

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
 Sue Dunnaway Woods Interview Abstract  
 April 11, 2018

Interviewee	Sue Dunnaway Woods
Year of birth	1933
Place of birth	Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas
Interviewer	Randi Van Noy
Interview date	2018-04-11
Interview location	Kindley House; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas
Keywords	<p>Woods, Sue Dunnaway          Dunnaway, Charlie          Dunnaway, Fleeta          Dunnaway, Maggie          Dunnaway, Willie Paul          Stumbo, Sue          Van Noy, Randi          Gravette, Benton County Arkansas          Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas          American Legion; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas          Bank of Gravett; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas          Eastern Star; Gravette, Benton County, Arkansas          First Christian Church; Hiwasse, Benton County, Arkansas          Adoption          Carnivals and Fairs          Churches          Gravette Day Celebration          Hobos          Jesse James movie          McAllisters Grocery          Orphan trains          Railroads          Schools          Shelling plants          Small town living</p>
Description	<p>Sue Woods' interview is filled with stories of a happy life spent in Northwest Arkansas.          Woods' father, Willie Paul, came to Bentonville when he was four years old from New York on the Orphan Train. Charlie and Maggie Dunnaway raised him. Her mother, Fleeta, had seventeen half brothers and sisters. For Woods that meant she had three brothers and a sister, plus lots of cousins, to share adventures at school and church.          When the railroad was being pulled out of Hiwasse, she and classmates watched the tracks being removed. When the Jesse James movie was being shot in nearby Mt. Pleasant, she watched it in action with family.</p>

	<p>In 1949 the Hiwasse, Maysville, and Gravette schools consolidated. The high school bus picked her up at the Hiwasse school and took her to school in Gravette. That was a change for Woods who was used to walking everywhere, including school. Another change was that school in Gravette had a hot lunch program. No more carrying your lunch in a bucket, feeling a bit embarrassed by the fried pies Mother packed in it each day. Woods moved to Gravette in 1950, married in 1951, worked at the Bank of Gravett for 36 years, and raised her family. Gravette was a good place to be. All the stores were occupied and she can still name them. Saturdays meant getting a ticket for the 2 pm drawing, shopping at McAllisters for 'everything', taking the kids to the theater (they brought their own popcorn), and visiting with Eastern Star friends. Neighbor, Dr. Wilson, was a favorite of her daughters. Family members helped manage the shelling plant that provided jobs and incomes for local families, both men and women. Her daughters took sandwiches to those residing in the nearby Hobo Camp. When the circus came to town, it was 'big', with a ferris wheel and elephants. Few memories compare with those related to the annual Gravette Day, then called the Gravette Picnic. For many years held in Old Town Park, the festivities included a carnival and the best hamburgers served up at the American Legion stand. The carnival included Sue Stumbo's 'spin the wheel' game. Woods remembers her mother being known as the woman who made the best pies for the Dairy Freeze. Maybe, after all, those fried pies of her childhood were 'special.'</p>
Duration	25 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>Woods responds about changes in Benton County...'in my 85 years I have [seen] more changes. I think the biggest is the airport. I never dreamed that Benton County would have an airport. Then the other thing that amazes me is the amount of traffic on the road. I wasn't used to a paved road. We had a dirt road...we walked everywhere.' [00:13:21]</p>