

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
 Jim Lee Council Interview Abstract  
 March 29, 2019

Interviewee	Jim Lee Council
Year of birth	1952
Place of birth	Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Barbara Knotts
Interview date	2019-03-29
Interview location	Rogers Historical Museum; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Council, Jim          Council, Corky          Council, Lena          Tuck, Thomas          Knotts, Barbara          Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas          Avoca, Benton County, Arkansas          Beaver Lake          Benton County Cemetery Preservation Association          Harris Home; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas          Southwest Gas          Tuck's Chapel and Cemetery; Benton County, Arkansas          Cemeteries          Churches          Farming</p>
Description	<p>A community of families has lived for generations in an unincorporated area of Benton County outside of Avoca and Rogers. Here each grew up, worked hard, raised families, and were buried. Jim Council, born in 1952, shares stories of his generation's life in this place he continues to call home. A close family, Council remembers days spent farming, hunting, and fishing with his Grandpappy, Dad and Uncles. Council raised cattle, goats, horses, dogs, and a potbelly pig. He and neighborhood friends rode horses across a quiet Highway 62. Council's stories include recollections of Beaver Lake's creation and the activity when police from multiple departments descended on his rural community looking for escaped convicts. Council's dad "Corky", a talented carpenter, not only built the family home but several homes in Rogers. The Harris home in Rogers (Arkansas) is one. His mother, Lena, would find time to go to school to become a nurse. One grandmother was part of the Trail of Tears; the other was known for her hearty breakfast biscuits.</p> <p>After Thomas Tuck and his wife gave land for a church and cemetery in the late nineteenth century, Tuck's Chapel and Cemetery became the place the Council family and their neighbors gathered for services, pie suppers, and to bury family members. Council was there when the Chapel burned in 2013.</p>

	<p>Three generations of Councils, including Jim, served as caretakers for the Turk's Chapel and Cemetery. The Chapel is gone, but the Cemetery remains the resting place for over 800 people, including Council family members. Jim and his family continue their efforts to assure the Cemetery remains in perpetuity; maintaining the Cemetery grounds, keeping records, confirming land titles, and acquiring funds. He credits the Benton County Cemetery Preservation Group citing their assistance getting a new Cemetery sign.</p> <p>Retired after a career as a Southwest Gas service technician, Council knows times are changing. New homes and changing family names are not unusual. He hopes the life and lifetime friendships he's enjoyed will continue.</p>
Duration	73 minutes
Audio File Format	MP3
Images	Yes
Producer	Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
Copyright	Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, University of Arkansas
Website URL	<a href="http://pryorcenter.uark.edu">http://pryorcenter.uark.edu</a>
Questions or Comments	<a href="https://nwaoralhistory.org">https://nwaoralhistory.org</a>
Interview sidebar	<p>Council recalls earning money as a young man in the 1950s-1960s. His uncles raised pigs. They gave him and his mother their empty feed bags. While mother made tea towels from some, he sold the other bags for 5 to 10 cents each. He could also pull weeds for 75 cents/hour or get a pig. He got the pig that led to several more pigs and later the purchase of a Holstein heifer named Muffin. [00:16:40]</p>