

Interviewer: Dr. Catherine Oglesby

Interviewee: Alice Clyde Jackson Pendley

CO: Okay it is Saturday March, 10th 2012. I'm in Hampton, GA at the home of Mrs. Alice Pendley, Alice Jackson Pendley, and she and her husband Mr. Earl Pendley are here, we're in the Jacksons' kitchen and I'm going to ask Alice a few things about her life, I've already learned enough to know it's going to be interesting so we'll just get started, Mrs. Alice, can I may I call you Alice?

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, the first question I ask everybody. There are no right or wrong answers. It's your life, you're the expert, but this question is very simply what is your first memory? What's the first thing you, you can recall from your childhood?

AP: My grandmother in Higgston, GA, near Vidalia, I remember she had two rooms in the same house , my mother daddy were, and I used to go through her little closet to get to her two rooms and she would tell me about her English relatives.

CO: So you had a sense of your English heritage from a very early age? Okay, sounds like she was proud of that...

AP: Yeah, she was. And her relatives came over on a boat to Savannah. They got off in Savannah.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And then they settled later afterward -- well see ah Wadley is not too far from Savannah.

CO: Okay, Wadley and as you told me earlier, Wadley is near Augusta.

AP: But it's south of Augusta, 60 miles.

CO: Okay, so it's between Augusta and Savannah?

AP: Uh huh...

CO: On the eastern part of the state, okay. Now, can you describe yourself as a child?

AP: Uh, I loved to play hopscotch and I loved to climb on the barns, to get on top of the barns.

CO: Okay, you ever fall?

EP: From the mule.

AP: (Laughs) And I, I think I fell once, but I didn't break anything.

CO: Wow, good.

AP: Yeah

CO: What did Mr. Earl say?

EP: From the mule.

AP: Oh yeah, I got on a mule one time with no saddle, and he just decided he would go under the clothes line and the clothes just raked me of the back end and I and I had a fall.

CO: Oh, well that was a fall. (Laughs)

AP: (Laughs) That was a fall. But I lived through it I didn't break any bones.

CO: Okay. So it sounds like you were a slight bit mischievous.

AP: Yeah, I was, I was always into something'.

CO: Okay, but now uh, I'll say for the, the record you were the oldest of five children.

AP: Oldest of five.

CO: Okay.

AP: And one just passed away that was well known all over the world, a veterinarian. William Franklin Jackson in Lakeland, Florida.

CO: In Lakeland, Florida, okay.

AP: Yeah.

CO: And what was his, what in the vet world---how was he, I see a picture of him sitting in front of me.

AP: That's a picture and all.

CO: Well I'm sorry to hear about his passing, but uh he was, what did he do as a vet, what was his specialty?

AP: Well, he treated animals, like dogs, that was sick, cats and also horses, I think, I think he did horses too.

CO: Okay, alright. I'll read that in a little bit [referring to an obituary], okay. Well can you describe your parents? Your father and mother?

AP: My daddy was full of mischief, he loved fun. His name was Frank Jackson. Frank Jackson. I think it's Frank Cleveland Jackson, because he was born when Cleveland was President, and he farmed when the first married, and the boll weevil ate up his crop back then, that was bad.

CO: Yes, yes

AP: He said, "Never again!" So he went to Swainsboro, GA and learned photography.

CO: Okay.

AP: And learned photography, and then he would go from one town to another and stay a week or two, and make school pictures and church pictures.

EP: Worked mill villages

CO: Worked mill villages?

EP: Yeah. Mill villages!

AP: Oh yeah, go to mill villages 'cause the houses were [close together]

EP: Right, right.

AP: And then he would make the pictures then he would develop them himself and take them back and show them a proof, and they could order a dozen or two dozen.

CO: Okay.

AP: So he said, "Never again am I gone farm with ole boll weevil."

CO: Yeah. Do you know what year the boll weevil came and went, do you remember the year that it wiped him out?

AP: Uh, I imagine it was in the 20's.

CO: Okay, alright, that makes sense. And then what about your mother? Can you describe her?

AP: Yeah, her name was Ruth Rheney [spells Rheney] and her parents were from England. Rheney is an English name. And her father was as farmer down there and he had a farm in the, in the Civil War. When they went through, they went right through his place and they did a lot of, got a lot of water out of a ditch or something. I remember him talking about him going through, and they went through Wadley and Midville, and on to Savannah. They were in the march to Savannah in the Civil War and they were going to get Savannah.

CO: So did they tell that story much when you were growing up, did you hear that story when you were growing up?

AP: I sure did. My daddy talked about them going through, and going through the barn and getting the corn and feeding their mules and horses.

CO: So obviously he had to hear that from his daddy.

AP: Oh yeah.

CO: Because he was too, he wasn't born but he heard the story.

AP: Yeah, right.

CO: So he heard it from somebody who lived it?

AP: Yeah, cause the farm was handed on down in the same family.

CO: Okay, alright

EP: They killed our horses, they killed our horses.

CO: They killed all of the horses?

EP: Your daddy's horses and mules.

AP: Uh huh, I thought they took them with them, but anyway, no they killed some.

EP: They set fire to them, to the barn.

AP: To the barn, yeah.

CO: They as in the Yankees?

AP: Yeah the Yankees.

EP: They set fire to the barn and the horses were in there, and they died.

CO: Yeah, Ah...okay what influence did your parents have on you, what influence did your father have on you, and then your mother?

AP: My father was a very sociable person, and mix and mingle. And he liked that, but my mother was more reserved and all, but she was a wonderful cook. She made the best chocolate pie with meringue that high and they always wanted it at the church supper some chocolate pie. And she could look at a dress in Sears catalog when me and my sisters were growing up and she could she could cut one out, make it just like that one in Sears catalogue, she had a single sewing machine with a treadle. (Laughs)

CO: A treadle.

AP: A sewing machine.

CO: The foot pedal, is that what you're talking about?

AP: Yeah, and you strike it up with your arm and then you take your foot and kick it out (laughs) and she made our dresses. My sister was two years younger than me. She would make us alike, dresses alike, and a lot of people would comment about her sewing. She would embroider something across here. She did a lot of hand stuff.

CO: Now did you, so your father was sociable, your mother was very domestic.

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Which of them do you think influenced you most in the person you are today, or influenced you more your mother or your father?

EP: Her father, her father.

AP: I think my father by being sociable, mix and mingle. My mother was more reserved. She was nice, but she was not as sociable as he was.

CO: So you are a very sociable person?

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, alright. And you've told me that your father farmed and then became a photographer.

AP: And the boll weevil ruined his crop, he said, "Never again."

CO: Right.

AP: That was 1920.

CO: Yeah, okay. And did your mother ever work outside the home?

AP: Later in life and the end of her life she worked at a restaurant and made chocolate pies (laughs).

CO: Oh my. But throughout your home life she was at home?

AP: Oh yeah. She definitely was.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And her name was Ruth, a Bible name. And she was good with her hands, she could embroider, and look at a dress in the catalogue, Sears, and make one like it.

CO: Okay, and did you take that after her? Did you sew and ah cook?

AP: Well, when I went to college, at Berry College, I took Home Economics. And I had sewing and cooking and all of that.

CO: So did you already have those skills from your mother or did you learn those skills when you were at school?

AP: Now, I learned a lot from her, yeah I learned a lot. I knew how to make good cornbread in the oven. (Laughs) And cook butterbeans and peas and put meat in them.

CO: So you learned her country cooking before you went to school?

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: Country cooking.

CO: Yes, well, now how large was your extended family? Your cousins, aunts, uncles?

AP: Well, my mother was one of seven.

CO: Okay.

AP: So I knew all of them, Kate, Inez, Eddie, all of them. One boy, all of them were (inaudible 50:54/1) (laughs). And so, I knew them and the one boy had a son, Austin Rheney, and we went to school together in Wadley and he was the son of the one brother.

CO: And so did you all visit much as an extended family?

AP: Oh yeah.

CO: Holidays?

AP: Oh yeah, my mother's family on holidays we would go there for Christmas, you went to some didn't you [to Earl]? And have a Christmas get together and get together for the day, and everybody bring the food and all, we'd talk.

CO: Yes, yes. Do you, how was your relationship with your mother, let me just say before I ask that, before I started this project, my research interests were in relationships between mothers and daughters at the turn of the century. So I'm always asking women what their relationship with their mother was like. What I'm looking for is how close were actual relationships to the prescriptive literature that we read about how relationships were. So I'm interested in your relationship with your mother and her relationship with her mother whatever you know about it.

