

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project
 Forrest Keith White Interview Abstract
 October 17, 2018

Interviewee	Forrest Keith White
Year of birth	1940
Place of birth	Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma
Interviewer	Connie Fetters
Interview date	2018-10-17
Interview location	Kindley House; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>White, Forrest Keith White, Grace Ward Ward, Willard Weston Fetters, Connie Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma Billy V. Hall Senior Center; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas City government Farming Military Mines and mining Photography Printing industry Small town life Textile industry Truck driving U.S. Army</p>
Description	<p>One of Gravette's proudest residents, Forrest Keith White, did not move to the City until he retired. In this interview White, now 78 years old, shares his stories of liking NW Arkansas, moving to it, and not leaving.</p> <p>Hard work has always been part of White's life. Born and raised in Oklahoma, his father, Willard, died when he was eleven. After losing the farm, his Mother, Grace Ward White, worked to get a teaching degree. White went to work driving a tractor, earning \$5/day plus board. When asked about fun he remembers that 'with starvation around the corner, not much time for fun'.</p> <p>White graduated from high school in 1960. After a short time at college, he became an army recruit. During his army service he learned the printing trade, the first of several careers.</p> <p>White talks about his experiences in the Colorado mines, the Georgia textile mills as they automated, and his years as a long-haul truck driver. He believed in making the best of where he was and whatever he was doing. In 1971 he started visiting his Mother who now lived in Gravette. He found his 'hometown'.</p> <p>White moved to Gravette in 2006.</p> <p>White leads an active life in Gravette. Many days you'll find him spending time with special friends at the senior center. He told</p>

	<p>the story of how he used books to become an amateur photographer. One of his favorite shots is of a seldom seen blue grosbeak. Some of his photos are displayed at the local library. White's been active in city government, serving on the City Council and Library Board.</p> <p>White can't think of a place he would rather live than Gravette and NW Arkansas.</p>
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Interview sidebar	White described Gravette as a 'neat town meant to be a town...some towns you see are like two miles down the highway and nothing behind them. I like Gravette...when time to retire I had no desire to be anywhere else.' [00:57:05]