

CO: It is January 22nd Sunday. I'm in Thomasville, Georgia at 812 south broad street with Mrs. **GK** Kelly and her mother Mrs. **HP** Park. This is an experiment of sorts because I'm going to try an interview both **GK** Kelly and **HP** Park at the same or rather simultaneously. We will see how it goes and if it doesn't work we'll stop and interview **HP** and then another date interview **GK**. I'm really honored that **HP** would agree to talk with me. **HP** was born in Mitchell County Georgia on April the 18th 1905. So on her next birthday she will be 107, and still playing bridge I hear. Nobody believes me when I tell them that, but I am sitting her looking at the bridge table so I can attest to that.

HP: I play twice to three times a week.

CO: Wow you are an avid player. You're a real veteran. **GK** was born October 29th 1928 here in Thomasville. You are genuinely a native Thomasvillian. Is that a word Thomasvillian?

GK: Oh yes I think so.

CO: Well I thought I had heard it before but it certainly makes sense. I will start as I always do with **HP**. My first question to everybody is sort of a basic first question to anybody who's being reviewed and life who's being reviewed and that is simply, what is your first conscious memory? What's the first thing you remember?

HP: Well I don't know that.

CO: Don't know any memory as a child?

GK: I will tell that she's always said one of the first thing she remembered was taking medicine for a kidney ailment when she was very tiny. She always had bad kidneys until she was grown.

CO: Well for Heaven's sake! You're living proof that bad kidneys, you can overcome that. So you remember taking medicine for that, but you don't know how old?

HP: No

CO: I wonder why...

HP: I went back two years old when I started taking medicine for my kidneys

CO: I wonder what the medicine was, do you remember?

HP: No I have no idea.

CO: I wondered how they treated it back then.

GK: They didn't know much about kidney ailments.

CO: Do you wonder why you remember that?

HP: I don't remember now.

CO: That's okay. What about you **GK**, what's the first thing you remember?

GK: I think maybe it's being on the porch at our hospital drinking orange juice that I believe had castor oil in it. I had pneumonia when I was two.

CO: Oh my goodness, you all have very long term memories.

HP: I remember all the unimportant things.

CO: So drinking castor oil in orange juice on the porch.

HP: They had, it wasn't really a porch, it was a big room but it was glassed in. It was a porch I think originally maybe.

CO: So both of your recollections interestingly, **HP** can you describe yourself as a child? What kind of child were you? You don't have to describe the way you looked. Were you, did you give your mother trouble?

HP: Nobody gave my mother trouble. She had six children and she **(Inaudible 01:00)** when the second had been married twice, the first was one was killed by a colored man. She married about a year and a half after that. She married his brother.

CO: Did she have any children by her first husband?

HP: Me

CO: She had you?

HP: She had four of us: Me, Agnes, **HP**, **(Inaudible 59:28)**

CO: And you are in the birth order, you're the third in the birth order. Then she married her brother-in-law your father's brother. So you're the next three children, next two children are your cousins and your siblings?

HP: Yes

CO: That's actually I'm finding not all that uncommon. So you weren't a disobedient child, how would you describe yourself?

HP: I don't know. I don't think I can describe me. I was happy.

CO: You were a happy child? Well that says a lot.

HP: Yeah well see the stepfather had died when I was eight years old so our job was to keep mama from remarrying.

CO: Did you do a good job?

HP: Uh huh!

CO: Now you were eight years old and you knew even then not to

HP: But I had older sisters and they ran me.

GK: They knew him as Uncle Albert but they didn't want him as a stepfather (Inaudible 57:47-57:45) and that didn't go well.

CO: Oh my goodness! So well now, did your mother know that you were in a conspiracy to keep her from getting married?

HP: I think she thought it.

CO: But whatever it worked, how interesting.

HP: I had two older sisters.

CO: Let's see know, how old was she?

GK: She was forty three when she died.

CO: When she died she was forty three.

GK: I should have looked up those...

CO: No I can do that. So she didn't live a long long life?

HP: No she had

GK: Wrights disease

HP: She got operated on for something else but she didn't come back.

GK: But they had no way of knowing they didn't have a test for appendicitis in those days.

HP: I don't know I wouldn't very big myself. I don't know how old I was.

GK: You were 15 when she died.

HP: 15 yeah, I was 15, I remember now.

CO: Can you describe your parents? Do you remember anything? Your mother was strict she punished you.

GK: It depended on what she made you do when she punished you. You had to pull the weeds in the front yard because she couldn't go out of the front yard and you had to pull the weeds in the front. That was your punishment she was not all that strict.

CO: But you didn't like pulling weeds?

HP: No no, I was afraid I'd pull a snake or something or a worm. I was just as scared of a worm as I was a snake. I'm deathly afraid of snakes.

CO: I think that's a common fear. So your mother was, can you remember anything else about her?

HP: GK can I can't.

GK: Well all I know is the stories because they had wonderful memories of their mother. She let them, they went to school in Pelham when she was maybe ten I guess or eleven and they boarded she and one of sisters. The oldest sister went away to school when she was in the seventh grade. She went to Norman Park which in those days was a high school and college and boarding students went there. So she went from there to college and so she was only home in the summers basically. Agnes and mother boarded in Pelham and grandmother would let them each bring someone home for the weekend. Then when she got the third car and they took a car into town, the children would go drive from their farm to the next farm. Agnes could drive that far. Some of the boy cousins would drive into Pelham then they would drive home, but on weekends everybody could bring one person to spend the night. So you can tell.

CO: She was a really good mother. So did you bring somebody home with you from school?

HP: Agnes would pay me to not take someone home so she could take two people.

GK: You're lucky she paid you.

CO: So where did Agnes get her money?

GK: You got an allowance because you spent yours on candy and cokes.

CO: So you had coke a cola? **GK,** what about you? What were you like as a child?

GK: I was a brat. I was an only child. We lived my cousins during the depression so we lived my aunt and uncle. Moved into together when I was four.

CO: So that would have been 1932, it would have been really...

GK: I think I was brat. My uncle he was mother's brother in law worked very hard to help me learn to be a good sport, because he was an only child and he knew what an only child could be. So he played games with me and helped me to learn to be a good loser and to get along as a person who wasn't spoiled and rotten.

CO: Did it work?

GK: I hope.

CO: **HP** was she a brat?

HP: No, I didn't think so. We lived with my sister and her husband?

CO: Which sister?

GK: Ira May. When mother died the family, my mother didn't have a will. The county people came to see what we are going to do with these six children who have a farm and money and no parents. So they were talking about they would divided them up between the relatives and send the two youngest ones off to an orphanage. One of the uncles by marriage whom they did not like said he would take mother and the next sister John Junior who was named for the father that was killed right before she was born. He would take mother and Aunt John Jeanie for forty five dollars a month each. Mother said she doesn't know why she would say it because she wasn't supposed to be there but she stood up and told them she wouldn't live with him if he paid her forty five dollars.

CO: And you were 15?

HP: Uh huh

GK: But she had a fiery temper I'm just saying. Their grandfather said that they wouldn't split the children up, that Ira May would be in charge. Ira May was to go for her senior year at (Inaudible 50:22) and she didn't. She stayed home and they moved into town and got an apartment in a woman's house and she became the mother.

CO: Ira May? So what did they do with the farm?

GK: They rented it out. They had money to take care of themselves with but they had an uncle who was the administrator who less than honest but anyhow.

CO: So Ira was twenty, or close to it?

GK: Yeah, she was twenty when grandmother died. She would have been twenty come the next January because she was always as old as the century, that's how I remembered her age.

CO: Do you know what her birthdate was?

GK: January, I have it upstairs.

CO: January 9th in 1900, that is easy to remember.

GK: And she died in January of 52.

CO: Well so, you remember your mother as somewhat of disciplinarian but **GK** remembers her as a much....

GK: The stories, mother's always talked about how she was fair and she's always said that she lived by things mother had taught her before she died. She always admired her mama.

CO: Can you remember if you lived by things you mother taught you? Do you remember a principle or a something she taught you that you still live by?

HP: I don't think I remember. She probably remembers from having told her.

GK: It's the same thing she taught me, I can't point it out

CO: Okay, but a way to live. A way to live and be in the world.

HP: My mind was good till last year, no this year, yeah last year.

GK: Yeah 2010 you began really forgetting things.

HP: Yes I realized it was gone.

CO: It isn't gone if you're playing bridge.

GK: It's not exactly gone.

CO: No it certainly isn't. You have an incredible sense of humor that's quite a, that says something. So

GK, what about you, would you describe your parents? Can you describe your mother with her sitting here?

GK. Oh yeah, if she hadn't had a daddy I would have run her under the bed. She was a dear sweet soul but not very positive.

CO: So she had a negative sort of, was her a view of life a glass half empty?

GK: No, she's always been very optimistic. She's always looked on the best side of everything and she and papa never had but one disagreement in their lives.

HP: I don't think we did.

GK: Well you had that one over Mr. Garner.

CO: Now did that come from her mother that seeing life as a very optimistic?

GK, Yes I think so because there were ways that they were all very optimistic. They, even though they were orphans they didn't seem to let it pull them down.

CO: Now as her mother grew ill and then was hospitalized.

GK: She got sick and they came with ambulance and took her away so I know, and she never came back. She went to Albany to the hospital.

HP: This was when I was 19 I think.

GK: Or twenty.

CO: Do you remember that **HP**?

HP: Uh huh

CO: You remember your mother's dying? Do you remember how it affected you and your siblings?

HP: Well, I don't remember that one.

CO: So what about your father? Your mother was very optimistic, what about your father?

HP: My father died when I was one or two years old

GK: You were not two; you were about one and a half. My father was faintly the black or white, you did it right or you did it wrong. He counseled, he didn't fuss. His father counseled and he did the same thing and if he said, "Yep your grades aren't right then you won't go out and play in the afternoon with all the other people or go to the drugstore ." I knew he meant it. So my grades were always right. I could be dumb but I could be good in school.

CO: So did you like school?

GK: I loved school!

CO: Okay good. So it was not all that hard to be good if you loved it?

GK: Oh no, being good was never hard.

CO: So, your father was a farmer?

HP: Uh huh

CO: You were young when he died though, what about his brother that your mother married? Was he also a farmer?

HP: Oh he worked, he came and looked after the place for a while and about two years they married.

GK: But she ran her farm. Grandmother ran the farm.

CO: Did she have to hire people to work for her?

HP: Back in those days you either rent land that she didn't do. But she would let them have a part in sharecropping.

GK: She had twenty two mules.

CO: That's huge.

GK: Yes it was a huge farm. They did things like there was approximately a mile through the field to the one side, one road to the other, and they could drive on that road. So the little brother who was seven

when grandmother died already knew how to drive because he'd been driving up and down the road, but they always had someone with him.

CO: But the workers on the farm were sharecroppers? Did the children also work on the farm?

HP: I don't remember.

GK: No she means you all.

HP: I don't know if we did that.

CO: You didn't work?

GK: All they had to do was their homework, practice the piano, and they had a pet that they had to take care of so, they had to take care of the pets.

CO: But your mother essentially was the superintendent, she managed everything?

HP: Yes

CO: She didn't have any problems with that? I mean that was a huge job.

GK: Evidently not, she always told a story and I obviously never met my grandmother, but when she married, granddaddy had already bought his land and had a little bitty house. He had a maid and the yardman. When she married she got the cook and **HP** who changed her name from Hattie to **HP** when mama was born. When she died she still had Aunt **HP** and Henry who were helping to take care of everybody.

CO: Now were they black or white?

GK: They were black.

CO: And did they live close by?

GK: They lived on the place.

CO: Were the sharecroppers black or white?

GK: Some of both. Grandmother had a rule; she did not take anyone home whose girl children did not wear underpants.

CO: She made that clear?

GK: Uh huh, that's what I understand and you could not mistreat the mules. Of course mules were very expensive and she came upon a man, one of her white workers beating on one of the mules one day and she gave until sundown to move his family off of the place.

CO: Well I bet they didn't mistreat the mules after that?

HP: I don't think they did.

CO: Do you remember the mules?

HP: Yeah!

CO: Do you remember the workers on the farm at all?

HP: Just who they were.

CO: And did they have children and did you ever see their children?

HP: No.

CO: So they obviously didn't live real close by.

HP: They lived a bump just down the road, that way down the block and half the other way. And families lived there but we weren't allowed to play with them.

CO: So you didn't really know them?

HP: No.

GK: Probably talking about those people, when they went into town and **HP** went with to look after them. When my aunt came down here, she and her husband came down here to live and mama came to go to business school. Aunt **HP** came to look after them.

CO: So Aunt **HP** moved from the farm into town to the apartment to take care of the girls?

GK: Henry didn't. Mama saw Henry years later, he came in the bakery and she recognized him because he had shot the end off of his finger when she was little and she recognized him. He lived here in Thomasville.

CO: Okay, what sort of work did your father do?

GK: Oh papa was to begin with, he worked at the bank and then became the manager at (Inaudible 37:45) in 1924 I guess. He became manager at (Inaudible 37:35- 37:32) and then in, when I was in the third grade he went into business with a man, he and another man were going to buy a bakery in Brunswick. He knew that bakery business by being the manager. He did that for, he was over there for a year, we were over there for six months. Then he gave his part of the bakery to the man because the man was, had been a salesman and he didn't know how to do much work he just knew how to talk a lot. So we came back to Thomasville and there was a man who had a weekend bakery, you know where Liam's is downtown? It's one of the little restaurants on Jackson Street. That's here the bakery was, Mr. Isaac wanted to sell his bakery and he offered it to daddy to set his own price, his own payments, everything and he would leave a baker there with him because he had another bakery in Bainbridge and he was going there. So they got the bakery and papa learned how to be a baker.