EP: Oh they were close.

CO: They were close?

EP: Yeah.

CO: Okay.

AP: She was a good cook and every Christmas she made fruitcakes, cookies, and teacakes and all. I remember we had a (inaudible 49:23/1) of shelves and she had it full (laughs) of cakes and pies.

CO: Okay, did you and your mother get along?

AP: We sure did.

CO: Okay.

EP: She would come and spend time with us.

AP: She would come here and visit on the train, the Nancy Hanks Train came through Wadley from Savannah and she could get on the Nancy Hanks, and we could pick her up in Griffin.

CO: Oh okay.

AP: That's not operating now.

CO: Okay.

AP: But that was a good way and sometimes we would let our son go home with her on the train.

CO: Uh huh. Now, have you lived here all of your married life, in this house?

EP: No.

CO: No?

AP: We lived in Griffin on Hill St. when we were first married. He was working at Penny's in Griffin.

CO: Okay.

AP: That was his first job.

CO: Okay.

AP: At Penny's in Griffin. And so we found a place two blocks from there on South Hill St. and then it was close to the high school so I went over there and applied. and they hired me for home economics teacher, in high school.

CO: Oh okay.

AP: And then after we left Griffin, we came to Hampton, this was his home place. And I got acquainted with the post office people. And so Mr. A.B. Mitchum was the postmaster, lived right next to the post office. And he seemed to like me, there was two more people wanting the postmaster's job. But he recommended me, and I went to Atlanta and went before a board and was interviewed. And they said, "We'll let you hear something." And I got a call one day from Washington, D.C. and the postmaster general said, "Mrs. Alice Pendley, you are now appointed officially postmaster of Hampton, GA."

CO: Wow.

AP: I said, "Thank you!"

CO: What year was that, do you remember?

AP: Let me see. It must have been about, 1950.

EP: No, it was later than that.

AP: You think it was later.

EP: I want to say it was in 70's.

AP: Well, I was born in 21' and I had to be, bout 30, so it had to be about 50', 1951.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: That was exciting to get appointed.

CO: Oh my goodness, I'm sure it was! Well, I have a, let me just say I've got some categories, different categories and I have a category on work and on education, and I'll get very specific information about that when we get there.

AP: Okay

CO: Right now, I'm really interesting in your childhood and teenage years. And I know that it's hard to recall specifics from that long ago, but even impressions that you have are significant.

AP: Okay, well we lived in Higgston, a little country town near Vidalia, Georgia, about five or six miles, and there was a two room school at Higgston, and we lived near there, we could walk. The teacher was Ms. Grace Conner, and she was wonderful. She inspired me to go on, you know. And so I went there to school. We had a old kind of wood heater when it was cold. And we had two little rooms on the front porch in school, one had a water bucket with a dipper (laughs) we didn't have running water then.

CO: Right, right.

AP: And we could play hopscotch out in the yard, and we could play running, we use to play relay racing (laughs).

CO: Did you enjoy doing that?

AP: Yeah!

CO: Did you enjoy playing outside and being outside?

AP: Oh Yeah.

EP: We went swimming in the Ogeechee

AP: What?

EP: We went swimming.

AP: Oh yeah, the Ogeechee River was close by and went swimming in the Ogeechee in the summer.

CO: In your household, there were two boys and three girls, your brothers and sisters.

AP: Yeah.

CO: Were the girls treated any differently from the boys, did the boys have privileges the girls didn't have or vice versa?

AP: I would say my mother was very fair-minded person.

CO: Okay.

AP: It wasn't a big difference.

CO: So there wasn't a different curfews for boys and girls, could you stay out as late as your brothers, you and your sisters? Or did they have.

AP: I don't remember having any problem about going out 'cause if they had something going on at the school like a cakewalk, my mother went, we all went.

CO: Okay, so you don't recall any difference in gender treatment between girls and boys?

AP: My mother was a very fair-minded person.

CO: Do you recall, what do you think is the most significant thing that happened to you as a child up to say the age of 12?

AP: Well, I remember my brother was born.

CO: Okay, that was significant.

AP: And I use, we had swings on the back porch, and I would swing him, put him on the swing and swing him back and forth.

CO: So that was, so did you have to take care of him a good bit.

AP: Well, I don't know if I had to, but I enjoyed it.

CO: Now, but you had a sister in between you and him.

AP: Yeah, Sarah. And she turned out to be a registered nurse.

CO: Okay.

AP: And she lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She still living.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And, of course she had two or three children and she had daughter named Mary Ann that works in Atlanta and she came down for a visit while our daughter was here and they got together.

CO: Okay. Was your family conscious of the world outside [the home]. Did they stay in touch with world affairs or you know, were they conscious of the news?

AP: My daddy traveled and he was always interested in what was going on and my mother loved to work crossword puzzles and we took a paper and she read it and it had the crossword puzzle and she loved, after dinner, after we ate in the middle of the day, she loved to lay down with the paper and work crossword puzzles.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: She finished high school back in 1904, or something like that. And she hitched up the horse and buggy to go to school. They lived out in the country from the school in Wadley. She was ambitious I would say.

CO: Oh that's good, when I asked you to describe her, that's a good, I'm looking for that.

AP: Yeah.

CO: She was ambitious?

AP: She hitched up the horse up to the buggy and drove five miles to school, and then unhitched it at a neighbor's house and then when school was out, she hitched it back up, went home. But she finished high school, back in 1905, which was unusual.

CO: Right, okay. So, was that, it sounds like you said a few minutes ago your family valued education.

AP: Oh yeah, valued education, very highly and they got me going into Berry College.

CO: And your other siblings did all of them go off to college?

AP: Well, he went to Michigan State.

CO: So did I! That's where my Ph. D is from.

AP: (Laughs) Well maybe you wasn't there the same year.

CO: No, I'm sure I wasn't. But that's a great yeah that's a great vet school, a very very good vet school.

AP: So you recommend it, so the way he heard about Michigan State; we lived in Wadley, Georgia the agricultural teacher was there, and he was from there.

CO: Wow.

AP: And he inspired my brother and he hitch hiked up there.

CO: Oh my goodness, he hitch hiked to East Lansing, Michigan.

AP: To Michigan, yeah.

CO: Wow.

AP: Didn't he Earl?

EP: Yeah.

AP: Sure did and then my younger brother Carl got inspired and he hitch hiked and went up there.

CO: Did he go to school there?

AP: Yeah, he got a degree.

CO: What was his degree in?

AP: His was business, and the other was veterinarian.

CO: Wow, I would like to read the article and I will.

AP: Yeah, I think we got some extra copies.

EP: Wait a minute.

CO: Yeah, let him see if you've got enough. It's okay, it's okay I will look at it before I go.

AP: Now, he's the third child, I'm the oldest.

CO: Right, right.

AP: And my daughter that's a registered nurse that lives in Tuscaloosa, was the second, Sarah. And he's third, he's third. And then, the next one is the brother that is in Indiana now.

CO: Okay.

AP: And he is, he taught school didn't he?

EP: He took care of the old folks, the disabled people.

CO: He teaches disabled people?

EP: Yeah, he taught old folks and disabled people. They come to school to him, he taught them.

AP: Oh yeah, mentally disabled, he taught at a school the mentally disabled people.

EP: Yeah.

AP: Like young teenagers, there was a school for people who that weren't quite up to it. That was Clark Rheney Jackson and Rheney was my mother's maiden name so that's why it was called Rheney and Clark was a big family name, Clark from England.

CO: Okay

AP: Then my sister Betsy Ellen Jackson, she lives up north in Ohio. She met her husband in Savannah during the war. I had two sisters in Savannah working and they met northern people.

CO: Oh my.

AP: One from Pennsylvania and one from Ohio. (Laughs)

CO: That was, so did they work, did your sisters work?

AP: They were working in Savannah and they met these boys.

CO: And what were they doing, what kind of work?

AP: I think it was a restaurant

CO: Okay, so it wasn't the war industry. Okay, so when you were at home in Oklahoma, did you have an idea of what you wanted to do?

AP: Yeah, I wanted to be a school teacher. I thought that would be something.

CO: Okay, so did you share that with you family, did they know that's what you wanted?

AP: Yeah and my mother, one reason my mother's sister was a school teacher, Kate, and she went to Milledgeville, GA, and worked her through college, way back yonder.

CO: Yeah, okay. So was she kind of a role model for you?

AP: Yeah, she was, and so she inspired me to want to do something above the average.

CO: Okay, alright, which for women in your generation, the average was simply to get a minimal amount of education.

