

**Oral History Interview of
Clyde May**

**Interviewed by: David Marshall
July 27, 2017
Wilson, Texas**

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General Southwest Collection Interviews

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Preferred Citation for this Document:

May, Clyde Oral History Interview, July 27, 2017. Interview by David Marshall, Online Transcription, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. URL of PDF, date accessed.

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Recording Notes:

Original Format: Born Digital Audio

Digitization Details: N/A

Audio Metadata: 96kHz/24bit WAV file

Further Access Restrictions: N/A

Related Interviews: Clyde May was also interviewed on July 20, 2017 and November 16, 2017. This is part two of the series.

Transcription Notes:

Interviewer: David Marshall

Audio Editor: N/A

Transcription: Elizabeth Groening

Editor(s): Kayci Rush

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Clyde May as she discuss her life after meeting her husband and the land around Tahoka Lake. May describes in depth about helping her husband with his profession, the archaeological digs around Tahoka Lake, and it's designation as in State Historic Landmark.

Length of Interview: 02:36:11

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Keywords

Background and family life, psychology, wildlife, historic preservation

David Marshall (DM):

The date is July 27th, 2017. This is David Marshall interviewing Clyde May at her home at Tahoka Lake, near Wilson, Texas.

Clyde May (CM):

In the visitor center side because I live over on the other side.

DM:

Right. Right. Okay. How far are we from Wilson, by the way? About five miles or so?

CM:

It's two and a half miles to the turn off and then almost another three to get down here.

DM:

Okay. Well, we were talking last time, which was a week ago today, about mostly family background. You know, your childhood, your family. We talked a bit about Jerry's family, as well. So, but let's start talking about when you were about Tech.

CM:

Okay. Did I say about the rush and it was a mistake because my mother didn't sign me up for Panhellenic and stuff like that?

DM:

Um-hm.

CM:

And so the way I actually met Jerry was all these girls that were going through rush couldn't talk to men or boys for I don't know, x amount of time, but I could. So Jerry's mother had a house on 15th Street, right across from the campus. There's, I think, a church parking lot there. There's a big church in that area there. Anyway, she had this big older house that she had—first, it was a boarding house and then roped up and added on a little and she had apartments for either military personnel or students.

DM:

But she didn't live there?

CM:

Yes, she lived there.

DM:

She lived there? Okay.

CM:

Very unusual for their generation, but she and Jerry's dad divorced when he was about fourteen, I think.

DM:

Okay. Did the father live out here still?

CM:

Yes. He stayed out here on the section of land that his dad had given him.

DM:

Well, Jerry was easy walking distance to Tech, then. Right across the street, you said?

CM:

Uh-huh. But his sister had gone down to Hardin-Simmons at this time. She was—I guess she was a sophomore down there because she's just a little younger than I am, and Jerry was just back from the service and so he was living with his mom. She had an apartment in there, and there were three other apartments in that old building, and then some added on the back. These girls went and got Jerry and some of the students that were living there in a car by sign language and then came and got me because I could repeat what they said that they heard so that they didn't break the rules. I was in the back being silly. Girls that age—they're all giggly, and foolish, and I thought Jerry was really must be sophisticated because he had finished his bachelor's degree—his master's degree and now, he was working on his doctorate.

DM:

Oh. He already was at Tech doing that when you met him?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

Oh. Okay.

CM:

And he was back from the service.

DM:

What year was this, by the way?

CM:

This was '54. Anyway, one of the girls knew him because they'd been—she'd been best friends with Jerry's little sister, who lived with the mom. The two boys pretty much lived with the dad. They tried going off with their mom and they'd never left home before. I think they had to move all the way up to Plainview and divorce. Actually, I think it was weird. The parents were divorced for a good long while that the kids didn't know it because they even still lived in the same house, but Ed would have gone off to work in the war industry. I think he was working on something down in Galveston.

DM:

I see. Okay.

CM:

And so she stayed here with the children and then when he came back, she moved some of the division of property. She had a farm in Plainview and they moved up there. Stayed there once semester and came back to Wilson. I don't think they necessarily came back to their dad.

DM:

Right. She was working down there in war industries during World War II, then?

CM:

Yeah, he was.

DM:

He was, I mean.

CM:

Yeah. So that divorce was—Jerry was born in '30, so he was maybe eleven years old.

DM:

Jerry was in service during the Korean War?

CM:

Yes.

DM:

Was he state side?

CM:

Yeah. He was pulled off orders several times because he was working in a medical corps and the fellows—I don't know what they were. Colonels or whatever—needed him there. He was working with the soldiers coming back that needed to be hospitalized for what they call PTSD [**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**] now, but they were shell shocked then.

DM:

Right. You had mentioned that before. I just don't remember if we mentioned it on the recorder or not.

CM:

Anyway, he graduated Wilson in '47. He got—in '52, he got his master's at Hardin-Simmons. So he went right from graduating Wilson to Hardin-Simmons.

DM:

Uh-huh. Got a bachelor's and master's at Hardin-Simmons.

CM:

Hardin-Simmons. He had gotten a deferment from Korea to finish his master's, and then he just—he went to work. I think he worked in a filling station. He was waiting to be drafted. He didn't want to sign up. He was waiting to be drafted. He worked for what he called a doodle bug company. You know what that is?

DM:

As in the cars or what?

CM:

No. They drove around all over this part of the country looking for oil.

DM:

Oh. Okay. Yeah, I've heard that term.

CM:

And he just was waiting to be drafted. So he was drafted and he spent two years in the service. Part of it in Oklahoma. Part of it in San Antonio. Most of it in California—

DM:

You know, while we're on this subject, before we get too far into it, I need to hear a little bit about Hardin-Simmons too. You still have some of his memorabilia over here. Chaps and his

bareback green. He was in rodeo at Hardin-Simmons, wasn't he?

CM:

Yeah. He was small in stature. I mean, he couldn't play football. He played football and basketball and all at Wilson, but not at college. So he joined the rodeo team and by the way, he passed up his brother in school. He went to college a year before him. That didn't help their sibling relationship problem. But, and I can't—I have met the people and it's been sixty years, at least, and I can't remember the name of the people that helped and got the intercollegiate rodeo system started, but it started in Hardin-Simmons and it must've been maybe '48, '49. Somewhere along in there.

DM:

He was there.

CM:

He was there. He rode bareback. I still have his hat too, back in a hat box in the closet. They rode black. He talked about the girls rode the white horses at Hardin-Simmons. They were cowgirls. Hardin-Simmons cowgirls, but they were fairly famous at the time.

DM:

Cowboy band was famous at that time too. Wasn't it?

CM:

Yes. Cowboy band. He talked a lot about that. His aunts had gone to Hardin-Simmons too. His grandmother sent a lot of money down there, just donating money to Hardin-Simmons.

DM:

They probably went when it was Simmons.

CM:

I don't know whether it had changed over. My husband always called it Hardened-Sinners.

DM:

[Laughter] I've heard that too.

CM:

He talked about the social competition in Abilene between Hardin-Simmons and—

DM:

McMurry?

CM:

No.

DM:

Abilene Christian?

CM:

ACC [**Abilene Christian College**]. Yeah. Abilene Christian.

DM:

It's an interesting mix in that town.

CM:

Yes, and he sort of had a parental substitute. There was a lady named Ilene Culpepper. I think. Anyhow, Miss Cull, and she was a dog lover. She never married. Apparently, maybe, the love of her life, they think was maybe killed in World War II. But she was a girls' dorm mother, but evidently, young men just went over and she mothered them all, and even to the point until—well, I was still corresponding with her when Jerry died. She would write. He would call her up every once in a while. If we come out here, we'd stop at Hardin-Simmons and go visit her.

DM:

Wow. Just like a mother. That's wonderful. She probably helped a lot of students that way then because here they are, away from home. Mrs. Culpepper. What was her first name?

CM:

I think it was Ilene.

DM:

Ilene Culpepper.

CM:

Or Arlene.

DM:

Arlene? Something like that. We can probably find her.

CM:

Miss Cull. Everybody knew here as Miss Cull, and I wish my bulletin boards were down here. It's a weird thing. I've got maybe eight bulletin boards because I stick them up in my office and everything from kids' school pictures to whatever.

DM:

It's like a scrapbook.

CM:

Uh-huh, and my little office I had in a trailer house down here. I had the walls covered with them and ran out of walls and started putting my bulletin boards on the ceiling and I've got to thinking when Miss Cull retired, I have pictures of her.

DM:

They called her Cull?

CM:

Yeah. Miss Cull.

DM:

Miss Cull, instead of Culpepper?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

Did he ever mention Rupert Richardson? He was a pretty well-known historian down there.

CM:

Yes. Yes.

DM:

Did he like him or not? There was a lot of back and forth on that.

CM:

I don't remember anything disparaging he said about him. He bragged about him.

DM:

Did he brag about him?

CM:

And I don't remember whether he wanted to buy the book that was written or we did buy it. I don't know, because I've got—well, when we put stuff in that boxcar, we put ten thousand books in there.

DM:

Oh my goodness.

CM:

A lot of paperback novels. And that was in '92, and just since Jerry died, I quit saving books. I get a box full and send them to my daughter. When she's through, she mails them to my friend in Kansas, and then she donates them to their local little library.

DM:

Well, that's perfect. Everybody's getting a piece of it that way.

CM:

I do have books at the boxcar. I need to get out hardbound books of reprints of pioneer people who wrote diaries. People used to write a lot, keep journals.

DM:

Consider this possibility. If you want to do that and you're looking for a home for it, Tai and I could come out sometime. We could all go out there and look and see if there's anything you'd want to put in the Southwest Collection.

CM:

Probably. Would accept if they made their reprints and you might have.

DM:

Yeah, well there's always that possibility.

CM:

We would buy them from Time Life.

DM:

What's that?

CM:

We bought buy it from Time Life folks. But they—since I haven't been taking good care of that boxcar the last three years or so—

DM:

They might not be in good shape.

CM:

They might not.

DM:

Well, we have to worry about infestations. You know, if there's any bugs in them or anything.

CM:

That's why I used to fumigate it seasonally and I can't. I've got one can of the kind of fumigator that—I didn't want the one that had moisture. Raid had one that produced a smoke and it would get in places that even the thing—liquid droplets wouldn't.

DM:

Fogger.

CM:

Yeah, the foggers would have moisture.

DM:

I see.

CM:

It was a chemical reaction.

DM:

Yeah, yeah.

