. And I really enjoyed seeing her. We used to—I used to go and see her some or talk to—I talked to her on the phone a lot. And I'd go by

her—wherever she was living then and see her. And you know, they lived here in Little Rock for quite a while until Dorothy—Mr. Rodham died. And I knew them then. But I got better acquainted with her after we went to Washington. [02:19:40] And then after the administration, you know, the Clintons bought a house there in DC they still have today. And Dorothy lived most of the time with them, so that was good. And you know Hillary was running for the senate then, there at the end. And Ann McCoy and I took some time off from work, and we did—we helped her some. Not a whole lot. But we did take off from work and go election night to New York. We rode the train to New York and were—you know, we were there when she won. We were there when she was sworn into the Senate. I was so sorry. They took our picture, and I never did get mine [*laughs*], you know. When she was sworn in at the Senate. Those were happy times, exciting times. And you had great . . .

SL: And she just—she did . . .

MW: . . . hope.

SL: . . . herself so proud when she was in the Senate. She was so good.

MW: Yeah, she did. And people liked her on both sides of the aisle.

SL: Yes.



MW: She was a—she could draw them together. And I think she could've done that as president, I would've hoped.

SL: I'm certain . . .

MW: The times have changed.

SL: . . . that she could do that. They have.

MW: They have.

SM: Hey, you guys, the pizza's here.

MW: Mm.

SL: Okay. Well, we'll stop here. We've got . . .

MW: Well, yeah.

SL: . . . some more . . .

MW: We're at Hillary in the Senate.

SM: Okay, I'm stopping recording.

SL: We still have some more White House to do, too.

MW: I need to look at my notes.

SL: Okay. Well, let's look at 'em.

[Recording stopped]

[02:20:58] MW: Look. Okay. Go ahead. I'm gonna have another.

SL: We've had pizza for lunch.

MW: Yes.

SL: And now we're back in the Pryor Center vault. And we're still in the White House.

MW: Yes. Yes.

SL: In Washington, DC.

MW: Yeah. We haven't talked about pardoning the Thanksgiving turkey, which was a big deal [*laughs*] at the White House every year.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And several times I had company there. One year my daughter Sallie and her family had come up. Her daughter was about fifteen or sixteen years old.

SL: This is Rachel.

MW: Yes. And I had—or maybe she wasn't that old. And of course, I had Caroline with me, and Carl was there, and that turkey was pardoned, and the press was there. And Bill Clinton is so amazing. He saw Caroline all the way across the Rose Garden. And he hollered, "Hey, Caroline, how are you doin'?" And he said, "Oh, you've got company," you know. And there were Sallie and Rachel. And I just think that's a good example of what he is like for a lot of us. [02:22:06] And one other activity that we did quite often in the White House, which was a rare privilege, was we got to go to the Kennedy Center and sit in the president's box.

SL: Oh.

MW: The president's box was always reserved for the president if he should decide to go or invite someone to go. And if they were not using it, then the staff was welcome to use it. So we used to reserve it fairly often to see people like the Bolshoi Ballet, you know, that kind of thing.

SL: Yes.

MW: Rosemary Clooney one time came. Those sort of things. And that was really a rare privilege. I had six friends from Little Rock who came up one year to see the Christmas tree lighting, and I was able—we were all able to go to the Kennedy Center box and—I think most of my children did at one time or another. And they—I thought that was such a generous thing to do. And then we also—some administrations would only let the highest level people apply and use the White House mess, you know. It's like a small restaurant to go for lunch.

SL: Right.

MW: And the navy does it, and has from the beginning. And we—I had a White House mess card, and we could go there and eat often, and that was also a—quite a nice, rare privilege, too. And that was fun to do. I took a lot of friends from Arkansas to eat there. [02:23:37] I was at the White House when they had the Millennium. And you know, that was a happening. And it

started a—well, it started—I don't know, ten, twelve at night, but it went on until breakfast the next morning at five. There were concerts down on the mall. The entertainment in the White House was fabulous. They just transformed the gardens, one of them, into another . . .

SL: Venue.

MW: Yes. For dancing and another orchestra for the younger people, Chelsea's friends and all. And that was quite a treat, too.

[02:24:12] And at the Millennium event, Mary Wilson and the Supremes came to entertain. And they had no—the White House is not set up to have entertainers. So they used people's office for dressing rooms. And they used my office for the dressing room. And I was so entertained that about—when I went back the next day or—you know, to see my office, it was a total disaster, as you can imagine. [SL laughs] And there were beads all over the place. Well, you know, we kinda raked up the beads, picked 'em up. They were vacuumed up. And about three weeks later, I got a letter from Mary Wilson, and she said, "Oh, did you find my beads that I broke in your office?" And I just thought, "Three weeks later, she thinks I was"—but no, we did not have any—we didn't real—I hope they weren't valuable.

SL: Yeah.

MW: We did not realize that if they were, you know. I figured since she hadn't picked 'em up, they were just incidental. Anyway. But going there was also a lot of fun. And oh, we did all sorts of things like go to the tattoo the Marine Corps puts on. Do you know about that the . . .

SL: No.

[02:25:24] MW: It's a military show, and they have it over at—I believe it was Fort McNair. It was over in Virginia. And they ride their original horses, and they put on an exhibit of how they used to do their firearms and their cannons, and they do it to music, and it's exciting and loud, and it's hard to get a ticket to it, and it's put on by the Marine Corps in the summer.

SL: I've never heard of that.

MW: Yeah. It was fun. We—yeah, I've got a program about that, still. And we did things like we went to the Virginia Gold Cup races up in Virginia. That's steeple races, and I'd never been to that before, and I really enjoyed it. And some of the big companies would have tents. And they would have parties . . .

SL; Sure.

MW: . . . in their tents during the races, that kind of thing. And one—you were to wear a hat. All the women were to wear a hat.

SL: Like at the Kentucky Derby or so . . .

MW: And so—yeah. I wore one of Hillary's hats once. And Kaki Hockersmith was around in those days, you know, and she went with us to the Gold Cup a couple of times. And there were wonderful exhibits that we went to, like the Van Gogh exhibit that came to the National Gallery. [02:26:32] The National Gallery brought in the Van Gogh exhibit, and David Lambert took me as his guest to a special luncheon and opening of the exhibit, and that was a real treat, too, for me. He knew how much I would enjoy that. And we used to go to the Kennedy Center to eat, and every year they had the Kennedy Center Honors program. And that was a big, big deal, and it was hard to get tickets your—you know, for just the average person. And they had a lot of big-time names there. [02:27:03] And every year we worked with this fellow named George Stevens at the—and a couple of times that he did give me a couple of tickets way up in the top, and I did go and get to see that. But then when it came time to go to California for the Democratic Convention in LA, I went as a part of Hillary land. And there was a big—I was invited to go, and there was a big party with all the big-name movie stars. Meryl Streep, John Travolta, all those people were to be there. And it was just a great thing. And so we had a meeting of Hillary land, and the head of it got up and said, "Do

not ask for a ticket to the Hollywood Gala. You cannot go to the Hollywood Gala. Do not aggravate [*laughs*] anyone for tickets to the Hollywood Gala." And aft—it was—it wasn't Hillary, it was someone else. And of course—and then after it was over, I went up 'cause I didn't wanna do it in front of everyone, and I said, "I have two tickets for the Hollywood Gala." They were like \$25,000 or something. She said, "You don't." I said, "I do." She said, "Who gave them to you?" I said, "George Stevens. I was always nice to him when he called, so [*laughs*] he gave me two tickets to the gala." So I took Ann McCoy, and we went off to this wonderful party. Oh my gosh. I was almost run over and knocked over by John Travolta. [*SL laughs*] And he was very apologetic. He was so sorry he ran into me. [02:28:28] But anyway. So those were just some more ideas of some of the things we got to do. Like Renée Fleming, do you—the opera singer who's very popular right at this moment for sure. She has not waned in popularity. She came with her children to the White House. Someone else I'd taken care of and all. But that gives you a lot of good White House stories to go on, doesn't it?

SL: It does.

[02:28:53] MW: Oh, one last one. There's always one more. You'll love this one. Okay. I get this letter in the mail, you know,

"Margaret will you handle this please?" and it is a request for President Eisenhower's grandson to come to the White House. And he's bringing his girlfriend, and would I take them on a tour? He's a young college student. He was about twenty-two, and he came. He was good looking. He looked like his grandfather, his daddy, you know. And of course, he—we did the tour, and I said, "Now I want—we'll go see your grandfather's portrait." And it was kinda up some stairs on a landing where visitors didn't usually go. But I'd arranged to take him up there with his girlfriend. And we went up there. And there was his grandfather's portrait. And you remember Eisenhower was bald.

SL: Yes.

MW: He had no hair when he was president. And that kid looked at that portrait of his grandfather, and he put both of his hands on his head just like that, and he says, "Oh my gosh. That looks just like my father today." [*Laughter*] And I wondered if he was thinking of his own luscious hair . . .

SL: Well . . .

MW: . . . and where it was going.

SL: It's coming.

MW: Yeah. But that . . .



SL: Or it's goin', I guess.

MW: Yeah, and he was the nicest young man I—another one of those people that wrote a nice letter afterwards that I still have somewhere. So those are ju—and I didn't talk about going on Air Force One, which I did several times with Hillary, and that was quite a treat with the First Lady. She was always gracious. They were usually trips back to Arkansas. [02:30:27] One was coming home for Diane Blair's memorial service, you know.

SL: Which she hosted.

MW: Yeah. Yeah. And that . . .

SL: I did that service.

MW: Did you. Yeah. That was . . .

SL: All those videos . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . and that whole show was . . .

MW: Yeah. Well . . .

SL: . . . something I laid out.

MW: . . . Carl and I came home with that—for that. [02:30:43] And she had called me. When Diane first became ill, Hillary came down to see her, and when she got back, we talked about it. She called me at my desk. I remember very well. And she said, "If you're going to see Diane, you must go now." And so we did.

We came down and had a wonderful weekend. She was in good spirits, looked good. She was still moving well and all, you know. So that was a great time, too. And let's see what else do I want to bring up? [02:31:19] Oh, we went to Camp David. I went to Camp David. Only twice, but that was interesting and fun. And I saw where the, you know, Arafat and . . .

SL: The peace talks.

MW: . . . who was the—yeah, the peace talks and all of that, where that took place.

SL: Sadat?

MW: Sadat. Wasn't . . .

SL: Yeah. Hussein Sadat.

MW: No.

SL: Sudat Hussein.

MW: Is that right?

SL: Egypt. Yeah.

MW: I—yeah. But anyway. It was kind of a big deal at that time.

We'd—I need to review my Arkansas history. But I enjoyed that.

[02:31:48] One friend we made in Washington I have not mentioned is the ambassador to Austria, Helmut and Monica Teurk. And they used to have us to the embassy all the time, and they would have evenings of music. You know, they would

bring in musicians who were visiting from Austria, and they would play, and we'd have dinner, or maybe it'd just be a cocktail time. But they were very down to a—earth and fun people. He had studied here in the states as a young man. I believe he was a Fulbright Scholar. Did you ever meet him?

SL: No.

MW: Okay.

SL: Never met him.

MW: And then they wanted us to come and see them in Austria, and we did go and see them one time. And by then he was like the vice president of Austria. But it didn't—they didn't call him vice president, but it was the equivalent, so he had done very well. They were an wonderful, interesting couple. They bought an Indian teepee and took it [*SL laughs*] back to Austria to put at their—on their country home on the river. And they talked about how people would, you know, stop and look at it, and sometimes they'd come in and knock on the door, and they'd say, "What is this? Where did you get this?" kind of thing. And they were just some of the delightful people to be with, too. And I'm gonna quit listing people that I met. I think we've done enough of that. It . . .

SL: Well, it . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: I don't mind.

[02:33:09] MW: Oh, well. [*Laughs*] But I don't know. There were people like the—do you know what that Tebow exercises program used to be real popular?

SL: Yeah.

MW: It's kinda like tae kwon do?

SL: Yeah.

MW: Well, that guy came to the White House, and I met him, and he sent me all of his exercising [*SL laughs*] se—videos and that kind of things, which I probably should've paid more attention to, but anyway. [02:33:34] So there were plenty of people like that, and oh, Bill Gates's d—Bill Gates I did not meet, but his step-mother and father I did meet. They came to the White House at one time, and I took them around some. And just all sorts of interesting people like that that I could talk about more.

[02:33:57] One of the most interesting people I met at the White House was right at the end. It was in January as we were winding down. And got this call and said, "Oh, Hillary meant to do this for a long time, would I please handle it?" And it was a ninety-two-year-old woman, her daughter, and son-in-law, and the woman was named Mollie Somerville, and she had been

Eleanor Roosevelt's secretary, if you can believe that.

SL: I can.

MW: In the 1930s. And this is like 1994—or, oh, no, this is 2001.

