

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Norma Clark Interview Abstract
 November 5, 2018

Interviewee	Norma Clark
Year of birth	1923
Place of birth	Nowata County, Oklahoma
Interviewer	Camille Hatcher
Interview date	2018-11-05
Interview location	Bella Vista Historical Museum; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Clark, Norma Burnett, Sherry Clark Lindbarger, C. A. Hatcher, Camille Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas Nowata County, Oklahoma Miller Church; Benton County, Arkansas Sunset Hotel; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Wonderland Cave; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Carpentry Dance Depressions, economic Farming Masonry Motorcycles Native Americans Police Religion Segregation Small town life Hunting and trapping Women's rights</p>
Description	<p>Ninety-five years (in 2018) of personal stories fill every minute of this interview with Norma Clark. Through happy and sad moments; good and bad experiences, times of constant and change, Clark considers her life a happy one. She credits her approach to life as being one of "forget it...go on...always be up for fun and a laugh.'</p> <p>Born in Oklahoma in 1923, she has also lived in Arkansas and Kansas. There would be good and bad years. She remembers the Depression years when the family went to bed hungry. Her brothers would go to Colorado and Idaho to find work; she would learn to trap for food. It is a trait shared with her son-in-law and grandchildren.</p> <p>One of Clark's favorite stories recounts how her grandmother and mother moved from Kansas to Oklahoma in a covered wagon. Along the way, grandmother used an organ they</p>

	<p>brought on the wagon to serenade a group of Native Americans who began following them.</p> <p>Clark's father worked as a carpenter and mason during C.A. Linebarger's ownership of the Bella Vista Resort. Clark remembers her Dad working in the Wonderland Cave, Sunset Hotel, and Pavilion. These childhood and teen years meant living in the Blowing Springs area with time to square dance for tourists and walk with friends to Bentonville to see Roy Rogers' movies.</p> <p>As an adult Clark lost a love in World War II, married twice, and raised four children. Clark recalls the joys and hardships of farming in Kansas, living in the Miller Church area, women's role in the family, childbirth, local enforcement, and baptism in the Blue Hole. In her seventies, she and son Eddie take off on a motorcycle trip. She still has her brother's guitar and remembers playing it.</p> <p>Today (2018) Clark lives with her daughter Sherry Clark Burnett in Bentonville, Arkansas. She continues to be "up for fun and a laugh."</p>
Duration	141 minutes
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Website URL	http://pryorcenter.uark.edu
Questions or Comments	https://nwaoralhistory.org
Interview sidebar	<p>Clark tells of a Christmas when she was about 14. For this Christmas her dad had not been able to find work and he could not get any more credit at the grocery store. Dad had a saying that he used sparingly, but when he did good things happened. This Christmas he used it. Then he went to the mailbox to find a check from an uncle for \$150. Everyone got something including candy for Clark and her siblings and dishes for her mother.</p> <p>[01:15:04]</p>