CM:

And I got a box of them there. Can't decide whether this house needs it more or the box car that I can't get all the way closed needs it more. But I want—if it ever becomes possible, I want to go ahead and drag this stuff from that hill up there down to the boxcar, the crew car. The old junk cars could stay there. People could cannibalize those if they want to.

DM:

But if you're interested in going through that sometime, maybe we can set up a time to help you and look through it with the idea that if you see something that you would want to put in the Southwest Collection, maybe we could do that.

CM:

Yeah, and things were organized to begin with and in the last years, things were just stuffed in

there. There's stuff that needs to have—take the trailer out there and say, this is trash. Let's fill it up. Keep moving stuff out of there.

DM:

Anyway, that's where your Rupert Richardson book is and some of those from that area?

CM:

Well and also, Jerry's professional library, which I'm sure will be outdated, but—

DM:

You know, what was his—I don't really know for sure what his area of study was or his profession. If you could just talk about—

CM:

He was a clinical psychologist.

DM:

Okay. You were talking about patients so I didn't know.

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Do you know what his bachelor's and master's degrees were at Hardin-Simmons.

CM:

They were in education because that's where the psychology was at the time. So he got a BA [**Bachelor of Arts**] and an MED [**Master of Education**] and then he got his PhD at Tech. At that time, a side department was trying to get American Psychological Association approved and they were not graduating students until they were experts.

DM:

Until what?

CM:

They were experts.

DM:

Until they were experts.

CM:
Yeah.

DM:
When did he get his PhD there at Tech?

CM:
'64.

DM:
Okay. So y'all were?

CM:
Ten years, there.

DM:
Together for a while there. Did you get married much earlier?

CM:
Well, I met him on September 12th and we married December 24th.

DM:
Of what year would that be?

CM:
'54.

DM:
'54, yeah. Okay. So you'd been married ten years when he got his PhD.

CM:
Uh-huh.

DM:
Okay. Did you continue on after y'all got married? Did you continue on with your—

CM:
I did for a while until I got pregnant with the third one and he was in Big Spring at that time, but a combination of being employed and getting credit as an internship, so he had a two-year internship at Big Spring State Hospital.

DM:

At the state hospital? Okay.

CM:

And went back up and finished his dissertation after that two years.

DM:

Right. Well did you help out with that? I know you helped him in his profession later within some clerical capacities.

CM:

Yeah. Have I unpacked his dissertation? Anyhow, I typed off—typed. It was an electric type writer that typed correlation tables. Other graphs and things. And then I did the—typed the text, but we had to have—you know, it has to be perfect.

DM:

Right. Formatting and everything.

CM:

Every format. Everything. The fonts have to be right. That was a job that people did. Women working at home or whatever. Or graduate students that had the skill. I had a letter here at one point, three weeks ago, and since I don't know how to work this word processor—well, I know how to work the one on my computer, but I can't get a printer to work on my computer. So I got the laptop and all the other stuff, but I needed this to be an official letter and I printed it out. Eighteen pages of hand printing and I couldn't find a local typist. I didn't know how to. I realize now that I probably could've gone to Tech and found someone. I asked some of the students and stuff and they said, "No, we do everything on the computer." Well, yeah. They do their own and the computer corrects it if—

DM:

Every kid types now because they're on those computers from the beginning. So yeah, it's hard to find someone who does that as a job, but you're right. It used to be you found a typist.

CM:

I mailed it to my granddaughter in Arlington and she was on the phone with me just a while ago figuring all that stuff out. She's got it almost all completed ready to—I said, "Are the envelopes with the stamps on it all addressed to whoever it had to go to?" And all that stuff, but I couldn't type it just because I don't know how to make that word processor that has printer to go with it to work.

DM:

Well, when y'all were doing—or when he was finishing his dissertation, did you type the text and try to format it or did y'all find a typist that knew what to do?

CM:

I found a typist, but they did use my—

DM:

Your draft?

CM:

My drafts.

DM:

You know, that was a terribly expensive process too when you were having to pay typists and all. So very different now.

CM:

Well, and the guy that was head of his committee, not the one that we liked—

DM:

You can name names.

CM:

Covenar.

DM:

Covenar?

CM:

Yeah. He was in the psyche department.

DM:

He was the head of his committee?

CM:

He was the head of his committee. Arthur B. Sweeney was on the committee and they've been friends forever. We buried Art this past September and my close friend in Kansas is his widow. We've just been friends all that time.

DM:

What was it then that y'all liked about Arthur Sweeney?

CM:

To begin with, he was a good teacher. But he was very creative—he ended up having test systems where he developed tests that he ended up still there being sold to the army.

DM:

Oh. Okay.

CM:

They worked a lot with tests out of Illinois.

DM:

What were they testing?

CM:

Personality, abilities of all kinds. How interests and personality and interests.

DM:

Aptitudes.

CM:

Aptitudes and also testing for pathology.

DM:

Okay. Well I was wondering because—so what they were doing was testing so they knew where to put these guys in the army? Into what?

CM:

Well, what kind of—

DM:

Skill sets they might have.

CM:

That, but fitting. If you got a controlling officer and a rebelling soldier, you don't really want to put them together.

DM:

Right. That's interesting.

CM:

And so he developed tests and then sold a lot of them to industry and stuff like that so you can match up your people so they're more efficient to get the job done and they're all happier and stay longer and that sort of thing.

DM:

Well were they doing any work with PTSD at this point? Was Jerry involved in that at this time?

CM:

Well, not as a specialty of any kind. When we first got the practice started, he was simply doing evaluations and diagnosis. He was not doing any treatment, and it was because of the medical attitude of the time and the extreme concerns in Fort Worth. I think if we had been in Dallas, it would've been a little different, which we were later years. But he couldn't do—he was training. Couldn't do any counseling in psychotherapy because he would've cut off referrals if he'd done that. But he did a lot of testing for Texas Rehabilitation Commission at the time. When they started out, they were part of the Teachers Association, but then they broke off during the sixties when there was a lot of money coming in for people of all sorts of disabilities. Women, Hispanics, and blacks. They would rent vocational rehabilitation stuff. But he still did diagnostic stuff.

DM:

Okay. So y'all set up this practice in Fort Worth? That's where he began his actual practice?

CM:

Um-hm.

DM:

Let's back up then. You were married from '54 to '64. This is when he got his dissertation. Did you live right there in Lubbock or did you live out down this way?

CM:

We started out in some duplexes on 36th Street.

DM:

Kind of out on the edge of town at that time?

CM:

On the edge of town, and then we were there when our oldest was born, and we were there when the tornado struck. Not the Lubbock tornado, but the one that struck Lynn County.

DM:

Okay. Tell me about that one. I don't.

CM:

The stories were—well his brother and sister-in-law and their one child at the time lived in the house that Jerry grew up in that was six miles that way.

DM:

Six miles East of here?

CM:

Uh-huh. Pinkie was what they called his brother. That would call from Charles, who I'm still dealing with. He lived in the old folk's home. The old grandparents had moved to Lubbock, a house, Flint and 32nd. I could probably find the house. I don't remember exactly.

DM:

Flint and what?

CM:

Maybe 30th or 32nd. I remember there's—if you go down Clint from 19th, there'll be a park on your right that you had to go around to get to the—

DM:

That's Tech Terrace, maybe. Off of Flint.

CM:

Maybe. I don't think it is though.

DM:

Wagner Park and Tech Terrace are on separate sides.

CM:

There was a park off of—well there were parks all over at the time. But anyway, where was I going with that? Oh, the tornado. And Pinkie—Charles, lived in the old folk's home and saw the tornado coming and called Pinkie, and Pinkie grabbed up his kids, and they got in the pickup. His wife and her twin sister were probably a little in shock. Places that I had never been before,

shock. Anyway, Pinkie said the tornado chased him. He would turn one way and then the other, and he did get away from them, but it hit the house.

DM:

Oh my. It hit the old house out here?

CM:

The one that Jerry grew up in. Not the old folk's house, which is still out here deteriorating. But the house that Jerry grew up in.

DM:

Golly.

CM:

We went down there the next day and weird stuff. Something sitting perfectly in the house and then there's a bed tossed up all out here.

DM:

A what?

CM:

A bed maybe tossed out here, but once sitting perfectly in the house. There was—there had been some corrugated buildings out there. Some of that metal was twisted. You couldn't figure out how, and twisted around highline poles and have some of it sticking through highline poles, and what Jerry did that summer, and I think that—I don't know. That must've been in May or June. He helped rebuild the house.

DM:

Okay. So it was salvageable.

CM:

Yes.

DM:

It messed it up, but it didn't destroy it.

CM:

No, and later years, when we built the big geodesic dome to our house in Bedford, we came out and pulled the tub out and several other things because the house was abandoned then, and used

that plumbing in Bedford and actually, wanted to save it—recently when my ____ [00:31:53] says we were here and the guy that we leased the farm to burned it and scraped it into the—

DM:

And did what?

CM:

What they always do. They dig a hole in the ground and burn the house and scrape— [Inaudible 00:32:06]

DM:

Push that in. Right, right. Well, did that tornado hit Wilson or any other homesteads?

CM:

There were some other homesteads around there and I know every once and a while, the little local newspaper will pull up a writing from then and publish it. They'll say, John Doe's house. Anyhow, people—older folks here, the ones from my age and older that have lived here all that time, remember it.

DM:

What year was that? That the tornado hit.

CM:

'57, maybe.

DM:

It was all a couple of years. I can't remember what year the one hit Waco. Real bad tornado.

CM:

I remember that one because we were living in Fort Worth at the time and daddy belonged to the Corps of Engineers and a friend woke us up early one morning. I don't remember what—for some reason, it wasn't work day, but couldn't get us awake, and pounded on the door and finally got them and he told daddy, "We got to get down to Waco," because he had to go down and decide whether the buildings should be condemned or not. He had to stay down there a couple of weeks. He stayed on the air—whatever military base was down there.

DM:

Yeah. So that was probably '50 or '51. Early fifties, right?

CM:

It was early fifties.

DM:

A really bad one.

CM:

I was still at high school. They had a really bad flood in Fort Worth, a few years before that, that took care of the lower thing in Montgomery Ward.

DM:

Right. Exactly. I know about that—I heard about that flood.

CM:

Well, I wasn't there, but I heard about it too.

DM:

Yeah. Golly. A lot of natural disasters in that time period it seems like, but okay. So you lived out there near 34th Street, you said, during that ten years. Where else did you live in that time?