And she had not been back to the White House since. So we had a grand time. I took her around to—you know, did the tour bit, took her down to the China Room to see the portrait of Mrs. Roosevelt. And she—it's quite a wonderful portrait. She was painted herself, you know, from the waist up. And but her hands were folded sort of in front of her. And then it had three ways her hands were busy because the artist said her hands were always doing something. So he . . .

SL: He had . . .

MW: . . . painted her . . .

SL: . . . three sets of hands.

MW: . . . hands here knitting. He painted her hands here writing. He painted her hands here—can't remember the third one. But you know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: He—it was just an interesting portrait. And Miss Somerall was just taken with it, and she remembered so many things. And she said, "Oh my goodness." Said, "I see she's got on the brooch that—for—President Roosevelt's mother gave her when

they got married." And I, you know, I thought that was an interesting information. And so I had called the curators to come and meet her. I thought they were the people that should be talking to her, and they had never heard the story before of who—where the brooch she had on came from. It was a diamond brooch, you know. And so that was kind of interesting. [02:35:59] And then the curators were just taken with her and talked to her for a long time. And then I called one of the calligraphers, you know, the White House employed three full-time calligraphers in those days. And one of them was the third generation of his family to work there. He was a young guy. His grandfather had been Calvin Coolidge's chauffer, the first chauffer the White House ever had. And his father had come to work, I believe during Eisenhower's time, as a White House electrician. And now here this guy was, and he was a calligrapher. So that's three generations.

[02:36:41] SL: So they use the calligrapher for official bills, and it's all fancy and . . .

MW: And official proclamations, you know, official appointments, all those invitations. If you ever got an invitation for a reception or a seminar or whatever, they did all of those, too. And . . .

SL: By hand. I mean . . .

MW: Yeah. By hand.

SL: A say . . .

MW: Oh, it was fas—we used to love—that was part of my tour sometimes. We'd go up there and watch them do it. They were always real nice [*laughs*] about it.

SL: Yeah.

[02:37:14] MW: And when we—there was something really big coming up like a party. Say a party for seven hundred people on the lawn under those tents. They used to put up these fabulous tents with chandeliers. And they would bring in extra calligraphers to help with the big ones, the big events like that. Isn't that interesting?

SL: That is interesting.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I bet that's all gone now.

MW: I wonder if it is. I know a lot of it's gone because after 9/11, Bush kinda did away with the Visitor's Office for a very long time. And when they have kept it, they did just a very limited—they now do very limited tours and . . .

SL: Tours.

MW: . . . let people in and all. Which is sad, isn't it?

SL: It's sad.

MW: 'Cause it's the people's house.

SL: I know.

MW: And you know, it's been in the paper that Mrs. Trump is—since she's not residing in the White House, they're not opening the White House to tours, which didn't quite make sense to me 'cause she really doesn't have to be there for that. But I don't know. They didn't elaborate, so I thought that was interesting. [02:38:17] And so things have changed a lot, but the—one of the great things about the Clintons, they were so generous. They wanted to share it with everyone. They liked to have people come and see it, that kind of thing. Like, oh, we—the White House was two hundred years old while I was there. You know, John Adams was the first to live in it.

SL: Yes.

MW: And we had a reenactment of that. And then we also had his relatives there. His ant—his—what do you call it. His heirs. That's not the right word, but his family that still lives up in Massachusetts came, and they were a part of that day, which I thought was such a nice thing to do, too.

SL: That's a great thing to do.

MW: Yeah. You know. But anyway. Every year . . .

SL: It takes . . .



MW: . . . we had a birthday party for the White House. All those people that went through the line got a piece of cake. [*Laughs*] We did not provide a drink, but they got a piece of cake on the White House . . . .

SL: That's good.

MW: . . . birthday. And that was always fun. My office did that every year, too, so.

[02:39:18] SL: You know, it takes a heart to think about those things, those kind of things.

MW: Yeah, it does. It does. You've gotten a lot of it. Oh. Back to Miss Somerall. So the calligrapher came down and talked to her, and they talked about the Roosevelt boys and how his grandfather that was the chauffeur used to help take care of the Roosevelt boys. They weren't boys, they were in their teens and early . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . twenties and that kind of thing. [*SL laughs*] So that was sort of interesting to hear, too. And then later Ms. Somerall did send me her book and a nice letter. But I—when she worked there, you just drove up to the front door and walked in the front door of the White House. She talked about that. No guards, no nothing.

SL: Yeah.

MW: You know. Isn't that amazing?

SL: It is amazing.

[02:40:00] MW: And the reason she had to quit her job is—she'd worked for Mrs. Roosevelt first in New York and then had moved with them to Washington, but she got married and had to quit because that was during the Depression, and they did not give a woman a job if she had a husband 'cause the idea was the husband was gonna support you.

SL: Be the breadwinner.

MW: So the world changed a lot in her ninety-two years, didn't it?

[Laughs]

SL: It did.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Wow.

MW: Isn't that interesting?

[02:40:27] SL: Wow. I wanna know about little bit more about Kaki Hockersmith.

MW: Oh, yeah, Kaki's a grand person. She is so talented. I think people in Arkansas don't realize it. She has gotten a number of awards out of state, nationwide. And I think people don't realize it. I think that the East Coast was surprised that Arkansas could

produce such a high-caliber decorator. But the White House never looked better than when she did the Blue Room, the Oval Office, and those kind of things. Now they have a commission at the White House. You can't just go in and say, "We're gonna paint this a new shade of blue," or "We're putting up white curtains," or something like that.

SL: Right.

MW: There is a commission of very learned, scholarly people, that oversee all that, so it's authentic. But Kaki was the leader of that. And she was the one that the Clintons picked to—I mean, the Oval Office, she just—she did that, and she did the Blue Room pretty much herself. And then she participated with all the rest of it. And Kaki's very generous. She still—you know, she's in Little Rock, she practices. She has a lot of big-time clients out of state. What else would you like to know about her?

[02:41:50] SL: Well, really—I mean, did you get to spend much time with her?

MW: Oh yeah. We were good friends before we went to Washington, and then we got closer when we were up there and still closer when we got back. When we got back, Carl and I used to see Kaki and Max all the time. They built a new home in Little Rock

that is really one of the loveliest homes in Arkansas if—you know, that I've ever been in. It's just a magnificent house. And they have four grandchildren now. And Kaki's still doin' her thing. And Max is still doing—they're still working, both of 'em. So.

SL: Well, I guess she has some of the same interests that my sister, Barbara, has 'cause Barbara does a lot of interior design and . . .

MW: Oh yeah.

SL: . . . decorating. Yeah.

MW: She does. She's very talented, too, isn't she? Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yes.

SL: So I bet they're—I wonder if they're buds. I'm—I'll have to ask her.

[02:42:49] MW: I don't know. They might be. But Kaki has the best parties in the world. [*Laughter*] She gave a party when my granddaughter got married, but her very best party—the year that Obama was elected, she had a party on inaugural day, and they even hired a small marching band. And they had some actors from the Rep who came rolling down the street on the back of convertibles. [*SL laughs*] And they had Obama and Michelle, and they had a wonderful lookalike of Sarah Palin and

John McCain, and all those people came in and shook hands with us, and we all hobnobbed together. And then we went out in the back yard. They have a magnificent back yard. Seats were set up just like you were at the real inaugural. And we all heard speeches by those people. [*Laughter*] They gave their speeches. Then we all went in and had something to eat and drink. So it was lots of fun. They're v—she's creative like that. She just gives wonderful events. [*Laughs*]

[02:43:55] SL: Well, gosh, maybe you should nominate her for an interview.

MW: Sure. I'd love to.

SL: You think she'd do that?

MW: Yeah. Yeah, I think she would love to. That's a great idea.  
Yeah.

SL: And really . . .

MW: Her . . .

SL: . . . anyone else that you think . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . of that would like to do this, why, you oughta pass their names on to me.

[02:44:15] MW: I will. I will. But—sure. I wonder if Mel would do one. You know, Mel went to like—I hate to say this. It seems so

out of reason. She went to like eighty-one countries or something like that with Bill Clinton. You know, he always had to have his chief of protocol. When you get off of the airplane in a foreign co—land, you don't usually just get off the airplane. Someone goes ahead of you and makes sure everything. . .

SL: Everything's good.

MW: . . . is all right and does the official greeting. And Mel would do that. And she received people who came here. [02:44:48] We have—Mel in Washington—av—ambassador of protocol, I believe, is her correct title. And then in New York, there is another one. I've forgotten if—her exact title. But Joan Baldrige from Little Rock—from Texarkana . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . did that . . .

SL: I know Joan.

MW: . . . in New York. Anyway . . .

SL: I did not know that.

MW: All those people who would fly into the UN, many of them, if they were heads of state, then Joan would go out and meet them at the airport and their entourage and welcome them to the US on behalf of the president, that kind of thing. So there were a lot of little . . .

SL: Now she was very close to . . .

MW: . . . things . . .

SL: . . . Ray Thornton, right?

MW: Yes. Joan. I think—yeah. I think she knew him. I don't . . .

SL: I think we worked with her to . . .

MW: Maybe so.

SL: . . . to . . .

MW: I don't know.

SL: I think . . .

MW: I don't know. I might—but . . .

SL: I'm not sure about that.

MW: Yeah. But anyway. She was one of those people that was all—  
she was always around in the Clinton days and all. And she had  
a wonderful apartment at the Watergate, the famous Watergate.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah. Claudette and I were married the day of the Watergate  
break-in.

MW: Oh, were you? [*Laughter*] Well, you can keep up with it, then,  
can't you? I love that.

SL: Yeah.

MW: I love that.

[02:46:00] SL: Here's how small that world is.

MW: Yeah.

SL: The chef at the Watergate, the head chef at the Watergate was the guy that started Pesto Cafe up here.

MW: Oh, really? Is he still here?

SL: No. No, he sold it to one . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . to his . . .

MW: Whoever had the . . .

SL: . . . sous chef but . . .

MW: . . . that—yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Well, that's interesting. That is.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Gosh. I did not know that. Of course. [02:46:20] But yeah.

Well, it's—as I told you earlier, we traveled a lot in those days.

And one thing I should comment on is we met this fellow

through the Clinton campaign in Little Rock, and he's a decorator

in New York City. And every summer, he rented a house on the

Greek island of Patmos.

SL: Okay.

MW: And the house had been in *Architectural Digest*, so it's pretty



spiffy. And every summer Carl and I went to stay with him, and he always had a house party. You know, he had an entourage of people that were with him always. And we went for four summers and spent a lot of time on Patmos. And that man could think of more things to do. Like we had a memorial service one day in the little Greek Orthodox church for all our loved ones who'd died, and we would fly kites on the beach. And we would—when there—it was a Greek Orthodox religious holiday, and there was a big pilgrimage to a shrine, and we all participated. We piled in a Jeep and drove up to the shrine and heard the head of the Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Church, speak, and that kind of thing. So those were wonderful days, too, to go to Patmos four years in a row. *[Laughs]*

[02:47:41] SL: I'm or—I've always heard the light . . .

MW: It is.

SL: . . . in Greece, in the Greek islands is just unlike any other light anywhere in the world.

MW: Yeah.

SL: There's something about it that . . .

MW: And you would s . . .

SL: Maybe it's the blue of it.

MW: Yeah. This—Patmos is the island where John the Baptist was.

SL: Ah.

MW: Where he wrote Revelations.

SL: Ah.

MW: So his cave was right there under us. It's built on a hill. The house was built on like a mountainside, a hill. And the roof of the house that you would go—we'd go up there a lot in the evening, and there were seats built along the wall, lots of cushions and things. And you could see the sunset and the moonrise. And you would see the sun come up on one side and the moon on the other, and the ocean was on three sides of you, you know.

SL: Unbelievable.

MW: And the light was something to behold. It was a special time.

SL: What a special place.

MW: Yeah. It was. It was.

SL: And I'd forgotten about . . .

[02:48:35] MW: It was also the hi—it is still there, of course, the home of the—one of the oldest Greek Orthodox monasteries in the world.

SL: No, I did not know that.

MW: Yeah. Yeah. And we would—occasionally you would see a few of the Greek Orthodox students that were studying there walking

around the town or something. And we toured the monastery. And in the little gift shop, Carl met the fellow running it, a Greek, of course, and he knew all about the Arkansas Razorbacks. He loved football.

SL: How is that?

MW: And he loved the name, and he [*laughs*] followed 'em. Isn't that funny?

SL: That is hilarious.

MW: I mean, the Razorbacks are all over the world, aren't they?

SL: They are. Well, you know, course once Bill Clinton became president . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . Arkansas was all over the world because of him. They—the—that . . .

[02:49:29] MW: Yeah. That's right. And those are also the days that I met the cast of *The West Wing*.

SL: Wow.

MW: The West Wing cast . . .

SL: What a great show that was.