CO: And so did you, how soon after that did you start working in the bakery **HP?**

GK: She went in the first day.

CO: Oh so you all ran it together?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: What was that like? I'm assuming, had you have worked before then?

HP: Oh yeah I always worked.

GK: She was the bookkeeper at Flowers Ice Cream Plant which was right, the bakery was here and the other end of the building was the ice cream plant. Mr. Hempwiler built it and gave some of his children the bakery and some of his children the ice cream. So Mr. Joe Flowers was the president of the ice cream plant, and his sister-in-law who lived with Mr. Joe and Ms. Alice was mama's good friend. She spent the night there and one morning at breakfast he asked mama if she had finished her course at business school and she told him not quite and he asked her if she thought she could hold down a job and she said she was sure she could. He said get your hat and we'll go to work.

CO: Oh my goodness. This was at the Flowers Ice Cream?

HP: I didn't work anywhere else.

GK: Until they bought the bakery.

CO: Do you remember what year it was that you started at the Flowers Ice Cream or roughly?

HP: Wasn't in 24?

GK: I imagine you came here in 23, how long did you go to business school?

HP: About 5 months.

GK: I imagine you were 23 then when you went to work there, and she worked there until she and daddy married. Then she worked all night in the summer when people were out, you worked some after you and daddy married, not all the time but you went sometime I don't remember that.

CO: But it wasn't a long time it doesn't sound like before.....

GK: Well they married in 27 and I was born in 28 and they bought the bakery in 39. I was 10 that year, I was almost in the fourth grade.

CO: So between the time you married you worked at Flowers Ice Cream Place. Where did you work from then until the time you bought the bakery?

GK: She didn't work, she filled in. Somehow or other they sold the ice cream plant to foremost. I don't know but I know you went and helped them with their bookkeeping, it might have been at tax time, I don't know.

HP: I don't remember either.

GK: Basically she didn't work after they married.

CO: Fulltime okay. But you were there I mean you were at home. But as soon as you bought the bakery, you began working in the bakery?

HP: Yes.

GK: He didn't mean for her to but she did. He didn't want her to.

HP: Just before he died he said he wanted to apologize because he didn't think women were supposed to work. He found out that every woman was working and it was alright. He was sorry he had acted like he did by trying to make me stay at home.

CO: I love that story.

HP: But I didn't like to cook.

CO: Okay so what did you like to do?

HP: I hired a woman that had worked for my family and she came and worked for us a long time.

CO: So you had some domestic help at home while you worked, did you keep the office?

HP: I kept everything.

GK: She did the selling in the front of the store and she decorated the cakes.

CO: Oh so you decorated the cakes?

GK: She taught herself.

HP: Yeah he had a man hired he thought to take the job decorating and things like that. I forgot what I was saying.

GK: You were talking about how papa thought he had a baker who didn't come and he had to do something else.

HP: Yeah so we needed somebody to decorate the cakes and I said well if you just give me so and so and so and so I don't remember what, I'll decorate the cakes. So I just got some icing and I made them give me a cake, make some little cakes so I can ice them to make sure I could do it. So he decided that I did well enough for me.

GK: Well you bought that book that was published in England?

HP: What?

GK: You bought the book that was published in England that told all about decorating and you always said because I may have decorated cakes the oldest sister took HomeEc in college and she made cakes and decorated them and she did everything.

CO: So did she teach you some? Did your daughter teach you something about decorating cakes? I'm sorry your sister?

HP: I think I had watched it and she let have some icing so I could do whatever I wanted to. Learn with it or whatever and I had learned to make flowers, there was one thing I hadn't learned to make was a rose that was up. It had to lay down for me, I could do it down on the paper but I couldn't do it on the, I didn't know they made pegs. He gave me little pegs.

GK: You put them on little pegs.

HP: Yeah I loved little pegs. I learned to make anything I wanted to make using pegs.

CO: Do you have pictures of some of your cakes?

HP: I don't know?

GK: Let me think. I think maybe we do. I'll go and look while y'all talk. I think I know where there are some.

CO: Well don't take long and don't worry about it.

GK: I won't I know one place where to look.

CO: **HP**, what about your extended family? Your mothers sisters and brothers, and your father's sisters and brothers? Did you see them very often, your larger family?

HP: No.

CO: Did they farm also?

HP: No.

CO: Okay

HP: My father I think was the only farmer. He had bought a hundred and something acres (Inaudible 28:01) and just had little shack houses built and he let people have part of it to farm and live. He got killed when I was year old.

CO: Now do you remember your grandparents at all? Your mother's or father's parents? Do you remember them

HP: I don't remember when (Inaudible 27:31), I don't think I do.

GK: Well you did.

HP: I did?

GK: Yes ma'am.

HP: It's been so long I've forgotten it.

GK: Because you said grandpapa Palmer sat on the picket fence.

HP: Well he had a picket fence around his yard, but on the sides he had boarded fence and on the top he had boards put on certain portion of them to be able for him to sit on. I thought he was sitting on the fence.

GK: I always thought he sat on the picket fence when I was little.

HP: I really thought he was sitting on the picket fence.

CO: Well why did he do that? What was he sitting there to do?

HP: He didn't do anything but sit and watch.

CO: Oh he just sat.

GK: He had a farm and people did the work and...

CO: So he watched the people working?

GK: No he watched the traffic go by.

HP: He had his own, my grandfather had his own farm.

CO: So your grandfather farmed, your father and his brother who also married your mother, they farmed. But you said your aunt's and uncle's did not farm?

GK: Some of them did. Uncle Will had the drugstore, your Uncle Will. Uncle Jim farmed, Uncle Charlie farmed.

HP: Uncle Charlie was our guardian.

GK: Yes, he was less than honest.

HP: Our money meant more to him than we did.

CO: Well did, were there farms close by each other?

GK: Yeah. Not too far.

HP: Mama had the most farm, I mean the biggest farm of any of them. I can't remember how many acres she had.

GK: 1600.

HP: I think it was a little more than that.

GK: I thought it was 16, it was 18.

CO: Well if you had to drive a mile to get to the other side, it's pretty big.

HP: Mama wouldn't let us go in the fields, and the neighbors all go out and gossiped about it because we didn't work. I did something with one lady one time and she said you belong to that woman that wouldn't let her children go out on the farm.

CO: So people talked about the fact y'all were kept from doing field work?

HP: And they felt that it was something to talk about.

CO: So do you remember your mother's mother?

HP: Vaguely, she died right after I was, I don't know, I wouldn't very big when she died was I?

GK: Now mama I don't know, the story you always told me about grandmamma palmer was granddaddy didn't believe in spanking and punishing. So he went to town every Saturday and grandmother had a book and she kept up with what you did. When he went to town on Saturday she took care of you so that you were good all the next week.

HP: He wouldn't, there was no such thing as spanking one of us or whipping one of us or anything. Not when he was there.

CO: This was your granddaddy?

GK: Uh huh his own children, he didn't want his wife to discipline them if you could imagine.

CO: Not for that time, that's pretty unusual.

GK: And the other grandfather farmed, grandfather Acheridge farmed.

CO: Now I know you're going to defer to **GK** about this and she probably can remember. What was the most significant thing that happened to you as a child? Up to the age of 12 before you became a teenager. Do you remember something really important in your life as a young child?

HP: I think I knew when my father died, I'm not sure.

GK: Well you were only a year and a half old. I don't know that you remembered any of it.

HP: I reckon I didn't. I don't remember.

GK: You just heard the story that they told a story that the woman kidnapped you and ran through the woods with you.

CO: Was that supposed to be a true story with, and you were how old when that happened?

GK: When granddaddy died. The man didn't mean to kill him and it was just a big distorted thing.

HP: Well the man killed my father and he was, they found him and of course they killed him there.

CO: Was it a lynching? Was he lynched when they killed him?

GK: I guess, it was a mob.

HP: Whatever they did to him I don't know.

GK: We don't really know.

CO: And you said you thought it was an accident? What do you think happened?

GK: He, the man was on the chain gang, granddaddy Letties wife lived on the farm and she did washing and stuff and every Saturday he went in town and he would take their groceries and buy their groceries and things and bring them home. When they drove up in the horse and buggy to her house Henry was driving and granddaddy took the food and was gonna take the food up and put it on the porch. And when he opened the gate the man thought it was the Sherriff coming after him and shot him, and he was terribly upset and he didn't mean to kill Mr. Acheridge but he already done it. The story that I heard and mama of course doesn't remember at all was that the wife kidnapped mama and was running through the woods with her but now I don't know.

CO: So the woman who the story is that woman kidnapped your mother. She was the woman your grandfather was delivering the groceries to, and the person who killed your grandfather, I'm speaking to **GK** now was on the chain gang?

GK: Yes he escaped from the chain gang.

CO: Okay he had escaped from the chain gang. Was he working on that farm?

GK: No, he had come there because his wife was there.

CO: So his wife was working for the family?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: And he saw your father open the gate, your grandfather opened the gate and he thought it was the Sherriff and he shot him?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: And then a mob lynched him? Was he black?

GK: Yes.

CO: So that would have been what year now? That would have been 1907?

GK: Yeah.

CO: Do you know the month?

GK: I don't. You could look on the tombstone, I've got all of granddaddies, I got all the dates up there.

CO: Because I'm sure there's news coverage of that.

GK: Well I've got it all up there in my **(Inaudible 19:01)** stuff. Before you go I'll get those things for you.

CO: Okay that's good. So were you told this story all your life about someone trying to kidnap you? Did you hear about that?

HP: Uh huh

CO: And was that a family story? Well I sure would love to hear about that. Obviously they caught her?

GK: They may have shot her; I don't remember that as she was running through the woods with mother.

HP: I don't think they did.

GK: Her idea I think was to bargain mother for the husband but she was a little late for that.

CO: So it was the worker not the wife that they were taking the food to?

GK: No it was the wife that they were taking the food to that kidnapped mama.

CO: Okay, but the husband was...

GK: Already dead by then.

CO: So your grandfather was delivering food to a black woman who was, now why was he delivering her food?

HP: He had the man that worked at the house, the colored man. He usually was driving all the time, but for some reason I don't think he was driving when he got out and got the stuff that he taking there.

GK: No he was driving y'all said. Henry drove that day and granddaddy just rode. He would go in to town and work at a Trading company o savages. And he would get everybody's groceries, everybody that lived on the place would give him their grocery list, and he would buy everybody's groceries and take them home.

CO: And he was delivering all these groceries back to them. That seems interesting that he would be the grocery person.

GK: He did many things, he was a farmer but he also had sawmill there on the place, he claimed all the lumber for his house and all the bridges around there.

CO: Now did he know about the escaped convict? Did he know about it?

HP: He thought he was at the place they kept him, he didn't know he was there.

CO: So she may not remember that but it certainly was a big event in her first ten years.

GK: Probably I don't know. When mother married Uncle Albert may have been the next big thing in her life.

HP: Yeah, me and Amos would always tell me to go away if they came in the room.

CO: When did she marry? A couple of years after your father died, what was his name?

GK: Albert Acheridge was the second husband.

HP: He died when I was about eight

GK: Yeah he had pneumonia after he had typhoid fever.

CO: Okay so they weren't really married that long?

HP: No.

GK: She was expecting her third child with him though when he died because she had a miscarriage or the child was born dead, I don't know. There's a little grave in the family cemetery.

CO: So he died then around 1914 maybe?

HP: I think it was, I'm not sure?

CO: Because your baby brother Alan was born roughly around 1913. I'm assuming he lived?

GK: Oh yeah.

HP: She had five daughters and one boy.

CO: And he was the baby?

HP: Yeah the baby. And he was grown, some reason he came one time and told me said he wanted me to know that he had always loved all of us because we're five girls and one boy, so there's five girls to one boy.

CO: So he appreciated having all sisters. Is he still living?

HP: No, I'm the only one.

CO: When you were a little girl did you have an idea of what you wanted to do when you grew up? Not a lot of women did, I mean the mostly thought that they would grow up, marry, have children. Did you ever want to do as a child?

HP: Yes, I wanted to work.

CO: Anything in particular?

HP: No, I just wanted to do something to have a job working.

CO: Your own money, your own income? Was that important?

HP: We all got part of the land and I still have some of mine. I left a sister, she asked me and tried to let her use so money, to get some money to develop her place. We all inherited each on about 200 or so acres.

GK: Okay, I can give you those dates. Johnny Achreidge was born in 1872.

HP: Who?

GK: Your daddy. And dad in 1906.

CO: It's got 1907 here so I'm going to change that.

GK: I was guessing.

CO: Yes, that was a good guess.

GK: Zeenie Palmer Acheridge was born in 1879 and died in 1920.

CO: Now is that Albert, who is that?

GK: That's her mama. Albert Acheridge was born in 1881 and died 1917.

CO: 1917 okay. So your mother probably married Albert Acheridge in 1908, if it was roughly two years after the death? What year did you say that Mrs. Acheridge was born, your grandmother?

GK: Her mother in 1879.

CO: And you did say she died in August of 1920?