CM:

Then we moved to 46th Street, West of—it must've been Quaker because the other was East of—I think it must've been Quaker that we lived on because I was pregnant with the second child and the little duplex wasn't big enough, and so we got a little two bedroom house.

DM:

That must've been on your part of town out there that way.

CM:

Well, fairly new. It was not a—we were renting, but it was a rent home.

DM:

It wasn't on the edge of town? Sounds like it's pretty far out there.

CM:

It was far out. I don't think it was between Indiana.

DM:

Okay. It was the other side of Quaker. West of Quaker.

CM:

I think so.

DM:

Where else did you live?

CM:

No. I lived on East 2nd Street, just right above McKenzie Park. In fact, it's a house that's still there. That's become more a Hispanic neighborhood, but we were there when Kennedy was assassinated. We were there.

DM:

That was not long before he got his PhD.

CM:

That's right.

DM:

East 2nd at McKenzie Park.

CM:

At that time, there was no houses West of us, and the land sort of sloped down to the park.

DM:

How nice.

CM:

There's houses—they're damp, you know? But it was a new area. The house had been lived in, but it wasn't but a couple of years old. We got it with the G.I. Bill.

DM:

Yeah, good. One of the advantages of him being in the Korean War era, I guess.

CM:

Yeah. Well, yeah. We got extra money because we had extra kids. That helped and we lived more—we lived mostly on the income from the G.I. Bill. They were paying his school.

DM:

Yeah. He got his—he was able to get through his PhD with help from the G.I. Bill from start to

finish pretty much because he was right out of Korea.

CM:

Yes. There was some income from farms and stuff, but—

DM:

But that must've helped.

CM:

But there were other families that were living on that income.

DM:

Yeah. Well, when he started getting up close to receiving his PhD, I guess that's when you started talking about setting up a practice then. What made you think Fort Worth?

CM:

Well, there's something in between.

DM:

Oh, let me—tell me about it.

CM:

He had to get a salary job first.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

And so Art Sweeny, that was on his committee—they continued to be friends forever—had people he knew in different places, and we went out to Western Colorado, to Pueblo, for him to interview for one. It was an adventure. We had left our boys with kinfolks in Fort Sumter and had left April here with Fred because she was in kindergarten and we got—we stopped in Deloris to visit a friend and then left and got stuck in a snow storm and went off the highway.

DM:

Oh, no.

CM:

And I can't remember how many hours. The luckiest thing was—this was before seatbelts, anything like that, and we had kept piled in the backseat. Between the back of the front seat and

the backseat, we kept folded quilts until we came up level and that's where we slept the kids and so we still had those in there and Jerry turned the engine on every once and a while, but we couldn't leave it on. He tried to get out to get unstuck. Find some boards or something and couldn't.

DM:

Did y'all see anyone else while you were out there?

CM:

We'd turn the lights on every once and a while and blink them and eventually, along towards morning, Highway—heard something. I think it was Highway Patrol there. Found us and took us in where we could get something to eat, get warm. Jerry, actually, did get a cold or an upper respiratory infection from getting wet and exposed, but it didn't hit him for a couple of days.

DM:

Well, how many hours were y'all out there?

CM:

I know that we headed out in daylight and it was almost daylight, and this was during April, so it was almost daylight. It was daylight by the time it actually got us into Pueblo.

DM:

So this was a little before dark when it happened?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

And a little after light when they got you out?

CM:

Yeah. It may not have been Pueblo. West of the mountains was where we were going.

DM:

Okay. You weren't on the main highway then?

CM:

Well, it was a main highway. I think it was a US highway.

DM:

Okay, but it's going West out of Pueblo? It wasn't the one—

CM:

We'd come down from Deloris, as I recall. I could look at maps and probably pick it out, and then head West. A fairly large town on the West side of the mountains there. That's not Pueblo. Pueblo's more east of that. Anyway, I'd have to look at the map to remember, and he interviewed for—

DM:

I think I know where you're talking about.

CM:

He interviewed for a job there and I got interviewed too because it was one of those jobs where the wife was expected to have social skills.

DM:

Right, right.

CM:

We didn't fit.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

And the next one he interviewed—

DM:

Was it with a clinic or was it with a university or what?

CM:

It was with a clinic. We were interviewed by a psychiatrist and his wife and they were very cordial.

DM:

Just wasn't the right fit.

CM:

No, and so we knew we were going to have to leave. So I stayed packing up and what not, and I

think he flew to Birmingham to get interviewed. Birmingham, Alabama, to get interviewed with a guy named Herbert Eber. I'll tell you—

DM:

What was the name again?

CM:

Herbert Eber. E-b-e-r.

DM:

E-b-e-r? Okay.

CM:

And he was an interesting fellow. Jerry interviewed and got that job, and half his pay was from some sort of research grant. Well, I know what kind of research grant. It's one that they need to use, but the federal government's paying for it. They were doing testing and what not and placing people according to all the data they got and following them for a while to prove that if you did it right, it took tax burden and turned it into—or a person that's a tax burden—turned them into a tax payer.

DM:

Right, right. Okay.

CM:

And that's not what they ended up doing during the sixties. They took people and put them in jobs that they wouldn't stay in.

DM:

Yeah, yeah. It didn't pay off.

CM:

No.

DM:

Okay. Well, so did you move to Birmingham for this?

CM:

We moved to Birmingham.

DM:

How long were you there?

CM:

Eighteen months.

DM:

I'm glad you were already used to just bouncing around the country. [Laughter]

CM:

Well, we were there during an interesting time, though. I said Herbert Eber was an interesting person because he had been sent to the United States by family when Hitler was beginning to kill Jewish people.

DM:

Oh. Oh. Okay. He was a German Jew, then?

CM:

Yes.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

And he was sent to whatever relatives they found in the United States who were willing to take him, and I found it fascinating that he was like ten or twelve years old, something like that, when they sent him over here, and he could not remember how to speak German.

DM:

Speak German, really?

CM:

Must've been a lot of stuff that he repressed.

DM:

Um-hm. Yeah.

CM:

But coming from a culture that was being abused in lots of ways, he had a great sympathy for the black people in this country.

DM:

Right, right. Birmingham was a hot spot.

CM:

We were there when the church was burned. We were there during the Selma march. Mobs were being placed around town.

DM:

Yeah. How interesting, you were right there.

CM:

Yeah. If I could say it, Herbert was a real interesting fellow and a very controlled fellow, but he did spend time with—why do I block out names? Who's the big civil rights fellow?

DM:

Well, Martin Luther King.

CM:

Martin Luther King. I keep thinking, I know there's roads all over here named after. I blocked out his name. But anyhow, he was spending a lot of time with Martin Luther King and his entourage. He would—among some people—he would laugh every once in a while and say, "You know, I'm just a certified nigger now."

DM:

But he had, like you say, that he would've had a sympathy for that plight.

CM:

He did. And because of his activities with that and poured money into that, they were afraid. They checked out. He had his office in an old converted home. I remember.

DM:

Eber did? Herb Eber?

CM:

Uh-huh. And had a big, I remember, a big porch and packages and stuff were left on the porch. They were very careful about—

DM:

Right.

CM:

They didn't x-ray them and do like they do now, but they really checked out who delivered and what it was.

DM:

So there were threats against him apparently.

CM:

Uh-huh. But my concern was we had a—the movers from here didn't get—they took a long time, weeks, getting our stuff. We were living in a motel for several weeks with these four children.

DM:

Well, that's not easy.

CM:

And when we did get our stuff, there was a lot of stuff missing.

DM:

Really? You think it was because of some reaction against Eber?

CM:

No. I think somebody that packed up our house here filled stuff.

DM:

Right. They found things they liked and just kept them.

CM:

The watch my grandfather gave my grandmother as an engagement present was—like the ladies wore gold watches like round ones like that and you could open up the back and see the inscription that he had put in there. The opal ring she gave me on my sixteenth birthday and a cameo ring that my mother had given me that a young man that my grandparents had taken care of for a while and belonged to the First World War in France, brought this back. Jerry's daddy's pocket watch.

DM:

Lots of jewelry then.

CM:

It was somebody pilfering, and a new scooter the kids had gotten for Christmas because I thought they ought to learn how to ride a scooter before they got bicycles.

DM:
Right.

CM:
We tried to sue the moving company for it. I think we ended up getting twenty-six dollars and something, you know? And I went to—when I'd come back here, I'd go to pawn shops every once and a while hoping I could find those things.

DM:
Right. Golly. That's heartbreaking.

CM:
It is.

DM:
But you got to set up there, I guess, eventually.

CM:
Yeah, and we were not well accepted. Well, he was, you know, in a profession, and all that kind of stuff. We lived in a little bit older part of town, and it would've been better if we had been able to find a house in the more Southern part of town because there were new neighborhoods with people from different places.

DM:
But you went into an old South kind of established society situation?

CM:
Yeah. You had to live there for three or four generations before you're welcomed in [00:51:33].

DM:
Exactly.

CM:
I did get a telephone call telling us to go back to Texas.

DM:
Well, was some of this because of Jerry's association with Herb Eber?

CM:
I don't—I didn't think so at the time. You know, it could have been, but they—I don't know—

just wanted us to leave and the worst thing was—I mean, and the kids didn't know anything about football or anything like that. Jerry always watched the Cowboys, but that was even new for television and stuff like that and so Alabama played Texas one time, and April went to school on the Monday afterwards and a teacher and everybody said how awful Texans were, and they cheated, and April didn't know what they were talking—she didn't know they were—

DM:

Mad about a game.

CM:

Mad about a game.

DM:

Good grief.

CM:

She cried.

DM:

Oh my goodness.

CM:

She walked away from school and walked home crying because they hated her because she was a Texan.

DM:

That's outrageous. That sounds like a psychological study that needed to be conducted. My goodness.

CM:

Yeah, and that was pretty much the attitude so we decided we were Texans. We better come back to Texas.

DM:

How long were you there total?

CM:

Eighteen months.

DM:

Did you meet any of those civil rights leaders while you were there?

CM:

Other than Herb and his wife.

DM:

Yeah. What an interesting experience even though it wasn't the greatest experience. Probably made you appreciate home a little bit more, though. Well, where'd you go when you left Birmingham?

CM:

Fort Worth.

DM:

Okay. That's when you went to Fort Worth.

CM:

My folks lived in Eastern Hills. Daddy had built a home there when I—well, the year I finished high school. I guess the year I went to college.