AP: Yeah it was and get married.

CO: And have children.

AP: Yeah, but I wanted to do more than that.

CO: Did you want to for the purpose of being able to take care of yourself and independent, or was it just that you wanted to do something?

AP: I wanted to be ambitious and get above the average.

CO: Okay, so you had ambition.

AP: I sure did a lot of ambition. I was valedictorian in the grammar school, in 7th grade and high school I was valedictorian, I had the highest grade of anybody.

CO: Okay, well I tell you what, generally I talk about your, well we can talk about your education, so you graduated from

AP: Berry College

CO: Yes, I know---as a college, what high school were you at?

AP: Wadley High School

CO: And then you went to Berry. Why did you choose Berry?

AP: Because I had two first cousins, Edward and Dick Perkins, they went there and they would come home at Christmas and I would hear them tell about it, and I found out you could go there and work and not have a lot of money, which we didn't.

CO: Okay

AP: So, it inspired me to apply, so I applied, but I didn't hear anything all summer, I was distressed. And then the day after Labor Day in September, the mailman brought a letter from Berry College in Rome, GA that said Alice Pendley you have been selected to come to Berry College immediately, as soon as possible, and you have been selected. So I got on the train that night in Wadley, GA and went to Atlanta and changed and went to Rome, GA by myself.

CO: Wow

AP: And I made it!

CO: Yeah, so do you want to tell me a little bit about when you were at Berry because Al tells me you were a classmate of Myrtle Lawhorn.

AP: Yeah!

CO: She was my Home EC teacher.

AP: (Laughs)

CO: At Manchester High School

AP: Well that is wonderful!

CO: Yeah, can you tell me about your days there?

AP: Well when we were there, we had to sign up for a roommate, and so Myrtle and I ended up being roommates.

CO: Oh.

AP: And she passed on recently.

CO: I heard.

AP: And we were the same age, but we took Home Economics, both of us majored in Home Economics.

EP: They weaving room.

AP: Oh yeah, they assigned up to work in the weaving room, at Berry College, where the public would look at us weaving and making tablecloths, table mats, baby blankets, and it was one of the ways to make money for the college. And we were at the front of the college where they could see people driving and Myrtle and I, we had this double room for two people, and a single loom for one person. So they assigned Myrtle and me to be in the double loom so I'd send the shuttle through and she'd send it back. (laughs).

CO: Now Myrtle, what was her family of origin's name, it wasn't Myrtle Lawhorn was it?

AP: It was Myrtle Joyner Lawhorn.

CO: Myrtle Joyner Lawhorn (spells Lawhorn).

AP: I think that's right, yeah. He was killed in service.

EP: He died in combat.

AP: Well her husband was in a wreck, in Manchester, but the other friend she had was in Italy. She had a boyfriend.

CO: Before she met her husband?

AP: Yeah, he was killed in Italy.

CO: Oh my.

AP: He went to the Pacific, and fought the Japs.

CO: Well I would like to hear about that, when we get to, because very soon I'm going to ask about marriage and dating, and that sort of thing so you can tell me about meeting him. But did you go beyond your 4 year degree? Did you get a professional or graduate degree at Berry?

AP: I just got the graduate degree and went to work.

CO: Okay, (?)

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, if you could tell me in order, the teaching jobs that you got after you graduated from Berry.

AP: Okay.

CO: If you can't remember in order, it's okay.

EP: (inaudible 32:21)

CO: What order of teaching jobs, she said she was trying to give me that a few minutes ago, like she went to, she taught at Griffin High School, then she taught, you know and she said she would give them in order and I told her to wait until we got the

AP: Okay Meigs, Georgia down at the Florida line

CO: Okay.

AP: Thomasville, no Thomaston.

CO: No Thomasville is in southwest Georgia, Thomaston is in central Georgia.

AP: That's where it was.

CO: Okay, so you taught...

AP: Meigs, I taught at Meigs High School, but it was about ten miles from Thomas...

CO: Oh you are talking about Thomasville, Meigs is near Thomasville, that's where you are talking about.

AP: That's where I'm talking about. I taught at Meigs High School, Home Economics and I boarded in a home there. Alady kept teachers and she was just a block from the school, which was nice and her name was Millie Willis, and she had the best food. We would go there for lunch after the school and we had a lot of good times together, some more teachers, all of us in that same two-story house. So it was good fellowship.

CO: Yeah

AP: It was good.

CO: And then, you had already met Mr. Earl?

AP: I'm married.

CO: But you weren't married then?

AP: No, he was in the Pacific fighting Japs (laughs).

CO: Right.

AP: And then we decided that we would apply --- Myrtle and I did --- where they paid more and we heard that North Carolina paid a lot more than Georgia. So we put our application in Winston-Salem, the "tobacco town."

CO: Yes, right. Now you do you remember the year you graduated from Berry?

AP: 43', in 1943.

CO: Okay, alright. And then you married in 45', so for two years you worked while he...

AP: I was teaching school and he was fighting the Japs.

CO: "Fighting the Japs" so obviously you were in the Pacific, right?

EP: (Laughs)

AP: He was in the Philippines.

EP: (inaudible 30:02) I was on the Panama Canal. On the water for 32 days, on a boat. And...

AP: And they were bombed on the Pacific by the Japs.

CO: Oh my goodness! You got stories to tell too don't you? (Laughs) And so, Meigs, then Winston-Salem.

AP: Because it paid more.

CO: Okay.

AP: We went to North Carolina, so Myrtle and I,--it was Maureen, and this other lady went up there, so we got a job and we lived in a home and it was real nice, they were called the Rocks.

CO: How different was that from teaching at Meigs?

AP: Well the people were different I'd say, they were real friendly and they believe in the community, a lot of community things went on there.

CO: Okay, alright, well before we leave education, did you read a lot, were you a reader?

AP: I was definitely a reader. I used to read when I was growing up, everything I could get my hands on.

CO: What was your favorite kind, you favorite genre?

AP: I like History.

CO: You like History?

AP: I love History! And I like to read about England because my grandmother told us about them coming over from England, so I liked England and of course I went to England and later went to Scotland and all.

CO: But can you think of a book or a film or music, any of the arts that has had a big influence on you, let's just start with a book, is a book or a series of books that you feel has had a big influence on you?

AP: *Gone with the Wind* was impressive.

CO: Alright, how many times did you read it?

AP: (Laughs) I read it twice, I think. I remember sitting on the porch in a swing reading *Gone with the Wind*.

CO: Okay.

AP: And I got that picture.

CO: Yeah I see that big, huge, almost life-sized picture of Scarlet O'Hara in her dining room. I use to hold class, teaching here in the South, and ask, I quit asking "have you seen, "Gone with the Wind," I asked that once. After that, I asked, "how many times have you seen, "Gone with the Wind?"

AP: (Laughs)

CO: And you know invariably it was a half dozen or more.

AP: That many?!

CO: Well, it's less and less now, this was about fifteen years ago.

AP: Oh yeah.

CO: But now I ask a classroom and half of them have never even seen it.

AP: Yeah, I can imagine. Time makes changes.

CO: Yeah, so *Gone with the Wind* was a novel that influenced you, what were other novels?

AP: The Good Earth I remember that Pearl Brooke wrote that, the Good Earth about China. I remember that, that's about it.

CO: Were you much on films? Did you go to the theater much?

AP: Not much.

CO: No? Okay, alright, what about when you were growing up, did your family have ideas about romance and dating and getting married and all of that, did you have ideas about that as a young girl?

AP: Oh yeah, yeah my mother was very particular about you going out with a young man by yourself. (Laughs)

CO: Okay, did you date much before you met Mr. Earl?

AP: Well, just ordinary, not a lot.

EP: In three years, we were married, after we met.

AP: Yeah we met at Berry College.

CO: Right, did you date anybody there before you met him?

AP: Well, I dated Willie Goodson, from Wadley, that was there. He was a senior. He invited me to the senior dance. But then he graduated, he left.

EP: Then I took over (laughs)

CO: And you took over, okay (laughs). So when you, so was your experience anything like you imagined, your pictures in your head of what dating and courting would be like. Was it better or just didn't live up to your imagine?

AP: It was alright, it was fair to me.

CO: Fair to middling, okay. Well, can you talk about your first love? Was your first love Earl?

AP: (Laughs) I think it was.

CO: Okay.

AP: The others were just friends.

CO: Okay, and when you were a young girl, whether before or after you started dating, did you have an idea of what size family you wanted, did you want more children than you had?

AP: No, I just wanted a boy and a girl.