GK: Yes. There's her grandfather, that little man there.

CO: Well I would like to see that when we take a break.

GK: They have Indian, their revolutionary grandmother was an Indian, she was a Cherokee.

HP: Who was Indian?

GK: Prudence Parker who married your great great great great grandfather. The one you know, the Indian?

HP: I've forgotten that.

CO: So do you remember if you had any heroes as a child? Who you really looked up to as a child?

HP: I don't know.

CO: Do you remember, I mean you've already told plenty of struggles as a child. Would you recall having a stepfather as one of your chief struggles as a child?

HP: Yeah, I was taught by the two older girls. If he came in I was to run out.

CO: Were there particular reasons why he turned out to not be a good father?

HP: He was, we just wouldn't let him, we wouldn't let him do anything with us.

GK: In the fairytales stepmothers and stepfathers weren't nice.

CO: So they bought in to that?

GK: Yeah, he went from being beloved Uncle Albert to our stepfather.

CO: So when did you realize that he wasn't really bad, that it's just the way y'all were perceiving him? Were you an adult before you realized that?

HP: I imagine so.

GK: I think they always knew because he would tell them before Christmas they shouldn't have any dolls and then Santa Claus would bring them new dolls. So they buried all of their dolls under the house before Christmas and then they get new dolls.

HP: We'd wrap it up in newspaper and take it out and dig a hole under the house?

CO: And then you got new dolls and went back and got your old dolls out?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Now what about your siblings Inez and Alan? Did you get along with them, I know you just said Alan?

HP: Yes.

GK: They never knew there was....

CO: They didn't know they were half?

GK: No my uncle graduated from dental school before he discovered he was a half-brother. He thought Uncle Albert was his Uncle Albert.

HP: He was a dentist and they were having a dental meeting in New Orleans and he went, and while he was there he had left money with me if he bribed to send it to him at this certain place, he bribed me well. When he wired and got the thing and had it, knew well what to do with it but he hadn't wired me to send it. So I went to town to do something and when I got back, some boys, the telegraph boy and some more boys were on my front porch and I took the thing went in and saw what it said was to send his money to a certain place, and I did. Well when he came home, he acted funny to me, acted like he was mad at me about something, and I thought well what in the world is wrong with you? Well he came in and said, "**HP**, why didn't you send me my money?" I said I did. He pulled out this telegram saying my name and somebody else's name, I've forgotten which one now that they didn't send the money; and I said well Alan it's out there wherever you told me to send it, it's wherever you told me to send it, the money's there. So he said are you sure now, I don't want to get in something and not have any money there. I said I sent the money just the time I got the telegram. Well later he found out the little boys decided they would, what did I tell you they did?

GK: They kept the money and wired him you have no money. The man at the telegram office taught them how to use the key thing and they lied and said that Mrs. Park has no money. Mr. Clark got the money back for her and asked her please not to cost him his job, but he got money by wiring Aunt Agnes and her husband sent for the code word to get the money with his father's name. He didn't know it was Albert, so he got to another thing because he didn't know the difference.

CO: So he thought his father was John Abel?

GK: He always thought his father was John Abel.

CO: And Albert let him thing that?

GK: Albert was dead see by then. Albert died when he was like four.

CO: So what about Inez? Did she know?

HP: Yes.

GK: I suppose she did, but on Alan's tombstone it says he was, I remember this, the son of J.A. Acheridge.

CO: What about that! Do you remember becoming a teenager?

HP: I don't.

CO: No. Let me ask you **GK** when you were growing up you were an elementary teacher. Did you know that you wanted to be an elementary school teacher?

GK: I wanted to be a baker.

CO: You wanted to be a baker because you grew up in this bakery or at least spent....

GK: What I thought I wanted to be until I got to be grown, then about eleventh grade I decided I wanted to be an X-ray technician. But they weren't going to let me go to Temple University to learn how to do this, and that was (Inaudible03:31) those days. So I went off to college with really no idea that I needed to know how to do anything. When I got to be a senior we met for something the first couple of days in school and they wanted to know what we were going to do when we got out of school. For me, I was gonna come home. So I said, I'm going to be a teacher, so I became a teacher.

CO: So you became an elementary school teacher?

GK: I taught 21 years and loved it.

CO: So you weren't married when you graduated?

GK: No.

CO: Now why wouldn't they let you go to Temple?

GK: Well it was in Philadelphia or Baltimore, somewhere in Yankee land. Another thing I wanted to do was teach Indians or little black children in the south, in those days you weren't going to teach little black children. They didn't want me to any to teach on a reservation.

CO: Now what in the world made you want to teach Indians or little black children?

GK: They were the underdogs.

CO: Okay, now we got a subject here. So it sounds like you had a thing for the underdog as a child then?

GK: See I would go and spend the summer, part of the summer a month of summer on a farm, and I would teach school to the children of the field hands, and they needed all the help they could get. And I thought I would like to do that.

CO: Did they learn? I mean could you see them learning something?

GK: I don't know, I mean I was young. I had a black boy that worked like an easel that I had gotten for Christmas.

CO: Were you successful at getting them to listen and act like students?

GK: Yeah, they'd sit like that and we played school. Now it might not have been successful but we played school and I entertained them while their folks were in the field.

CO: So you did this the whole month you were there?

GK: Off and on I'm sure I didn't do it a whole month, because they let me go to the tobacco field and I could get paid a penny a tobacco worm and I had a little matchbox to put the worms in, but I never had any of them in my box, I just knocked them off and stepped on them.

CO: Yeah that was a pretty gross job.

GK: They just did things to entertain me.

CO: These field hands were black and white?

GK: No.

CO: They were all black by then?

GK: The ones I taught were black; I know she had some whit people on the farm.

CO: But their children went to school? They had a school to go to?

GK: Yes. I never knew them, and when I was little she might not have had, I don't think she had any white workers.

CO: Okay wait, hold on a second. What was the story about the man who put his whole child?

GK: A man she had working there, he and his family, he bonded his child in Long Island to get the insurance, I remember the story, that's all I know. It actually happened.

CO: But you didn't when, know the child?

GK: Those people who acted like that they had a very very bad name in the south for them.

CO: You want to tell me what that was?

GK: Those were the trash.

CO: The trash, white trash. What about, did you have heroes as a child that you either got out of the movies or read from books?

GK: There was somebody in the comic strips, a little cowgirl in the comic strips, cowboy and cowgirl. Here name was Nell, I always wanted to be like that, in the fourth grade. I can remember that, I wanted a cowgirl suit and boots, and I never did get that. I wanted to seem Madame Schumenhank, but I was in college then.

CO: Well what about you, what was becoming a teenager like going from adolescence, well becoming an adolescent actually? Do you remember that as a turning point?

GK: No.

CO: You know we know so much about it now but it seems like for a lot of people there was no....

GK: They didn't pay any attention to it when I came along.

CO: So you didn't have teachings with your mother when you became a teenager?

GK: No, I don't understand this, people saying they don't get along with their mother and they hate their mother, I mean I don't understand how they get to be like this, no.

CO: Because you and your mother always got along?

GK: Papa was always there, if I had tension with mama I wouldn't have expressed it because papa was there. He said to me once that she was the most nearest perfect person he had ever known.

CO: Your husband said you were nearly perfect?

HP: I don't know.

GK: He was ten years older than she.

CO: That's a sweet thing.

GK: And he thought she was pretty perfect. He spanked me once because he thought I had been ugly to her. I wasn't I was ugly with my friend. We were all sitting there and my friend did something at the card table in the living room, Fridabelle and I were studying and you were sitting with us and Fridabelle did something stupid and I said oh don't be such a fool. I was in the fourth grade, I should have gotten a spanking, but any who he thought I was talking to mama and so he spanked me.

CO: Did he find out?

GK: Yeah I told him when we got through, when I got through crying I told him. But he would not put up with....

CO: Any kind of tension?

GK: Oh no. I mean when I was out of college before I married, I taught in Jacksonville and I came home every weekend and I was down to 94 pounds and he said I would have to stop coming home every weekend, I was coming home to see Daniel. It never dawned on me to say who are you to tell me I can't do this, I mean it was his house I was going to, he was the father. So we got married.

CO: So he didn't want you coming home because it was a burden on mother?

GK: It was hurting me, it was hurting my health. I had lost down to 94 pounds and that was pretty thin.

CO: Yeah, so your solution for that was to marry?

GK: Yep, that I way I didn't have to bother to come home because I was already there.

CO: You was at home. So did you quit teaching in Jacksonville?

GK: Uh huh, that's the only way they had to elope because they wouldn't let me out of my contract. If I had had a wedding I would have had to have commuted still. I would have to have come home every weekend because they wouldn't let me out of my contract.

CO: Oh my goodness. Do you recall this is for either one of you, do you recall as children or even as teenagers if your family was conscious of world affairs going on outside the household?

GK: Oh yes, dinner at our house was interesting because papa, we discussed the news of the day and the newspaper.

CO: From reading newspapers?

GK: Yes and we listened to the news on the radio.

CO: So was that same in your household as a child and as teenager did your mother and father or stepfather, of course you don't remember your father but did they discuss well for you it could have been anything because you lived through the First World War. Do remember that, anything about it?

HP: No:

CO: The 1920's? Do you remember the 1920's?

HP: I reckon I do, I don't know. I don't remember nothing now.

CO: Right, but when you were 15 years old when women gained the right to vote?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: You do?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: What did you think about it?

HP: I couldn't wait to get my (Inaudible 01:02:33).

CO: You wanted to vote?

HP: Oh yeah.

CO: So did you vote?

HP: Oh yeah.

CO: I would love to hear about that.

HP: I've forgotten it now.

CO: But you were determined to vote when you could?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Do remember if your mother was in favor of women voting?

HP: She was.

CO: Oh my goodness, wow! So did you all talk about it?

HP: She and the women did, I didn't.

CO: Cause you know in the south women didn't talk about it, they had to hide it, they had to hide their support for anything public.

GK: They were property.

CO: But you remember in your house with your mother and father talking about world affairs? Do you remember anything about the depression? You were a very young girl.

GK: No, as my faith and I have said, everybody had the same thing, not a whole lot of anything really. We had a food we were never hungry or anything like that and there were people who were hungry. So I don't remember any deprivation.

CO: Well, what about World War II? Do you remember talking about that?

GK: Oh yes, I was 13 when World War II broke out.

CO: So you would have, at the dinner table that certainly would have been....

GK: Oh yes, Daddy and I had a map that we kept up on things on and I can remember children do such silly things sometimes. I can remember Germany invaded Czechoslovakia and I must have been in the fifth grade maybe or sixth grade. I can remember sitting on the floor one afternoon trying to get back and get other people in Czechoslovakia out of the country. We had these weird little ideas.

CO: So you talked about that at night at the supper table with your parents?

GK: Yes.

CO: Do you remember Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt?

GK: I had his picture over my bed. It was a little picture, I met him, I got to shake his hand.

CO: Where was that?

GK: At Kitty Hawk Island. We went, well many of us went. We were visiting my Aunt in (Newportnuse 59:35?) and we went down to Mannio for a performance of the lost colony and he was there in his convertible with his bodyguards. My uncle, his father had been in congress from North Carolina sometime or other and he went up and spoke to him and told him who he was and gave him his background and told him he had a little person who wanted to meet him and so I got shake his hand.

CO: Well that's something you would not forget.

GK: No, I didn't.

CO: Were you with her?

GK: She didn't want to shake his hand, she didn't vote for him.

CO: Oh you didn't like FDR?

HP: No.

CO: How interesting. How about your husband?

GK: I think he did.

HP: We were just opposite of each other.

GK: I think y'all didn't vote alike then. Mother voted Republican and we didn't have a Republican on the ticket.

CO: Okay she was voting in principle. Oh I got to hear more about that, we'll talk about that when we get to history and politics and so forth. You liked him?

GK: I thought he was wonderful.

CO: Even though your mother was against him?

GK: I just thought he was wonderful.

CO: You had a mind of your own then?

GK: Always, I was always allowed to think what I wanted to think.

CO: But your father did like him?

GK: I think so I don't remember any conversation. I remember listening to the five side chats on the radio.

CO: What about Eleanor? Do you remember her at all?

GK: Oh yeah and I was a great admirer of her.

CO: Even as a young girl you admired her?

GK: I think so.

CO: Many people tell me that even though they admired him that they, she just wasn't on the radar screen until they got older. They admire her in retrospect.....

GK: I don't remember, I had when I was in college I had an English teacher, he and his wife worked with her in Appalachia with some coal miners and things. I had always as an older teenager because she tried to be a person of her own and she had good ideas.

CO: And you admired that?

GK: Yeah.

CO: It's interesting though, you didn't vote for him any of the times he ran, because he ran four times.

HP: Who?

GK: Mr. Roosevelt.

CO: Franklin Roosevelt?

HP: I think I voted for him last time.

GK: Last time? He didn't last very long. I think Dewey was running against him, no.

CO: It was Truman.

GK: That was the year I was in the seventh grade. I don't know, but she didn't like Mr. Roosevelt.

CO: Except that she didn't want to shake hands with him the time that you all saw him.

GK: Why I don't know that Bruce offered any of the grownups any opportunities to do it.

CO: Now do you remember about what year that was?

GK: It was the summer I was eight.

CO: So let's see it was 36?

GK: It was 38.

CO: You were born in 28.