DM:

Okay. Over in the Eastern hills?

CM:

Um-hm.

DM:

Okay. Was our Polly already changing by that time or was that a lot later?

CM:

No, Polly was still—

DM:

Polly was still Polly.

CM:

White as sliced bread, but there are things that were neat about Polly. It was big compared to Wilson or something, but Mr. Thompson, and I can't remember what his name was, but he was the principal and within six weeks every year of school starting, he knew the name of every

student and he, every time the bell rang for changing classes, he was out in the hall. He did not do any of disciplinary stuff because the assistant principal did that and he would—I remember him coming up to me and saying, “You know, you ought to get along with some other people. You shouldn’t stay just with one group of people.” I can’t remember.

DM:

He knew what was going on with you kids. That’s always impressive and then to remember names. He had a real interest.

CM:

Yeah, and we had frequent assemblies and pep rallies. A pep rally before every game. Basketball, football, whatever. But that’s when I—I didn’t like softball. I had never really played it at all. I didn’t like baseball. I always made sure I was chosen to go in the out, out, out, outfield, you know when there were twenty people on one side or something.

DM:

You did mention that last time because we talked about you getting into archery. Well now, you were going back to—y’all moved to Fort Worth from Birmingham and that was like going home then.

CM:

Yeah. The fact is we stayed with my folks until we found a house in Hurst.

DM:

Okay. Well did he go back to join a clinic or did he go back to just set up his own practice?

CM:

Went to set up his own practice.

DM:

Well good for him. He got a little experience here and there.

CM:

And he had gotten a lot of experience in the service.

DM:

Yeah. He’d been doing this for a while by that time.

CM:

Uh-huh. Like from '52 to '65, he had been involved with it and I had peripherally, in a more academic way. But when we lived in Big Spring, I volunteered at the hospital.

DM:

Oh, did you?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

Okay. So you're right in the middle of all this. From a business end, doing help with some of that, it sounds like, to actually some of the work with people.

CM:

Well, in the last years of the practice, definitely. Because we borrowed five thousand dollars from a bank that one of the officers at the time, was somebody he'd gone to school with at Hardin-Simmons. We lived on that five thousand dollars for the first year, year and a half. That paid rent. We had rented a three bedroom house in Hurst, which was still pretty suburban, just South of Pipeline. It was on Tanglewood 313, I think, but that may have been an erroneous number that just flew away.

DM:

Well, you've lived in a lot of places so if you can remember places—

CM:

Right now, with Fort Worth and Hurst and Euless and Bedford. If you're from that area, you know.

DM:

How long were y'all in that area total, by the way? You came in about '65.

CM:

Uh-huh, and left in '92.

DM:

'92.

CM:

And I worked in his practice the whole time and I also went back to school and I went to—it was

the med school, at that time. A community med school. Well, they were teaching rehabilitation science and dual technicians and para—not paramedical. What is it? I can't remember.

DM:

Well, was this a school in Fort Worth?

CM:

It was in Dallas.

DM:

In Dallas, okay.

CM:

Some of the classes were in Parkland. Some of them were in the med school building. They had—this was, at that time, was an auxiliary campus.

DM:

This wasn't Baylor Medical in Dallas, was it?

CM:

No. It was University of Texas Health Science Centers. That's what it says on the diploma. It took me forty years to get the last two years.

DM:

But you did it. You went back and did it.

CM:

I did it and the main reason I did it was you need an undergraduate degree to go to graduate school, but I burned myself out because I got a 3.97 something. It was a good program and part of that time, I also went with Jerry through Dallas Group Psychotherapy Association, which is a subsidiary of the Southwest, which is a subsidiary of American Group Psychotherapy Association. They had an intensive—[Coughs] frog that I get in my throat.

DM:

Want me to pause it a minute?

CM:

No. It's going to do that anyway. Very intensive program. One full weekend a month. We were there all day Saturday and all day Sunday with whoever at that unit, teaching us group psychotherapy and part of it was experiential. We were also assigned to people out there

practicing, almost all in Dallas because that's where—well people in Dallas are afraid to go West.

DM:

Yeah. [Laughter] That's right.

CM:

I found that whenever there was a conference of Texas Psychological Association and we're—you know, at the right time of day, we're twenty minutes away on freeways. They wouldn't come to social events in Fort Worth because it was too far away and I don't know how many years we commuted to Dallas. We tested for Texas Rehab in Dallas. We tested for the Dues on Probation Department.

DM:

You went over there, but they wouldn't come over.

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Well, that's true what they say then that Fort Worth is where the West begins. [Laughter] We're not going over there.

CM:

Fort Worth is where the West begins and Dallas ends, thank goodness.

DM:

[Laughter] That opens up another point. When I was in school in Fort Worth, I was pretty young, but we had a textbook about Fort Worth history and we learned how Fort Worth was better than Dallas. Did y'all get that same thing when you were at Polly?

CM:

Well, I didn't because—

DM:

You were already high school.

CM:

I was already high school and had to take oral history and American history.

DM:

Right. Far beyond the Fort Worth Dallas thing. Well, so you went over to these training programs. You got completely into this.

CM:

Yeah. I was assigned to a dying practice that was a different one from who Jerry got assigned to, and we also had to meet as some groups during the week to my supervisors. Jerry and I were in that same group, but we would having a supervisor, as well as working out in the fields, so to say. These intensive weekends and that was a two year program.

DM:

I'll tell you, y'all were busy, busy.

CM:

Yeah, and of course, my certification—they certified me, but they could not—I could not have gotten a license or anything because I didn't have a master's degree and I didn't end up getting it because—

DM:

Yeah. Well, you were still doing a lot of work, though, in that field. Now, this is—Jerry had all this experience with military personnel in the past. You know, working with—and this was Vietnam era now, when you were in Fort Worth. Was there any PTSD or anything like that that y'all got involved in at this time?

CM:

No. Well, the biggest practice for a while was with Texas Rehab, but it mostly was referrals from physicians and psychiatrists, and then we had our own groups that we were running by then. Of course, I was—what we did is mostly evaluations during regular daytime and the patient or client comes in, I get the information we needed, Jerry would interview them depending on what—like if he was doing it for an occasional rehab thing, he would probably interview them for about thirty minutes and then turn them over to me and do the testing, and I designed our office. You rent and empty space and they put the walls in for you and everything. So I designed it and he had his office, which was a nice size with carpet and all that kind of stuff and the rest of it, I had booths. We were able to test people, even people who couldn't read because we were using IPAC [International Personnel Assessment Council] [?] [01:06:35], was the name of the—IPAC was a test systems out of Illinois that was fairly progressive and very closely standardized. I object—I have a soapbox on just the thinking people to school now because they are not standardized tests. And anyhow, I won't be on that soapbox. But I would—we had one glasses booth for individual testing back in this other room, and then so I could be in there doing individual testing and then these booths with tape recorders, and if somebody was not well read,

we hooked them up with a tape recorder that read the test to them and I could monitor if they needed to change, but most of the tests they had to take, we recorded all of them. Same tape recorder about that big. Not the nice electronic, the actual tapes that break sometimes. We were able to do more, but if it was a clinical thing or pathological thing, Jerry may interview for an hour to an hour and a half. And there would be some more individual testing that he had to get. The only individual testing I did was intelligence testing. It was pretty rigid, his more projective tests. Not objective tests.

DM:

Where was this location again?

CM:

Okay. The first one was—well south in the old part of town there. What street was that?

DM:

But you had different locations over these years?

CM:

Yeah. The first location was in an old apartment building south of what's the freeway area. South of what would've been Lancaster. Over towards—it was near All Saints Hospital and what's the charity hospital? I can't remember now.

DM:

Everything's changed anyhow.

CM:

That's what was there then and that's why we got it. It was nice, but we needed more space, and so we were up on University and White Settlement. Catty cornered or straight across from the cemetery there and catty cornered across from what was the Volkswagen house at that time.

DM:

Well, how many—all in all, how many different locations did you have over this twenty-seven years?

CM:

Those were the only two.

DM:

Those two, okay.

CM:

Well, that's not true. I forgot. We gradually moved the practice out of Fort Worth as the—well the kids were young and Hurst Euleess Bedford area was pretty much like a small town and Jerry did not want to practice out there as long as our kids were in school there. Complicated. Now, it wouldn't matter because that's all metropolitan.

DM:

It's busy. Yeah. You wouldn't be known as easily, yeah.

CM:

And so we gradually after Coral graduated, and she graduated in '79? Yes. April graduated in '74. Michael in '76, because I remember he was there during the centennial.

DM:

Bicentennial. Yeah, that's when my sister graduated.

CM:

And Lance, '78, probably, '79.

DM:

Oh really?

CM:

All from Trinity High School. April was the—in the first group that went all the way through high school at Trinity. Not the—she started her tenth grade there. There were some that were already in tenth—I mean eleventh, and twelfth grade. She was the first group. But anyhow, we ran a second office while we were still running the one in Fort Worth on Bedford Euleess Road and I can't remember. I can visualize what it—that's another thing, if I had the map there, I'd show you exactly.

DM:

But anyway, a third location.

CM:

Then that became the only location for a while, and then we moved the practice into the house when we bought it. We finally bought a house in Bedford.

DM:

Okay, and that's—that took you to the '92? Nineteen ninety-two?

CM:

Yes.

DM:

And that's when the two of you retired from that?

CM:

No.

DM:

Oh.

CM:

That's—well it was '80 that we moved the practice there.

DM:

Right, right.

CM:

We had some yoyo kids.

DM:

What is that?

CM:

That's kids who grew up, go off, and come back.

DM:

Oh. [Laughter]

CM:

Lance was the first one to come back full-time. He had gone out, like all of them, you know, got fast food jobs or K-Mart and those kind of places, and let's see if I can remember chronologic. He had been working with his brother at a Bonanza in Denton and decided he wanted to go ahead and finish his commercial art degree. He was not cut out to be—he was cut out to be a fine artist, you know, personality wise. A fine artist that had a patron somewhere, which he never found. But he came back and we got a little farm money one year and decided to go ahead and enlarge the house. The house that we were living in had been in an area—well Bedford was not very grown. When we first went out, the Hurst Euless Bedford area—Bedford had one part time cop.

DM:

[Laughter] I wonder what it has now.