CO: And that's what you got (laughs). Okay, alright.

AP: And our daughter's done real well. She's a doctor.

CO: A lawyer.

AP: A lawyer, yeah.

CO: Okay, did you always work, after your children, I know you that you taught before they were born, but after they were born, did you take some time off to be home?

AP: Well, we took another job; we sold door to door, for ??? Price Company.

CO: And what did you sell?

AP: We sold cooking ware sets, silverware.

EP: Blankets. Blankets.

AP: And Blankets, double blankets (laughs).

CO: And that's what you did while the children were at home?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Did you did that so you could swap off being with the kids?

AP: Yeah, we made it good for the family.

EP: We took the kids with us.

CO: Oh you took the kids with you? Okay, and did you have help around the house or did you have to do it all?

AP: Well, we had Maude Weems helped some when the babies were young, but I didn't have much help.

CO: So you didn't have someone to help cook, help clean?

AP: Oh no we did our own. We either ate out or cook.

CO: Oh, you ate out?

AP: Well, I didn't mean an expensive dinner place, like a hamburger.

CO: Even when the children were (?)

AP: Uh huh, hot dogs.

CO: Did Mr. Earl help around the house?

AP: Yeah, he did, he always been good in the kitchen.

CO: Oh, well that's good to hear.

EP: They are too.

CO: They are too? (Laughs)

AP: His mother passed away when he was real young, so it was him and one brother. Had no sisters and they had to do most of the things.

CO: They had to learn very early.

AP: And they were leaving on this same spot. They had gardens out there on this road right here.

CO: Mr. Earl, how old were you when your mother died?

EP: I was in (high school?) 12.

CO: Okay, alright.

EP: 12 years old.

CO: You had to learn very soon to take care of yourself.

EP: Yeah, okay.

AP: Without any sisters. It was just him and his brother.

CO: Yeah, okay. So what was your relationship with your two children like when they were at home?

AP: Well, they were healthy, and they liked to be active and do things. I would say that we had a real good relationship.

CO: How much age difference between the two?

AP: Five, about five years difference. So the boy was the oldest.

CO: Yes. Did he help take care of his sister when she came along?

AP: Yeah, he helped some.

CO: Okay, alright. Did you, were ever aware of treating them differently because one was a girl and one was boy?

AP: Well, whatever came up, we tried to treat it fairly. We wasn't thinking about, well this one is a pet or...

CO: Right, right or this one's a boy so he can do things that girls wouldn't necessarily not be okay for girls.

AP: Oh yeah, we had ideas about that; that she wouldn't do everything the boys did.

CO: Okay, alright. Did you miss when they left and went out on their own, did you miss the active role of mothering, not necessarily did you miss them, but did you miss mothering?

AP: Well, I wouldn't say not that much.

CO: It's a lot of work isn't it? (Laughs)

AP: (Laughs)

CO: Alright, do you have any grandchildren?

AP: Our daughter, that's a lawyer in Baltimore, she has a son and two daughters. And we went to Boston for the wedding of our granddaughter. That was quite a treat to go to Boston. I love history and Boston is real historical. So they got married in Boston in a big building, you know, it had a lot of room, it had a dance.

CO: Was that recent?

AP: It was about, what, three years?

EP: Yeah about three years ago.

AP: I would call that fairly recent.

CO: Yeah, so that was the granddaughter?

AP: Yeah our granddaughter, our daughter's daughter. And our daughter, I think I told you, is a lawyer in Baltimore and so when we fly up to see her, we fly to the Baltimore Washington Airport and she comes and picks us up.

CO: Yeah.

EP: One daughter lives with her now.

AP: But she had one daughter at home that's in high school, graduating from high school. Her name is Molly. She had three children, a boy and two girls.

CO: Okay, your daughter?

AP: Yeah.

CO: And you call her?

AP: Sarah.

CO: Sarah?

AP: Sarah.

CO: Okay.

AP: Sarah Catherine and I had...

EP: Right.

CO: That's Sarah Earline, Sarah Catherine's your sister.

AP: Right! (Laughs) Okay, we're about to get too many Sarah's!

CO: That's my name too.

AP: (Laughs) Are you Sarah Catherine?

CO: Uh huh

AP: (Laughs) That was pretty good then.

CO: Yeah, there are a lot of similarities here.

AP: Well, were you named after your grandmother?

CO: I was named after my mother and Catherine was just a name my mother liked. Sarah was my mother's name.

AP: What about that? And she liked Catherine, we got a Sarah Catherine here! You won't meet that many times will you?

CO: I know, I know! Well, do you think that mothering is easier today or harder today, than it was when you raised your children? Do you think your daughter had a harder time or not so hard time with her children?

AP: I don't think she had a hard time.

CO: Okay, alright, but do you think having a lot of technology, so many distractions that people have to deal with today, do you think makes mothering more difficult?

AP: Well, I think the distractions do, they can get off the best road and get in the side track, so I think it's something to deal with.

CO: Okay, alright, you became a teacher and then you did something that was pretty different than that, you became a postmaster, so you really didn't teach that many years, right?

AP: Let me think, I just taught about four years.

CO: Okay, and then you became a postmaster here in Hampton. That's not far from here.

AP: Not far (laughs) the building is still there and it's City Hall now.

CO: And it's got your name on it. It's called the Alice Pendley building, I saw that!

AP: Well, I was real proud of that.

CO: I bet you were.

AP: To come to a town with your name on the building. It's his hometown.

CO: And it's got your name on the building.

AP: (Laughs)

CO: Well, tell me what was it like going from the classroom to becoming the postmaster?

AP: Well, it was still dealing with people, but these were older people in the post office.

AP: I think I told you about sales?

CO: You did, but how long did you do that?

EP: Had to be for quite a while.

AP: Yeah, four or five years. Four or five years. And we would have a day in McDonough on Monday, Riverdale on Tuesday, Jonesboro on Wednesday, off on Thursday, Friday down toward Sunnyside, and Saturday in Hampton. We had a day that we sold in those days.

CO: Now, can you tell me, because there you were, you had a college degree, both of you did, but you were doing door to door sales? How did you feel about that? How was that considered at the time?

AP: Well, at the time it was alright, but then it had got to be dangerous, we quit.

EP: We made money.

CO: You made money, which is what you had to do.

AP: We made good money. We were good salesmen. The headquarters were in Atlanta. The L.B. Price Company and the company was in St. Louis, but as times changed about selling door to door, they went out of business, it wasn't appropriate.

CO: Yes, right. Do you think it helped your business or your sales skills or your marketing ability to have your children with you? You think that made people trust you more or?

AP: It might have had something to do with it, sometimes they'd invite us in (laughs) and we would sit and talk and drink coffee or eat cake. But, it didn't seem to hurt.

CO: Yeah, yeah that's interesting, an interesting dynamic, that you got a family doing sales.

AP: (Laughs)

CO: Yeah, so then you became the postmaster.

EP: Right.

AP: Yeah, see I had to go to the post office to mail my sales reports in, and so I went real often so I got real familiar with A.B. Mitchum, the postmaster. And he had a wife that was the clerk and kept the books; her name was Melba. But she got something wrong with her hand, I guess it was bad arthritis and she could do the books. And her husband postmaster hated the books. He liked everything but the books. And so when I came in everyday to mail a report for our sales at L.B. Price he got acquainted with me. So he asked me would I be interested. I said I would be and so he said, "I would like for you to go to Atlanta and appear before the post office board and see what they think. So I got me a new outfit and I (laugh) up there with the business district to the office and I found it and went in. And when I got in there, men were sitting all around , there wasn't a single lady. And they interviewed me. And I sat there, I stayed about an hour, they talked to me all about Hampton.

CO: Did they talk to you separately, but the men were there from other towns, right? For postmaster jobs in other towns, is that right?

AP: They were interviewing people for postmaster jobs.

CO: Was your competition there? The competition for the job in Hampton?

EP: She didn't have any comepetition.

AP: I don't think I had any.

CO: Oh, I thought you said you beat out two men, maybe I mis-heard you.

EP: Two other men wanted it, but they didn't get called????

CO: Oh okay, they didn't get invited to go and apply, okay.

AP: And the way it ended up, I was working and doing the book work and all as postmaster, but I wasn't officially postmaster until the phone rang one morning about 9:00 o'clock and said this is a Postmaster General in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Alice Pendley, you are now officially the postmaster of Hampton, GA. It was exciting!

CO: I bet it was.

AP: Right there on the phone.

CO: I bet it was.