GK: Yeah it was the summer before I was in the fourth grade and I was 9 in the fourth grade, I was nine in October.

CO: Okay that would have been about 1936. So he would have been fighting serious battles for the new deal of trying to get...

GK: As a young person I liked his ideas, as a teenager I liked what he stood for.

CO: And did you say that you thought your father was an FDR supporter?

GK: I think he was but I'm not positive, I don't remember that.

CO: So the discussions at dinner were more about just generally world affairs they weren't really partisan?

GK: No.

CO: Do you remember what it was like when you left home? Probably a little bit different than your experience of leaving home because you lived with your sister's right? After your mother died, you and your sisters moved into Pelham and lived in an apartment. Then you got married, let's see, how old were you when you got married? You were twenty two it looks like, married in 1927 so you were twenty two years old. Were you still living with your sisters when you married?

GK: Yes she was, yes you were already Mrs. Cregmiles when you married. You lived with Ida May, Inez and Alan in the apartment upstairs with Mrs. Cregmiles. Mrs. Cregmiles had a giant house so upstairs was their apartment and she came here and Ida May and Allway had an apartment with Daisy Mill and you lived with them. Alan and Inez came to live with you; they'd been staying with Aggie and Billy. Then you all moved to Mrs. Cregmiles to the giant apartment in the attic upstairs. Aunt **HP** came and cooked and took care of you.

HP: Who did?

GK: Aunt **HP**, she took the alarm clock home every night.

CO: She took the alarm clock home? When you left your sisters and that home, what was that like when you went from their home to being married and then your own home? Do you remember what that was like?

HP: No.

GK: She didn't like housekeeping. She had never done anything.

HP: What did she say?

GK: I said you didn't you like housekeeping you had never done any.

HP: Oh no, I didn't like it.

CO: So did you hire someone to help you?

HP: Oh yeah

GK: Mother was very sickly when I was born we were at the hospital a long time because she had uremic poisoning and was very sick. The doctor told her when I was born that she and God had had me and not to do it again. So I'm an only child.

CO: So did you want other children.

HP: No.

CO: No you didn't, you were satisfied to have **GK**?

HP: Yeah.

GK: She knew I was gonna be a girl because she didn't want a boy. She didn't know anything about boys.

HP: I didn't. I had one brother and he was the sixth child. She had five girls and then had this one boy.

CO: So you wanted a girl and you got one?

HP: I got one.

CO: It's good when things can work like that.

GK: Isn't it.

CO: What was it like for you **GK** when you left home? I know you were in Jacksonville working but what was that like leaving?

GK: Well I had gone off to school and it was fun being an only child, it was fun to be with all those people.

CO: Remind me now, I'm going to talk about education in a minute but where did you go to school?

GK: Mary Baldwin.

CO: Okay

GK: And I loved it, every second of it, cried myself sick when I graduated. I loved living in Jacksonville, I lived in a boarding house and I had two roommates and that was fun being exclusive. So that was fun.

CO: So that experience, well you didn't really leave home to get married, you left home to go to school? And then you had a job teaching, well what was that like leaving home and going to college?

GK: Leaving home and going to college, I didn't know anybody at Mary Baldwin and after a day and a half on the train wherever it was, I felt like I had been dragged by my heels somewhere. So getting there, that was sort of an experience because my first inclination when we got to the station in Staunton all I saw was cute girls and all the Virginia girls who had been on the train an hour or two hours. I wanted to die because I felt so horribly unattractive and dirty. Everybody was so nice you know it just worked like a charm.

CO: So you made friends quickly and adjusted easily so it wasn't traumatic?

GK: No the upperclassmen they had trained them well to look after us and the new people, so that was not bad at all.

CO: Did you get homesick? Do you remember getting homesick?

GK: I did not get homesick at all because I had so much company and it was so different from being, well in high school we have a friend who lived at our house because we had the army hospital here; and of course when World War II broke out all of the college girls wanted to quit and do their part. So Virginia our friend wanted to quit college and come and work at the hospital here in the office; and her mother didn't want her to because nice girls didn't go off and live by themselves. Well she was best friends with

my cousin in Pelham and I asked mother and daddy if she could come and live with us, and she did. I told them she was going to help me learn how to pick up after myself and do all these things, oh I spoiled (Inaudible 47:36-47:35).

GK: Well she loved having a maid live with us. You know, it was company for me, it was not like being an only child and then when I went off to school is it was the same thing when I went off to teach school, I had two roommates and it was the same.

CO: So there was no real trauma for you in leaving home?

GK: No, well I had gone every summer to visit my aunt and uncle in Virginia from the time I went the first time the summer after I was in the fourth grade by myself. I went on the train.

CO: Wow, in the fourth grade?

GK: Well we had a department store here Neil Brothers and The Bowels went to New York for the summer. Well one of the Bowels was a friend and so I rode as far as Rocky Mount with her, then I changed trains and it was not supposed to be a very long trip but it turned out it was a pretty long trip because there was a problem with the bridge. We ended up going part way by bus. The people took care of me, the conductor kept an eye on me.

CO: So you weren't scared?

GK: No, they told me, they always told me you're not supposed to accept things from strangers, so when we were riding the bus this little sailor offered me some chewing gum and I waited until he put his in his mouth. I chewed mine, that's the only thing I remember about him, but we went by bus from Suffolk I suppose to Norfolk.

HP: I think you did.

GK: I think it was that far, and it was an adventure.

CO: And you accepted that as an adventure?

GK: No I didn't feel put upon, but I think because I went every summer to visit them and stayed about a month that leaving home wasn't; now I would go spend the weekend in Pelham and get homesick. I can remember calling you from Pelham because I was homesick. Robert was 40 years old and I would go to spend the weekend with her, but that's the only time I got homesick.

CO: I don't know how to ask this question but it's for both of you so maybe if you can help your mother answer this. I've kind of asked you this already. When you were a young girl and when you were a young too as well **GK**, women didn't have the, there was not a lot expectation that you would do anything besides marry and have children, but it sounds like you wanted to work from your childhood.

HP: Well I knew I wasn't going to have but one child.

CO: So you knew that?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Well did you feel free to dream of being anything you wanted to be? Did you feel constrained by being a girl?

HP: No.

GK: She knew she didn't want to be a nurse. Aunt Jaime wanted to be a nurse and always wanted to play and be the nurse, and mother was always the patient. She didn't want to be a nurse, and her friend went off to nursing school and tried to get mother to go with her.

CO: And she wasn't interested?

HP: No, the hospital room and in the bed place for the people, wanted nothing to do with that.

GK: No, we throw up and she joins you.

CO: So what about you **GK**? You're really, the culture is pretty much the same in terms of expectations of women, did you feel free, it sounds like your parents were pretty open minded.

GK: Yeah, they didn't tell me what I had to do.

CO: But you felt like if you wanted to be whatever you wanted to be you could be?

GK: I do.

CO: Did you ever think about, well it sounds like you weren't thinking all that much about you were having a good time in college.

GK: The thing I wanted forever from eight grade was to grow up and marry Daniel Kelly.

CO: Which is what you did?

GK: Yes.

CO: My goodness, what a story.

GK: So we dated other people we didn't go steady for all those years.

CO: But you kind of had your eye on him. But you didn't feel constrained by being a woman, you could have done anything else?

GK: No, I could have done anything that I wanted to do, and I could have taught the Indians if I didn't have to go west or that far from home. I could have been the X-ray technician if I had wanted to go to Temple. That was the only thing, they weren't sending me off to the city to be sort of on my own.

CO: Well that's understandable. So neither one of you had, you had a baby brother, Alan. Was he treated differently? Typically the baby is treated differently, but did he get any different treatment because he was a boy?

HP: Well he said we all loved him.

CO: But he benefited from that, he was spoiled?

HP: Yeah:

CO: Well do you think that was because he was a boy or because he was a baby?

HP: A boy.

CO: So he kind got kind of special treatment?

HP: Oh he knew he had a lot of sisters, he wasn't big enough to count, but he knew he had a lot of sisters and no other brothers, so he delighted in being a boy.

CO: So did you all take care of him?

HP: Oh yes.

CO: Well it sounds like he was privileged. So how did that affect his, did he grow up expecting women to take care of him?

HP: No.

CO: He respected women?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Good for him.

GK: He just learned to get along with them and had gardens of girlfriends. I can remember that.

CO: You do. So, well did he marry?

GK: He married and had three children.

CO: Are you all okay? Are you too tired? Do you need to stop?

HP: I'm not doing anything.

CO: Oh yes you are, you're thinking. So when you were growing up, did you have ideas about romance? Did you ever romanticize about dating and finding a husband?

HP: No, I wasn't interested in it.

CO: Wasn't interested?

GK: Well we named a lady Lady Carter Beth. Mother started school in March before she was five in April. She went to, the rest of that, she was to go to the school and get with her sisters and stay there while Uncle Albert played checkers, and then he would pick her up. She went into the wrong door and she ended up in the prima and she did the prima from March until the time school was out. So when school started the next year she was a first grader but they put her in the second grade.

CO: Because she was smart.

GK: And by the time she went to school in Pelham when they used to board there and then went in the car she was already ahead of her age in class and she didn't like the boys. The boy that sat behind her in one class dipped her pigtails in ink every day, got ink all over her little white middy blouse. He was flirting but she didn't

HP: I wasn't old enough to know that kind of stuff.

GK: She never was interested in them, but I think that was why because she was little bit behind.

CO: So how in the world did your husband woo you? Did you call him Thomas?

GK: Tom.

CO: So how did Tom win you over, your husband?

HP: I don't know.

GK: Well the first time he asked her for a date, well let's back up. The first year they were in town 1923 she had a check from the guardian that she needed to get cashed, she didn't, nobody would, none of the banks wanted to cash it because nobody knew her. Daddy was working at that bank and he cashed the check for her and that was that, she didn't see him anymore. Then when she went to work at flower he was working as manager next door, and the first time he asked her for a date she told him she was busy. So he asked her for a date the next night. You remember this story now?

HP: Uh huh.

GK: You want to tell it?

HP: No.

GK: And she told him that she was busy then, so he asked her for another date and she said well if just must come, just come on tonight.

CO: So had you not dated anybody?

GK: She had a boyfriend, a person she had dated. He was older and he thought she was gonna marry him I think then.

HP: Oh yeah I did, we were supposed to get married five months after I was already married.

GK: Papa was, he was, he didn't drink, he was all the things she wanted.

CO: So what was it like falling in love with him, with Tom? How long did it take him to break you down?

HP: Not very long, I think we married in about five months.

GK: No, I don't think so.

HP: A year?

GK: You married in 1927.

CO: In October of 27. When did you start dating?

GK: Y'all had been dating I think for two or three years.

HP: I don't remember.

GK: I think, I could be wrong but I don't think so.

CO: But it didn't take him that long to win you over?

HP: No.

GK: She wore his engagement ring around her neck. I remember that story.

CO: So what about you, what were your ideas about romance? Did you date a lot before you were married?

GK: I didn't date a lot but I always had a boyfriend.

HP: You did.

CO: From like 15 or 16 did you have boyfriends?

GK: Yeah, well see we used to do prom parties and so Daniel discovered me at a prom party because he went to one elementary school and I went to another.

CO: So you all were the same age?

GK: He was nine months older than I.

CO: And when did y'all marry?

GK: 1950.

CO: You would have been 22.

GK: That sounds right. Now I always had a boyfriend, somebody to date but not somebody to like particularly.

CO: You said you knew from how old that you were gonna marry or wanted to marry him?

GK: Well I had a crush on him from the time I was in the eighth grade.

CO: Was it because he suited some romantic image of what you wanted for a partner?

GK: No, I don't think I had anybody in mind, he was just cute and he was daring, he was a dragonslayer, he was kind and compassionate and all the things that count.

CO: Do you think that some of your notions of what romance was, was shaped by movies, the 1940's movies? Did you watch movies much?

GK: Oh yeah, I went to all the movies. Books and movies I guess, I mean everything always has a happy ending, nobody ever has any problems.

CO: Well not in the 40's and the 50's even though the world is falling apart.

GK: And you know it was a wonderful time to grow up in Thomasville (Inaudible 32:02-32:00). We had the air days only we weren't old enough or allowed to even speak to soldiers much less date one. But it was just a good time to grow up in Thomasville.

CO: So it was easy kind of to almost have that belief that there was happy ending to whatever. Did you want to have children?

GK: I didn't think much about it.

CO: But you have two? Did you continue to work after your children were born?

GK: I did not work from the time we married until Adrian was 10. I started substituting and I had such a good time that we decided if I had that much fun I should go back to teaching. So I had to go back to school at FSU to renew my teaching certificate and I got my masters, took twenty more years.

CO: And how old were the children when you did that?

GK: Adrian was 10 the first year I taught school.

HP: How old?

GK: 10.

CO: And when was Adrian born?

GK: 1959.

CO: And then your son was born, she was six when he was born. Did you do any volunteer work?

GK: Oh I did what everybody does you know, garden club, Virginia service league and that wasn't near as much fun a teaching school.

CO: Well did you have help at home once you started?

GK: I had helped, I had help for two reasons, I'm a lousy cook. I had horrible allergies and cleaning house made me sick, I have a dust allergy and it took forever to get it under control. I can now dust but I don't do it too often and not have to wear a dust mask. But I hated housework because it made me feel so bad.