CM:

It had a little country grocery store with a butcher market in it, and when things were hard in the practice in those early years, I could go out and buy a little bit of that grocery store and ask the butcher if he had an old bone for our dogs. We didn't have any dogs, but it would be a hand bone that I could cook a pot of beans, cornbread.

DM:

Right. Pretty good.

CM:

My kids insist that we lived on split pea soup forever. It wasn't that bad, but—

DM:

Well, anyway, small town environment. [Pause in Recording] Well, I don't know if you can talk much about this, but I'm wondering if you can remember any interesting cases without mentioning names, of course, but just things that stick in your mind. Good cases, bad cases. Just to give us an idea—give me an idea of what was going on with the practice.

CM:

Okay. Well we did some evaluations for the corps—a lot of evaluations for the juvenile probation departments in Fort Worth and in Dallas, but there was—and I don't remember the names, but there was a mass murderer. He had—

DM:

Juvenile?

CM:

No, this one—well he was a young man, but he was an adult. He had, as I recall, he had holed up in a closet or something in an apartment and held some people, maybe his—he was a black guy. I don't know whether he was going paranoid. I don't remember that. I just remember he killed all these people in this apartment that he was in. The court referred him to Jerry to be tested, which meant I had to test him some and the deputies brought him over. Wouldn't let us unchain him, but there was no way he could get out because there was only an entrance to the office. He couldn't have gotten out any other way and I sat in the closed in little part of the testing room for whatever it took. Some of that takes several hours to do. I mean, when we did a complete evaluation, it was about twelve hours with a patient. You know, sometimes, they'd have to come

back the next day. But I was not threatened by him in any way. I did not feel—I thought it was—you know, he reserved.

DM:

Right. He was the certain—

CM:

But they wouldn't take his chains off. I finally got them to take the chains off his hand because I couldn't get him—couldn't really evaluate how he could manipulate some of this testing material with chains on his hands.

DM:

Yeah, but did they stand right there?

CM:

No. I would not let them stand right there. They could sit there. If he was even a head for the door, he would've had to pass by the couches and stuff in the waiting area. So—

DM:

But you didn't fear for your personal safety?

CM:

Unh-uh.

DM:

Okay. Were there any circumstances where you did?

CM:

Well, I never feared for it, but people very often get angry when they can't do what they could do, which happens a lot with stroke victims.

DM:

They get to a point of frustration.

CM:

Yeah, and I remember testing one old fellow and one of the things on the intelligence test, they called it the Wechsler adult intelligence scale or something like that. Anyhow, there are these rocks that you put together in different—you know, they got some solid sides and some triangles. Whatever. And there's a design over here that you have to use. It's four blocks. How quick they

could do that over five or six—I can't even remember how many different designs. And he couldn't do it so he threw the blocks at me.

DM:

Really? Wow.

CM:

And they were blocks about—inch and a half cubes.

DM:

Did it hurt?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

He hurt you?

CM:

Well, not badly, but one of them hit me—

DM:

In the head.

CM:

I can't remember which side now, but it left a little bruise, but he was ashamed of himself.

DM:

Did you have any kind of—what would you do in a case like that? Could you call Jerry in?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

Jerry did a lot of hospital testing too and I would very often go up to the hospital to pick up—you know, he would do what he had to do and then he would leave the paper tests and I would have to go pick them up. I soon learned that you don't stand around and wait for permission or

anything like that. I had myself made a little thing that had my name on it, and what did I call myself? Because it all depended on whether I was typing or writing or testing. Anyhow, I gave myself a title and I'd just walk up to hospitals, go to the room, and pick up the things and leave because if I'd gone in and asked the nurses station, they'd have to call the doctors to see if it's all right.

DM:

Right.

CM:

You just act like you know what you're doing.

DM:

You were official with that badge, huh?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Do you know—do you remember other situations though? Were you—there was a risk? I mean, a physical threat?

CM:

With a lot of the juveniles, there were.

DM:

Were?

CM:

Yeah, but they didn't actually—I mean, the potential was always there and anytime there was somebody from the adult probation department or from—there was always a deputy. In fact, there was one deputy that liked to come over because he could get Jerry started on Nixon and Jerry could really get on his soapbox on those. This guy like would you know, poke him.

[Laughter]

DM:

So some of these guys, you got to know?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Yeah. Okay. Did you have any cases where you had repeat visits? Same people who would come back for whatever reason over the months or over the years?

CM:

Some of the people that we did therapy with, and we never did a bunch of high society stuff, I guess you might call it. The neurotic homemaker. A fluent neurotic homemaker.

DM:

Right, right.

CM:

But because Jerry's mantra was he was not going to price his skills out of the people who needed him. Out of reach of the people who needed him the most. When we did work for Texas Rehab, of course, they had lists of what they would pay for certain things. You had to charge it. You got it, but you had to charge it. We had standard—you know, it changed. We'd price each test and then the time spent and anybody that came in for therapy on their own would probably come for two or three sessions and then—what are those words? I just hate it. Anyhow, once they were comfortable, then the tests were likely to be more valid and I used to threaten the juveniles because what they would like to do is just mark X's on paper. Mark boxes. That was their job, to mark boxes. I told them, "You can do that, but you know what will happen? It's going to make you look crazy and they're going to send you to Terrell or Big Spring or someplace like that." There was a hospital, a private one, just for juveniles in the Fort Worth area at one time. Send you there.

DM:

That'll straighten them up.

CM:

Most of them. Most of them didn't care one way or the other. I mean, some of them didn't care. Most of them.

DM:

It just sounds like such a challenging profession.

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Was it rewarding? Did you feel that you were—

CM:

Oh, there were some people that we had in group therapy that became friends. In fact, after we moved to Amarillo, I had one patient that would—she would send me pictures here because I remember her little girl was a toddler and I would watch the toddler while Kathy went in therapy. Kathy had some things to work on later, and she would fly out to—she was not a fluent, but she would fly out to Amarillo to work with Jerry and so we did it in the house. We had four bedrooms in Amarillo because we had housing in the old officer's quarters. Since Jerry—Jerry worked for the prison when we came there, but still did a little—

DM:

He worked with what?

CM:

The prison.

DM:

Prison. Yeah.

CM:

When we gave up.

DM:

So that's why you were in an officer's quarters. It was—

CM:

Well, the air base was no longer an air base, and so since he was working at a government facility, we had the right to rent there.

DM:

That's good. Worked out okay. So was that '92 when you went to Amarillo?

CM:

Um-hm. In July.

DM:

Oh. How long were you in Amarillo?

CM:

Until the fall of '95.

DM:

To '95.

CM:

And that, one of the reasons is the practice was deteriorating. Through Michael's illness and HMO [**Health Maintenance Organization**], PPO [**Preferred Provider Organization**] stuff that was limiting referrals. Especially the PPO thing.

DM:

Okay. So you came out to Amarillo. Was that—was ninety—when did y'all retire from this?

CM:

'95.

DM:

All right. So in Amarillo.

CM:

In that three years, we were able to—well I was supposed to have a job there too. When I came out, they didn't have a job for me and I was not particularly happy because I was in—almost everybody in that neighborhood went to work every day.

DM:

Yeah. There you were.

CM:

I didn't know anybody in Amarillo and we came down here almost every weekend. Lance was living here.

DM:

Living down here at the lake?

CM:

Yeah. He was living up with a boxcar. When Michael died, Lance just threw some stuff in the pickup and came out here. He lived down by these, where the trailer houses—he pitched a tent under those elm trees and planned to live there, and Jerry and I couldn't stand it that he was going to be here in the winter. He was going to—

DM:

Freeze.

CM:

Freeze. He was going to—wouldn't have anything to eat. He did get him a little job in a little fast food restaurant in Tahoka, but he was living in a tent. So we found that—just happened to find that crew car and then Jerry bought the boxcar at the same time and that's where—I say I have at least fifty years of my life are in that boxcar. A whole lot of it could be tossed.

DM:

Well, okay. So you came down here while you were working in Amarillo, but when you retired, did y'all just move down here then?

CM:

Uh-huh. Well, we made our official address as a P.O. Box in Wilson, but it's hard to find someplace so we rented some apartments in Slaton. I really didn't like that, but I was in the car over here at Lance's house lots of times and in '97, we bought that trailer house. Jerry cashed in all his retirement and because he could get social security by then.

DM:

You ended up in one of the greatest places in the country around here.

CM:

Yeah. Well, we had spent a lot of time here over the years. We brought our kids out here.

DM:

This particular site, was this the place that you liked to come to? The old alley place.

CM:

The old alley place was there, but we could get in from the North at one point and there was a hackberry road right over the—above the canyon and I wish I had the bulletin board. You could see pictures of us there. Anyway, we would camp out there, and I drove up that way with you.

DM:

Yeah, yeah. You showed me some of the places where y'all had camped.

CM:

It wasn't a strange place. It's a place where we wanted to come. We enjoyed it. And Jerry had always said he wanted to make—well he would call it a game reserve, but his idea was that it would be conserved, really.

DM:

Right, right. Now this went all the way back to his grandfather. Is that right?

CM:

Yeah. His grandfather had bought it in the late twenties, early thirties, sometime.

DM:

So Jerry had access to this out here all his life.

CM:

He went to his first roundup out here when he was seven years old.

DM:

When he was seven?

CM:

He was expected to bring a wandering cat [?] [01:33:49] and those pens that we can't quite get to right now. Well, you have to walk to them.

DM:

Where the dips are? Dipping vats? Yeah. Okay. So when you were in Fort Worth, would you come out here then? Just to see the place, check on the place, or were you too busy?

CM:

We were too busy. We came out—oh, not just Amarillo. We came out over the years. Brought our kids out here.

DM:

From Fort Worth?

CM:

From Fort Worth or Tarrant County.

DM:

Yeah, so this was kind of a family—a place to bring the family.

CM:

Even before it was partitioned.

DM:

Yeah, okay. When did that happen, by the way?

CM:

Eighty, '81, I think, the paperwork finally.

DM:

Now, so what did you and Jerry end up with out here because of the—with the partition? What—can you kind of describe what?

CM:

I got something that'll help you.

DM:

Okay. I'll pause this a minute. [Pause in Recording]

CM:

Take snapshots of anything. Actually, I wish you could see the pictures on that digital camera. It's just for your own pleasure and I can't—I haven't been able to get it to work since we had that last storm.

DM:

Maybe I can—

CM:

I hope it didn't wipe that off because Warren took every one of the pictures on there and he's a pretty good little wildlife photographer.

DM:

Oh.