AP: So that's the way it happened. And the other ones, of course, they were upset. There was a man and a woman in there, in the post office working Frances and Jack were their names. And they were highly disappointed.

CO: Did they continue working there?

AP: They continued working until they retired. But they didn't get too mad, but you could tell they were a little edgy.

CO: Well now did you make the same salary as men who were postmasters elsewhere?

AP: As far as I know we did.

CO: Okay.

AP: As far as I know.

CO: And that was a pretty secure position, wasn't it? A secure job.

AP: Yeah it was, I kept it 'til I retired (laughs).

CO: And what year did you retire?

AP: I'm trying to think.

CO: What I've got down here, that you were appointed in possibly 1951. Can you recall maybe how old your children were when you were...

AP: Well, they were just small, like four and five, like that.

CO: When you were appointed.

AP: I had somebody to look after them.

CO: Okay.

EP: You took them with you too,

CO: Now if you guys married in '45, how long were you married before your son was born?

AP: He was born in '49, '49/

CO: Okay, that complicates things because that's going to change the date of your appointment to, because he would have only been two, and he's five years older than your daughter, that would put her being born in '54. How old is she now?

AP: She just (inaudible 10:47/1). I thought she was born in '55. I thought the son was born '49 and she was born in '55.

CO: Okay, so, but that means you would have been appointed as postmaster in closer to 1960.

AP: Yeah.

EP: Yeah.

AP: Yeah, that's what it was.

CO: Okay, alright. You think your son, could you ask your son about his birthdate?

AP: I think his is November the 27th of '49, but we'll let him tell you.

CO: Okay.

AP: He was born on Thanksgiving weekend (laughs). And she was born in August, in the hot weather.

CO: Yes, I see that August the 8th.

AP: That is correct.

CO: Okay, that was. Hello [to son]!

CP: Hi.

CO: And your son has promised to get me specific dates.

CP: Your son has promised to get me specific dates

CO: Yes great and if know where the newspaper clippings are that would great, I can actually have a scanner and I can scan them before I leave, I don't have to take them.

CP: Okay. How are traveling with a scanner?

CO: It's a little portable scanner.

CP: Right.

CO: It works. I can get some photographs too and scan those, I saw some as we came in.

CP: So, will you be able to come back? Are you staying in the area?

CO: No, I won't so I kind of got to get what I got to get.

AP: She's from South Georgia.

CO: I'm from Valdosta.

AP: Valdosta.

CP: Well, I can scan some things.

CO: Good, in that case I can just send you an email and you'll have my contact information and you can decide that way.

CP: Okay. We don't have a scanner here, but I have access to one in another location.

CO: Okay, great, great, very good. That will help much if I got both you and your sister's birthdates. Your date. Okay, Mrs. Alice we will get back, now if you need to stop and take a lunch break.

EP: No.

AP: Oh no, we don't eat on time. We don't eat right at 12 (laughs).

CO: Well, your son might need to eat, but we will just go along until you need a little break, and then we will stop, but we will try and finish up today, so you don't have to...

AP: But I hate for you to have to come back.

CO: Yeah, yeah, but I think we can finish.

AP: You think we can finish today?

CO: Yes ma'am.

AP: We're not in a rush about lunch if you need some more [time].

CO: Okay, alright, about your work, your son says you worked as a clerk for few years before, a decade or so before you became postmaster.

AP: Before I became postmaster, in two different places, downtown Hampton and then we moved up there where the city hall is now.

EP: The third class post office then. The first class now.

CO: The third class post office, I see.

AP: Way back yonder, but it didn't stay that way.

CO: I didn't realize they separated it like that. Well, okay was there ever anything you wanted to do other than what you did, you wanted to teach so you taught.

AP: I taught, I did that, I wanted to do it and when I got into the post office I liked that because I was seeing people every day. And I liked it, and I decided that would be good enough for me.

CO: Alright, so you didn't know any other professions that you later in life wished you could have done?

AP: No, I don't know of anything else, I'm real pleased with the way it worked out.

CO: Okay, alright. When your children were at home, did they have ideas about what they wanted to do when they grew up?

AP: I don't think they had any definite ideas, do you think of any?

EP: No.

AP: I know they wanted to be educated.

CO: Okay so education was important?

AP: They were ambitious and both were ambitious. He's a doctor and our daughter is a lawyer.

CO: Okay, and they went to school did, they go to school at Berry or did they go somewhere else?

AP: They did not go to school at Berry. Our son got a scholarship to Denmark. With all expenses paid, he did. He applied for it, it's some kind of scholarship that he heard about. And he applied and got it so, he went to Denmark and lived over there, and went to school and he speaks Danish.

CO: Oh wow. Now is this for his four year degree or for a graduate degree, a professional degree?

AP: I think it was before his graduate degree. And then our daughter, and so she got a degree from Atlanta? Earline? (Laughs) But anyways, she ended up in...

CO: So you don't remember where she went to law school?

AP: I'm trying to think.

CO: That's okay, it's really okay.

AP: She went to law school in Baltimore.

CO: Oh okay, and wound up staying there?

AP: She wound up staying there yes, Baltimore. Yes, and we've been up there many times, they're really friendly and have really good seafood.

CO: Yes, they do, they do.

AP: And then her son is working in New York City with the stock market, and her daughter is in Boston. She's a teacher and she met a teacher and married him. And we went to Boston for her wedding. That was interesting.

CO: Yeah, you said that was fairly recently, the wedding. Okay, how did you feel about retiring? You retired in the late '80's you say?

AP: Uh huh.

AP: I didn't want to learn over again at that age, because I was at retirement age.

CO: Right, right.

AP: And I had a lot of years so, I went on to retire.

CO: Okay, so what has life been like since retirement?

AP: It's been great. I go here, yonder, travel, go to Savannah, and go to Baltimore, Washington, and New York City.

EP: She was on the City Council.

AP: Yeah, I got on the City Council after I left the post office. That was only several years under two different mayors. Yeah, Thomas Smith was one of them. And he is over in the county now, Tommy Smith.

CO: Okay, so did you like that, did you like being on the council?

AP: Yeah, I enjoyed it. They had meetings to discuss what we could do for Hampton, you know, improve it, and people come and tell us what they wanted. They'd get up and tell you what they wanted and what they wanted us to do. I like that kind of thing, it would have committee meetings to see what we could do. I like it, so I was real proud being on the city council under two or three mayors, starting with Thomas Smith. And he is over in the county now.

EP: The other one died, the other one died, passed away

CO: The other mayor died?

EP: Yeah.

CO: Okay.

EP: Yeah, he got sick, he's dead. The other mayor died.

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay.

AP: But anyway, I've always been mixed up with the public.

CO: Mixed up with the public. And so that makes being in politics, you enjoy that?

AP: Oh yeah, I enjoyed it. I had cards made up and go door to door.

CO: So you campaigned? (Laughs)

AP: What?

CO: You campaigned?

AP: Yeah, I did. I sure did.

CO: Okay. And so you served two terms.

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Okay. And I got note here that says that, and this is going back I'm sorry, I meant to read my notes earlier, that you met Henry Ford.

AP: Yeah, I did!

CO: You *danced* with him?

AP: It was square dance!

CO: Oh my goodness.

AP: He loved square dancing.

CO: He did.

AP: And when he would come to Berry, they would have square dances at Berry College.

CO: Right.

AP: And so, they told me, said, "Alice you gone be in the square with him." They picked me out and I said, "Thank you."

CO: (Laughs) So did you talk to him at all or did you just dance with him?

AP: Well, we talked a little bit, chit chat.

CO: And of course Ford tractors all over Berry, still to this day because he supported it. Berry runs off Ford tractors.

AP: (Laughs) Henry Ford. But he's not even living now. But I'd be glad I was at Berry College when he came, when I was at Berry College when he came, and he came once a year.

CO: He and Martha Berry were very close.

AP: They were. She went to see him and she took some peanuts and showed him and she told him she was going to do something with them and come back the next year. So, she planted them, she went back the next year and told him, how many bushels of peanuts.

CO: That was to get his support?

AP: Oh yeah, because he wanted to give it where it was deserving.

CO: Yeah, and she proved that it was (end of transcription midsentence)

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AP: And he came once a year and he stayed in one of the cabins, the log cabins, have you been there?

CO: Oh yes, many times.

AP: And so he stayed in a cabin, and went to the dances and then we all stood out with a candle when he came in the gate, had a whole row of candles burning to welcome him. As Martha Berry said, "We've got to give him big welcome."

CO: That's right.

AP: She was living when I was there.

CO: She was?