CO: Did you know why you feeling bad? You didn't know it was an allergy?

GK: No, I had to go the doctor, I don't understand why I'm under the dust mop and I get so sick, when I sweep you're just going about to hard, just slow down. That didn't help

CO: Well what about your, you've already told me that you and your mother have a close relationship. What about your relationship with your children?

GK: Well we're close. My daughter and I are close, mother and Danny were very close when I was expecting Danny she hoped it wouldn't be a boy because she wasn't gonna have anything to do with a boy, because she didn't know anything about boys. She was probably his best friend.

HP: We were very close.

GK: He was almost 25 when he died.

CO: And there's a time to talk about that, but if you want to talk about that now. He died at 25 years old? You want to tell me what happened?

GK: He was doing a Sunday afternoon scenic on his motorcycle, he and his friend. They were on a country road riding on both sides of the road and a car was coming and so he moved over but the car when he saw him moved over and they were going like that and he took the woods and hit a root and threw him off and then hit a tree. Only tree out there I understand, I've never seen the place where he died.

HP: It was one tree and he hit it. In the woods stopping his motorcycle.

CO: Do you remember that?

HP: Uh huh,

CO: You do remember it? And you were close, what was that like? Was that a really really hard time?

HP: Yeah, it was hard for me.

CO: It happened in January, so it's approaching an anniversary.

GK: Super Bowl.

HP: He'd come to my house and take a bath, they had one bathroom and I had two. So he'd come in with his little towel and everything and go take his bath, washed his hair every time he took a bath.

GK: He had long hair.

HP: Huh?

GK: I said he had long hair.

HP: And he washed it every time he took a bath.

GK: He took four baths that day he washed his hair, and he air dried it because it got caught in the blow dryer one day and he had to cut a hunk out and so he didn't do that anymore. He would flat it in the back because I could not stand it loose.

CO: Was he a handsome boy?

GK: I'll show you his picture.

CO: She's gonna show me a picture.

GK: He was a nice looking boy.

CO: You called him Danny?

GK: Yes.

HP: I don't care where he goes, on the way back he stopped and spoke to me.

CO: You were his buddy it sounds like. Is that his sister?

GK: Yeah that's Adrian.

CO: And they look like siblings. Yeah I see you in them did they also look like their...

GK: A lot like their daddy.

CO: Well, he is a handsome man. He was 25.

GK: He was a very sweet person.

CO: He looks sweet.

GK: Compassionate, all of the things that count.

HP: He worked and had a business in Moultrie.

GK: A little print shop is what he was doing.

HP: And he would get business from people in Thomasville because he was a printer. He'd run over here on his motorcycle to get his, get whatever business it was. He'd always manage to come by our house and open the door and say I can't come in but I wanted to be sure you're alright. If it was three times a day one times a day it's the same thing the next day same week.

GK: He went by their house one day, he was going down the street and he look at the back of the house and the car was not there, mother was out playing bridge and these two little sneakers were upside down in the door so he swung in and Danny had forgotten that he had told mother that he would not go outside and he had put a railing down the walk outside their backdoor so that he could exercise while walking back and forth that way. He fell getting back in the house and that's why his sneakers were upside down on the door because he couldn't get up and so Danny stopped and got him up and took him to the hospital and got his head sewn up.

HP: He looked after us.

CO: Sounds like it. Well there's a section on the experience of loss so if you don't mind we'll revisit that again. So what was it like being a grandmother? Sounds like you didn't have a whole lot of problems with her as a daughter. How was being a grandmother compared to being mother?

HP: Well, I don't know.

CO: Sounds like you enjoyed it.

HP: Uh huh.

GK: They came to see their grandchild and then grandchildren every day when they closed the bakery. When Adrian was a little girl, tiny little girl, daddy delivered things to the hospital, he went out and picked up supplies, he would come by and get Adrian and take her with him on his errand and bring her back.

CO: So was she close to him?

GK: She was very close to him, but I think she was close to both of them.

CO: Where is she now?

GK: She's in Macon. She works for the state.

CO: Does she have children?

GK: Well she had a miscarriage once, she only had one ovary because she endometriosis.

CO: And you're son didn't have children.

GK: No, he never married.

CO: So you don't have grandchildren.

GK: Two cats, two friend cats, they're cute but they (Inaudible 21:21-21:20)

CO: Everybody always says and I say to, it's certainly true in my, grandmothering is so much more fun. I have two grandchildren so yes I love the subject.

GK: They were great grandparents, wonderful grandparents and I probably would have never been as good of grandparent.

CO: As they were?

GK: Uh huh.

CO: Now your father died in...

GK: July after Daniel, it wasn't a good year. My mother in law died December the 30th, I think it was the 30th or the 31st. That January the 30th, Danny died. Than my uncle, one of my dear uncles on daddy's side died on the 4th of February and then Daddy died on the 21st of July.

CO: Wow. I want to get to that very shortly since it seems sort of timely to do that. Before I started this project, what I was working on was motherhood in the late 19th and early 20th century so I'm really interested in the subject of mother daughter relationships and so forth. Do you think it's easier or harder today to be a mother than it was when she was little? Do you think it's harder to mother today than it was, or is it easier?

HP: I don't know. I don't think it was any harder.

CO: You don't think you had a harder time?

HP: No.

CO: How would you answer that? Was it easier today or harder?

GK: I think today's parent mother's, because there are so many things pulling on them. I started to say that maybe they have a harder time but there are so many demands and things they want their children to do; and they seem to feel that they have to push the children to accomplish all this when they're young so that they can grow up to be wonderful rich adults. I think that maybe makes it more difficult, but I feel so sorry for the children who don't get to be children. I mean when do they play in the yard and dig a hole.

CO: That's because they're keyboarding, they're on the computer.

GK: I think that someone needs to put their foot down and say you go outside and play for three hours and then you come in and do this.

CO: So you would say it's harder now?

GK: I think probably it is because there's all these other things interfering that we didn't have. We didn't have computers that you had to watch to be sure that nobody was sending them a terrible message. I think if I had the child I just wouldn't have a computer.

CO: Good luck with that one. What did you do for entertainment? What kind of books did you read when you were younger? Books, movies, music, did you have favorites of those growing up? Were you a reader?

HP: Yes a book was all that mattered to me.

CO: You read?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Did you like fiction? Did you read fiction?

HP: Sometimes.

CO: Do you remember anything?

HP: No.

CO: And music, did you dance? Did you like to dance when you were younger?

HP: I can't remember that.

GK: You played the piano.

HP: I've forgotten that too. I haven't touched it since then.

CO: But you played as a young girl and a young woman?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: Who taught you?

HP: I took music all my life.

CO: So music must have been, did you sing in the choir a church?

HP: No, Agnes and I would both have...

GK: Duets

HP: Yeah, every year we'd be together and have that, some part of the year.

CO: From school?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: You did that at school?

GK: Yeah, the same woman taught her piano taught me.

CO: So it sounds like you all were a musical family?

GK: Well I had a choice between taking art and taking piano and I chose piano and I hated every minute of it. I had it when I got up to college because it was the only way I could take voice was to take piano. And my right hand learned how to play but the left hand never learned how to play.

CO: Well what about artists, musicians, or writers any of those in the family?

GK: Not real ones.

CO: Did you ever write? Did you ever write in a diary or journal or anything? Did you like to write letters?

HP: I don't remember that.

GK: I don't know whether you did or not. I always had a diary.

CO: You had a diary?

GK: Oh yes I have a couple of them upstairs now.

CO: You mean from back then or are you writing now?

GK: Well every night I put down what I have done during the day because I started this, my daughter had me start this. We had a wreck 8 years ago, I put my car into ongoing traffic on the highway, and we did not come out well. The little car died, we spent almost 5 weeks in the hospital in rehab.

CO: We who, you and who?

GK: The two of us, she was 98. It could have been absolutely disastrous. So if anybody ever tells you that God doesn't look out for silly people you don't believe them, because he certainly does.

HP: I think we were both in the hospital.

GK: We were, we were both there and they were going to let me go home and leave you there until I could home and get everything together, but we didn't do that. We came home, they let us come home for Christmas day because we were in rehab then.

CO: Were you her in Thomasville?

GK: We moved in her in July in 83 and we had the wreck in December, the 3rd of December after July.

CO: Of 83?

GK: Not 83, 2003. I had a difficult time remembering after that for some things, like the word to the Christmas bells, it took two years for that to come back.

CO: My goodness.

GK: I kept saying I don't think I'm thinking right and nobody paid any attention to me because I can do everything I'm supposed to do, but because I did forget things Adrian suggested that, she has a positive personality, when she suggest something that means let's do it. She got that from her mother, and every day I write what I have done that day so I can go back and see did you do that and go well I don't know, I can look and see, but I do have dual diaries from when I was in eighth grade.

CO: Well when you write now, do you write about what you did or do you write about how you felt about it?

GK: No I just sort of put down, I don't have time to go into great detail, but then I know, well I looked up, I've forgotten what the answer was. Several months ago I couldn't remember when I had had a colostomy, so I looked it up and put in the year I thought it was in that year, and it's useful to go back and find things. Mother came out of that really very well, she had a broken pelvis, two broken ribs, and a broken toe.

CO: That certainly, were you on a walker then?

GK: No, she only uses the walker in the house. When we go out she uses my arm and walks. I don't use a cane in the house, when I go out I use my cane because my feet no longer adjust and I'll lose my balance and I will fall. I fell in September in the hospital and I had gone to have, because I had an aneurism fixed last year, well now two years ago. I had to go and have a (Inaudible 10:22) scan for it's one year checkup, and as I'm walking down the hall with the head nurse who's my Sunday school class I teach, my cute little shoe that I didn't wear often, because I knew they scuffed on rugs, well I didn't really let rub, well now I have my cane and well it stuck to the floor and I went down like a tree and...

CO: This was when?

GK: This past September.

CO: Oh my goodness.

GK: So I spent two nights with them.

CO: Did you break anything

GK: No I thought that I had broken my arm, well I broke this elbow years ago and when it must have been when I was six and they thought I had broken it again. I was very very sad. I had to have stitches here. Adrian came and stayed with mother and she came home Tuesday, I did it on a Tuesday, she came on Tuesday stayed until Saturday to look after us. I spent two nights in the hospital and um...

CO: So Adrian came to take care of your mother?

GK: and to see about me. She always comes. And I think that would be good if we lived there so that she didn't have to stop to see what she was doing and see about it...

CO: Is Adrian married?

GK: Yeah. Her and her husband stay home by themselves.

HP: She had a state job

GK: Yeah she travels and she may go to savannah and spend three days or something like that...

HP: Oh she works in the department of community affairs carrying state government to small communities. That's the way she explains it to me. Because I don't understand what she does at all.

CO: I mean I teach history and that sounds pretty straight forward and easy but my family just does not understand how I could have spent so much time in school and not be driving a BMW. They don't get it.

GK: Well I was a history major and I wanted to get my masters in history when I married I thought I could do it by consignment but you couldn't do that so when I started teaching again I got my masters in elementary education. I wanted to get it in reading but the state wouldnt pay me to have a masters in reading and teach elementary education. I wanted to teach reading and in those days they didn't have anything like that so...

CO: So you and books, what have...so you are a reader?

GK: She paid me a nickel a book which was...you paid me a nickel a book.

CO: You paid her to read?

HP: Yeah

GK: and she paid me not to talk to her before breakfast.

HP: and then I got to where I paid her a quarter to read.

CO: Whoa what an incentive.

GK: and the library they were so terrible that, it was across the street from the bakery and I would go on Saturday morning and get books and I would be thought with them in just a little while but they wouldn't let me get new ones that day. So...

CO: What did you like to read as a child?

GK: Anything

CO: What about now what have you been reading?

GK: I don't read much now I am spoiled and I don't want you to bother me when I read. Unless you are gasping for breath do that come on.

CO: Okay well that's good for you.

GK: Well it is and I will catch up on my reading someday.

CO: What did you like though did you like fiction?

GK: I loved fiction I am a Jane Austin addict. When I was in the sixth grade I just realized pride and prejudice came out the movie and so I read the book and I have been a Jane Austin fan ever since.

CO: Have you seen the remakes of those?

GK: I don't like them. Well some of them. I like the fact that the one they did with, where the clothes are not so fine, the house is not so fine...

CO: Do you mean sense and sensibility?

GK: No pride and prejudice, I don't like that one. Now I do have all of them on CD but I have not seen them all yet. I can't understand the English real well so it's not doing anything. And she's only planning to live to be maybe 110 112. 106 was her goal and she's reached that. So now she is aiming for 110 or 112.

HP: Why are you telling?

GK: That you are going to live to be 110 or 112.

HP: Oh yeah.

CO: and you are going to still be playing bridge?

HP: Mhmm.

GK: and knitting!

CO: You knit! Oh my goodness...I tried it one time!

HP: Mhmm I knit all the time I made this!

CO: You did? You didn't! Oh my goodness it is beautiful! I can't build anything but scarves I just so admire people who...

HP: I love to knit.

CO: You still knit!? Wow. What do you love to knit?

HP: I don't know that I am knitting anything right now. I don't think I am doing anything right now.

GK: Yes you are doing something. I will bring it.

CO: **GK** says you are knitting.

HP: Because I forget.

CO: Do you knit **GK**?

GK: Yes.

CO: You do?