CM:

A lot of them are labeled.

DM:

Okay. And it's on a digital camera over here?

CM:

Digital picture frame.

DM:

Oh, okay. Maybe we can take a look at in a bit. But anyway, so y'all would come out here and camp?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

And when did you start—and you said Jerry thought of it as a wildlife conservation area.

CM:

Yeah. That's was what his idea—and when we thought we would be more affluent than we were, we had thought to build a home here and still have the one in Bedford. Didn't work out that way.

DM:

Well, yeah. That's so tough, anyhow, having like a homes in different places.

CM:

Well, and I imagine we would've ended up staying out here anyway.

DM:

Yeah. That's right. Well, did he ever talk about how things changed out here from when he was a kid to when y'all were spending time out here? Like, for example, animals. Like did he talk about whether there were deer out here when he was a kid?

CM:

Well, he talked about what his granddad talked about.

DM:

Oh. Do you remember any of that?

CM:

Some of it. He would say, you know, I could walk out and have an antelope for supper in less than thirty minutes. Well, there's no antelope here now. And I'd ask Warren why that is and the fencing, to begin with, and the cotton fields.

DM:

Right.

CM:

And over hunting.

DM:

Antelope don't like fences and they like that grassland. What about deer?

CM:

We saw the first deer out here. Jerry never remembered seeing any deer at all out here and when—let's see—it must've been around 2000.

DM:

Is when you started seeing them?

CM:

The first time we realized they were here. We had one of my grandsons was with us and he kept saying, "I see reindeer. I see reindeer." In a little while, we saw them too, but they weren't reindeer. They're mule deer and we don't have any whitetails here, but there are whitetails in the county.

DM:

We're kind of on that mixing line. I only see mule deer at my place. I've never seen whitetails there.

CM:

A big one. A big old buck, and everybody insisted he was at least twelve pointers.

DM:

Really?

CM:

And he'd get up on a hill, and you could see him from four hundred. And my minister—was frequently drove to Tahoka. He took his sons, went to school at Tahoka. Both of them are at Tech now. He thought it was somebody had put a statue, a model, up on that hill because he was just amazed. He called me to go, look. It was that impressive. That picturesque. But that was maybe seven or eight years ago and cellphones could not take that good of picture then.

DM:

Right, right. Well, did Jerry ever speculate as to why there weren't deer out here in the earlier years?

CM:

I don't remember him—a few things I do know, I know that when he was growing up here, they never had any trouble with ticks and there were no grass burs. And of course, definitely no fire ants.

DM:

What about salt cedar? Did he know if there was salt cedar back then?

CM:

There was some. They're fixing to spray it for me.

DM:

They're what?

CM:

They're fixing to spray my creek.

DM:

But what about way back? Did he say there was a little bit then?

CM:

He didn't remember the salt cedar until—except just a few bushes, you know? Not the invasive thing. He did complain about overgrazing, but when there was nobody here to monitor it, he couldn't do much about it.

DM:

What about mesquite? Did he talk about how mesquite had changed or if it had changed?

CM:

It had gotten thicker, but it does that when you overgraze. I am complaining now about the broom weed because it's coming in from the North of us here and then we've got too many cows out here now. Warren was saying last night that he's going to have fence off that peninsula because the—

DM:

Really? The platform—I mean, the pad.

CM:

No, the peninsula. It's built out where the creek is run into the lake because that's where they had a lot of snowy plover nest out there and no babies, or not only one or two babies or something

like that because the cows are out there and he says they're eating it.

DM:

Eating the nests?

CM:

Eating the eggs.

DM:

The eggs. Golly.

CM:

And I said, "I didn't have any idea cows would ever eat anything like that." He said deer will too sometimes.

DM:

Golly. So he's going to have to put up a little fence across there.

CM:

"You going to use that section line fence?" Because the one put in there in the 1880's or so. Parts of it are still there.

DM:

Are still there. Yeah, yeah.

CM:

He said, "Maybe use the line," but he's got to not cut the cattle off any water, but to try to keep them off that fence.

DM:

Right, right. Okay. Have y'all ever seen any big cats out here? Mountain lions.

CM:

I have seen the print and the cow that it killed, but I haven't seen the animal itself. But I've heard rumors from people in Tahoka seeing a lion walking in the streets. We call them cougars.

DM:

Yeah. Mountain lion or cougar. Pad about four inches wide?

CM:

Yes, and it was the South end where we didn't go. Where I have to go through the quarry and down a ways. It's down there on the beach area.

DM:

Well, it's so much—it's so rare to see them, but not so rare to see signs of them. How big was the cow that was killed? Was it full grown?

CM:

Yes. Calf was gone too.

DM:

Wow. Golly.

CM:

And a couple of the log bones. I don't remember just what and then the carcass laid out there for a good long while. It was good and dry. We were always saving or had been saving animals that die. Birds, snakes, stuff like—freezing them and giving them to Eileen. So it was her birthday and Lance and I took—drug that carcass, even all dried up, was the heaviest thing I've ever—we drug that up the path of the utility trailer and drove it up to the museum and left it for Eileen for her birthday present in February. It was cold. I don't know what she ever did with it.

DM:

[Laughter] That's good. Let's see. What else? How about snake populations out here? Any indication that they've changed over time?

CM:

I've seen it change. It fluctuates and almost always get a big snake and mouse season. Same time. And there—I thought there was going to be a big snake problem this year and my grandson that just lives, what I say, up here on the corner. Just where you turn off of 400, where the trees are. He keeps killing them in their yard up there. But knock on wood, I have not had—seen one I guess since early last fall maybe. That one, I'm not a good as shot as I used to be either. I say it's because my eyes aren't safe because I've got implants because of cataracts and stuff like that. But there was one up here on the—just above the porch or the driveway porch there, and my daughter was staying with me at the time. She stayed with me for four months when I had the wreck and the surgeries and I think she's says, "Mom, there's a rattlesnake out there," and she says, "I don't know how to use a gun." So I get my little four ten out there. I missed it standing ten feet or so back. There's not anything but just a front side on that thing. I kept missing it. Finally, ended up getting really close so I blew it all to pieces, but it was digesting there.

DM:

Sitting there, yeah. You could've walked right up on it.

CM:

Yeah, so I put the gun up its nose and pulled the trigger.

DM:

Did you ever—I think you have a Western diamondback rattlesnake mounted back here. Is that what you have out here? Are they always the western diamondbacks or do you know?

CM:

They almost always are. We saw one when a man named, David Hocus, who worked at—Dr. Hocus worked at Tech, and also worked for the feds, I think. Anyway, he was bringing students out here. It had been wet and we were up on the North end and we saw a black rattlesnake and I had never heard of one.

DM:

Pretty much totally black?

CM:

Totally black, but he was a rattlesnake and he was sleeping. We were all standing around looking at it because nobody'd ever seen a black rattlesnake. We finally woke him up with all the chattering and moving around, and he'd definitely coiled him up. We just got out of the way because you don't kill them unless they're up around the house or the dog yard.

DM:

You ever see the small ones? The Massasauga or pigmy rattlers, some people call them? Ten inches long or so?

CM:

On the road, I see some, but I assume they were babies.

DM:

They could be or they could be those Massasauga. They're out here. Probably around Tahoka Lake. They're in this country for sure.

CM:

Have they been mating always?

DM:

Yeah. They're not as obvious, you know? And I have not seen any on my place, but I've talked to people and they—

CM:

Well, and if there's a rattlesnake crossing the road after I get up on that road, if I can't straddle him I'll go around him, I don't—there's several other kinds. One that I tried to catch, I couldn't catch, but was bright orange and black, and it didn't move too fast.

DM:

Talking about a non-poisonous snake.

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

I think we were talking last time, if we could catch them and put them under our house, we would.

CM:

Yeah. If anybody runs across, especially a bull snake, they'll put him in my new well house. My well house burned down this last year.

DM:

Oh really?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

What caused it?

CM:

We don't know. I came home around two o'clock from church on Sunday. We always go out to eat after church, and it was not long after I had the North wild park built and I was kind of looking to see what it looked like coming over the hill, and it took me a minute to figure out, something's different. I come on down and the roof was lying flat on the ground and it was still smoking and the highline pole was almost burnt through. Still had little short flames on it. I think the only thing that saved it—you can still see the tank out there. There's a rupture in it and it must've boiled the water in it until the pressure was so that it ripped it and made it steam. Kept

us from having a grass fire out there because I could see out in the road where there was some water. I had to go into the insurance to get my new one. It's all metal, but it's got no floor in it. The other one has base under there that rattlesnakes would go in, but this one's just got the dirt so rattlesnakes can get under there if they want to.

DM:

Are there any—what other wildlife can we think of here?

CM:

My goodness. I wish I had the book here.

DM:

Probably have coyotes and bobcats out here.

CM:

Bobcats. I saw the biggest bobcat I've ever seen, and I looked out the window when I was still living in a trailer house one time and there was a mama bobcat and two babies following her and it was fall or winter. I can't—there wasn't much grass and brush there. I could see her really well. Just watched her until she got inside. There's badgers.

DM:

Raccoons?

CM:

Raccoons. Not as—I don't see them as often because I haven't been—I fed them.

DM:

You fed them?

CM:

I did. It got too expensive. I quit feeding them anything but garbage now. I was feeding them cat food. I would buy cat food for them and the mamas would bring the little babies up as soon as they were mobile and they would climb up in the rafters. Some of them would hide behind others. I wish I'd had a video camera, but yeah. We've got raccoons.

DM:

Armadillos out here?

CM:

I have seen armadillo twice and they're not—they didn't used to be here. That was one of the things Jerry said that never was here. That and grass burs.

DM:

As many animals as have extended—as have lost their range? That's not the case with armadillos, they've expanded their range. They've gone farther North so it's not unusual to hear that they're appearing.

CM:

And the white winged doves have moved in.

DM:

Yes, right. That's right. Do you have those big Eurasian doves? The collared doves? They're another kind. I don't know. Sometimes it's—

CM:

I don't watch them as much because my bird feeders.

DM:

How about—did you ever have the little Inca doves out here? Little bitty things.

CM:

Not that I know of.

DM:

Okay. They used to be around Tech campus. You don't see them anymore. Those bigger doves apparently run them off.

CM:

There's a couple of stilts down at the pond that I've been watching lately and I see lesser blue herrings.

DM:

Yeah.

CM:

And I see golden eagles down on the South end.

DM:

Really?

