

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
Margaret Evelyn Thompson Interview Abstract  
January 23, 2019

Interviewee	Margaret Evelyn Thompson
Year of birth	1931
Place of birth	Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Camille Hatcher
Interview date	2019-01-23
Interview location	Thompson home; Grove, Delaware County, Oklahoma
Keywords	Thompson, Margaret Evelyn Hatcher, Camille Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas Noel, McDonald County, Missouri First Christian Church; Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas Business schools Churches Education Quilting Religion Schools Small town life
Description	<p>Family, church, and school. In this interview Margaret Evelyn Thompson tells stories that capture the importance of each in her life.</p> <p>Thompson's parents moved to Hiwasse from Pea Ridge when her Dad became the Frisco depot agent. After the trains stopped coming to Hiwasse, the family stayed. Dad ran a dry goods store and hauled local produce to the train in Noel Missouri. Mom stayed at home helping raise Thompson and her six siblings. Thompson remembers lots of family sharing; clothes, bikes, and later car rides to Bentonville.</p> <p>Church was the First Christian Church in Hiwasse. Its lot joined that of her home. Thompson tells the story of her church group piling into the back of a truck for skating trips to Lanagan, MO and Bentonville. The family enjoyed pie suppers, cake walks, and church camps down by the Spavinaw Creek.</p> <p>Thompson attended school in both Hiwasse and Gravette. In the days before the schools consolidated, her classes were small – 5-8 students at Hiwasse and 17 in her 1949 high school graduating class at Gravette. In seventh grade Thompson met the man she would later marry.</p> <p>School continued to impact her life following high school graduation. She tells of moving to Tulsa to attend business college, living with friends in dorms and apartments. Marriage followed and with it came moves around the country. But the</p>

	Thompsons' desire to assist family brought them back to the area. They relocated to Springfield Missouri in 1962. In 1973 Thompson and her husband retired to the Grove Oklahoma area where the fishing was good. Yet Hiwasse remains a special place. Thompson says, 'I am glad I grew up in a little town like I did.'
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Interview sidebar	Thompson remembers how friends who lived outside Hiwasse Arkansas got to school. There was 'a pickup with a cover on it—a wooden cover— that was the school bus'. [00:14:48]