GK: But I don't. I am able to. Mother does very complicated Christmas stockings and this past year she only made 3 and gave away...but I made one and I may never make another. Now this she made and started this one maybe after she was 100.

CO: Oh that is so pretty.

GK: The year before last she made her last one of these. She made four in all and gave it away.

CO: That is beautiful!

HP: I knit fast.

CO: Well...

GK: Now this is what she is doing now. She is making a blanket for me. Out of the thread she had left from those.

CO: That's gorgeous though isn't that pretty.

HP: You are next to it.

GK: Well this is the other end. She has something wrong with the border so she had to take it out. She's putting a border around it.

CO: See that looks so complicated to me and you still do that?

HP: I'm working on that one now.

GK: I sleep on the sofa in her den and we have the only kind of den that doesn't have a patio we have a den because someone enclosed it and it worked out fine when we moved here we said oh goody mama has her own little living quarters here and I have mine this is going to work like a charm because when we lived in the country and when we built the house in 80, we moved here in 87 in the country she had an apartment in the house. She had two bedrooms a bath and a half well two half baths and a shower for cleaning a living room a waiting area and a kitchen. So when he died it was awfully big and so we moved here.

CO: moved here in 2003

GK: My mamma moved here in 2003. She uh...it was just great she had her own little place like there and I had my own little place here then we used to have it to where we would put all of the furniture in her room and then we couldn't put the card table in there so that was fine she could have her chair but now as we discovered over a year ago which she really doesn't like sleeping downstairs by herself and so I had to put a baby monitor by her bed so that since she was nervous. She was in the hospital with angina for two weeks and so we put the baby monitor in when she came back because it was a long way from my room to her room but I sleep on the sofa in her den and that's going to be part of my **inaudible 00:31-00:29** when the winter weather comes.

CO: so is the sofa comfortable?

GK: Yeah I'm not real alone and I sleep since I sleep on my back on a slanting pillow I started doing that because I have so many broken ribs in my back and I couldn't sleep any other way.

CO: Gosh you've recovered so well though.

GK: It was pretty good, Adrian said we had been t-boned which maybe that had something to do with it. I had a lot more breaks than she did, but my feet don't do as well as they did, if I lose my balance on the sidewalk I can't, they won't adjust and I will go down.

CO: Do you play bridge with your mother and her friends?

GK: Oh yes, I got invited to joined her bridge group because everybody was dying.

CO: **HP,** how long have you been playing bridge?

HP: I don't know. We used to play bridge when I was a child.

CO: You did? Oh my goodness!

HP: It changed and I waited....

GK: You played when I was a child.

HP: Oh yeah, and I still play.

CO: Did you ever go, did you have competitions?

HP: No.

CO: Somebody told me to ask you if you, how many no trumps hands do you have? I don't play bridge so I don't know what that means.

HP: I don't know.

GK: Well now, I will say this for her, we play one table Tuesday and one table on Thursday. When anybody invites us to play, she was high score not too long ago. You were high score and we play bridge with people who play bridge much better than I do. I taught school, I played bridge then I taught school, it was wonderful to give up bridge.

CO: So it's not your passion?

GK: Oh no, I'd much rather read a book. So then when I retired I had a little bridge group, we grew up together. It was fun we talked, we had the best time, sometimes we might get to hands full a day. I would take mother to bridge when she couldn't drive and when Arthur didn't work for us anymore and I would take her to bridge and I had to wait for her or go back and pick her up and when she had the wreck she told the person who had been a partner for duplicate bridge to go on, she wanted to just keep the person who she was playing with. I would be her partner for duplicate bridge.

CO: She volunteered you?

GK: Yes she did, and I did, but because took her as people died they um different groups would ask me to take their place, then when we got down here, moved her, we played, they had three different groups that we played with. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and they all came here and I teach Sunday school, it's a group my own age approximately and I just couldn't play bridge and do that and get it all in so we gave up the Saturday group. But that's how I got involved in really playing bridge and I'm not.

CO: Well it sounds like she's a real pro.

GK: She is

CO: Doesn't it take a lot from mental clarity to play bridge?

GK: Yeah it does.

CO: Well you're talking about how you've lost your memory but you've certainly done alright with bridge. Well tell me what it means to have a no trumps hand?

GK: Did they say a no trump or a slam?

CO: Didn't say anything about a slam.

GK: Well a no trump is you just play it, they high card wins not the, there's nothing you can trump with. She's good, she's still good.

CO: This is how I heard, somebody told me about you and said and she's still playing bridge several times a week.

GK: Well she played duplicate bridge until a year ago, and she decided one day that she didn't want to do that anymore, and I was delighted because we got home at 11:15pm. I don't really like coming in that late even with the burglar alarm. Adrian didn't like us being on the road at that hour to begin with, much less getting out and coming home.

CO: Well can I get from both of you, you've already both talked about education. Would you just say for the recorder like where you went to high school and, you went to business school here in Thomasville?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: So you went to high school in Pelham?

HP: Uh huh

CO: And what was the business school? What was the name of the business school?

HP: So long ago I don't remember.

GK: Balls Business school.

CO: Did you graduate from there?

HP: No, I quit.

GK: No she quit and took a job. She went to work with Mr. Flowers at (Inaudible 01:06:19). She was supposed to go to Florida Women's College down there but because Uncle Charlie didn't always send their money on time, she was afraid he wouldn't send her money and that they would put her out. I don't think they would have but mama thought they would.

HP: I think they would.

GK: So anyhow...

CO: Did you ever regret not going to college?

HP: No, I went to business school and I got chance to go to work and they said do you think they can handle it and I said I think I can. So I got my hat and went to work.

CO: But you wanted her to go to college?

HP: Oh yeah.

CO: Was it pretty much assumed that she would go to college?

GK: Nobody ever said do you want to go.

CO: So you went to high school here in Thomasville and then you went to Mary Baldwin?

GK: Yes in Stanton, Virginia.

CO: Why did you choose that school?

GK: Well when we went to Newport news in the summer before I was in the fourth grade we went to Williamsburg and to Yorktown and I was entranced with the history of all that was there. So I wanted to

go to Rueben and Mary but along came the war and the academics at William and Mary went down. So my aunt wrote mother and she thinks she wasn't sending me there. So, they've recovered since then but they had all of the service things coming in and she said it wasn't the school it had been now. I wanted to go to a girls school and I wanted to go away to see if I could get a long without going on my own. So I chose Mary Baldwin NOT for the academics but because I wanted to learn to shoot pool.

CO: They had pool there?

GK: They had a pool table, and I thought I always wanted to learn to do that, I'll do that and I never learned. If I shot pool I was afraid I'd ruin their felt, so I had visions of me whooping it up and then wanting to pinch my head off. So I decided to go there, I mean it was no great, I embarrassed mother, we went to a wedding reception and Presbyterian preacher asked me how it happened I had chosen Mary Baldwin. Instead of saying it's such a wonderful Presbyterian school and such a good Christian school, the academics are good, I said I wanted to learn to shoot pool. Mother was really mortified.

CO: Oh but it makes a great story now.

GK: Well I did, that's my reason.

CO: So you were telling the truth.

GK: I did not really care about academics, I mean it was taken for granted that I'd go to school and I would get a degree, I never thought about what I'd do.

CO: So you were there roughly in the 40's?

HP: Well some women he had tried to get a child in school and he did something, he had to make certain grades above 90 I think. She was telling me about going and that I knew they'd put you out if you didn't have a 90, well I always said I had a 95 and a 97. Well she shut up.

GK: Well I didn't, you know nobody made anything out of academics in the 40's for girls.

CO: But did you enjoy it?

GK: I loved it. Great group of girls, it was like being at home, you had to be in by eleven o'clock, well we couldn't ride in cars, but I had grown in the guest (Inaudible 01:01:55) we were riding in cars anyhow. We had to sign out and tell people where you were going because that's what you did at home. It was just an extension then along came however many years later and I sent my child off to (Inaudible 01:01:37) thinking oh they're going to take such good care of this child, they didn't care what she did. I just had no idea.

CO: Things were different in, that would have been the late 60's?

GK: Early seventies, she graduated in 69.

CO: And so you did say that you got a master's degree, where was that from?

GK: FSU.

CO: Well the next, how do you all feel?

HP: Good.

CO: Can we at least spend not quite an hour, is that fine.

GK: Mother drink some water. It's there in the little glass, I always give the company the big glass because they all look alike.

CO: These are good glasses though.

GK: I love these glasses.

HP: You can drop one and it'll roll all over the yard, I mean (rock pool 01:00:22).

GK: Yeah, they're very sturdy which is good.

CO: Even for this big glass it's easy to hold. I think I'm gonna save that for later. Can we talk about the experience of loss, death, divorce, separation, health issues/illness? So **HP**, what is the most difficult loss you've experienced through the death? The hardest loss through death?

HP: My mama.

CO: Your mother. So you were 15, what do you remember about it?

HP: Well, she just was different than most children's mommas.

CO: In what way?

HP: Well she'd give you laws to go by and as long as you went by them you'd get along fine, but don't change a day because she'd put you away for a week or two.

CO: And so, her death was really unexpected?

HP: Uh huh.

CO: She wasn't ill for a long time? How did you and your sisters and brother cope with that?

HP: I think Aunt Mable was gonna take us I'm not sure. I've forgotten a lot, I don't know now but I knew then. The oldest sister took us and...

CO: But you recall that loss because that's the first thing you thought of when I asked. Well that's pretty traumatic. I don't think I have to ask you, but I will so you can at least reflect on that. I mean I'm assuming it would be your child, your son.

GK: The death of a husband and the death of a child, they're both horrible if you like your husband. I mean it's, you don't forget it you don't get over it, it doesn't go away, you learn to live around it, and it's

always there. This is a particularly bad month for me, Daniel's birthday is the first part of the month and Danny's death day is the end of the month and it's like I told his friend said when he died, his friend who got so frustrated he socked his house and broke his hand; he said to me you won't ever be happy again and it took me a minute to come up with the right thing to say to him and I told him I would be happy but I would never be as happy and that's what it is, it's always there. Daniel and I talked about how the children would be late coming home and what if something happened to them you know, you know what we were talking about. There's no way of imagining what it would be.

CO: So collectively for you and your husband, were you able to help each other through this?

GK: You have to, but the problem is you get so busy in trying to save yourself. I think several people I have known had gotten the voices after the death of a child. I think it's because you are so busy trying to keep yourself from sinking that you can't think about the other person and people don't grieve in the same way or the same time schedule. I had to be busy, I had more energy than 9 people, Daniel was depressed cause he was very sick when he died and he was very emotional.

CO: He was sick, your husband?

GK: And was very emotional, he could look at a picture of Daniel and cry, but part of that was sickness, but he could never just sit down and talk about him for more than a minute.

CO: So it sounds like he revisited that grief as he neared his own death? Is that what happened?

GK: Well I think probably, except it never really went away he never, he wasn't as resilient I think as I was, but I told somebody not long ago we were talking about how they had also lost a child several years ago, that I never really got to sit down and just cry cry cry, which wouldn't have done any good but just make me feel better, because it just would have pulled him down more, and it would have upsetted mama and daddy if I had spent days crying. They would have been as bad off as I was. When it was fresh, Daniel was much stronger than I was I think, but I'm not sure.

CO: So you suffered more to begin with and then you found a way to cope and your husband then...

GK: He would visit the grave every day. It was removed four years after Danny and moved to the country so that he did not drive by the cemetery every day, he couldn't drive by without going in, because he thought like he was deserting him if he didn't go in and stop and speak to the grave. I rarely in fact I forgot, I didn't forget to put his Christmas tree on this year. Last year I was so busy before Christmas I forgot to put the, had it in the trunk I forgot to take it because I don't take it until Christmas Eve because I don't want anybody to take it away. But this year I put it in, it was in the warehouse and I couldn't get it out in the storage bin because I can't raise the door and Adrian didn't get here as earlier as she thought she was going to so I couldn't get it out, so for two years he didn't have his Christmas tree. It hadn't bothered him but losing a child is different than losing a husband in a lot of ways. If you really like your husband, if I hadn't really liked him it wouldn't have made any difference. But when you do things together, they did everything together every day.

CO: Your parents that is?

GK: Yes, they fished together on their days off, that was what they liked to do, or went to the farm to see, well my Aunt she died so they didn't do that anymore. But they always did everything together until they retired. Then mama started playing bridge and Daddy started listening to the books on record then because his eyes weren't good enough to read they moved and he couldn't read as much and he was so deaf he wanted her out of the house so he could turn his book up. If you were going by the sidewalk, you might hear it to. To me they're both just horrible experiences.

CO: It sounds like you and your husband were different temperaments, especially if he coped with, um depression is....

GK: I don't know that we were. See his mother died a month before Danny, every afternoon or late, Danny would call and speak to his father, every afternoon late Daniel would call and speak to his mother. So when late afternoon came, there was this big gap where nothing was happening. No I think we were an awful lot alike.

CO: You look though and sound like you don't, never had a problem with depression?

GK: He did, he had more of a problem with depression. I don't at all. I say I don't but I did, I didn't know I did.

CO: So at a certain time in life?

GK: After Daniel died, I didn't know I did, I know now.

CO: That's what it was?

GK: Now after we had the wreck, they sent a psychologist to see me, she and her dog would come in the late at night and I finally figured out the thing she was worried about, I kept worrying about mother, mother was 98 she's down the hall in another room and that was the thing I was worried, I wasn't worried about me, I knew how I was.