AP: Uh huh. I went to her house a few times for different meetings.

EP: She died when we were there.

AP: Yeah, we went to her funeral.

CO: Yeah, okay, alright. I also have a note here that your father played the fiddle, is that right?

EP: (Laughs)

AP: For square dances, for square dances. I wasn't here, but I've heard about it.

CO: But you knew how to square dance because you squared danced with Henry Ford.

AP: Yeah.

CO: That was a big pastime.

AP: (Laughs) At Berry that was entertainment when he came.

CO: Okay, alright, okay are there any more memories from Berry that you want to talk about before we...

AP: Every October, which is my birthday, they had a thing they called Mountain Day, and we went on buses up to the highest point up there, and had picnics and took walks. And they had a mill wheel, a big mill wheel, one of the biggest ones in the world up there. And the water turned it, came off the mountain and turned it. And they had benches where you could sit and watch it.

CO: Okay.

AP: And then Martha Berry had a little mountain home like a cabin up there, nearby, and that was interesting and she had a garden up there with flowers.

CO: Now how often would you see her, like on a weekly or monthly basis?

AP: Wasn't that often. Once a month.

CO: Once a month you'd see her.

AP: That would be good.

CO: And did she take time, did she know you by name?

EP: No.

CO: No?

AP: No.

CO: Okay, oh okay well there were a lot of you and...

AP: And she was getting older when we were there, in fact, she died while we were there. So I would say her memory wasn't as good as it used to be.

CO: Right, right, none of our memories is as good as it used to be (laughs).

AP: But she had a log cabin, way up somewhere in a nearby community. There was an old time community up in the mountains, and she used to go up there to a little church they told me, and they would have meetings with them.

CO: Well can we move to another subject that's not, perhaps, as fun to talk about but, the experience of loss, I mean you're 91 years old. Are you, 91?

AP: (Laughs)

CO: How are you, you guys, let's see 21'.

AP: Born in 21'.

CO: Yeah, so you would be 91.

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Yeah, so you've seen a lot of

EP: 90, 90.

CO: 90, 90, you'll be 91. Okay. You've seen, you've experienced loss, obviously, through death; parents, siblings. How many siblings, do you?

AP: I think there's four and I'm the oldest.

CO: That's right and how many, are they all alive?

AP: Let's see.

AP: Except, all of them are live except...

CO: Except him, that one okay.

AP: Except him. My sister's in Alabama and my other sister's in Ohio, and my brother is in Florida, so we're scattered.

CO: Yeah, yeah, okay.

AP: I'm the only one here.

CO: Okay, so my question is about the experience of loss and grief and how you've had to deal with that.

AP: Okay, well, I appreciated my mother very much. She set a good example for us. It was sad but I accepted it.

CO: Okay.

AP: It was sad.

EP: To Alice: "Tell her about the nursing home she was in."

AP: She was in a nursing home in Wadley before she died, she was 99.

CO: Oh my.

EP: She died in a nursing home. She was laying down, and she choked.

AP: Yeah, they gave her some coffee laying down.

CO: Oh my.

AP: Yeah. That's what we found out.

CO: Oh my goodness.

AP: And that made it sad; she might have lived longer, but that's what we understand happened. She wanted something to drink and they got it, but they didn't lift her up. Sad to think about.

CO: Right, right. Okay and your father, how old were you when he died?

AP: Now my daddy didn't live that long, he was 78 or something like that.

CO: Okay, alright.

EP: He had asthma didn't he?

AP: Yeah, he had asthma.

CO: Okay, and how long after your mother's death did you find out that they may have been negligent, which lead to her death? Was it a long time or was it soon after?

AP: Well, it was pretty soon afterwards. And we went, we'd go back every once and a while to Wadley, and we'd go in there into the nursing home. We'd just imagine it.

CO: Oh you just imagined it, you didn't, now how did you come up with that possible explanation for her. Did someone tell you?

AP: Well, she was alright until that happened. And somebody told us that she wanted water and they didn't lift her up so somebody told us that.

CO: Oh, I see. But you didn't try to investigate it?

AP: Well, it was too late to do anything.

CO: Okay, well can we talk about aging for a few minutes?

AP: Yeah we can.

CO: Do you remember when you were a young girl and you thought about what it mean to be old, somebody that was 30 was old, as a child and then the older you'd get, the older "old" would get?

AP: Yeah, yeah I remember thinking that anybody who was 40 and all was real old.

CO: Absolutely but...

AP: But they wasn't. (Laughs) That changes as you get there.

CO: That's right. What was the most difficult part of you getting old for you?

AP: Well, so far I'm still traveling and still driving.

EP: Getting about, she stumbled and fell, she fell.

CO: Uh oh, you fell recently?

EP: Yeah.

CO: Uh oh, did you hit your head?

AP: Yeah, so my daughter came and put a new entrance in. She put a new entrance in the bathroom.

CO: Okay and how old do you feel, not your body, but in your mind and in your heart?

AP: I don't feel any older than 40 or 50.

EP: She should.

CO: What's that?

EP: I said she should feel older.

CO: (Laughs) She should. Well, I'm not talking about how old you feel in your body, I'm talking about in your heart and in your mind.

AP: I'm still the same.

CO: You're still the age you were when you worked?

AP: Not physically.

CO: Right, but mentally.

AP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, well there's got to be something rewarding about aging. What's the most rewarding thing about getting older?

AP: You don't feel as much responsibility as you did when you were younger. Your "shoulders are lighter."

CO: Oh good. Okay that's good to know.

AP: (Laughs).

CO: Can you say what you think more now? Some people say that. They say what they think without worrying about what people think about it.

AP: Well, I've never really have been a quick talker, never have. Some people, you know, talk a lot.

EP: I say what I think.

CO: You do?

EP: I do (laughs). (Inaudible 54:23/1).

CO: Have you always done that, or just lately?

EP: I always have.

CO: Oh okay.

EP: Yep.

AP: He just has one brother, no sisters. And his brother's 90 something and he's still living at Stone Mountain.

CO: Okay.

AP: His name is Wayne Pendley.

CO: Okay, now what age, Mrs. Alice, do you recall most nostalgically when you look back over your past?

AP: I would say in the 20's and when I was at Berry College.

CO: When you were at Berry? Okay. So even more of those young years, that sounds like years before when you had to accept a lot of responsibility.

AP: Yeah that was before I had to accept a lot of responsibility.

CO: Okay.

AP: But I didn't mind a lot of responsibility because when I was postmaster, I had a lot of responsibility.

CO: Right, right.

AP: But I didn't mind it, I accepted it.

CO: Was that stressful? Was it stressful?

AP: I accepted it pretty good, it wasn't that bad.

CO: Oh okay, alright.

AP: I never have had a hot-headed disposition, I've always been cool, calm, and collect.

CO: Okay, I've got some questions here on regional identity.

AP: Regional?

CO: That's right, what it means to be Southern actually.

AP: Oh yeah.

CO: Now, your son having traveled all over the world would know what people outside the region think about.

AP: Do you need to interview him?

CO: No, no but this is just interviewing of women.

AP: Well, since we are a traveling family, and I'm from a former traveling family, I've always enjoyed going places. My daddy was a traveling photographer after the boll weevil got his cotton crop, and we travelled with him in the summer. We'd go to different towns and get a boarding house, and he would make pictures of church groups or school groups or whatever and so we used to traveling. I remember going to Thomaston one time when the peaches were ripe, and we went out to the peach orchid and picked peaches. So we enjoyed traveling.

CO: Okay, but have you traveled in this country, but outside the South? You've already mentioned the Civil War several times.

AP: We've been to Florida and been to the island Puerto Rico down south and we went on a cruise down there. We got on a boat in Savannah and went to Puerto Rico. You want to?

EP: (inaudible 51:26/1)

CO: Okay, alright. Well, what I'm trying to get at now is what, people all over the country think of the South as different, you know?

AP: Yeah.

CO: If you had to describe what being, what the South was like, why the South, and how the South was different than other regions in the country, how would you describe it?

AP: Well, the South has always been emphasizing hospitality I think. They used to have these big southern mansions, you know, and people would come visit dressed up and have tea.

CO: Okay, so manners and hospitality.

AP: Yeah.

CO: Well, you know that the South is known for its troubled race relations.

AP: Yeah.

CO: All over the country, even though racial relations were troubled everywhere. But the South is known for its peculiar...

AP: Right, well we went to war, we went to war.

CO: So, one thing that we ask, well one thing that we're interested in is to try and understand how people become aware of what it means to be White or what it means to be Black. When did you as a child realize there was something different about being White, and being Black, especially in the South?