MW: Martin Sheen did not come on—with 'em this time. I met him later. But the whole cast, Blair, Underwood, Janney whatever her name is. She's Mom today on that . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . TV show.

SL: Love her.

MW: And Brad—Bedfor—Bradford Whitney. . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . Whitfield—Whit. . .

SL: It's . . .

MW: Something. Anyway . . .

SL: Yeah, he was just—I just saw him the other day in an interview.

MW: Some—I did, too. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway, they . . .

SL: Willif—no, not Williford.

MW: . . . all came.

SL: Anyway.

[02:50:05] MW: I got this phone call, and they said, "Margaret, there's a new television show going in. Uh, we don't have time to come do it. They wanna come on Saturday. They wanna see the Oval Office. They're bringing the director, blah blah, you know. Will you come do it on Saturday?" So I said, "Okay." So I went down and met them, and we had a wonderful time, you know. And they were so grateful to be there. They were just

emotional about it. And they went back, and they said, "Oh, we've got to rearrange the Oval Office in their set" . . .

SL: Set.

MW: . . . and all that thing. And I heard from 'em. And they came back again. I took 'em again. They came back the se—I mean, different ones of them. The third time—and the next thing I knew, somebody higher up was taking [*laughs*] them around. The show was becoming more famous.

SL: Oh. It was one of the best . . .

MW: *The West Wing*.

SL: . . . written shows.

MW: Wasn't it?

SL: Ever.

MW: It was wonderful.

SL: Really smart stuff.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah. It was.

SL: And great acting and . . .

MW: And I wish I could think of the director's name. He was just wonderful with it, too. But anyway. So those were all happy times. I told you we went to Camp David. And you know the

S . . .

[02:51:09] SL: Yeah, tell me about Camp David. What . . .

MW: Oh. Well . . .

SL: First off, is it rustic?

MW: Yes.

SL: Is it really rustic?

MW Yes, it is. It's pretty much . . .

SL: 'Cause the—all the press that you ever see, it looks like log  
cabins . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . kinda.

MW: Yeah. It . . .

SL: Out in the woods and . . .

MW: It is. It is pretty rustic, although it has a golf course, you know.  
Has a beautiful chapel. Has excellent food. [*Laughs*] But it is  
rustic, and it's way out there in the mountains of Maryland. And  
I—it see—a lot of presidents, I think, in recent years, have  
preferred their own vacation places. So. But the Clintons went  
there. Not just daily, but they went. I remember one year I  
believe they went either Thanksgiving or Christmas. It was a  
good place for things like that and all. So they seemed to like it  
and have a good time. [02:51:57] There was always something

going on at the White House. One time there was a boys choir that had come all the way from Belgium and the—they were from a religious school, and the priest in charge had promised them they would get to hear—they would sing for the President or First Lady of the United States. Well, you have to make a little preparation ahead of time. [*Laughter*]

SL: Yes.

MW: And so the Secret Service was so provoked that they finally called me up and said, "Go out there and talk to that man and see—convince him that he cannot come in and that he needs to take those kids and go do something else with 'em." So I went out and talked to him, talked to him, talked to him. So he s—he at—finally—he said, "Well, we wanted to sing at the White House, so can we sing for you?" And so [*laughs*] I said, "Well, yes, you can." And they sang three songs, and I ha—was stood there while all these people are going by watching this boys choir of about twenty-five singing just . . .

SL: Serenading.

MW: . . . to me. I know.

SL: Margaret.

[02:53:01] MW: I know. [*SL laughs*] It was so—it was interesting.

One time—I used to go to work earlier than most because I

wanted to go early so I could—didn't feel bad about leaving at six when I wanted to go see about Caroline or something. And one time I was there real early, and the phone rang. It was the Secret Service. And they said, "Margaret, we've got this guy over here at the West Gate, and he's demanding to see Bill and Hillary Clinton. And he says he knows 'em personally. He's from Little Rock. And he—but he acts kind of strange. There's something about him that's a little off, and we're very concerned. And we've been foolin' with him for about forty-five minutes, and he won't go away, and he does seem to know the Clintons. Would you come see him?" They didn't know if—he wouldn't give 'em their name. He wouldn't tell the Secret Service who he was. [02:53:50] And so I said, "Okay. Okay. I'll come and see about him." And they said, "Now, you be careful when you get over here." And so I went over there, and I recognized him immediately. It was somebody I knew from Little Rock, you know, and just kind of an eccentric guy. Everybody in town knew him. And so I went up to the gate. I pushed the gate open, went out, and the Secret Service guy said, later, said, "We were all waiting for him to jump on you or something. He'd acted so strange. We thought you were brave to go out there." And I said, "There's nothing wrong with this



guy except he's used to getting his own way." And he'd come so early. And I finally—he said his wife didn't know he'd left the hotel room. She was still asleep. [*Laughter*] So . . .

SL: Oh, God.

MW: . . . I finally persuaded him the Clintons really were not home. And he did leave. But it—that was just a funny—I mean, he was—I don't know if he was sane, but he was harmless.

[*Laughs*]

SL: I wonder if the White House had ever seen such a diverse group of characters.

MW: I don't . . .

SL: In and out of the . . .

MW: That's a go . . .

SL: . . . those gates.

[02:54:49] MW: That is a good point. I will tell you one thing. One of the White House—you know, the White House butlers and the other staff worked there for years. There was one man named Mr. Hamilton worked there over fifty years. All—through—I think he'd been there since row—Eisenhower maybe. Maybe?

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway. Long time. Fifty years. And I did—I had two of them tell me at different times that they thought it—the Clintons

were the most fun they've ever had in the White House but it  
bout worked 'em to death. [*Laughter*]

SL: Well, that's good, though. It's good to have—to be able to say  
that it's fun.

MW: Yeah, to—do—to be able to say that you, you know, you enjoyed  
working with the people and all. Lot of people from Fayetteville  
used to come. You member Barbara Mashburn and . . .

SL: Absolutely.

MW: . . . Jim Mashburn used to come every . . .

SL: And the choralettes.

MW: . . . Christmas and b—yes, bring their choir. And they would  
come to one of the Christmas parties and sing and all. And they  
always looked their best. They—I have a paper that—Peggy  
Parks traveled with them. And she went home and wrote a  
paper about everything that happened to her while she was at  
the White House in detail. And she sent it to me. You know,  
she's such a wonderful lady.

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah.

[02:56:08] SL: Yeah. So do you know her in any other way?

MW: Well, yes, I've known her through the university all these years.

I know her son, David, and his wife and—yeah. Yeah. She's

great, isn't she?

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah. She's good people.

MW: I haven't seen her in a long time.

SL: I haven't, either.

MW: She used to be at the university every time I was there and all.

Yeah.

[02:56:32] SL: So what about—let's—if you think of any other White

House stories . . .

MW: Oh, okay.

SL: . . . just . . .

MW: Throw 'em in?

SL: . . . take a . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: Throw 'em in there.

MW: Okay.

SL: 'Cause we can't . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: . . . can't get enough of those.

MW: I thought of one—okay.

SL: Okay.

[02:56:45] MW: I love this one. This was the interesting, interesting woman. One day I had a call, and I took Happy Rockefeller—do you know who that is?

SL: Yes. Yeah.

MW: You know, her husband was vice president. And you remember the big thing—she left her husband and children to marry Nelson Rockefeller.

SL: Right.

MW: And all of that. And she was an absolutely charming woman, delightful. She had not been back to the White House since he'd been president. And that—how long ago was that? I can't remember . . .

SL: Long time.

MW: . . . now.

SL: Yeah.

MW: That was before Ronald Reagan, even.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And she had a wonderful time seeing it again. And just a very high-caliber person. I enjoyed meeting her.

[02:57:30] SL: I wonder if there's something about life on this planet where really good souls—maybe until recently c— somehow or another . . .

MW: Well . . .

SL: . . . end up in the . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: . . . best place that they should be there at the White House.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I . . .

MW: Yes. Yeah. We . . .

SL: You would think . . .

MW: You met just a really—of course there are exceptions to every rule.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But you met very high-caliber people. They were well-intentioned people. They cared about helping the country, helping the people in this country, and they did the very best they could. Even if you didn't always agree with everything, I think they were doing the best that they could and what they believed was the right thing.

SL: Yeah.

[02:58:18] MW: And that's so important.

SL: It is.

MW: You know. And there were—I know there were people that were—got—became angry and had their ups and downs, of

course, like we all do in life. But on the whole, they were nice people. [*Laughs*] You know.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

[02:58:38] SL: Okay. So I wanna talk about little bit about Carl in the White House.

MW: Oh. My husband . . .

SL: I wanna ask about . . .

MW: Sure. Yeah.

SL: . . . Carl in the White House. That—na—he enjoyed his time there, right?

MW: Oh, yes. Of course. He—you know, it was such a privilege to be—to have the opportunity to work for the president of the United States. And then Dan Glickman was the other half of his job. And Dan Glickman grew up in Wichita, Kansas, was elected to congress for like sixteen years, and then Bill Clinton appointed him Secretary of Agriculture.

SL: Okay.

MW: And he did a fine job. And they became really close friends.

[02:59:20] SL: So do you wanna talk about him?

MW: Who, Glickman?

SL: Uh-huh.

MW: Oh, well. The . . .

SL: You don't . . .

MW: Just . . .

SL: Do you know much about him?

MW: Well, a li—some, yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Do you know cra—he and Carl would travel together. They did things together. They were always on the same track. When Carl died I had a wonderful letter from Dan Glickman, and he said, "Carl educa—taught me more about rice than—farming than I ever dreamed I'd need to know," or [*laughter*] something funny like that in . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . it, you know.

SL: Yeah.

[02:59:48] MW: And one day Glickman got up a group of his staff, including Carl, and they all went somewhere in that area, and they built—worked on a house. Habitat for Humanity.

SL: That's great.

MW: I have a wonderful picture of Carl and Glickman trying to put up a wall. [*Laughter*] And he was very well liked, and I think he was a very intelligent man. And he an—he's still living, you

know. I saw him at David Lambert's service.

SL: Is that right?

MW: Yeah. And he's another one of those people that I think wanted to help others and did the very best that he could, worked as hard as he could to help people. He wanted to help the farmers of this country.

[03:00:33] SL: So he—you sa—so Carl actually answered to two folks.

MW: Yea—well, he—yeah. He did. He was the go-between between the White House and agriculture department. You know, like he could take agri's message to the president. He could take the method—president's message to agri and then try to find a compromise that they could all work out together. And he worked on different things that I had nothing to do with, like mushroom farmers [*laughs*] or that. You know, that kind of thing. Course the thing he enjoyed the most was when he worked on the world hunger program with Bob Dole and joh—and McGovern, George McGovern. And we both learned a great deal. Like I never knew this country had so much grain and food in storage bins. And if they don't use it if—for whatever reason it can't be distributed to another country. They dump it in the ocean.



SL: Isn't that so . . .

MW: And Carl just thought that was such a waste, and he was trying to do something about that. Of course, part of the problem is, as he always was—said and was working on, once you get the country to agree to take the gift—sometimes they don't always wanna take the gift of food. But once they do, then getting it distributed to those who need it after you get there . . .

SL: Right.

MW: And that's a major accomplishment in itself because sometimes people will steal the money, sell it on the bl—I mean, steal the . . .

SL: Grain.

MW: . . . food, grain, whatever it is, sell it on the black market. Sometimes it will go to waste because all the trucks have flat tires if they're in a real poor country, and it can't be delivered in time. Just a lot of problems.

[03:02:20] SL: Seems like I remember David Lambert talking about some of that logistical problems.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Once . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . just getting it there is one thing, but getting it . . .

MW: Right. Logistical is . . .

SL: . . . distributed is . . .

MW: . . . a good word for it.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And so—but yes, he enjoyed it very much. And course, he knew a lot about farmers being from [*laughs*] from Arkansas.

[03:02:41] SL: So, yeah, rice farming in Arkansas. And that's mostly Delta stuff now . . .

MW: Yes, it is.

SL: . . . right? And it's kind of replaced cotton, hadn't it?

MW: I think it did, yeah. I think there's still a little cotton farming.

SL: Yeah, I don't really see . . .

MW: But not a lot.

SL: . . . much.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Whenever I'm over there.

MW: You don't.

SL: No.

MW: Yeah. But the—I was trying to think of anything what he would tell you. I'd have to look in some of his files [*laughs*] and . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . see.

[03:03:09] SL: Well, so . . .

MW: I was gonna—I had something I wanted to read you that will tell . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: I love this about Carl. [*Paper shuffles*] It was written—don't worry, I'm not reading it all.

SL: It's the obituary?

MW: It was written by Ernie Dumas.

SL: Yes.