CO: So did she go visit your mom?

GK: No, but I think that, she thought that was strange. I think she came along in the you cannot like your mother era. See I don't understand things like that.

CO: Well that's sort of an everybody knows kind of thing in academics, everybody knows that mothers and daughters have this inevitable tension and so....

GK: And that's so stupid.

CO: Yeah well if you've never had the experience I'm sure it would feel

GK: My friends, they had problems with their mothers. I mean mothers and fathers were the heads.

CO: So authority had a different...

GK: You didn't and you lived there and did what they said.

CO: Was it that way for your children as a well?

GK: More or less, they didn't mind as well as I did, but there was never any friction.

CO: So you and your daughter didn't have any friction either.

GK: No.

CO: So, have you learned valuable lessons about grieving and mourning and bereavement and that kind of thing? When your friends lose loved ones do you have any advice for them? How do you talk to a friend who's suffered a loss? Does that make sense?

HP: I don't do much talking.

CO: You don't talk, so that's wisdom really.

GK: She doesn't do funerals any more either.

CO: But when you did go to funerals and, did you still have that same sort of philosophy and didn't talk much, you just went and to be with somebody.

HP: No I just went.

GK: She's a listener and I think that's the thing we both know because people don't grieve alike. And I found when Danny died and I would get notes from people who were so sincere that they knew what I was going through and I knew they didn't have any idea what I was going through cause they never lost a child.

CO: Did they say that, "I know what you're going through?"

GK: I know what you're going through, they didn't mean any harm, they thought they did, but they had no idea.

CO: So what kind of cards helped?

GK: I'm thinking of you.

CO: Not assuming to know what you were feeling.

GK: One of the nicest cards we had was from a friend who was in some place like Bahrain and it said I care. And that was the message.

CO: And that helped?

GK: I can't get anybody, well Larry Singletary. Do you know Raymond Jimmy Singletary?

CO: No.

GK: They have Singletary's far as friends 60 years old that died in September before (Inaudible 45:29). She was, it was an accident with a jet ski on the lake and she broke her neck. It took me 4 weeks to write anything and all I could say was that you will learn to live around it. It won't go away but you'll learn to live around it.

CO: But in that case it communicated something to him. You knew better than to say I know what you're going through although in some ways you did.

GK: I knew in a lot of ways but...

CO: But you knew not to say that.

GK: Yeah because I walked in his shoes. There is, people some of us grieve more slowly and then can have all this and being Christians we know we'll see each other again, but that doesn't really help a whole lot at the moment. It's nice to know down the line that this is going to happen. But today, it's not a whole lot of good. But it will get better; you will learn to live with it.

CO: Well besides death and you both obviously had that experience. But besides death what are some other significant losses? Divorce of people that you love or serious health issues you know?

GK: Daniel was sick for sixteen years. I mean we knew he would not get well, we knew he was dying, and that was a bit of a challenge.

CO: What was his....

GK: He had pulmonary fibrosis. Are you familiar with that? It's a horrible disease, they don't know what causes it and they cannot cure it. They sent him to Emory for a second opinion and the opinion was the same and they said if you respond to the medication which is prednisone you may live two years, if you don't live you may only live six months. And they put him on massive doses of prednisone, you know like 80mg a day and he lived almost 16 years.

CO: On that much prednisone?

GK: It came down but as his doctor said he bottomed out and stayed there. He was on oxygen the last 3 years I guess of his life and he was in wheelchair the last couple of years. All the things he enjoyed doing, he went to South America hunting, he took trips to the west and they went, not rafting but they went on the Oregon River and just did wonderful things that he wanted to do, went pheasant hunting in the Dakota's, had a marvelous time, and then he got where he couldn't. I would resent it that he couldn't continue to do what he wanted to do, and his attitude was that I have done so much of this, I can't complain.

CO: So he came to an acceptance?

GK: Yes he lived with it very, I'll have to tell you this story. He was in the hospital and basically he died and they brought him back which they weren't supposed to do. And it worked out well because Adrian got to come and his sister got to come and that was good. But we were at the hospital for a week while

he goes down to die again and on the Sunday before he died I guess Tuesday, the Baptist and I'm a Baptist, they visited the hospital. That's what we do on Sunday afternoon, we visit all the people who can't escape and somebody came. (Phone rings) That was Ginny momma.

HP: Who?

GK: Virginia. Some people that we didn't know very well came to see him and as they're leaving, some man said I hope you get better real soon and Daniel looked up at him and said, "BUT I'M DYING."

CO: What did the man say?

GK: Goodbye. I'm sorry, goodbye. It was a terrible thing to do to them but to me it has always been so funny.

CO: But hopefully he will go better prepared.

GK: Visit people he knows something about them.

CO: Oh my goodness, that is a funny story for your husband but mortifying as it should be to the man. So his health issues, that was a loss of his independence and so forth? Any other losses besides health or, no divorces in the family?

GK: (Inaudible 39:00) my child hasn't gotten a divorce.

CO: Yeah that hasn't been an issue. The next subject is aging.

GK: I'm a good example to follow.

CO: Do you remember **HP**, what you thought was old when you were a young girl? Like when we're young, we see somebody you know, I mean I can remember when I thought 30's was old and then 40's and 50's and now, there's no end to, I have such a different concept of what old is.

GK: I see people on the television and they say they are my age and yet they look so much older than I think I look.

CO: Well right.

GK: And they dress so much older.

CO: Well you are certainly youthful. I mean no one would ever guess that your mother was 106 almost 107.

GK: I have many more wrinkles than she does.

CO: Well how do you do that?

HP: I don't know

GK: She has gorgeous skin, she has worried about my wrinkles for 20 years because I've had more than she has. I've been gray longer than she has.

CO: So what did you do to your skin to keep it so beautiful?

HP: Nothing.

CO: Nothing, no?

GK: She doesn't wash it before she goes to bed at night, she washes it in the morning and somebody was on Martha Stewart the other day saying you must wash your face before you go to bed at night and I'm willing to say uh uh.

CO: Not really no. Oh they've been preaching that for most of my life.

HP: I do, I do my bathing in the morning.

GK: She washes, and I always did until I had the first things burned off, I mean frozen off of my face and he lectured on washing my face every night.

CO: Oh they do, they do. Okay so **HP** you're a 106 almost 107, and you're 84?

GK: 83.

CO: You'll be 84 in...

GK: October.

CO: Okay so you just really turned 83. How old do you feel in your heart? Not your literal heart but....

HP: I don't think about being old.

CO: Well I can see why. How old do you feel in your mind?

HP: I just think I'm the same....

CO: As you were when what? When you were 45?

HP: When I was grown.

CO: You're just an adult now.

GK: It never seemed to bother her that she was getting any older. They worked, when they retired, papa was 80, gonna be 80 on his birthday and you were, he was 79 you were 69. She was active though, she played bridge every afternoon, she did a lot more than I think I do now.

HP: Yeah there wasn't a week that I didn't play bridge every day.

GK: Except Sunday,

HP: I had the chance to, I asked one time if he minded if I went and played on Sunday, he said I don't mind but I wish you wouldn't. So that ended my Sunday playing.

CO: You don't feel constrained by having to use the walker? And you don't have aches and pains?

HP: I can't walk without the walker.

CO: Do you take a lot of medicine? Do you have to take a lot?

HP: No.

GK: She takes a blood pressure pill, a diuretic, and a baby aspirin.

CO: That's incredible; some people have to hire a secretary for the medicine that they have to take. Three pills she takes?

HP: That's what she says, I don't remember.

GK: Yes ma'am that's what you take. You take two in the morning, you take a half of Lasix and your blood pressure pill and we give her it now because she was having trouble sleeping and so I give her a Benadryl a 25mg Benadryl to help her sleep. I don't even think about that cause the doctor, I asked him before I did it and that's the only thing he had to do with it.

HP: I didn't know.

GK: No she went through a stage where her blood pressure was very low, her pulse was just barely creeping, our doctor was disturbed because her heart just pauses, I think she needs a

HP: Pacemaker?

GK: Pacemaker, she's losing her mind, a pacemaker. So we called the cardiologist and went to see him and he said I'd love to do something with her medicine, so he took her off some of her medicine that she was on and...

CO: That was slowing down her heart?

GK: Uh huh and so we had no more problems. She did have angina while she was in, she's always been anemic, all my life mama was anemic.

HP: Anemic all my life.

GK: She used to pass out when she was little because she was anemic. While she was in the hospital for two weeks, they take your blood all hours of the day and night, and one of the nights that they took it they discovered her B12 was low, she asked if she was anemic. Her hemoglobin would get down to 9 and 8, and they tell you you're gonna have to have a blood transfusion and so they started giving her B12 shots, her hemoglobin went up and her angina went away because she wasn't getting oxygen to the heart. So you do take B12 I have to say that.

CO: I was really talking about prescriptions, but it's good to know that. How do you, when people ask you how have you lived so many years, what do you say?

HP: I don't know.

CO: Is right living? Did you exercise when you were younger?

HP: I don't think so.

GK: No, and there's a reason for that, she has a very bad curvature. She worked at the bakery and she walked around in there and she can walk downtown but when she tried to walk any distance just like, take a walk then she had this tendency to pass out. The orthopedist explained that the way her backbone is and her curvature that the vertebrae rubbed on each other and caused fluid to gather and press on the Vagus nerve and that would make her faint. In fact she thinks exercising is silly but she's never exercised.

HP: I don't know.

GK: I said do that you think that exercise is silly because you've never exercised. She thinks not eating things with a lot of fat in it is silly. She eats, we eat butter and cream and all that and I take a (Inaudible 30:40).

CO: There's something in your genes that's so....

GK: And she healed when we had the wreck we healed like that.

CO: That is definitely a genetic thing.

HP: They wouldn't let us go home; they kept us a whole month.

GK: Mother they kept us because I didn't heal like that, I had a lot more to heal.

HP: I don't know but I know I was ready to go home a week after that.

GK: Because you didn't like the food, you didn't eat their food we had to bring in food for you.

CO: Do you still try to cook at all?

HP: No, I don't cook.

GK: She never cooked.

CO: Good for you I don't like cooking either.

GK: Me either but I do it.

CO: So you all go out much?

GK: No.

HP: I always had a cook, I'd go to work every day I'd pay the cook. Tom apologized before he died because he didn't know that I didn't want to cook any more than I did. I said I didn't know how to cook and I didn't want to cook so I got them a cook and took a job up there.

CO: I can so relate to that. What about you, how old do you feel?

GK: I don't feel 83.

HP: You're 83

GK: Yes ma'am I'm 83.

HP: I've forgotten it.

GK: Yes ma'am but you did know.

HP: I reckon.

GK: I had a birthday we celebrated my birthday.

HP: We did?

GK: At Adrian and Johns place.

HP: I didn't think anybody told me you were 83.

GK: No ma'am you knew you've just forgotten.

HP: Maybe I did, I don't know.

GK: That's okay

CO: That is okay.

GK: I don't remember it often either. I have to remind myself.

CO: That's why you keep that diary.

GK: I can't run and jump anymore because I can't run and jump, but you know I feel like I could if I was physically able.

CO: I'm not saying physically how old do you feel, I mean in your mind.

GK: In my mind, in my mind I'm much younger, I don't know how young but much younger. I ought to be able to do so many things and I'm still planning to do so many things, I realize that I may be counting my chickens before they hatch.

CO: Before we get through I'm going to ask you a questions about what age do you look back on with most nostalgia, so you might think about it in a different way then and then that might, I kind of got this

question from, I watched a film where a man, it sounds pretty predictable and it sounds pretty, I don't know, it wouldn't suit many people the subject matter. This professor who was nearing retirement fell in love with a young student, probably more than half his age and he wasn't married but he'd never been in any committed relationship but he really feel I mean madly in love with this young girl and she returned it with him to but there's a scene with him pondering out the window that in his mind his body might be 70 something but in his mind he's still 30, he still sees through eyes that are 30 and it just occurred to me that I don't feel my age you know I feel like I did when I was 35, so that's what I mean your body might not operate like it once did but in your mind like you say, you have all these things that you want to do, and there from that mind that's much much younger.

GK: I will say that my mind has had, with losing Daniel I really had some stress, mental stress after that that I didn't know I had but I did. Then we had the wreck and it shook my brain up and I asked the neurologist when I hit my head in the hospital, I had flashes of light after the wreck for months I had these flashes of light and I went to the optomologist not my eyes, I said I want to ask you something and I told him and he said that was the back of your brain. I said well I thought it must be my brain, I said but they told me I didn't have, I didn't hit my head and I don't know, I evidently did. Adrian said if I had seen my face I'd know I hit my head, but I had a long a period of getting things back together and remembering things like I said the Christmas carols and lots of little things and I had fell in the house because my feet don't work right and I stepped over something and I always said well I could catch a piece of furniture as I go down, believe me you go down way to fast. I got a concussion then I hit my, I fell upstairs because I put the pillows all on a chair and then I sat on it and I fell off, the pillows fell off and I went with them and I had to have my head sewn up. So I have had some, my head has had a hard time the past few years. Learning, you know now I feel like I'm thinking like I should think finally like hitting my head in September it went, it didn't help. I did not have a concussion I had a little bleeding on the bone right behind, (Inaudible 24:12) it was right behind where I hit. I landed like that instead of here or here or here.

CO: Do you still see the flashes?

