

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Dolores Lynch Interview Abstract
 July 16, 2019

Interviewee	Dolores Lynch
Year of birth	1940
Place of birth	Springdale, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Susan Porter
Interview date	2019-07-16
Interview location	Apple Blossom Retirement Community; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Lynch, Dolores Lynch, Gerald Rose, Ivan Porter, Susan Harmon, Washington County, Arkansas Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas Savoy, Washington County, Arkansas Springdale, Benton County, Arkansas Tontitown, Washington County, Arkansas First United Methodist Church; Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas University of Arkansas; Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas Elm Springs Cemetery; Elm Springs, Washington County, Arkansas Cemeteries Chinquapin (chinky pin) tree Education Farming Foods Genealogy Poultry industry Recreation Religion Schools Small town life Television</p>
Description	<p>When Dolores Lynch and her family get together for a family reunion the stories are nonstop. Like those reunions, in this interview Lynch retells family stories that span the generations and leave listeners wanting more.</p> <p>By the time Lynch graduated from high school in 1958, she had lived in Springdale, Harmon, and Savoy. She walked to the two-room school in Harmon; for middle grades rode the bus to the larger Farmington consolidated district. With no hospitals near, Lynch and her five siblings were born at home. For a while Lynch thought the doctor might be bringing the babies in his black bag.</p> <p>Lynch's dad worked in feed mills, ran a country store, and</p>

	<p>farmed. Mom helped in the store, gardened, sewed, and canned. Money was tight so gifts were homemade and trips to town (Tontitown or Fayetteville) were seldom. Wages earned from Lynch's jobs picking produce or making boxes for baby chickens went for school clothes.</p> <p>Kids—siblings, cousins, and friends--made their own fun. There was time for viewing Thursday night movies in Savoy, gathering at the swimming hole, and playing outside. Favorite games included jump rope, teeter totter, drop the hanky, and making your own house using a stick to draw its rooms in the dirt. A treat was attending the Farmington vs Prairie Grove basketball game—that was a real rivalry. Their first television arrived in 1955 when Lynch says wrestling was her favorite program. Lynch uses Facebook to stay in touch with childhood friends and revisits the communities and homes where she lived when possible.</p> <p>Lynch remembers meeting her future husband, and classmate, Gerald at a party. They married in 1958. In a favorite story, she's called him Jimmy since they met...it's that name, not Gerald, many know him by today. The couple lived in Little Rock while he finished pharmacy studies at the University of Arkansas. The family moved to Rogers in 1963. Gerald spent his career working for Rose Drug and the hospital. The children, two sons and a daughter, went to Rogers schools; the family worshiped at the First United Methodist Church (Rogers).</p> <p>The theme of education is present throughout the interview. Lynch tells of her parents coping with her father's inability to read or write, her husband's work to achieve an advanced degree from the University of Arkansas, and their children's and grandchildren's academic successes in high school and college. Their daughter's musical education led to a role in symphony orchestras; their son works in property development and renovation. Lynch is proud of the contributions of each generation.</p> <p>Genealogy became an avocation for both Lynch and her husband. Together they've visited cemeteries, researched histories, and discovered family stories they love to share. There's the Cherokee grandmother from Walker County, Georgia; family members who migrated from Ireland to settle in Tontitown and tend their vineyard; other ancestors living in Carroll and Madison counties; and the Elm Springs Cemetery where family members are buried. When Lynch heard the story of twenty-one family members (including her mother) traveling to Arizona in 1935 to find work, she gathered the remaining members together at a family reunion. They shared their memories including selling parts off the truck for gas and sleeping along the roadside. More memories for this family's rich legacy.</p>
Duration	58 minutes
Audio File	MP3

Format	
Images	Yes
Producer	Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
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Interview sidebar	Lynch shares "At Savoy we had a chinky pin (Chinquapin) tree right down the road from the house. I remember going down and eating those chinky pins (Chinquapin) and also picking up walnuts or hickory nuts and finding a rock and then another rock and cracking them open to eat...that was our snack." [00:42:21]