MW: And it was after he died. And he's speaking of Carl, and he says, "Were it not for the random remarks of George S. McGovern at a lecture at the College of the Ozarks last spring, we'd never have known that Whillock was the father of a vast food-aid program to poorer nations. It is safe to say that one of the benefi—if—he was one that the beneficiers—beneficiaries never heard his name." And then it goes on and talks about that. And let's see, what else it says about this. Okay. No. Well, I'll read you this bit while I have this open. Talking about Carl and diff—he had different careers, you know. "He had been a sailor, a minister, a businessman, a teacher, an attorney, a vice president of the University of Arkansas, the president of Arkansas State University, an advisor to a congressman and to governors and

senators, the CEO of the Arkansas Electric Cooperative, and a special assistant for agriculture and trade to the president of the United States." [03:04:43] How's that for an obituary?

SL: That's a [*laughs*] nice resume.

MW: Yeah, that is a nice resume. And . . .

SL: Hired. I'd hire that guy . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . in a flash.

MW: And David Gearhart, after Carl died—David and Carl were very close friends, too. We saw David and Jane some when they were in Pennsylvania and came down to Washington. And David—my children wanted to do something in Carl's memory, and so he helped see that a bench was put outside of Old Main in Carl's memory.

SL: That's beautiful.

MW: Isn't that nice? Yeah. And David made up the—their—the plaque, what it says, that goes on it, that's by it. So that was a very nice thing for him to do.

[03:05:26] SL: I really like David and Jane. I . . .

MW: Oh, aren't they great?

SL: Well, you know, as a kid growing up, I would play baseball with Jane. She lived over on Rush Drive. And David and I were

debate partners in high school.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And so we go back a ways. I really don't think we'd be where we are now without David and Jane.

MW: Yeah.

SL: In this place.

MW: [*Laughs*] Well, you know, the world turns.

SL: It does.

MW: Doesn't it.

SL: It does.

MW: It does.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But that's nice. That's good. But I was try—I cannot think of any of his other big programs off the top of my head. I hate to tell you that, but I really can't. But he enjoyed the work. I mean, what a privilege to work for the President and First Lady of the United States of America. My gosh. That was really the cap of—the icing of his career, the cap of it.

[03:06:17] SL: And he—you think he really reveled in that the most of any of the work he did?

MW: Well, I think he liked that, and he liked education. Those were his two highest loves, really and truly, I think. He enjoyed the

work at the co-op, and he thought that was very . . .

SL: Important.

MW: . . . worthwhile and h—I think he did a lot of good for them, too.

SL: Well . . .

MW: But yeah.

SL: Well, for the state.

MW: Yeah. We need to get Bob . . .

SL: 'Cause the power companies were . . .

MW: . . . Liffert to tell you about that. Yeah.

SL: Get who?

[03:06:43] MW: Do you know who Bob Liffert is?

SL: No.

MW: He worked for Bill Clinton in the early days, that first campaign.

He's a lawyer. And after Bill Clinton lost to Frank White, well, Carl hired him at the co-op, and he stayed there till he retired a couple of years ago. And he knows all the ins and outs of Carl's co-op career, which is kind of interesting, too. There's a lot to be said about Carl, but my goodness, we'd be here another two days. [*Laughs*]

[03:07:14] SL: Well, you know, I know that I've met Carl on a couple of occasions.

MW: Uh-huh. Sure.

SL: But I never really got a chance to speak with him. And I really regret that. I'm sorry that we weren't in existence . . .

MW: Yeah, the same . . .

SL: . . . in time to get . . .

MW: . . . time, the same place.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah, you just didn't meet at—cross at the same time.

SL: Right.

MW: Sure.

SL: Right.

MW: Yeah. He had lots of friends. Oh my gosh.

[03:07:40] SL: Well, obviously. I mean, ju—if you just count the campaigns and the . . .

MW: Yeah. [*Laughs*]

SL: . . . politicians that he worked with . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . it's just . . .

MW: And the people . . .

SL: That in itself.

MW: You know, when you meet a politician, when you're a friend of a politician, then all those people in that orbit and that ou—the second orbit and the thir—I mean, you meet all those people.

And you all have that common goal. I used to say a political campaign was like a wonderful romance. You know, every—when you have a wonderful new romance, everything is intense, everything's wonderful, everything's exciting. Colors are sharper. And then the election comes along. It's over. The romance is over. It's kinda—you know, you go on to the next thing.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway.

SL: Well, it gets in your blood.

MW: Well, yes. Yeah.

SL: It does.

MW: Obviously.

SL: And there's . . .

MW: Talking to me.

SL: Yeah. [*Laughter*] Yeah. It does. I mean, there's probably not much more rewarding than . . .

[03:08:35] MW: Yeah. And Carl and Hillary always got along very well. She was very fond of him. After—Bill Clinton had a tax reform commission. I look on this piece of paper, I could find you the date. He appointed a tax reform commission in the [19]90s and h—Carl and Hillary headed it. And they traveled all



over this state and had hearings and talked to people about taxes and got new ideas and that kind of thing. It was for a legislative session. They did that about eight or ten months.

SL: Wow.

MW: So they—yeah, and so they spent some time together through that and other things. And then they wrote a report and presented it to the legislature and presented some bills. And of course, as you would expect, the legislature did not pass a lot of it, but they did pass some. And then the next year they passed some more. Carl was very patient. He always said you had to wait, and things would get done, usually, in politics, if they were the right thing. And eventually they did pass a lot of the suggestions they'd made. But you don't hear much about it . . .

SL: No.

MW: . . . anymore. I have some information on it. Yeah.

SL: Well, good.

MW: Yeah. So.

SL: That—what a great opportunity for both Hillary and Carl.

MW: Yeah, for them to get acquainted.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yes.

SL: Yeah.

[03:09:55] MW: After he died, she came back to Fayetteville.

Where—what was she doing here? Was she speak—I guess she was speaking at the university. I honestly can't remember what she was doing here. But she made it a point to call me, and she came to see me and came to see the little house I have on Mount Sequoyah because she said she knew Carl had loved it so much. So wasn't that nice?

SL: Now which house is that?

MW: Oh, it's just one of those little stone cottages on Skyline Drive.

SL: Really?

MW: Uh-huh.

SL: How close is it to where George Shelton lived?

MW: Oh, okay, where Cookie lived?

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah, okay. There's Cookie's house, and then next door to her are the Schaefers. You know them?

SL: Yeah.

[03:10:40] MW: And then next door to them is a little house that has been done over and has a new owner. And then mine's the next one. So I am two—I'm the third house down from the Shelton's.

SL: And—like you were going down the hill.

MW: No, like you were going around the mountain, and you . . .

SL: Around the mountain but . . .

MW: . . . were heading—yeah.

SL: You around the corner.

MW: You—you're on—no, you don't go around the corner.

SL: Oh, okay.

MW: I can see Cookie's house from my . . .

SL: Oh, okay.

MW: . . . front of my—if I stand out in the street of my house, I can  
[laughs] see Cookie's house. Yeah. So you should come see  
me. It's the only house up there with a red roof. And we did it  
over. It was a rent house we'd had for over thirty-odd years.  
And we'd rented it and rented it. One guy lived in it thirteen  
years. Another guy seven years. Scott Van Laningham lived in  
it . . .

SL: I know Scott . . .

MW: . . . seven years, I think.

SL: . . . Van Laningham.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

[03:11:26] MW: And so we'd always said we were gonna fix it up.

We came home from Washington. I said, "Carl"—we'd had—it  
was in awful shape. I said, "We either have to sell it"—'cause

we'd had chances to sell it—"We have to sell it, fix it up, or push it off the mountain. [*SL laughs*] It's an embarrassment." So you know, Sallie, my daughter the architect, fixed it up for us to—we added wh—a sleeping porch was falling off the back end of it. So we just took off that sleeping porch and added a nice big room and big deck back there, which makes it very livable.

[03:12:00] SL: So the other person that I knew that lived up there for a while was not Gail Cooper but her sister.

MW: Oh, yes. Well, that's—her mother lived there. Her mo—her sister was living there when we fixed the house up. It's right next door to our house.

SL: Okay. All right. Now I know where you are.

MW: That's the house that I said had a new owner. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: The—what is their name, Townsend? Sue was her name.

SL: Yes. Yes.

MW: She had—and anyway, they lived in that house. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: They were nice people, too.

SL: Yeah. I remember . . .

[03:12:34] MW: Yeah. Yeah. Do you see the Tollesons?

SL: I—you know, I haven't seen them . . .

MW: Seen 'em in a while.

SL: . . . in a long time. And I feel guilty about that because I feel like I should be [*MW laughs*—I should interview John.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Just for his rock and roll.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: You know.

MW: That's right. That's right.

SL: And his time at Baldwin.

MW: That's true.

SL: 'Cause we had some of his electronics in our band.

[03:12:56] MW: Yeah. And you know, Blanche Lincoln, all the congressmen from Arkansas and the senators and all, they would be around some. We saw—not a lot, but we saw them some. And when there'd be big parties like the Fourth of July at the White House, they'd call, and we'd put 'em on the guest list so they could come in. Every year there was a birthday party for Bill Clinton in August, and sometimes they were really big affairs. Like one year they surprised him and brought in Buffet, you know . . .

SL: Jimmy Buffet.

MW: . . . Jimmy Buffet.

SL: Yeah.

MW: You would've loved that party.

SL: Yeah, well, sure.

MW: That was lots of fun.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And they would usually be on the White House lawn in August, and they would invite people from a lot of the congressional offices. So that was fun, too, you know.

SM: Hey, Scott?

SL: Yes.

SM: I'm being told that the cake is ready to be served. You guys wanna take a break?

MW: Oh.

SL: We can take a break.

MW: Sure.

SM: You guys are about at an hour.

SL: Okay.

MW: Okay.

SL: Okay, we'll take a break now.

[Recording stopped]

[03:13:55] SL: So we were out having birthday cake, and you mentioned something about Ann Landers, and I . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . can't remember—I don't think . . .

MW: Ever—di . . .

SL: . . . we've talked about her at . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . all.

MW: Well, when I went to the White House and stayed for the week before we moved up there, and I stayed in the Queen's Bedroom that week, well, Ann Landers came to town. She was there to help promote the women's military memorial they were building.

SL: Okay.

MW: And so she came as a guest to spend the night at the White House. And the First Lady invited me to dinner with Ann Landers and the president and Carolyn Huber and myself, just the six of us. So that sounded like a wonderful idea. And I went down to have a little glass of wine before dinner with them. And the president wasn't there yet. He was very involved in some political trauma. *[SL laughs]* And he hadn't gotten there yet, but Ann Landers was just delightful. She was very attractive, very attentive, interested in people. And she asked questions

about me, wanted to know about me, and all this stuff. And then in the middle of all that, the First Lady said, "Well, Ann, you'll love—Margaret has a wonderful story to tell you." And so Hillary proceeded to—this was Diane Blair's favorite story, too. And Hillary proceeded to tell the story of me meeting the woman in the grocery store the day before I married Carl, the one that s—and I had two little boys with me. The one that said, "Margaret, everyone in this town thought you were done for." Remember that story?

SL: Yes. Yes.

MW: And I talked back for the only time in my life and said, "I've got more going for me than you think." And so Hillary told Ann Landers that story. Well, Ann Landers just loved it, laughed. We all laughed, you know, we—took a long time telling it and all. [03:15:53] And we waited and waited for Bill Clinton, and he was not showing up. There was a real drama going on. So finally he came in about an hour and a half late, and we [*SL laughs*] sat down to visit. He wanted to get a little better acquainted with Ann Landers. He'd met her. And so we're all visiting, having a grand time. It's a beautiful spring day. And Bill Clinton says, "Oh"—her—she wanted to be called Eppie. That was her real name.



SL: Right.

MW: He said . . .

SL: I member that.

MW: And said, "Oh, Eppie, there's a wonderful story I wanted to tell you about Margaret." [*SL laughs*] So he began to tell the very same story, the story of the woman in the grocery store . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . and my comeback for that. And we all laughed and . . .

SL: [*Laughs*] Like you'd just heard it.

MW: . . . laughed and carried on about—and we just deci—and Hillary said to me later—she said, "Well, Bill had just had such a hard time, I just thought, 'Let him tell it again,'" and we all just laughed like we'd never heard it before.

SL: That's funny.

MW: So that was pretty funny.

SL: Yeah.

[03:16:48] MW: And then I had a lovely letter from her. You—I brought it for them to see of—after that evening together. So she was another interesting person to add to that group, wasn't she?

SL: Yeah. How long did she hold sway?

MW: Oh, for years.

SL: Over what was the . . .

MW: I read . . .

SL: . . . right thing to do.

MW: I used to read her in high school and college.

SL: Me, too.

MW: I read her every day of my life. I read—her daughter does it today.

SL: I know.

