

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
Edward Roy Galyean Interview Abstract
November 7, 2019

Interviewee	Edward Roy Galyean
Year of birth	1941
Place of birth	Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Camille Hatcher
Interview date	2019-11-07
Interview location	Hiwasse Community Center; Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Galyean, Edward Roy Faubus, Orval Galyean, Lynda Hendren Family Hutchinson Family McAbee, Bernard B. Pryor, David Walton, Sam Wolfgang, Bryan Hatcher, Camille Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas Maysville, Benton County, Arkansas Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas Sunnyvale, Santa Clara County, California Bear Brand Hosiery; Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas Crowder College; Neosho, Newton County, Missouri Kraft Foods; Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas Maysville Baptist Church; Maysville, Benton County, Arkansas Mount Pleasant Cemetery; Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas Quorum Court; Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas University of Arkansas; Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas Apple orchards Arkansas state government Canning Cooper Communities Inc. Churches Education Farming KAMO (radio station) Northwest Arkansas Community College Politics Recreation Religion Scarlet fever</p>

	<p>Schools</p> <p>Small town life</p> <p>Water witching</p>
Description	<p>Drive Hiwasse's roads and you see the name Galyean on road signs, mailboxes, and cemetery headstones. That's not surprising. The Galyean families have lived in the area for generations. In this interview Edward Galyean tells stories that span the generations; each with its common thread of close families and strong community ties.</p> <p>In 1859 Galyean's ancestor Shadrach, his large family, and members of the Edwards' family traveled by wagon train from North Carolina and Virginia. They settled in Hiwasse. Gaylean's mother's family came from Tennessee. All the families farmed the land for generations. Some had orchards. Gravesites for the families, including Shadrach's, are located at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.</p> <p>Galyean's father, Roy, and his mother, Emma, continued the farming tradition raising cattle. Until the 1950s there was no refrigeration or electricity. But there was time for family. After church on Sunday the family enjoyed grandmother's fried chicken. In the fall there was the family hog kill. Grocery stores were for the basics; the family grew most of what they ate. Galyean remembers "if you wanted to eat, you canned." Thanks to his father's 'water witching' skills the family well was dug. Galyean uses it today.</p> <p>Galyean's father became a Baptist preacher. Until his death in 1975, he preached in many of the Northwest Arkansas' Baptist churches. Roy Galyean's weekly radio program on KAMO was popular. Roy served as a State Representative, focusing on road and education projects. Galyean got the opportunity to serve as a page in Arkansas State Legislature, spending time with David Pryor and Orval Faubus. Later Galyean helped maintain the Faubus campaign office in Bentonville.</p> <p>Galyean lived in both Rogers and Hiwasse during his school years. He tells of the time he got scarlet fever and could not go to school. Teacher, Miss Edwards, visited the Galyean home in Hiwasse twice a week to keep him up with his studies.</p> <p>Galyean remembers Saturdays spent in Bentonville and later in Gravette. In Bentonville there was Sam Walton's 5 & 10 store and the three movie houses. If you timed it right, you could get to all three. In high school Galyean and classmates from the Hendren and Hutchinson families played football for Coach McAbee. Galyean worked on Saturdays at the grocery store. He might be sore from playing in Friday night's football game, but by 10 am, after carrying customers' groceries for blocks, the soreness was gone. That was good. He went home afterwards and milked the cows he was raising. The milk had to be ready for the daily Kraft truck pick up.</p> <p>The years that followed Galyean's graduation from Gravette High School were busy ones: a career in the Air Force, a summer in a</p>

	<p>Sunnyvale California cannery, time at Crowder College and the University of Arkansas, and marrying Lynda at the Maysville Baptist Church. He was in management at the Bear Brand Hosiery facility in Bentonville. Galyean tells how he would put three cases of hosiery in his car and go meet Sam Walton. Walton would take one case to each of his three stores. Galyean has been part of the area's growth and development. He worked with the committee to bring the NWACC campus to Rogers, served on the Quorum Court, and saw the potential of the Cooper Companies' plans for Bella Vista. With a membership he and his family played golf and fished there. Galyean talks of changes to Northwest Arkansas. He compares the 1950s boomtown of Sunnyvale California with today's Northwest Arkansas – often seeing quantity over quality. Galyean points out Northwest Arkansas's changing labor sources, transportation improvements (Highway 549) and companies (Daisy and Walmart) moving to the community. He believes development has taken much of the good local hunting land, including the quail area that Sam Walton used. Galyean and his wife are parents to a grown daughter and son. Both reside in Northwest Arkansas. Their son, a Tyson employee, lives on Beaver Lake. Their daughter and her husband, the Bella Vista deputy fire chief, live in a home on the family land next to Galyean...the land that's been in the family for generations.</p>
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Interview sidebar	<p>As a young man Galyean 'spent one summer working for Orville Faubus and his campaign...maybe his last reelection...I was politically minded at the time...he gave me a job in his campaign...[I] maintained an office in Bentonville...a Democratic office...kept it open." [00:12:08]</p>