

Northwest Arkansas Oral History Project  
 John V. Drum Interview Abstract  
 March 7, 2018

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| Interviewee        | John V. Drum   |
| Year of birth      | 1920   |
| Place of birth     | Lyons, Ohio  |
| Interviewer        | Susan Porter   |
| Interview date     | 2018-03-07   |
| Interview location | Drum home; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas  |
| Keywords           | Drum, John V.<br>Drum, Lois<br>Jones, E. Fay<br>Labounty, Jerry<br>Porter, Susan<br>Cooper Communities, Inc.<br>Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas<br>St. Theodore's Episcopal Church; Bella Vista, Benton County, Arkansas<br>Architecture<br>Churches  |
| Description        | <p>In the 1980s John V. Drum and his wife Lois collaborated with renowned architect, E. Fay Jones, and Jones' building contractor, Jerry Labounty, to build their 'retirement home' in Bella Vista. The home became a unique structure reflecting the visions of each. It would take calls to Texas and conversations with lawyers and the Cooper Corporation staff for Lois to get clear title to the lot she chose. Meanwhile, it took Drum and E. Fay Jones many interactions and 16 renderings before they agreed to the final design.</p> <p>A year and three quarters later the Drums moved into the home known for its use of wood and glass, custom chandelier, angles and lights, no eaves, and a three-car garage with only one door. Much of the wood was milled on the premise.</p> <p>The Drums have seen, and contributed to, changes in Bella Vista. Drum credits good lake management and development for cleaning up the lakes. Drum and his wife set up a building fund for St. Theodore's Episcopal church that helped the congregation establish its first church building. Drum remains an active parishioner at St. Theodore's.</p> <p>The interview includes stories about the Drum's before they lived in Bella Vista. Marrying after knowing each other four days, Drum calls Lois 'his free-spirited Western gal'; an amateur actress, pilot, accomplished golfer and world traveler.</p> <p>Talking of his life, Drum remembers his varied occupations of farmer, inventor, lumber company executive, and corporate troubleshooter. A visit to the Mayo Clinic when he was 28 resulted in life-style change that likely saved his life.</p> |

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|                       | Lois has passed away, but Drum continues to live in the home. He expects it will pass to his son, allowing the Drum House to retain its name. He says having this historic home, as the only E. Fay Jones original owner in Bella Vista, gives him a warm feeling.         |
| Duration              | 49 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     | Talking of the building of his E. Fay Jones' designed home, John Drum said, "The planning was interesting. I was in the lumber business, so Mr. Jones and I did not agree on everything. It took 16 renditions before we agreed on what the house was' [to be]. [00:04:40] |