MW: I still read it.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But then it was at—more important than it is now. And I told her that. She loved that. I said, "I live my life by your letters, you know, your" . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . "advice and all." [03:17:25] But one thing I did want us to talk about for a minute before we left the White House behind was Hillary and her faith. You know, people always a—during this last campaign, they questioned what her faith—and Hillary was raised as a Methodist Sunday school girl. And you know, the John Wesley creed "Go out into the world and do all the good you can in all the ways you can for all the people you can wherever you can." And Hillary has lived by that creed all of her

life. I think her Methodism, her faith, has kept her going through so many, many bad times that she has suffered through, whether it's personal or political, and I think it is very much part of who she is. But people don't realize that. When she first went to Washington, she wrote a *Newsweek* piece about—I've forgotten the exact title. I've got a copy of it. Something like, "I Am a Meth—Why I'm a Methodist" or something like that. You know, Methodists are big believers in social justice . . .

SL: Sure.

MW: . . . social policies, helping the world. They say we're all born missionaries if you're a Methodist. And I just think that—I wanted people to know more that side of her. I wish they had. [03:18:46] When I lived in Little Rock, she belonged to the First United Methodist Church, and so did we. Downtown, the old church. And she would come often when she was the first lady of Arkansas. And she brought Chelsea to that church. I think Chelsea would tell you that she was raised in that church. And you would—she would always kinda sit in the same area of the church. You'd see her. She would come and teach Sunday school some. She taught my Sunday school class over the years, different times, different subjects. Not for a long time,

maybe a two or three week run, but she did participate in the life of the church. Every year she and the governor, Bill Clinton, would have the Methodist picnic grounds on—picnic, its church picnic, on the Governor's Mansion grounds. And then sh—I saw her going to the church in Washington. I told you about seeing her at the—you know what—when Caroline got her Bible in the third grade.

SL: Right.

[03:19:50] MW: She—and then another thing—when our church in Little Rock—after I came back from Washington. And Carl had died by this time. Our church was 150 years old. It's one of the oldest in Arkansas. And the preacher asked me if I would invite Hillary to come for the celebration of being 150 years old, the church. And I said, "Well, you know, you should have someone else higher up the ladder do that," and he said, "No, no." He said, "We've already done that. We want [*laughs*] you to invite her." And so I did invite her. And by golly, she accepted. And she did come, to everyone's surprise so to speak, to speak at the 150th anniversary of the Methodist church in Little Rock. And that was—I think that was in the middle of that second—that first campaign for president. And she did not have to do that, but she did. So that was a great occasion. And I had my

granddaughter Annie with me, who was about eleven or twelve then and lived in Little Rock, too. She and her brother, Jack, lived there. They're my son Larry's children. And Annie and I went in church with Hillary, and we sat by her during that service. So that was really a nice occasion. But I just wish people knew more about her Methodist beliefs.

[03:21:11] SL: I do, too. And I don't think—I think you're right. I don't think many do.

MW: They don't. I always thought that *Newsweek* article needed to be [*laughs*] printed as a political handout.

SL: Yeah.

MW: You know.

SL: Yeah. It would be.

MW: Yeah.

SL: It'd be a good thing to quote. And that church is a beautiful church.

MW: It is a beautiful church.

SL: It's a magnificent church.

MW: Gosh, yes.

SL: How . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: I'm tryin' to think. I was at a service there maybe for—who was

it?

MW: A wedding? A funeral . . .

SL: No, I think it was . . .

MW: . . . or something, probably.

SL: . . . Doyle Rogers, maybe. I think he . . .

[03:21:42] MW: Dale Bumpers service was there. You know, the  
Bumpers came home and . . .

SL: Oh! Yes.

MW: . . . went to that church.

SL: We actually did the . . .

MW: Did you do—yeah.

SL: . . . that whole show.

MW: Now that wa . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: I was there. That was a wonderful service, and they were very  
active until their health began to fail some at that church . . .

SL: We . . .

MW: . . . too.

SL: I think we interviewed eighteen people at that service.

MW: Oh. Oh, really?

SL: After the service.

MW: Probably. Probably. There were a lot of people there for sure.

[03:22:08] SL: Right. So a little earlier—or wait a minute. What about Chelsea Clinton . . .

MW: Oh.

SL: . . . in the White House?

MW: Yeah.

SL: Did you . . .

MW: Oh, I saw her some, but not much. Chelsea was in high school and go—and off to college while I was there, so . . .

SL: Oh, okay.

MW: . . . you know, she was—I did not see—especially off to college after I got there.

SL: Right.

MW: So I did not see her a lot.

SL: Okay.

MW: I think she graduated from college the year we got out of the White House, but I'm not sure. [03:22:38] Chelsea's birthday was this week, I believe, and she was—or—yeah, I think it was this week. She was thirty-seven.

SL: I can't believe that.

MW: Thirty-seven.

SL: I cannot believe that.

MW: I know it. She's a lovely person. She's like—she got her

parents' intellect, you know. She's so smart and capable and all those good things. You know, I know several people in washin—in New York working for her now. They're . . .

SL: And they're all crazy about her.

MW: Yeah, oh yeah. They are. Isn't that nice?

SL: That is nice.

MW: Yeah.

[03:23:12] SL: Okay. Now not to get too far from the White House yet.

MW: Yeah.

SL: But you mentioned something about being involved with Al Gore as well.

MW: Oh, yes. Well, I used to go and—just in the way that I would take people to see him. Or they would call me—one time they called me, and they were having—I don't know. People are nuts sometimes, aren't they? They were having a hard time getting Al Gore's high school band into the White House for a tour. Where was he from over in Tennessee?

SL: Right.

MW: I can't remember the name of the town now, but it wasn't a great big town.

SL: No.



MW: And so you know, I got a call and said, "We've got 125 band people [*SL laughs*] coming. They say the list is full, there's no way they can get in." And I said, "Oh, lemme work on that," you know. And so I appealed to the Secret Service. I said, "The vice president of the United States of America's [*laughs*]*—*you know. We need to get this band in."

SL: Right.

MW: And we did.

SL: Right.

[03:24:09] MW: And then sometimes people would come, I'd give them a tour, take them through, or talk to 'em, and then I'd take 'em over to his office and wait while he talked to them. And he was very interested in the global warming then. He had in his office one of the first smart—I call it erasable board I'd ever seen, like they use on the weather now. You know, you can touch it and move around the world and show you weather patterns. And I took a group of men who were in—with the EPA and interested in that. And I s—I usually—they wanted somebody to stay with 'em so if they needed to move 'em out of the room or someth . . .

SL: Right.

MW: You know, they had a way . . .

SL: It'd be . . .

MW: . . . to get people out and that kind of thing. [03:24:53] And he had to go to a meeting, but he left them there to look at this smart board he had because they understood what it was all about and the weather and the environment, and I stayed. And it was interesting to learn about that, too. So, yes . . .

SL: So he . . .

MW: . . . I thought he was such a nice man. He was another intellectual guy. And he was—you notice how many people around the Clintons I say were intellectual. And that's really true.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And he was easy to be with. Every year we would be invited to a Christmas party at their house, at the vice president's mansion. And then things would come along, and we'd go there for other things, too. And Tipper was very warm and outgoing, and just a lot of good things about them.

[03:25:42] SL: That's the naval observatory, right?

MW: Yes. Yes.

SL: And you know, I've driven by it so many times on Massachusetts Avenue.

MW: Yeah.

SL: But I've never seen it. Is it . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . is it just magnificent?

MW: You can't see it from the street.

SL: Right.

MW: You have to—it's a lar—it's—what it is, basically, is another very large old house sitting back on the acreage. And it's two story, and it rambles around, and then you go in, and it's full of beautiful furniture, and it's light and airy and better than you'd ever expect it to be. And then out back they have a typical back yard where they can have a lot of people out there, too.

[03:26:21] The Kennedys would be there sometimes. I believe I met Eunice there the first time, that kind of thing. We used to see the Kennedys some around the White House, and that would always be exciting. [*Laughs*]

SL: Well, they're such icons.

MW: Yeah.

SL: You know, that whole family.

MW: Yes. Such a fascinating group of people.

SL: And there's an emotional . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . an amar . . .

MW: And I—yeah . . .

SL: For all of America, there's an emotional attachment to that family.

[03:26:45] MW: And you know, Ted was so—he was so friendly and outgoing. He was very—a really good guy, nice man. And I'm not sure where he lived, but we'd see him sometime in our neighborhood with his wife, of course, when he—they went out to eat. There was a restaurant we used to go to called Simpson, Miss Simpson's, you know, after Wallis Simpson, the Prince of Wales and all that. And it was named for her, and we used to see them there occasionally. So.

SL: It's so fu—it's so—there's—there had to be something surreal about seeing all these great folks.

MW: I know. It was just . . .

SL: Just being surrounded by them or just bumping into them at the store or . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . at a restaurant or . . .

MW: Yeah. A small restaurant, really, but a nice neighborhood restaurant.

SL: Right.

MW: You know, good food and all. And anywa—they did go in the

back room to eat. [*Laughter*] That's how you knew—you know, the Secret Service came in first. That was always your first . . .

SL: That's right.

MW: . . . clue that someone was coming. [03:27:47] Bill Clinton left a cabinet meeting to come to Carl's retirement party in Washington in [19]96. They had a retirement party for him in Little Rock, and they had one in Washington, too, and it was at the Washington Hotel. And Nancy Hernreich called and said, "So sorry. The president has a cabinet meeting, and he can't come." Well, you know, we didn't really count on those things till they happened. And then all of a sudden, I notice these men in suits and ties lifting up the tablecloths and looking under the tables. You know, the cloths that went to the floor and that sort of thing, and checking the windows and doors, and I thought . . .

SL: So you knew.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: And he is gonna come after all. And Nancy Hernreich told us that later he said to his cabinet, "I am going to cut this short and leave you all because one of—the first man who believed in me and helped me get started is having a retirement party, and I'm going." And he got up and left. Wasn't that lovely?

SL: It is.

[03:28:51] MW: And he came to the party, and he was very emotional. We all were [*laughs*] about it, you know. So I have great . . .

SL: I can understand that.

MW: . . . photos of that, too.

SL: Yeah.

MW: So. The stories go on and on, don't they?

[03:29:04] SL: They do. I wanna ask you about someone that was—that I—a friend of mine that was working for Al Gore back—at . . .

MW: Then.

SL: . . . the White House in those days.

MW: Yeah.

SL: His name was Greg Simon.

MW: Oh yeah. Sure. Sure, I met him. I went to—we went to dinner at his house at the end of the administration. Really, we just got acquainted with them at the end of everythi—the last year, you know. But he—interesting guy. He's still around here, isn't he?

SL: Well, he's in DC.

MW: He come—yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah, he's in DC, but . . .

SL: And he's actually . . .

MW: . . . he comes home to Arkansas . . .

SL: He does.

MW: . . . from Batesville or Blytheville?

SL: Blytheville. He's from Blytheville.

[03:29:39] MW: Yeah.

SL: And he comes to Fayetteville every once in a while. He's good friends with me.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And Merideth Boswell and—but he was the drummer in my band.

MW: Oh. [*Laughs*]

SL: My rock-and-roll band.

MW: Oh, was he really?

SL: Yes.

MW: Oh, I love that. I love that. Well, he's done very well for himself, too.

SL: Well, he's done good work.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And now he's doin—or the last thing he was doing for the White House was with Joe Biden and the Cancer Moonshot.

MW: Oh really?

SL: He's a cancer survivor.

MW: Oh, okay. Well, wonderful. Good. Good.

SL: Well, gosh.

MW: Yeah.

[03:30:10] SL: I'm glad that you know him. I . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: I wish you could tell me some good stories that I could . . .

MW: Well, I don't . . .

SL: . . . hold over him, but . . .

MW: Yeah. Carl knew him bet—you know, Carl worked with some of these people more than I did like Greg Simon and all.

SL: Yeah.

MW: So I did not really know him that well, you know. [03:30:26]

One of our other surreal stories at the White House is Carl was great friends with the—several of the men at the German embassy because of the trade we had with Germany and the agriculture trade and all that. And they used to go to lunch together and so forth and so on. And they invited us to the fiftieth luncheon celebration of the Republic of Germany. World War II had been over for fifty years. And you know, the US set Germany up as a democracy, so to speak.

SL: Right.



MW: They called it Republic of Germany. And so they had this huge party. Or it wasn't that huge, really. I was surprised. And we went—anyway, we went to the party. It was lovely, as you would expect. But what was so interesting to me was it was full of German—good looking men and women, and these German men had on their military uniforms, their medals. They had those high boots on.

SL: Oh my gosh.

[03:31:23] MW: And we were out on a terrace. They had a beautiful—in Georgetown—a beautiful embassy with land, you know, or garden and terrace and all that. And we were standing out on this terrace, and I remember thinking, "Wow, this is just like a movie from the 1940s or something, you know." And they were wonderful people. We made good friends with several of them and used to go to dinner together.

SL: Wow.

MW: Yeah.

SL: So but it—they didn't look like Nazis or anything.

MW: Oh, no. No, no.

SL: No.