AP: I knew it as a young girl because my mother always hired a Black lady to come to our house and do the washing.

CO: Okay.

AP: We had a black wash pot, I can see her now stirring the clothes in the black wash pot and we had a bench with about three tubs and she would draw the water and fill them up. And do the washing. That was way back yonder in the 20's.

CO: Okay, and there were different expectations for Black people than there were for White people.

AP: Yeah.

CO: Do you recall racial etiquette, do you recall, perhaps, this woman who came to do your laundry came through the back door as opposed to the front door?

AP: Yeah, she probably did yeah, she probably did.

CO: And, of course, that probably wouldn't happen today.

AP: Nuh uh.

CO: So what I'm asking is, do you recall wondering about that?

AP: I did, I wondered about it, and usually when they ate, the White people ate first then they gave them food.

CO: Okay, and they ate, but they definitely didn't eat together.

AP: That's right. I remember that.

CO: I'm wondering do we question that when we are growing up, those of us who came up in the South before the Civil Rights Movement, when that was just the way things were.

AP: I just accepted it as that's the way it was, I wasn't going to do anything but accept. But I just, I didn't worry about it.

CO: So, you didn't worry about it, but did you wonder about it?

AP: Yeah, I did, I wondered about it. But I just thought it came handed down from the Civil War period, it just kept on coming down.

CO: Okay, but then of course, there came a movement to change things. Do you remember that?

AP: Yeah, I sure do. They had that march from Alabama to Washington, I remember all about the marches that was going on. They were going to stand up for their rights. I remember they came through Atlanta didn't they? They came through marching to Washington, they marched to Washington.

CO: Okay, and you remember that the Freedom Rides, the bus rides, and...

AP: Yeah, they had bus rides from Alabama.

EP: The people had to sit in the back.

CO: The Black people had to sit in the back of the bus.

EP: Right.

AP: Oh yeah and the train and the buses and in the waiting rooms.

CO: That's right, we had separate everything.

EP: Right.

CO: Everything was segregated.

AP: And they had a different door marked "Colored" door.

CO: Right.

AP: And I remember the depot in Hampton when I first came, they had two signs, colored and Whites.

CO: Well, do you remember when you heard about the *Brown vs. Board of Education* court case, in 1954, that was the main challenge to segregated schools, and then of course, in the early 60's and throughout the 60's there was all this trouble trying to segregate the schools, I mean desegregate the schools, do you remember that?

AP: Yeah, at this next street Rosenwald, they had the school for the Black on that road and the White was over there across the railroad, but that's the way it was when we were growing up, well you [speaking to Earl] probably remember more, anything you want to say about it?

EP: (inaudible 45:51/1).

CO: Yeah, so I'm just wondering how do we come to our awareness of racial etiquette and what we think about the efforts to change the segregation, the efforts that were made.

AP: Well, I think the Black people instigated, wasn't it Martin Luther that had the march?

CO: Martin Luther King?

AP: Yeah, they had marches to Washington, they marched from Atlanta, marched from Alabama so they worked on it, and they worked on change.

CO: Okay, how did you feel about that?

AP: Well, I thought it was fair myself. I didn't want to fight them, I didn't want to fight them. We had a colored woman that lived on the street up here, Rosenwald, Maude Weems, and she would help us when we needed when we had the new baby, anything

and we thought a lot of her, but she's passed on, she's not living now. Maude Weems. Weems was one of names.

CO: Okay, so did, you didn't have strong feelings about your school desegregation when there was an effort to desegregate the schools?

AP: I did not have strong feelings, because I've always tried to be a fair minded person. I thought it was good economically and other ways too, didn't have to have two schools.

CO: Yeah, okay, so would you say that you've supported the concept of integration?

AP: Yeah, I would say that I was for it. I was not dead opposed to it. [To Earl] "Were you, Earl."

CO: Okay.

AP: And his daddy had a farm here and they worked with you.

EP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, alright. Well, we'll move from regional awareness to history and come back to the 1960's because that was a very tumultuous decade.

AP: Yeah.

CO: What is the most important historical event that you either participated in or lived through?

AP: The most important historical event. I guess it was being on the city council.

CO: Okay.

AP: Under two or three mayors.

CO: Alright and so...

AP: In downtown Hampton.

CO: Okay, how many women were on the council?

AP: I was the only one.

CO: You were the only one, but how many council members were there?

AP: There were six, and the mayor.

CO: The whole time you served you were the only woman?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: What'd you think about that?

AP: (Laughs) Well, I didn't mind being the only woman. There could have been more, I would have liked to have had more.

CO: Yeah, do you think a woman has a different perspective to offer? Do you think sometimes---were people, were you easier to deal with for some people than the men, do you think?

AP: There weren't any problems, we just had discussions, we had private meetings before the council meetings, and discussed problems we could all speak up about what we think. And then we had a united opinion when we went out to the public.

CO: Did you find yourself in disagreement with the men ever?

AP: Well, not very much.

CO: No?

AP: The whole ideas were fair-minded, I think.

CO: So for you being fair-minded was the goal?

AP: Yeah, being fair-minded.

CO: Okay, alright. Now when you were born, this was before the Depression, for both of you, the Depression.

AP: Yeah, I was born in 21' and him too and that was before the Depression.

CO: Right, so you were children in the 20's but do you remember the Depression?

AP: I sure do. I remember there were tramps coming knocking on the door begging for biscuits. I remember that. Do you remember that Earl?

CO: How did you handle that?

AP: My mother always gave them a biscuit if she had it. She didn't turn them away. And then sometimes they wanted to know if we had any work to do, and she would get them to cut up stove wood, did ya'll ever do that? The stove wood, because everybody had wooden stoves.

CO: Were you ever afraid of the hobos and tramps?

AP: I wasn't.

CO: You wasn't? Okay. But there was a lot of fear at the time though.

AP: I guess some people were, but we never had a problem.

CO: Yeah. Okay, alright. Did your family ever talk about FDR? How'd they feel about FDR?

AP: (Laughs) Oh yeah they liked him.

CO: They like him?

AP: Yeah, I remember that. We were living, I was living in Wadley, close to the Ogeechee River, and I remember he was going to do some draining in the woods you know, where it was too thick.

EP: Mosquitos. Mosquitos.

AP: Oh yeah, mosquitos, he was working on mosquitos in the South. People had malaria, and so he was getting something going to get rid of mosquitos, having drainage in the pond. So I do remember that.

CO: And you saw that as a good thing?

AP: I thought it was very good, because I had mosquitos bite me. (Laughs).

CO: Do you recall that it helped?

AP: Yeah, it did. Draining those ditches where water stood, and mosquitos developed in the water.

CO: Right, right, so did you ever meet him? Did you ever meet FDR when he came through?

AP: Well, we went to Warm Springs one time and he came through one time didn't we?

EP: I didn't meet him.

AP: We didn't meet him, but he came through Warm Springs on a train.

CO: Oh yeah, sure.

AP: And we stood out and waved at him.

CO: Yeah, I talked to a few people who either saw him or met him.

AP: Did we go to his house?

CO: The Little White House?

AP: Yeah, I think we went to the little white house on a tour; he was sitting in a rocking chair.

CO: What about Eleanor, his wife? Did you ever remember anything about her?

AP: She was a real outgoing lady and real active.

CO: Do you remember if your family had opinions about her?

AP: No they didn't, they thought she was an up and going lady.

CO: Oh, okay, alright. Okay, now you married after the war. Did you all write during the war? Did you write each other, were you engaged during the war?

AP: Oh yeah, they had a mail system, they called some kind of gram that you could send free, wasn't it?

EP: Yeah.

CO: Now did you ever get any letters from him that had cut out places where all those letters were censored?

AP: Oh yeah, I had a few.

CO: He couldn't identify where he was. Is that right?

AP: (Laughs) Yeah, they didn't want you to know very much, because that was supposed to be secret.

CO: That's right, that's right.

AP: For the Japs. But the letters came through and he had to work in the office. You're getting cold aren't you? Charles cut it off. He worked in the mail department in the Philippines.

CO: Oh my!

AP: He was on Guadalcanal and Bougainville? Went to the Panama Canal and one time, the time he went to the Panama Canal he sent me a package with a makeup kit, he found it.

CO: Makeup as in face makeup?

AP: Uh huh.

EP: I got it.

CO: You got it?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Oh.

AP: And so he sent that and it went through the Panama Canal and I got it.

CO: Yeah.

AP: So the mail worked!