CM:

I went down there one time on just my wanderings when people weren't messing around with quarry and what not. There's a great big seeder halfway uphill and caves above there that's some of the highest altitude. The highest altitude in Lynn County used to be where the quarry is now. But anyhow, there's a nice bluff that has these little shallow caves on the East side. I climbed halfway up there or wherever that tree was and just sat there and was looking out and it's bushed out, you know? They couldn't see me from above as long as I was still.

DM:

The golden eagles?

CM:

Golden eagles and they were catching the thermals off that hill and just sailing around. I just got to lay back against the trunks there and watched them for a long time. And I was going to go poking up in those caves because it was—I guess spring or summer. Anyhow, they don't poke up in there very much in the winter because the rattlesnakes moved in there. Lance dug into one of those about that far. I've got some of my stuff in the case in there and he, about that deep, he ran into the ash the whole way. Little bits of bone. I've got the little bits of bone he picked up out in that little box.

DM:

Okay. So they had been occupied at one time. I know you have, don't you have a Sandhill crane population out here?

CM:

Oh yeah. That's almost a given. Yes, they come in by the multi thousands in the last part of October, and they stay through whatever weather is in March depending on—and people who camp out down there on the pad complain about the noise, but they're beautiful to watch coming in and they'll—I would sit out on the steps of the porch down there and if they were going to go out for breakfast, they would come over. It felt like if I stood up, I could touch their town. I could see them because they're coming up that way. I'm told you could see one or two had I urged. It may have been different directions, but not groups suffering [?] [01:57:17].

DM:

Scouting it out?

CM:

Uh-huh, and sometimes, it's three and they tell me that they mate for life and if you see two of them, that is a couple, and if the third one is likely to be one of their offspring that they are training. So they go out and find where they're going to have breakfast and then in a little while, they start waking up and swirling around and then would go out and eat. You see bunches of them later come and playing with the thermals way high up just going around and around.

DM:

Pretty good life, huh?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Riding the thermals. Those legs hanging out the back.

CM:

There's—we're in central flyway so we get lots of hawks.

DM:

Particular kinds? Red tails?

CM:

I'm not good at identifying. I know a hawk from a falcon.

DM:

Well, has anyone estimated the number of Sandhill Cranes that come in here for the winter?

CM:

David Hocus, I'm pretty sure has, because I've been told that it must've been by him or one of his students or something that there's been as many as a hundred thousand of them roosting here. Of course, they roost over at Muleshoe at the reserve over there, and I guess some of them bothering town. Playa Lakes. Playas.

DM:

What about Canada Geese? Do they come out here to Tahoka Lake?

CM:

Out on the lake, uh-huh. There are big geese and other kinds of water birds, not so much on the ponds because the ponds don't have enough runway.

DM:

Right, right. Well do you get large numbers of Canada Geese? Do they compare the numbers of Sandhill Cranes?

CM:

No.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

And my vision is pretty good, but it's not good enough when I stand up on a hill and look down there and see all these little moving dots all over the lake.

DM:

Right.

CM:

I have some of the folks out here with cameras with telescopic lenses on them and some of the pictures on that digital picture frame. Warren's got lots of different birds, mostly, because that was his primary interest. Got this job where he's working on big animals.

DM:

Yeah. Well the snowy plover, is it a threatened species or anything?

CM:

Well, the way I understand it, the wisdom was before he started working with them about sixteen to eighteen years ago, whatever it was, that there were no snowy plovers in this part of the world. And he has documented that there are and even some of the ones that he abandoned fifteen years or so ago have come back.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

So and he—they're still working on trying to get a grant with us and folks at the University of New Mexico and Oklahoma. Trying to do it to get it, but he says to write up a grant for a university to do something with another university and go through the provost, all that stuff is a big deal.

DM:

Has he estimated the numbers of plovers that come out here?

CM:

I know he has. I can't tell the numbers, but he could. They're less than there were several years ago, but there's more than there were just a couple of years ago. Of course, they're going to be less this coming year because of cows. No babies.

DM:

Right. So those numbers fluctuate. By the way, some other animals I forgot to ask about. You have a painting of a—Lance did a painting of a swift fox or kit fox. I don't know.

CM:

Well, we got red fox and grey fox.

DM:

You have what?

CM:

Red fox and grey fox.

DM:

Red fox and grey fox. You don't have any of the smaller ones? Swift foxes?

CM:

I know. That's what I know. But they're a little shy and move very fast.

DM:

Have you had any prairie dogs down around here?

CM:

There was a prairie dog town. Not in this two and a half sections, but in the larger seven and a half sections, there was one on the—if I recall, towards the Southeast area and I've seen some head between here and Wilson. Every once and a while, I'll see one crossing the road. But I've seen some of the owls.

DM:

The burrowing owls?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

Down here around the lake?

CM:

Yeah, well up on the highlands here or higher. Actually, when I'm think of down around the lake, not on the beach area.

DM:

Yeah, yeah. Okay. Well, you mentioned Nancy McIntyre last time did some dragonfly work down in here. Did she ever work on the burrowing owls?

CM:

Not that I know of. She might have.

DM:

I need to ask her.

CM:

Because as far as I'm concerned, all the scientists, as long as they don't—not being destructive. The most destructive scientists are the archaeologists and they're very careful with what they do. I know that there was a little oriental girl coming out here a couple of years ago and she was doing some sort of experiments with some of the plants. Of course, if she pulled up a weed and took it back with her to the lab, it's not going to hurt anything.

DM:

Not a big deal.

CM:

If they get some of the invasive stuff, that's fine.

DM:

Yeah. By the way, are there fish? Do you have a fish population down here in the lake or is it too salty?

CM:

It's too salty, but we do get little crabs and Warren says that I don't know how to express this. There is the top salted crusts here and of course, there's a lot of rock around it to conglomerate

with the shells, but below, which apparently fluctuate is a layer of invertebrate life. He's concerned about with the water levels. Ogallala thing fluctuating so and they don't want that to dry out. It's real important it's there. It's not being studied like it could be. I'd go out with a snare drum and walk up and down campus if I could get—

DM:

Someone to come out and test this water system situation.

CM:

Well, just come study. There's so much stuff to study—why not? It's not that far to drive down here.

DM:

Yeah, it's real close.

CM:

If you want to leave a couple of grad students to stay the night or some of these master naturalists come out here, pitch a tent, even when they—in fact, the last ones pitched a tent and stayed out, but they came in here to cook breakfast, which is just fine.

DM:

So that layer under the salty crust is depleting it seems like and therefore, the invertebrates are suffering and that's going to affect the bird life and your raccoons.

CM:

There are fish and minnows and stuff, but not once they get in the creeks, you can find it, and in these ponds and spring areas. Minnows. They have been stocked before and I had considered stocking it, but I can't look at a pond and tell you the volume and I want somebody to tell me. I don't want to just go there and put a bunch of—throw a bunch of fries in there. I want somebody to put in there. Something to eat the algae, something to eat—

DM:

Yeah. Number and what's going to work. Of course, the raccoons would appreciate anything you threw in there. [Laughs]

CM:

There is a list around here somewhere and I can't remember where it is, where Warren made a list of all the animals that he had seen at that particular time.

DM:

I'd love to have a copy of that for the Southwest Collection, considering that we have this interview, and yeah. That'd be nice to have, if you don't mind mentioning to him or find it to meet him, I'll look him up. I'll look him up and contact him.

CM:

The best time right now to meet him would be today and then next Tuesday, maybe you could catch him. I don't know when he's coming and going today at Tech or not. Like I said, he had planned the time to just goof off. Catch up on some stuff and poke around here, then he has to go up to Rhode Island.

DM:

Right. Okay. Can you tell me about some of the archaeological projects out here that have taken place? You've mentioned them off the recording, but maybe Eileen Johnson's work and let's start with that.

CM:

Did I give you—I may have some extra of one of the tour guide things. Let me look real quick. [Pause in Recording] I first made contact with Lubbock Lake Landmark when my younger grandson was visiting here and we were trying to find some entertainment for him and took him up and I think it was October. I don't know. April was visiting for some reason and he got throw that Atlatl, and weave a piece of cloth and see what historic, pre-historic people ate.

DM:

Um-hm. This was up at the landmark.

CM:

Up at Lubbock Lake Landmark. Uh-huh.

DM:

You met Eileen, then?

CM:

I actually didn't. I was just talking to one of the docents about what's down here, and he got excited and said he'd bring Eileen down, and I think that was probably 2000, and she came around later. They started—they found the Pastorius fence and just the idea that she could find something about the Pastorius because she didn't have any evidence before that that they had been in this area.

DM:

What is up here? At the pasture is a ring of stone? A stone pen?

CM:

Yeah. A stone pen. There is a picture of part of it before—of course, it's gotten itself covered up by now. They covered it with bricks and plastic and then Mother Nature's taken care of the rest of it by now.

DM:

Sure. Did they find anything besides stone? Any other evidence that there were Spanish shepherders?

CM:

Not that I know. They give me those lists of receipts of stuff they take out and they very often have technical terms that I don't know, but they have found hearths and stands, since there are hearths all over the place. The one that they excavated pretty completely along the edge of mammoth creek walls there and I do have pictures somewhere of—you can see where they've excavated it and somebody's tennis shoe and things like that. Lance was taken quite a few pictures with his thirty-five millimeter camera.

DM:

Okay, and these hearths. Have they found—so they find charred bones, I guess?

CM:

Well, they had found more where they were processing vegetable matter of different kinds and some of the supposition that some of the students were saying to me and I don't know whether that ever got in an article or anything or not, that they did most of the butchering and whatnot up at Lubbock Lake Landmark, along there. But they were likely to come here where there's more protection from the North and they would do—be here maybe during the winter and be processing more vegetable stuff. Doing a lot of flint mapping or chert mapping.

DM:

Okay. Did they ever say where that flint might've come from?

CM:

I don't know. I've seen some that I thought was Alibates. I've got—

DM:

I know you've got—I know these studies are there. I'm just seeing what you might remember at the top of your head first. What about—you know, you mentioned some mammoth digs?

CM:

That's—they found a lot of that on the—where they washed out of the side of Mammoth Creek and they would take big drawer looking things of the bone and the dirt from around it and hurry back to Lubbock with it. See, if I'd had the building that I wanted to have, they would've been able to do it here. At least, the first part of it, preserve it. They wouldn't have to do that rushing back. They found mammoth bone. A prehistoric horse. Different rodent type bones.