MW: They were nice people. [*SL laughs*] They—oh, gosh, no. No.

SL: No, I mean, you're talking about the boots and . . .

MW: I know.

SL: . . . uniforms.

MW: And the military uniforms. It was just sort of surreal, I thought, though.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But anyway. So.

SL: So, wow.

MW: It was an interesting experience to go and hear them all sing and, you know, their—they were very proud of their fifty years of democracy. As they should be.

SL: Well, yeah.

MW: It's a wonderful country.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

[03:32:23] SL: So we're gonna try and segue out of the White House but . . .

MW: We keep it. . .

SL: . . . that was . . .

MW: I keep getting you back there.

SL: No, no, no. [*MW laughs*] And I love that.

MW: Oh.

SL: I could spend the rest of this time just talkin' about your time at

the White House.

MW: Oh.

SL Ya—I mean, and if there's something that comes up . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . in our . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: . . . remaining time here . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . I want you to bring it up.

MW: Oh.

SL: Don't hesitate.

MW: Well, I hadn't thought about the German embassy birthday celebration in a long time. That was really special.

SL: You know, let's—we did just mention in passing—and we talked about this a little bit at lunch—or at the cake. Hillary land. What . . .

MW: Oh, yeah, yeah.

[03:33:00] SL: What—tell me about Hillary land.

MW: Well, that was fun. Well, that was just kind of a loose name they gave to people who worked for Hillary. Hillary land. And it drew from different parts of the White House and her staff, the White House staff, maybe. And we would have meetings, and

they'd say, "There's a Hillary land meeting," and you know, we'd all go and talk about what—her latest project. Maybe it was the Save American Treasures—you know, that was one of her big projects as First Lady. They donate—they designated so many historic sites that needed to be saved through financial support, that kind of thing, that were at—important to the history of that particular state or for the nation. And we'd have meetings about that sometime. And people—they'd bring you up to date on what was happening. And then sometimes we'd have parties. We'd all get together and just—you know, it was a lot of younger women for Ann McCoy and for me. [*Laughs*] And they were always lots of fun to be with. They were energetic. They worked hard. The salaries weren't that good at the White House in those days. They still aren't, probably.

SL: Probably not.

MW: Yeah.

[03:34:16] SL: Okay, so what—someone we haven't really talked about much that we've mentioned a few times, and I know that she was very much a friend of the Clintons, was Diane Blair.

MW: Oh, yes. We can talk about . . .

SL: And Diane Kincaid. Diane Blair.

MW: . . . Diane forever. Yeah. Before . . .

SL: So . . .

MW: . . . that, let me mention very quickly about Stephanie Streett.

Do you know Stephanie?

SL: I have met Stephanie.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I've talked with Stephanie over the phone. We have a—when the administra—when Bill's administration was over, the University of Virginia, Miller Center . . .

MW: Yes, I know about that. I did an interview for them, and the guy who did it never got it back to me. I heard it was—it was some guy that was leaving. Carl did one. They got his done. But that guy was leaving here, and he was not leaving on a good note, and so mine went to nothing. [*Laughs*]

SL: Oh really.

MW: Yeah.

SL: It was ju—it was—was it done here or at Miller Center?

MW: No, it was done here.

SL: Andrew Dowdle?

MW: It was done in Arkansas. Who'd you say?

SL: It wasn't Andrew Dowdle, was it?

MW: N—it wasn't the main guy. Ellen Compton used to be able to tell me. She knew who the guy was, and she said he wasn't very

good.

SL: Oh, gosh.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I'm so sorry to hear that.

MW: I was, too, because I would like to have had it. I'd like to have seen it, but anyway. It never . . .

SL: I'll find out what's going on with that.

MW: Oh, I don't think he a—I don't think anything was ever done with it. You can see. 'Cause I never heard back.

SL: Okay.

MW: But I'd love for you to find out.

SL: I will.

MW: That'd be great. Yeah.

SL: I can find out for that.

MW: But . . .

[03:35:50] SL: But you know, the Miller Center in Virginia . . .

MW: Yes, I do know that.

SL: University of Virginia is where the . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . president . . .

MW: Sure.

SL: Or a number of presidents had . . .

MW: You . . .

SL: . . . historically . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: They had gotten the . . .

MW: Right.

SL: . . . presidential . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . interviews. Well, the—at the time, there was an agreement between the Pryor Center and the Miller Center that the Pryor Center would interview Bill Clinton about all of his pre-presidential years and post-presidential years.

MW: Right.

SL: And the Miller Center would get the presidential years.

MW: Right.

[03:36:22] SL: Well, that never came about. I—we haven't—we still haven't gotten our interview with Bill.

MW: Really.

SL: And of course we'd love to interview Hillary, too.

MW: Yeah.

SL: But . . .

MW: Well, that's too bad. Well, now, you look and see—I'd love to know if you find anything. And Carl did one for them. I do know

that.

[03:36:38] SL: And did he get anything back?

MW: Yeah. He got his back. He did an interview with the same person I did, and he got his back and, you know, marked it up and sent it back to 'em and . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: . . . that kind of thing. So I think it . . .

SL: So . . .

MW: It should be there.

SL: Did he do that here or over in Virginia?

MW: No, he did it here.

SL: He did it here.

MW: He did it here. Yeah.

SL: I'm gonna find out about this stuff.

MW: Yeah. I'm not sure where in Arkansas, but he did it here.

SL: Okay.

MW: If it was Little Rock or up here.

SL: Okay.

MW: You know.

SL: I'll find out about that stuff.

MW: Okay. Good. Good. But no, that was a good idea, a good project.



SL: Right.

MW: Yeah.

SL: It—well, yeah, and it . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: Maybe it'll come to pass but . . .

MW: Maybe so.

[03:37:17] SL: So I forget where I was going.

MW: Well, we were talking for a minute about . . .

SL: Oh, je—Diane Blair.

MW: Stephanie—oh, Diane Blair.

SL: And you wanted . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . to talk about . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . Stephanie Streett . . .

MW: Yes.

SL: . . . as well.

MW: Stephanie, you know, is a home-grown Arkansas product from Russellville, and she has—did a wonderful job at the White House. She worked with Shannon Dixon, Shannon . . .

SL: Randy's better half.

MW: Yes. [*SL laughs*] And they ran the—she was the scheduler, so if

you wanted on Bill Clinton's calendar, you needed to see Shannon and Stephanie.

SL: Stephanie.

MW: And Stephanie did a great job, and she was part of that Oval Office operation with Nancy Hernreich and those women.

[03:37:59] And you know, we used to get together and have breakfast sometime and talk about what was going on or what we were doing, that kind of thing. And Stephanie was always helpful. And then she came home. And she's run the Clinton Foundation ever since the end of the administration. So she's pretty amazing in her own right, plus raising three little girls.

SL: Gosh.

MW: They're all—you know, the youngest one's probably in the sixth grade, if that old. And anyway. She—interesting. [03:38:26] And Diane Blair was an old friend. I remember meeting Diane when she first married and came to Fayetteville. And they had a tea for her. Her in-laws did. You know, teas were—they're . . .

SL: They . . .

MW: . . . a thing of the past now, but your mother knew all about . . .

SL: Ye—oh, absolutely . . .

MW: . . . teas, and Barbara . . .

SL: . . . and I remember. I remember.

MW: . . . your sister, does—yeah.

SL: Yes. I remember them . . .

[03:38:44] MW: And that's the first time I met Diane. And she was always lots of fun. Diane was in her own right an intellectual. She was extremely smart. She saw things quickly. She had a good mind. She could grasp problems. She could help solve problems. And she was interested in the larger world. That's what I always said. One thing I thought—someone asked me what Hillary did for me once. And I said, "Well, among other things, when she came to Fayetteville, I think she helped give me a larger world perspective." And I would say that about Diane, too. And you know, they bonded. There was no doubt that Diane was Hillary's best friend in Arkansas. And Diane—I have a lot of letters and post cards from her. I'm trying to get 'em all in one folder so that I can—you know, when I send the things to the university . . .

SL: Right.

MW: . . . I'll have them. But she was the best about sending birthday cards and writing funny notes and that kind of thing. So. And they always had—after she and Jim Blair married, they always had a Christmas party, and we used to try to come to Fayetteville every year to go to the Christmas party. It was fun.

[03:40:01] SL: I forget—maybe it was in the Roy Reed interview that he did with Diane. Late, I mean, it was late in her illness. Seemed like Hillary had her come up and stay for a while.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I don't know if it was—I think it was the first—yeah, it would've been the first administration.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And I forget what the . . .

MW: And before Diane got—became ill, she came other times. I'd see her when she came to the White House. You know, she'd always let me know, and I'd go upstairs and see her usually, that kind of thing. But yeah.

SL: Well, she was—she really established herself as a go-to person, politically, I think across the state.

MW: Oh, she did. And you know, she came to Little Rock and lived that second—the second campaign.

SL: Campaign. Yes.

MW: Yeah.

SL: That's correct.

MW: And we saw . . .

SL: In a little, tiny apartment.

MW: . . . her some then. And we saw her some then. And then she

went to Washington and worked for—who'd she work for? One of the big founda—the Brookings—is it? Do you know the big foundation I mean?

SL: I . . .

MW: Really a high-powered . . .

SL: May have been Brookings.

MW: And they're . . .

SL: That sounds right.

MW: . . . intellectual kind of one. And she came to Washington and worked for them for, I don't know, six months or something like that. And but not while I was there. She'd done that by the time I got there. And yeah, she came up there a—not excessively or anything, but a lot, really. She had a lot of nice invitations. [03:41:41] One time she came and Stevie Wonder, if . . .

SL: Kay.

MW: . . . you—the musician.

SL: Sure.

MW: He's lost his eyesight, right. And he came to the White House one afternoon, and he really wanted to play a concert for Hillary. And her friends. So Diane and Hillary called me up, and the three of us went down, and we set in one corner of this big, big

sofa and chair and laughed and talked while he played for us all afternoon practically. [*Laughter*]

SL: Oh, wow.

MW: It was just—or not all afternoon, but couple of hours, anyway.

SL: Wow.

MW: I know. Isn't that amazing?

SL: That is amazing and very—I've never heard . . .

MW: And I met him.

SL: . . . of anything like that with Stevie Wonder.

MW: Oh.

SL: That's really . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: That's big.

[03:42:29] MW: I know it. It was. [*Laughs*] Well, he was there—there was something going on. Used to they had something called at the White House called An Evening in the White House.

SL: Yes.

MW: Like every other month during the winter, we would have—usually—I liked it better when we had musicians, and then they switched. And sometimes they'd have a lecture that would be so intellectual you couldn't understand it.

SL: Right.

MW: About the stars or something.

SL: Right.

[03:42:52] MW: But anyway. But they—he may have been there for that or some other big occasion. Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: So that was fun. I will never forget that. We had more fun sitting in there. And then Diane would be at all of the—oh, conventions. You know, New York, Chicago, that sort of thing.

SL: The delegate.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yeah, always a delegate.

MW: I guess she was a delegate. I don't know. But the one in Chicago—she called me up. She said, "Okay, Margaret. We're gonna have a private party. It's gonna be you, me, Hillary"—and she named a few other people. "And we're just gonna—Hillary would like to see some of her friends from Arkansas, and we're just gonna have a little, private luncheon. So don't say anything to people, and here's when it is, and here's where it is." And I thought, "Wow, what fun! That'll be great." And then next thing I know, the phone rings. [*Laughs*] Se—you know, the next day, and someone had gotten wind of it. And the little private luncheon grew to about 225 women.

SL: Oh.

MW: You know, you couldn't leave these—this out, you couldn't leave that . . .

SL: That's right.

MW: So we never got our small private luncheon.

SL: Oh.

MW: But anyway. Yeah. [03:43:56] But Diane was always good about things like that. And she and Carl really bonded. She met Carl when she was working for Stuart Symington . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: . . . in Washington before she married and came to Arkansas. And that's when they had first met, so they had a lot in common, too.

SL: Now she and Bill Kincaid met in DC, didn't they?

MW: She and Hugh Kincaid.

SL: Hugh.

MW: Yes.

SL: I mean Hugh. Yes.

MW: Yes. And Carl knew them during that time.

SL: Oh, okay. Yeah.

MW: Carl was working for the congressman from Berryville.

SL: Right.



MW: And that's how he knew them.

SL: Okay.

MW: And used to see them a lot. His family then was back in Arkansas, and he was in Washington, so he saw a lot of Hugh and Diane before they married ev—this is before they married I—yeah. It was. So.

[03:44:47] SL: Let's see, there was one other question I was . . .

MW: And you know, Diane and Hillary were both—Hillary started—you've heard all that. She started the rape crisis center here, the legal defense fund or whatever . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . the proper name of it is. And I feel like Diane was a good part of a lot of that.

SL: They believed in . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . the good things, didn't they?

MW: Yeah. That's right.