GK: I don't have the flashes. That time they went away but Dr. Frederickson said that was from the back of the brain. Evidently I hit the back of my head, they did scans of my head and they wouldn't let me go to sleep they were very sure I wouldn't go to sleep, but they didn't say they had a concussion, and nobody ever said that your brain is going to be affected by this and I'm so dumb, I didn't realize that just shaking my head up and my son-in-law has his doctorate in psychology but he's never done anything with it. He was talking about a girl that worked for him, he had a business and she had a wreck and they told her it was going to be like years before her brain got back to where it's supposed to be, and I said just shaking your brain up does this to you? Why didn't somebody tell me? But I did, after I fell and hit my head, yeah it was when I gave myself the concussion, two years after I gave myself the concussion I have a letter from some agency in the state saying that they keep up with head injuries and that they have me on record.

HP: Keep up with what, head injuries?

GK: Head injuries, but they didn't know I had to have my head sewn up because I didn't go to the hospital or that, I don't think the doctor even gave them....

CO: It sounds like you're really well recovered?

GK: I think so, well I still I have things that I think I should be able to remember but my (Inaudible 22:12) because I'm old.

CO: And not from the injury?

GK: Uh huh, but it's been a long hard pull.

CO: I bet.

GK: Especially when you don't know and don't understand what's wrong with you, you feel really stupid.

CO: What has been the most difficult part of getting old for you?

HP: I don't think about getting old yet.

GK: Getting around.

CO: The mobility.

GK: Mobility, being able to get around that's been, and with her bad curvature she never really had any problems with it until she got older. Then she had a little car with bucket seats with 4 on the floor and it would give her back aches sometimes.

CO: You got a car with 4 on the floor? What was it?

GK: It was a little Ford and she just zipped around.

CO: You must've been the talk of the town.

HP: I don't know.

GK: She just zipped around, she used to go out of the driveway and Daniel said just look at her, but she always drove the speed limit, if it was 60 she was 60.

CO: What about you? What's the hardest part for you?

GK: Not being able to do as much, to get as much accomplished. It slows you down, part of it may be from the wreck.

HP: I stopped driving because I drove up to the stoplight to see if it was stopped and I stopped but I started right on and went on.

CO: You didn't wait for it to turn green?

HP: I went home and I stopped driving right then.

CO: On your own? They didn't have to take your license away from you?

HP: Well they didn't take anything, I just didn't want to do that.

CO: When was that?

GK: It was right before she was 90.

CO: Oh, so it's been awhile before you drove?

GK: But we had Arthur who came every day and worked in the yard and did things when we were in the country, and Arthur chauffeured her wherever she wanted to go.

CO: Driving Ms. **HP**.

GK: Yep and at Christmas they went Christmas shopping. Mother went shopping and Arthur carried the gifts and then I came and then I thought I really couldn't do it, I did. So she has not missed....

CO: She hasn't missed driving.

GK: I don't think so.

CO: So what's been the best part, I mean some people talk about the wisdom of aging and being, what's been the best part of aging?

HP: I never really thought about aging.

CO: Yes don't even think about.

GK: Well to me the best part of her aging is we've gotten to know each other.

CO: Because you're living together?

GK: Yeah, you get to know her as a person, she's not just mama. Cause when you're a mother, you're not a person.

CO: That's right, absolutely.

GK: It makes a difference.

CO: So you're really as much friends now as you are mother and daughter?

HP: I don't have a mother after I was 15 and there were 3 younger than me, 3 older.

CO: Did you feel sort of like your older sister was a mothertype?

HP: No she wasn't that.

CO: She wasn't?

GK: I remember you've have said she was like a mother, Ida May was like a mother you.

HP: Well in some ways but she wasn't bossy or anything like that.

CO: She's recalling her mother one way and you're recalling her talking about her mother...

GK: Well she said that she set up the rules that you went by and if you didn't go by them she punished you, and that's the way it was.

CO: But you talk about her recollections of her being more affectionate?

GK: She has told me that her mother read to her every night.

HP: Huh?

GK: I said Grandmother read to you every night even when you were big and you can read to yourself that's what they did, and when they read Little Women, mother got up after everyone went to bed and finished the book cause she wanted to know what happened.

CO: Well, not many mothers had time to read, but she read to them, that's very special.

HP: My mother ran her place she had I don't know, 700 acres of land, and people living in different places and she checked on them and kept up with what they were doing. She was going to town one day and she had sent one man uh Wagon puller for corn to put in his place to keep it. I can't think of the words I want to say.

CO: That's okay.

HP: The next day she was going to town and she drove up back of him the same route she had let him use to take the corn, she stopped and told him that he could get out or get over in her car.

GK: But what was he doing that she stopped?

HP: He was doing something, I've forgotten what.

GK: Was he beating the mule?

HP: I think that was it.

CO: So that's the one that she....

GK: See she got one for stealing so it could be either one. She got one for stealing and one for beating the mule.

HP: Oh yeah, so I don't know, I've forgotten what I was saying.

CO: That's okay. What do you like about being 106? There's gotta be some benefits to it.

HP: I feel fortunate.

CO: Do people, you're like a celebrity around here....

HP: Cause I was the teeny one in my family.

CO: And then you outlasted everybody.

HP: And all of them are gone but me, but I take medicine, I can remember when I was 2. I'd be called in to take medicine.

CO: Now when you go to town do people create a stir, because you're like a local celebrity?

HP: No.

GK: She doesn't go to town.

HP: What'd you say?

GK: You don't go to town, we ran in to the other town, she never goes in stores any more. We go there for hair fix. It's such a job, it's like you asked about going out to eat, we did until about 3 years ago but she eats so slowly now, it took 2 hours for you to get through lunch yesterday, we were watching television while you ate but it just took a long time and so we don't do that anymore. And it's so hard to get into the restaurants

CO: And they're so crowded

GK: Uh huh, and someone wanted to take us out for dinner and we did go out to dinner not long ago and they wanted to go to The Plaza, well there were some people from out of town and this was their down here relative that wanted to go to the plaza and I said fine and I thought that this is not going to be fun, I was gonna have a terrible time and I knew the visitors liked to go to George and Louie's you know their daddies across from St. Thomas Church and they liked to go there and we liked to go there we buy things there and bring them home and we can drive up close and go right in so I called back and told the friend that if they did not mind, that would be better for mother. We did that, the friend wasn't happy but the relatives were because they really preferred that; and mother had a great time because she could get right out of the car and go in, we ate, we brought home what she didn't get through with and that worked like a charm but we can't just go and eat, I mean we make concessions that are right.

CO: But you can go and get the food....

HP: I eat so much slower than I use to.

CO: Well that's probably good.

GK: Well it is I guess.

CO: So for you, what's the best part, I mean there's got to be some benefit, people I'm talking to are telling me many benefits.

GK: Well I don't feel wise, I'm not wise, and like mother I'm grateful to be here because I want to be here past her time to take care of her. I enjoy what I do, I'm doing what I want to do.

CO: So you still enjoy life?

GK: Oh yes, when we started on this journey, the two of us, I had some friends who you know, made me this great martyr, I'm not being a martyr, I'm doing what I wanted to do. I spent most of my time with Daniel when he was sick and he would say, he would feel badly about it. I would remind him, I'm doing what I want to do, and I've always done what I've wanted to do. This is what I want to do.

CO: Has any of that ever been though that what you must do, you just come to want to do it?

GK: I don't think so. We settled years ago when mother first visited a nursing home and it made us so nervous we couldn't sleep, it was over 50 years ago. She went to see a friend and then second time she went she came home and said her legs would not get out of the car. She doesn't visit her friends, or didn't visit her friends in the nursing home unless I went with her. This was years ago, as I said I think she was afraid that they'd keep her, but we settled in that as long as I was able to keep her out of a nursing home she would never be in one. What else when you look at my life, I'm a widow, I have no grandchildren, what else do I have to do. I had played bridge every afternoon, I could read books and be a hermit, this is a reason for being, a reason for living.

CO: Gives life meaning yeah yeah. So **HP**, what age do you recall most memorably. What do you recall with most nostalgia. What time in your life do you look back with most nostalgia.

HP: I don't know.

CO: When you were happiest? No?

HP: I remembered everything until the last of this past year and one day I just couldn't remember any of it.

CO: I wonder what happened. Anything.

HP: my brain just went away.

CO: I don't think it just went away.

GK: Yeah not the real important parts. Its not necessary that you don't remember what people look like that you haven't seen in three years.

CO: Absolutley not.

GK: She used to talk a lot about when they were young before their mother died and how happy they were. Because they had a magical story book life.

HP: Magical what?

GK: Storybook life.

CO: When you were a little girl you had a...

GK: well its like when grandmother took to all to Baconton to the wedding of when one of the cousins married dillan copelands aunt and you all went in the car, grandmamma and the little girls. Grandmotehr used to take her with her to visit other people and even ya know she just did things.

CO: Yeah well that is what people do. That's what they go back to in terms of desire...or nostalgia.

GK: Well and I think that was a very happy time. She talks about all of it at times.

CO: Early Marriage? First years of your marriage was that special. When you first married?

HP: I don't know.

GK: Papa asked you to press his shirt?

HP: Press his shirt? And I think I told him he had to press it because he didn't wash it.

GK: and you cussed him out because you never pressed anything.

HP: Never had to. I'd never pressed a shirt. I didn't press anything.

CO: Did he press his own shirt?

HP: If he got them washed he did.

GK: and he loved doing for himself he was the oldest of seven children. And he didn't want anyone doing anything for him.

HP: He didn't know how to press his shirt. I don't remember seeing any of his shirts pressed.

GK: No we all didn't have any water.

HP: I didn't know anything about knowing how to fold them and all of that stuff.

GK: I just remembered that he had asked you to press his shirt and that you told him that you don't know how to do it. You tried to learn to make biscuits I do remember that.

HP: I didn't.

GK: That didn't work to well either.

HP: I never done anything.

CO: and then you wound up owning a bakery.

GK: except he was in the hospital about six weeks. She and the girls she worked for ran the bakery and that was one reason that they closed because he almost fell when he stepped down off the curb so if he had fallen he might have broken something and she would have had to run the bakery. And they weren't going to do that anymore. They were not dependable. So they closed up. but it was fine he was almost 80.

CO: What about you what time in your life do you look back on most nostalgically?

GK: Gosh I don't know. I really don't know. It was all very nice.

HP: The doctors told me before my marriage that I could never have but one child.

CO: So you didn't have any expectations for...

HP: He said if I ever tried to have another child I would pass on. He told me that when I had did that child they were going to put on my papers to fix her so she will never get pregnant again.

GK: Well you were not a healthy person.

HP: No

CO: So how did you feel about that.

HP: Well I worked and did everything I wanted to do.

CO: So it wasn't especially sad for you?

HP: No

GK: Well I weighted six pounds. I lost about four. They sent us home finally from the hospital and told her and that was it. They sent us home. I was just a little bitty baby and she was taking care of me and when she saw some of the nurses on the street one day and they were amazed that I was still with us. And mothers attitude I had learned from the start that was what did they expect me to do but raise you? She wasn't having but one but that was fine.

CO: So you don't really think of yourself as about a time that was. You don't think about it nostalgically your early marriage or children?

GK: The whole thing has been very nice I mean. Well I don't look at the past 12 years very nostalgically. If I had to go back there is not an age that I would really want to go back to but I would do the same things all over again. Now I don't mean to sound like I am self satisfied. I just like to think about sometimes I like to think about when I was a teenager. Sometimes I think about when I was in college and unmarried I don't have any one that I just dwell on. That may not be the right answer.

CO: No there is no right answer. What's right is what you say. That is the right answer. Btu did you ever, did either one of you ever color your hair.

GK: Nope. I wish if coloring would have been what it is today I would have because I started turning gray, I pulled my first hair when I was about in the 7th grade.

CO: So did you turn prematurely gray?

GK: I had a streak right there. Somebody asked me what I put on it. A man came up. My brother in law had been to see something over in banbridge and when we were through this man came up and his wife wanted to know what I put on my hair and I told her frankly I didn't think anyone would want...what I put god gave me because nobody with good sense would put a gray streak in their hair.

CO: Oh but they would ha.

GK: So and it just got grayer and grayer.

CO: But you might have colored it if it would have been as easy as it is now? From a distance you look like a blonde.

GK: One of my cousins always called me his blonde cousin. All my, every hair that has turned gray has turned red and golden. The full hair and when I take the hair out of my brush there are golden hairs in it. She didn't start turning gray until you were what in your forties?

HP: 30s. I thought you said that. I was going to say 40s.

GK: I think it was. You didn't get glasses until you were in your 40s.

HP: No and I went because I couldn't tell a nickel from a quarter and I was waiting on people and getting money and I couldn't tell what I had in my hand. I couldn't tell what I had.

My Thoughts:

As I listened to these two energetic and charismatic women explain their incredible life stories, I would often stop and process all of their stories to gain a visual in my head. I was very impressed with the many struggles and transitions that they encountered and the ways in which they bonded and remained stronger as a family. I was touched by how the father would bring groceries to all of the field hands who worked for the family to ensure that everyone was taken care of. My favorite part of this interview so far was when **HP** was working and she noticed her uncle that she had not seen in quite some time, and the only way she recognized him was because he had shot his thumb off many years ago. I look forward to hearing more about their lives and all they have accomplished!