DM:

Different what?

CM:

Rodent.

DM:

Rodent bones?

CM:

Uh-huh, and possibly bird bones. I'd say I've got a receipt list.

DM:

Yeah. Did they—has anyone ever mentioned any evidence of hunting mammoth down here? Mammoth butchering?

CM:

They haven't mentioned it.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

But Stance would know a lot of that off the top of his head and then there's the historic stuff like the windmill and the dugout.

DM:

The dugout, which is possibly—

CM:

McKenzie.

DM:

McKenzie. And then the windmill house is—and the foundation to the house and the backhouse—the out buildings or ally from the 1890's. Okay. Any other historic sites like that around the lake that you know of?

CM:

Well, the—well not that historic. Well, I guess they would be because the pin doing that has got the date in the concrete.

DM:

Concrete. Yeah. What date did you say on that?

CM:

It's 1890 and I can't remember. It's six or three. It's not real plain at that.

DM:

Right. So that's ally as well, you think?

CM:

Uh-huh.

DM:

Okay. So good history. Good pre-history. Good natural history. We haven't even talked about geology.

CM:

But—what was his name? Vance Holiday. Fact is I saw his picture this weekend on that—in the museum at the landmark where they've got big blown up black and white pictures of them doing some digging here in the seventies or whatever. Eileen's picture's there, and Vance Holiday, and he was out here, and when he was in the area, I don't know whether he was close. I think he's in Arizona now, but he—they want to do some dating of some of the stuff that they pulled out in relation to particular layers.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

Some of the layers that they want, they haven't found yet.

DM:

Okay. So a lot more work to do in the geology area.

CM:

He's an archeo-geologist and anthropology.

DM:

So did you say they were out here in the seventies? Was Tech out here in the seventies?

CM:

I got the idea that they were out here in the forties and fifties. Now, what's out here in the seventies was to blame the blowing the holes in the ground out here.

DM:

The what?

CM:

The quarry.

DM:

The quarry. That was seventies?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

Forties and fifties, maybe, Tech was out here? Or some—

CM:

Well, somebody found some stuff and they called Tech out here.

DM:

Oh, okay.

CM:

And my rumors have told me that they went into the archives at the collection.

DM:

You're talking about flint or what? What do you think?

CM:

People say arrowheads. I don't know. They just say prehistoric stuff because it's just—

DM:

Yeah. Well, did William Curry Holden ever come out here? Does that name ring a bell with you? He worked with Eileen Johnson way back at Lubbock Lake Landmark.

CM:

I don't know that he was ever out here. I've heard his name and I'm trying to remember the—I took a course in anthropology or archeology. I don't remember which, back in maybe '56, or '57. Along in there.

DM:

You remember the professor?

CM:

I remember exactly what he looks like. I remember there's some history that he had found maybe a Clovis point. Anyhow, something very unusual that would've promoted him to heaven or someplace.

DM:

Yeah.

CM:

And that his young daughter had lost it.

DM:

Oh, okay. Can you describe what he looked like?

CM:

I remember him being tall, fair headed. What I remember mostly about him is that he was a good teacher and that he was comfortable. He engaged students without being professorial.

DM:

Yeah. Was he real thin?

CM:

Yes.

DM:

Did he wear glasses?

CM:

I don't remember that.

DM:

Do you think he might've been Holden?

CM:

Might've been. I know I asked Eileen at one time and she said a name that sounded familiar and I don't remember whether it was Holden or not, and that he and his wife had moved off to Canada.

DM:

Yeah. His daughter—Holden's daughter's name was Jane and she became an anthropologist and she moved off to Calgary, Canada. So this might've been—Holden might've been your professor. I don't know. But anyway, just wondering and you know, with this right here, it just seems like some of those guys had to of come down here somewhere along the way. It just—to think of them missing it would boggle my mind.

CM:

But you know, I'll talk to people in Tahoka and say something about Tahoka Lake—not so much now because I've been here talking for a while, but they'll say, "I didn't know Tahoka had a lake. I've lived here all my life."

DM:

That's amazing. It's a well-kept secret, isn't it?

CM:

Yeah, and I know the only time they would keep people out is when they were protecting cattle here and I know after old Mr. May died, Mrs. May didn't care what happened to this place. It was not important to her at all. That was Boss's place. She always called him Boss and everybody else knew that this wasn't true. That he was not the boss of the family.

DM:

You know, there may be some records. I need to dig around when I have time, which might not be until October or so because I'm just so swamped, but maybe there's some records of some of some of that activity down here. Finding out whether it's at the museum or the archives or where is often a challenge.

CM:

Pre-computer records are hard to find.

DM:

This is true. This is true, but I just can't imagine them not having been down here, so I think we can find something. Can you tell me a little more about more recent years? The Calm Foundation, for example? That's the nonprofit that you talk about, right?

CM:

Yes.

DM:

J.C. Calm?

CM:

Uh-huh. I create this since Jerry and the boys died, and I know this place was very important to them and actually, in a fantasy, I would put a force field around it and completely protect it forever, but only program the force field to let in things that I want. Keeping human beings out. The—I had a student that was in a program at Tech that helped me do the government part of filling out all the forms and getting them right, but the title of J.C. Calm is Jerry's name, with a J. Mine with a C. And our four children, April, Michael, Lance, and Coral. It would be Coral, April, Lance, and Michael. We tried spelling lots of different things with that and my daughter, April, would say, "No, that's a naughty word in Spanish. We don't want to do it that way." It wasn't until we came up and called it the J.C. Calm. Foundation.

DM:

That's nice.

CM:

We didn't want to put the main name on there. Just—that would sound like bragging.

DM:

Right, right. Well then, when it's J.C. Calm, is it—JC or is it J.C.?

CM:

J.C.

DM:

And then Calm?

CM:

Like it is a person.

DM:

So it looks like a person?

CM:

Yeah.

DM:

But it's not.

CM:

It's not.

DM:

It's a lot of people.

CM:

Well, I've lost three of my four kids as adults. That's the way of honoring them.

DM:

April is the daughter that's living?

CM:

Yes. Her daddy named her, April May. He used to say he wanted to name her March April May and we talked him out of it. April said she wished they had because she could've been a smart aleck about it when people would tease her.

DM:

Well, tell me about what year did you establish the foundation?

CM:

I'd have to look at the paperwork on that.

DM:

Or estimate.

CM:

Maybe '08, or '09, 2008 or '09.

DM:

Okay. Coming up on ten years then?

CM:

Yes. It did have a landmark status.

DM:

Was it Texas Historical Commission Landmark Status?

CM:

Um-hm.

DM:

Okay.

CM:

And this cousin I talk about that has gone through more land than anybody else in the family and has caused me a lot of legal problems over the years. Right when I—about the time we got the foundation started and Ilene and—no, the landmark status we got that before Jerry and Lance died because they were working on it then and Lance was dating Ilene during that time and got everything done, all the paperwork done. All the whatever—witnessing of what's worth saving out here done, and the historical commission had a conference in Corpus Christy that year and Charles' cousin went down there. I went to it because somehow they got—I can't remember how they got on the agenda, Charles' threat against the property. And I've been kind of resentful towards the Texas Historical Commission since, even though I still work on the local deal. But he threatened criminal charges against the commission for allowing a landmark status to be given to us without his permission, since it's his contention that because he owns five twelfths of the mineral rights and that caliche, sand, and gravel. By all the partition declares mineral—I mean, caliche, sand, and gravel as mineral and that's surface minerals, and he believes he owns five twelfths of the surface of the property, and that they—that the commissions should never have done anything without his permission. Without his written author[ization]—and it was criminal, form them to do that and he was going to file criminal charges, and it's my belief that they did not want to get involved with that kind of legal stuff, and so they took the landmark status away.

DM:

How long was the landmark status in place?

CM:

A couple of years, anyway.

DM:

And then they revoked it?

CM:

Yeah. And what happened—precipitated this is he wanted to start the quarrying again. I didn't want that. I didn't mind selling some of the stock pile that was there. It was nothing like it is now, but he called me up and I said, "Charles, we've got to be careful about doing any of that because there's so much stuff that has to be preserved and this is a landmark." And he started threatening over the telephone. He has threatened me several times, never with witnesses. Some of his threats are coming through because it's cost every bit of money. I had to—I did have a mortgage on the farmland. I had to remortgage it in order to be able to pay legal fees and the farmland is deeded also to the foundation so I don't personally own any of this land anymore and I'm working real hard to get my board to take up more responsibility too, but Ilene does not. This was—the way to date that, I can't remember exactly what year. The way to date is this took place right after Ilene quit being on the executive whatever it is—State Historical Commission. She finished her sentence there, and if it had been with her still there, I don't think that would've happened because it got its landmark status with her name and she doesn't believe—it's the only time we know about that they ever—

DM:

Revoked.

CM:

Revoked one. And she doesn't believe that even if it's a whole bunch of people that they would ever go back on a decision like that. Of course, we could never get federal recognition without the state.

DM:

Without the state, okay. Who is your board, by the way? If you don't mind.

CM:

Me, April, two granddaughters. Grandsons could not be because—well they can eventually be if they ever clear their records, but they've both been felons. I don't think it is right that Jason filed them and the other one—but that has to be all cleared up if they ever wanted anything. And then there's Warren Conway, who's a wildlife management professor at Tech and his wife, who works with the forestry department now. She has her doctorate too, Tamberly.

DM:

What's her name?

CM:

Tamberly. T-a-m-b-e-r-l-y. And Manuel Deleon that works in our CS and his wife, who has an MED. He has a master's and she's got an MED. I forget what you call what she does, but she teaches teachers. Someone that when teachers have workshops, when they have these things they have to go to, she's one of those people.

DM:

So that's your board.

CM:

That's my board.

DM:

Okay. What are the—

CM:

Fact is I'll give you a piece of stationary here with the logo on it.

DM:

Okay. What do you see as the more critical projects or studies that need to happen out here?

We've talked about some of these, but just right off the top of your head, maybe some of the more critical things that you would like to see studied?

CM:

Studied?

DM:

Yes, uh-uh. Or taken care of. I know preservation generally.

CM:

Yeah, legal stuff. Warren and his wife would like to live here. My granddaughter, Shannon, and her husband would like to live out here and as members of the board, it's okay, but if they ever built houses here, they probably would not want to because that's a cloud on the title.

DM:

Yeah, okay. [Knock on door] Let's pause this.

[End of Recording]