[03:45:11] SL: One name that hasn't come up and I—is Betsey Wright.

MW: Oh, yes, of course. I hadn't thought of Betsey in a long time. Betsey we knew very well at one point in time. She moved next door to us, in fact, in Little Rock. We helped her find a house to

live in. When she came—you know, she came when Bill Clinton had lost the governor's race, really. And she was the most exacting person, one of 'em, I've ever seen. She was the very best at details, and she knew how to get things done. She had an excellent political mind in those days. And we, you know, we got along with Betsey. We had a lot of fun with her, too. She used to come over to our house. She was so close. The kids were little. She knew all of them. And anyway, it was—yeah. Ask me some more about her. You know, she's not well. She's down in Texas, and I'm so sorry.

[03:46:12] SL: Oh, she's in Texas now.

MW: Yeah. Well, that's where she was from.

SL: I see.

MW: She was from kind of an—her daddy was a doctor in Alpine, Texas. Is that the n . . .

SL: That sounds familiar.

MW: Down in the panhandle, and that's where she was from. And her father had died, and then her mother died young and left, like, six, seven chil . . .

SL: Oh.

MW: . . . young children still in high school, grade school. And Betsey went home and—left the University of Texas, went home and

raised them, and then came back, went back and finished her education after they were on their own and out of high school.

SL: That's beautiful.

[03:46:51] MW: But she was a hard worker. Boy, she was a—she was the taskmaster. [*Laughs*]

SL: We actually—I didn't get to work with her much, but she did a series of some of our interviews.

MW: Oh, did she do you . . .

SL: For us.

MW: Good.

SL: From Bill's staff.

MW: Yeah.

SL: As the governor's staff.

MW: I'm glad. And you know, Bobby Roberts was . . .

SL: Bobby Roberts.

MW: . . . so good to her. He ga—he was always a great guy. He is a great guy. And he gave her a job in Little Rock.

SL: Yes.

MW: And—at the—what do they call it. The Center . . .

SL: CALS.

MW: The Arkansas . . .

SL: Center . . .

MW: What—yeah.

SL: Central Arkansas Libraries. The Butler Center.

MW: What i—the Butler Center. He gave her a job there, and I thought that was so nice. And she did some interviews with people there.

SL: Yes.

[03:47:40] MW: Yeah. And she too—called me and said we were going to do one, but then we never did it. I couldn't do it at the right time, and she became ill and . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: I think she went to Texas from there. I'm not s—clear. But . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: Bobby would know. [*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah.

SL: I like Bobby.

MW: Boy, she worked hard for Bill Clinton. She did her best.

[*Laughs*]

SL: Yeah. I wish we'd gotten to her earlier.

MW: Yeah. Well, she would've been an interesting one. Course, she knew so much about Ken Starr, and we've . . .

SL: Oh . . .

MW: . . . not talked about him.

SL: . . . we gotta talk about Ken Starr.

[03:48:18] MW: We'll go through this real quick.

SL: Well, we don't have . . .

MW: Cause . . .

SL: . . . to do it quick, but we need to talk about it.

MW: Ken Starr—I wish to say I always wanted David Maris—

Maraniss—you know who that is? The author. He wrote that book *First in His Class* about Bill Clinton, which I think is the best book ever written about Bill Clinton as he was when we first knew him. But I always wanted the author, David Maraniss, to come to Little Rock or to Arkansas and write a book about the many people across this state who had their lives drastically affected by Ken Starr. [03:48:54] Just to give you one funny example is a friend of ours is an architect in Little Rock. And he had a firm of his own. And he redesigned the building that the savings and loan was in that Jim McDougal had.

SL: Okay.

MW: And the—Ken Starr had the FBI come and interview him like two or three times, haul out his personal architectural files, his architectural cabinets. Not just about that job . . .

SL: All of it.

MW: . . . but about all the other jobs he'd done, which he laughed and said he didn't mind one bit. The office was overcrowded, and it made a lot more room after [*laughter*] they got rid of all those files. And so you know—and he had done that job like three or four y—five years ahead before that. And what in the world did they think the architect would know about? What were they looking for in his plans? Isn't that just crazy?

SL: It is crazy.

[03:49:53] MW: And then you had—we n—everybody knows the story of Jim McDougal and Susan and what—and they really treated her awful. Just awful. And she did not really . . .

SL: Break.

MW: . . . deserve that and had not done anything. And then you had other people that we knew . . .

SL: And she stood up to that. I mean, she . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . held onto that and . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . served time for that.

MW: And they could not break her.

SL: That's right.

MW: Yeah. And she would not change her story. [03:50:21] And

then we had another friend who was a single mother, and she ended up with a \$75,000 legal bill. And they said, "Oh, if you're innocent, we'll pay you back." Well, you know, she filed all—they—she did nothing that convi—there was nothing to that except the legal going to court and saying, "No, I didn't do that," or whatever. And when it came time to pay her back, she only got \$40,000 out of \$75,000. They had reasons why they couldn't pay her the rest of it. I mean, when you're a single mother—and we had a banker friend who told us that he spent a half a million dollars defending himself and his son. [03:51:02] And I mean, it was just awful. It really was. There was another guy we knew who had a drugstore, and the FBI came to see him. And they took—he had pictures on the wall of himself, with, I don't know, Bill Clinton, himself with Jim Guy Tucker, you know, those kind of things a lot of people do. So the FBI went around and looked at all of his pictures and came back the next day and took pictures of his pictures. [*Laughs*] Did—you know. And the—he li—it cost him a lot of money, too. I never did get a dollar figure on his. But I just thought someone should have written a book about how many lives he affected in a very negative way. And it was all a witch hunt. What'd they spend, \$70 million?

[03:51:53] SL: It's awful.

MW: And they found one thing that Jim McDougal had done and put that guy in prison where he died.

SL: And put Susan in prison.

MW: Oh, yes, for a long time. At least she got out alive.

SL: Yeah.

MW: But yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Oh, I know.

SL: I was so . . .

MW: I guess the McDougals were the only ones that really suffered through that.

SL: Well, somehow or nother Steve Smith . . .

MW: Well, yeah. Steve was involved, and so . . .

SL: In the governor's side of it.

MW: . . . was Archie. Yeah.

[03:52:22] SL: And w—Archie was involved with the Espy . . .

MW: Yeah, it was . . .

SL: . . . thing—secretary Es—agriculture.

MW: Yes. Oh, we can talk about that, too, 'cause Carl always thought he was innocent. And you know, agri—he was proven innocent, and when Carl was at agri—I have that in my files. They did—



they had Espy come up, and they had his portrait done, and they hung his portrait with the other secretaries of agriculture and kind of, you know, made a big deal out of it, which they should have.

SL: Yeah.

MW: He was not guilty of anything.

[03:52:52] SL: I was at that Tyson party that Espy attended with his girlfriend.

MW: Oh, were you? [*Laughs*] Yes. I remember hearing about that. Yeah.

SL: Did you ever hear about Barbara's testimony on that?

MW: No. Did . . .

SL: They subpoenaed Barbara Pryor . . .

MW: Did—at th—Ken Starr?

SL: Well, Espy did.

MW: Oh, Espy's thi—okay. No, what'd she say?

SL: Well, they were goin' over the party list at that—for that party.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And they go down the list, and they're wantin' to know if there's anybody that she knew was there that is not on the official list. And she said, "Well, Lucille." [*MW laughs*] "Was there." And they go, "We don't have" . . .

MW: "Lucille? Who's that?"

SL: "Who is Lucille?"

MW: Yeah.

SL: And you know, it's a—there's a jury. It's a grand jury.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And it's—actually, it's a lot of African Americans on the jury.

MW: Yeah.

SL; And she says, "Well, that's B.B. King's guitar." [*Laughter*]

[03:53:52] MW: I love it. I love it.

SL: And the jury just went nuts.

MW: Loved it.

SL: They just . . .

MW: Good.

SL: . . . thought that was the best answer they'd . . .

MW: I'll bet.

SL: . . . heard the whole time.

MW: That's great.

SL: Yeah.

[03:54:00] MW: But there was just so much damage done. So many lives were changed, and some of 'em forever. Some careers were ruined.

SL: Yeah.

MW: I don't know whatever happened to Espy, but I hope something good in the long run.

SL: Seems like I heard that he was okay, but I . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: It's been a long, long time.

MW: Yeah. And of course, the whole thing was just a disaster. But anyway. On to other things now. Wanna talk about my children?

[03:54:28] SL: Let's talk about the kids. [*Laughs*]

MW: All right.

SL: You only have six of them.

MW: Yes. Yes. I had three girls and three boys, as I think I told you that's like ordering from Sears, you know . . .

SL: No.

MW: . . . I'll have three of each.

SL: Oh, okay. [*Laughs*]

MW: Because I had three girls first, and then I had three boys after that. And of course, Sallie is the oldest child. And you know, the oldest child does everything the right way. They're always eager to please, and she is always pleased. Isn't that nice?

[*Laughter*] And Sallie had a wonderful high school career here at Fayetteville high. She was very—she did the school

newspaper and all that kind of thing, and she loved doing that. And Sallie's very talented. She could always sew. And she did not inherit that trait from me. I mean, my parents bought her a sewing machine when she was like twelve or thirteen years old, and that girl, she even made . . .

SL: And she loved it.

MW: . . . things for me.

SL: She loved it at twelve.

[03:55:29] MW: Well, I think at that time she did, when she was a young girl. Yeah, she would sew. I still have two outfits she made for me. One of 'em I can still wear. It's a hot pink jumpsuit. But anyway.

SL: Baby. [*Laughs*]

MW: Yeah. And she was always just—you know, she did everything the right way. I had someone tell me once she was all pink and white, and I thought that [*laughs*] described her well at that time in her life. [03:55:54] And then Jenny is my second daughter, and Jenny is—has a sunny disposition. She graduated from Fayetteville High. She was the homecoming queen on the cheer squad, you know, one of those kind. And she had—every time she went out the door, she made a new friend. She made lots of friends, and a lot of 'em are still here in Fayetteville that

she went to high school with. [03:56:17] And then Melissa is my third daughter. And Melissa is always the one who had the kind heart. And she—we left here after her junior year in high school. But Melissa is the one that I meet all of her friends in the grocery store, and they always say the same thing. "Melissa was so much fun." [Laughs] Isn't that a nice compliment?

SL: It is. It is.

MW: And she was the one that always had lots of slumber parties, lots of girls over to the house. She was on the cheer team with her sister, too. [03:56:50] And then we had Larry, who is my oldest son, and he's another one of those, you know, PCs, perfect child. And he always said—he's real laid back. He's real calm and easy going for the rest of us. And he always—his sisters always say that he's such a success because they bossed him around, you know, his three big sisters. And he always says, "I had four mothers growing up. [SL laughs] I had three sisters and one mother, but they thought they were my mother, [laughs] too." And Larry's very talented with his hands. He can make anything. When he was a little boy, he could, too. Like one time the wheel came off the vacuum cleaner, and I thought, "Oh, my gosh, I gotta drag that to the shop and get the vacuum cleaner fixed." And Larry was about eleven years old, and he

said, "You want me to fix that?" and I said, "Yes." He just knew right away what to do. You know, it's just—comes natural to him. And he's—used to make beautiful furniture. I've told him when all—he's in the financial world now, leverage leasing, that kind of thing. And I said, "When all else fails, Larry, you can go to Williamsburg and make a lot of money building that furniture, you know, that they do up there."

SL: Right.

[03:58:04] MW: But anyway. And then next is Brennan, and he is the one that hears the different drummer. He kin—he's—lives in Little Rock. Oh, I didn't tell about their children. Goodness. Larry—I must go back—has a girl and a boy, Annie and Jack. And Jack is a sophomore at Sewanee University in Tennessee.

SL: Sewanee.

MW: Yeah, which i—he loves it. His uncle's . . .

SL: University of the South.

MW: Yes, that's right. His—I've been to visit him up there. It sits on 32,000 acres of land, and that was given to 'em before the Civil War. You know, it was set up as an Episcopal . . .

SL: That's correct.

MW: . . . theology school. And Jack's uncle is on the board there and—his mother's brother and talked—kind of helped persuade

him to go there. But he has loved it. It's been a great opportunity for him. And then Annie is his older sister, and she went to Sewanee a couple of years, and she knows your niece, Porter Pryor.

SL: Is that right?

MW: I guess, yeah. Is that your niece or . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah. Yeah.

SL: Yes, Porter.

[03:59:09] MW: Yeah. Annie and Porter were in the same high school graduating class in Little Rock. And friends. And they were tennis partners, and they got to go play in the tennis state championship. And we were all amazed. We were sayin', "Our Annie's playing in the state championship." And we thought maybe Porter was . . .

SL: I never knew that about Porter . . .

MW: . . . a good influence.

SL: . . . either.

MW: Yeah. And so anyway. That was, you know, that was a good time in her life, and she's finishing up at UALR. So I wanted to go back and cover those two. We'll have to go back and get the others later. [03:59:42] But anyway, back to Brennan, who is

my soft touch, you know. He's the one who never offers criticism or advice. He's laid back, he's easy going. He hears the different drummer. He's the one that didn't show up for the picture a lot of the [*laughs*] time when everyone else did. But and he has several children, too. His children were the ones that were raised after his wife died.

SL: Oh.

MW: That were raised by the others.

SL: Oh.

MW: And so. [04:00:11] And then last is Benjamin, who's my youngest child, and you know him.

SL: I know Ben.

MW: He's here at the university.

SL: Good guy.

MW: Yeah. And he was in Washington when we were, with his family. His oldest son was born there, and when that little boy was four, they—in 2000, he—2000, yeah, 2000, he had his second son up there, too, and he stayed up there a number of years. But of course, Ben and I have a lot of the same interests and all talking about politics. And then he has—his oldest son is Carl Whillock Carter, who is real outgoing and personable and a sophomore at the University of Arkansas. [04:00:52] And then we have



Matthew, who is a s—junior at Fayetteville High. And Matthew is another one who's laid back, offers no criticism [*SL laughs*], is always there to help you, doesn't have a lot of free advice to give you. He's good to be with, good company. And then Ben's baby and my youngest grandchild is Ava, a little girl eight years old. And she is a charmer. She's in the third grade at Vandergriff school here in Fayetteville. [04:01:23] And we need to go back to—Sallie has Rachel, my oldest granddaughter. My oldest and youngest grandchildren live in town. They go from eight years to thirty-three years. [*Laughs*]

SL: Wow.

MW: They're first . . .

SL: What a spread.

MW: . . . cousins. Yeah. And Rachel's married to Neill Sloan and has a little boy, Carter Sloan . . .

SL: Oh, that's . . .

MW: . . . who's six years old. And another little boy who will be two next week, in fact. Well, the eighteenth of March. And his name is Lincoln Sloan. And they are a re—a lovely young family. Rachel's very talented herself. She is—we laughed and said we think she's turning into a businesswoman on us. She's got a business she runs online that's doing surprisingly well. We're

very happy for her.

[04:02:11] SL: And is this interior . . .

MW: No. Well, she started with interior designing, but this is a line of clothing that's sold only online. And I'm—we are just—you know, people, young people buy everything online, don't they?

SL: Yeah, this women's shop here . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . across the hall from us—most of their business is online.

MW: Isn't that . . .

SL: And they actually leased three other rooms upstairs just for storage.

MW: And they sell it online and . . .

SL: Online.

MW: . . . ship it out of here.

SL: I mean, they—yeah, but they . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . do have traffic here, but . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . the bulk of their sales are online.

MW: Isn't that interesting?

SL: It is interesting.

MW: Yeah. [04:02:47] So anyway, I find that in—fascinating. And

then she was always the princess. You know, the first grandchild is the princess. [*SL laughs*] And then my daughter Jenny, the one I told you that lives in Norman, Oklahoma, and married to the urologist—she is a—she has twin boys that—she had two baby boys born the same day. They don't look a thing alike. [*Laughs*] And one is in Little Rock now working with his uncle. He graduated from OU. He's in the financial world. And the other's the one I told you that's in the film and video world in California now. He went to NYU. And then Caroline is the third one. They—she is their sister, and they are v—all three very close. And Caroline I've spoken of, and she lives in Oklahoma, too. So.

[04:03:38] SL: Now the son—the grandson that went to NYU, is that NYU film school?

MW: Yes. He was a . . .

SL: That's a highly revered school.

MW: I know. Wasn't he lucky?

SL: Yeah.

MW: He was—grew up in Norman, finished high school there, and he submitted—he wanted to go to a good film and video school, and he submitted—you had to submit your own movie . . .

SL: Yes.

MW: . . . your own video to be accepted. And he submitted one. I've seen it—about a Chinese dress this woman made in China, and it was her wedding dress, and it travels around, and it ends up in California in about the fifth or sixth gener—woman to own the dress uses it for a wedding dress. And they looked . . .

SL: What a great story.

MW: . . . at that, and if it did not get their attention in the first thirty seconds, they sent it right on down the road. Isn't that interesting?

[04:04:27] SL: That is.

MW: And they didn't even consider you. They only take fifty a year, and I—they have several hundreds that apply.

SL: Well, sure.

MW: So Sam was lucky. And then he gradu . . .

SL: Well, he's gifted.

MW: Yeah, he is gifted. We wanna say that. Yes. And he is—you know, he graduated from NYU. There were like 15,000 or something in his class. I can't remember right now. I went, of course. [*Laughs*].

[04:04:51] SL: Well, I—you know, I've personally met Sallie, Rachel, and Ben.

MW: Oh, sure. Yeah.

SL: And I can tell you that they're all so fine.

MW: Oh, well, that's nice.

SL: And . . .

MW: Thank you.

SL: . . . have been . . .

MW: Thank you.

SL: . . . have been involved in my life . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . in different ways, but . . .

MW: Yeah. Good.

SL: . . . all of 'em in a positive way.

MW: Well, I hope so. Thank you.

SL: Well, of course . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: Sallie was our architect.

MW: That's right. For . . .

SL: And then she retired or moved on . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . from the firm.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And we eventually ended up here.

MW: Now she's moving back to it. [*Laughs*] Yeah.

[04:05:24] SL: And then Rachel, of course. You know, she lived . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . in the rent house.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And that rent house is where my family started.

MW: Oh, was it?

SL: Our firstborn . . .

MW: Okay. Right there.

SL: We were there.

MW: Well, good. Yeah. Good.

SL: And then Ben wa—works for Dean Allen.

MW: Yeah.

SL: And we used to be housed in the library.

MW: Yes. Yes.

SL: And he helped set us up on our annual fund and helped raise money for the Pryor Center. It w . . .

MW: Isn't that nice? Well, good.

SL: He was good.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: Yeah. He seems to do real well with it. He enjoys it. He likes the people. He's good at a—knowing when to go forward and

when to pull back, I think, and giving people an opportunity to do something they want to do. And Ben's always, you know, he's always helpful. He always has the kind heart. So that's always a good trait to have, isn't it?

SL: Yeah.

ME: It is.

SL: Yep.

[04:06:19] MW: And I did not—my nephew, Jason Moore—Rudy, my brother's son is a lot like one of my own, too. I'm very proud of Jason. You know, he's done real well in the film and Broadway world. Did you know that?

SL: Well, and you've—we talked a—briefly about it.

MW: Did we talk—I tell you.

SL: I don't know if we did it on camera, but . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . go ahead and . . .

MW: Well . . .

SL: . . . talk a little more about him.

MW: . . . he graduated from Fayetteville High and went to Northwestern, which he always says was the smartest thing he ever did. If you wanna get in that world, go to Northwestern, probably, or someplace like that.

SL: Now that's Chicago, isn't it?

MW: Yes.

[04:06:51] SL: And so what year did—when did he graduate  
Fayetteville High?

MW: Well, let's see. How old is Benjamin? [*Laughs*] I'm gonna tell  
you in a minute.

SL: Well, I don't know how old Ben is.

MW: Be—I do. Ben is forty-seven. Jason is forty-five. So when did  
he graduate from Fayetteville High.

SL: Gosh, that's . . .

MW: Eighteen from forty-five. We couldn't come up with now.

SL: Okay.

MW: We'll have to . . .

SL: I was thinking he may have been . . .

MW: [Nineteen] sixty-nine.

SL: Close to one . . .

MW: He was born . . .

SL: . . . of my sons.

MW: . . . [19]71, [19]80—he was graduated from high school I guess  
about [19]90.

SL: Okay.

[04:07:24] MW: He—Sarah knew him in high school. He was a year



or two ahead of Sarah that works here.

SL: Okay.

MW: And he's—Kathryn Kincaid is a year older . . .

SL: Okay.

MW: . . . than Jason. And but anyway. And Jason—he was the director of *Avenue Q*, which ran on Broadway for over an—  
between on Broadway and off Broadway for nine years.

SL: Oh, that's a hit.

MW: Yeah. And then he directed—oh, *Shrek* on Broadway.

SL: Really.

MW: Yes. He directed . . .

SL: That's a great show.

MW: . . . *Steel Magnolias* on Broadway.

SL: Oh my gosh.

MW: And he did that—this latest thing. He's always invited me to all of his openings, and I've gone to all but one. Like in dee—a year ago December, he did *Sisters*, the movie *Sisters* with Tina Fey.

SL: Yes.

MW: And we went up for the opening. And he invited his cousins, so ten of us went. And that was loads—you know, that was so nice. But he's had a very great career. I told you my mother played the piano and was gifted and talented in those areas. And of

course, Jason is. I guess it's just one every generation because then we have . . .

SL: It skips.

MW: . . . Sam, who's in California now, the one that went to NYU. Isn't that funny?

SL: That is.

MW: So but anyway. So that sums up my family, basically.

SL: Well, you have many blessings, then.

MW: Yes. Yes, they keep me entertained and busy. [04:08:51] We didn't say much about what Melissa's doing today or her children.

SL: No.

MW: I forgot that.

SL: Let's talk about that.

MW: Melissa's the one that married the Canadian, and she's been in Canada over twenty-two years. She lives in Jasper, Alberta, which is in the Canadian Rockies. If you've ever been to Lake Louise or Banff, she lives 150 miles north of Lake Louise in a national park.

SL: Oh . . .

MW: On the deed to her house . . .

SL: . . . how beautiful is that?

MW: . . . it says that in ninety-nine years the land that her house stands on can revert back to the Queen of England.

SL: Really.

MW: [*Laughs*] Yes.

SL: What are they gonna do about that?

[04:09:27] MW: I don't know that they've ever done that, but any—  
ninety-nine [*SL laughs*] years is a long time . . .

SL: Yeah.

MW: . . . isn't it? And I'm not sure how all that works, but it's so interesting. And she is married to a really wonderful man. And they have two children of their own. They raised my grandson Austin and Lauren whose mother had died. Granddaughter, grandson. And I told you about them earlier, I think. That one was a chef. Didn't I tell you that?

SL: I'm not sure.

MW: Well, Austin is the older one, and he went to chef school in Canada. He's worked in that field. And then Lauren is the younger one, and she came here to the University of Arkansas to school from Canada. After she graduated from—went twelve years, grade one through twelve there, but she decided to come here, so it was nice to have her. [04:10:16] She worked for Mark Pryor. I told you about her.

SL: Yes.

MW: Yeah.

SL: Yeah.

MW: I did. And she then—now she's still in Washington. And then the one I guess I've not mentioned, Louise, the baby, who was raised by her other grandparents, and she graduated here. And she is working in Little Rock now and is just doing real well, too. So we're lucky that it all turned out well in the end, aren't we?

SL: We are.

MW: Yeah. So that kinda sums it up. [*Laughs*] I hope I haven't left anyone out.

SL: Well, you let me know if you did . . .

MW: Yeah.

SL: . . . okay?

MW: I will. I will.

[04:10:55] SL: Okay. If you think we're close to being done—you think we're close to being done?

MW: Yes. Yeah.

SL: There is one thing that we do, and I don't—I'm not exactly sure why we keep doing this because we haven't done anything with it yet. But I can't believe that we won't eventually. And that's at the end of the interview, I ask the interviewee to look straight

at this camera lens . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: And say your name and say, "I'm proud to be from Arkansas."

MW: Oh, well, [*laughter*] all right. That's easy to do.

SL: Okay. Then I'm gonna let Sarah direct you.

MW: Okay.

SL: I'm gonna get out of this chair . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . so you're not lookin' at me.

MW: All right.

SL: And you can just—and you don't have to worry about . . .

[04:11:36] MW: You want me to say, "I'm proud to be from  
Arkansas."

SL: "My name is Margaret Whillock" . . .

MW: Oh, say your name . . .

SL: . . . or Margaret Moore Whillock . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . or however you wanna say it, "and I'm proud to be from  
Arkansas."

MW: Oh, good.

SL: Do you like that?

MW: Yeah, sure.

SL: Okay, let . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . me get out of the way, and I'll let . . .

MW: Okay.

SL: . . . Sarah . . .

MW: All right.

SL: . . . do her magic with you.

SM: Okay, Margaret, I'm gonna have you look directly at the camera, which you're doin' now. And when you're ready, go ahead.

MW: My name is Margaret Moore Whillock, and I am very proud to be from Arkansas.

SM: Kay do it one more time, and just hold your smile for just a couple of seconds afterwards. Otherwise, that was perfect.

MW: Okay. My name is Margaret Moore Whillock, and I am very proud to be from Arkansas.

SM: You nailed it. Thank you.

SL: Okay.

MW: Is that it? Okay.

SL: That's the worst of it.

[End of interview 04:12:44]

[Transcribed and edited by Pryor Center staff]