CO: The mail worked, okay, alright.

AP: It worked during the war. And then you have what they call [????-Grams] or something they can mail, their service men, and it didn't cost ya'll anything did it? It didn't cost anything.

CO: Okay, so in the 40's then you married in the 40's, do you recall anything else about that decade, that's sets it's apart in your mind?

AP: Well, I was teaching school and I met a lot of people of course and they were friendly, they were nice. I never had any big problems and I boarded in, you know, some of the homes, and they would serve us dinner, breakfast.

CO: Okay, so how would you say World War II affected you and your family, personally? Obviously it affected the whole world, but how did it affect you personally?

AP: Well you were always wondering when it was going to end and all, and how it was going to end, and if we would be better off if it was over.

CO: Now since he was in the Pacific, do you remember hearing about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? No not Pearl Harbor, but well of course, if you have memories of that I'm sure you do too. Everybody has memories of Pearl Harbor, but

the dropping of the atomic bombs at the end of the war to end the war, do you remember that?

EP: I do.

CO: You do? Because it was, you know, it was...

AP: It was a terrible thing, killed a lot of people, so you were hoping it wouldn't get worse.

CO: But do you remember it though? Do you remember when it happened?

AP: Yeah. Uh huh.

CO: Can you remember your thoughts about it when you heard? I wonder who heard first, which one of you heard first?

EP: I probably did [first] since I was in, and it ended in the Pacific.

CO: That's right, that's right.

AP: Yeah, I was glad to hear they were bringing an end to the hostility between Japan and America.

CO: And how did it feel being in the service Mr. Earl, to hear it.

EP: I was kind of happy and enjoyed it.

CO: You enjoyed it?

EP: Yeah, because I was young and didn't have a job, so they gave me a job.

CO: Okay, being in service, you enjoyed. Okay.

AP: And then he was stationed in Alabama for a while and then he got out.

CO: Oh okay.

AP: Where was that? Andalusia? Aniston, Alabama, he went down there, south Alabama.

CO: Okay.

EP: That's when I was called back. I stayed in Missouri and I was called back.

CO: Oh my, when after the war?

AP: Uh huh. So they station him in Alabama, south Alabama. Camp Rooker, wasn't it? Camp Rooker.

CO: Why were you called back?

EP: I was a service man.

CO: I was wondering...

AP: They had to keep so many in the Army anyways in peace time.

CO: Now were you all married then?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: Oh okay, alright.

AP: And I went and drove down there and visited him a couple of times.

CO: Were you living alone?

AP: Well his aunt was still living, his aunt, Ida King lived here, and she's passed on of course now, but she was living then. That was his mother's sister, his mother's sister.

CO: Okay, alright. Well, I'll tell you what, why don't we take a little break and I need to go and make some phone calls for my schedule next week.

AP: Yeah.

(Break in interview)

*****32:51*****

AP: They'd have a Colored entrance and White entrance, when I was growing up and I used to wonder about that.

CO: Yeah, but you don't know enough to ask because it's just, it's everywhere.

AP: It's there!

CO: Yeah.

AP: So, on the buses and trains they'd have Colored and White.

CO: Right, do you remember that?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: And, like I've had some people talk about ways they challenged that, White people, not Black people, but White people. And so I'm really just wondering what you thought about it, and how differently we thought after the Civil Rights Movement. You know, before the Civil Rights Movement, you didn't question it because...

AP: It was just common.

CO: That's right, it was just a way of life, and then we have this major upheaval and things changed.

AP: The march to Washington.

CO: They marched to Washington, they did, and that was in 63' and marched on Washington 1963, do you remember that in 1963?

AP: I was 40 something.

CO: So you would have been well aware. And you remember seeing on the news, do you remember seeing the people being hosed, the big water hoses.

AP: Oh yeah, I remember the water hose. Yeah they turned on the water hose on them. They sure did and they kept going.

CO: You remember that?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: What'd you think about it?

AP: I thought it was cruel. We used to have a colored wash woman that would come to our house every morning, every Monday, to do the washing and we had tubs, not washing machines, tubs, a bench, with three washing machines and a big black pot over here to boil the clothes in my backyard near Higgston, near Vidalia. That was when I growing up, I wasn't married of course I was a little girl and I used to try to help her wash (laughs).

CO: You did? Do you think that your opinions about race have changed over time? Are your opinions about race different from your family's, you know your family of origin, your parents and their generation?

AP: Yep my mother wasn't very strong opinionated and my daddy either one, and they didn't mind going out their helping her wash (laughs).

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And then we had the yard brush brooms, we'd go get brush brooms together and bring them and sweep the yard with what I call a brush broom. We didn't have a lawn mower and grass as such back then in Higgston in Vidalia. We had the earth yard.

CO: Yes, yes.

AP: And I remember we had a barn close by and we could climb up on the barn and jump off into the yard, it was coming into the yard, and things like that we created and my daddy made, what I call, "Tom Walkers." You took two sticks and put a wooden block on them about this high, and you put your foot on them and learn to walk on "Tom Walkers."

CO: Now was that for fun or...

AP: Yeah, of course! We had fun. See who could stand on them the longest. My sister Sarah and me would stand there, and see who could stand there the longest, and then our daddy made us something called a jump board. We had a round stomp, and he took a wide board and cut a hole in the middle and put it over it and me and my sister would run and get on one end and the other and we'd see who could jump the highest and not fall off.

CO: Did you win?

AP: Well, I did pretty good.

CO: You did pretty good?

AP: And she did pretty good too.

CO: Okay.

AP: And she's living over in Birmingham now.

CO: Okay, that's the baby.

AP: No, that's the one next to me.

CO: Oh okay.

AP: The baby is in Ohio, Vandalia. Vandalia, Ohio.

CO: Oh okay, the one next to you is Sarah. Yes, okay, she's in Birmingham, okay.

AP: And then my brother was William Franklin Jackson, he was a veterinarian.

CO: He died recently.

AP: He died recently, and then next to him was Clark, my brother Clark and he's down in Florida now, he has a house in Tallahassee.

CO: Okay.

AP: And he married a northerner Indiana, Indiana lady. She was a school teacher. We went up there to the wedding. We had a good trip. We went to Indiana. They were nice and friendly people.

CO: Do you, have you, in your adult life, do you feel like your life has been appreciably different because you were an educated woman, because you had a college degree?

AP: I feel like it was something different to people I know.

CO: Yeah. Do you think that it had any influence on your becoming postmaster?

AP: I think it did. I had to go to Atlanta for an interview before a group of men. They were in the legal profession, and so I went up there, drove up there myself, by myself. [To Earl] "You didn't go did you?" He didn't go I went by myself up there and spent about a half a day with them and they asked me all kinds of questions about this community, to see if I knew anything about the community. And I answered pretty good. I think I did, and so they didn't tell me anything when I got through. They said, "Thank you for coming." And I was wondering what they thought, I didn't say, "What'd you think?" I didn't ask, so I came on back home after the interview, it was about half a day, and then in a few days the phone rang in the post office and I answered it and they said, "Is this Ms. Alice Pendley?" I said, "Yes sir." He said, "This is the Postmaster General in Washington, D.C. I'm calling to tell you, you are officially appointed the Postmaster of Hampton, Georgia as of the first of the month." I said, "Thank you!" (laughs) But that was kind of exciting.

CO: I'm sure it was, I'm sure it was. So, being a woman didn't keep you from being promoted like that?

AP: [No] But I'll tell you this, there was a man named Jack Dupree and he was very upset about me being it. He was a man in the post office. You remember that Earl?

CO: And did he make an issue out of you as a woman getting the job?

AP: He didn't make a big issue, but you could tell there was an undercurrent.

CO: Do you think it had anything to do with you being a woman or he just wanted the job, what do you think?

AP: Well, I think it was both; I was a woman and he wanted the job.

CO: Yeah.

AP: If anybody had got it, because he had been there a good while, and he lived on the road going towards Locust Grove. And his family had been here a long time since the Civil War. Dupree was the name. Dupree.

CO: So I wonder what, so a requirement of the job was that you know the community. That sounds like, that was pretty much they wanted to know if you knew the community.

AP: Yeah.

CO: It sounds like asked you those questions.

AP: That I knew the community, and they also asked me about my college degree from Berry College in Rome. And no other one had a college degree in the post office in Hampton.

CO: She did or didn't?

AP: Did not, did not.

CO: Oh.

AP: I think that might have had some weight.

CO: Yeah.

AP: Might have, I can't say for sure.

CO: And the man, did he have a degree, is that the one you're talking about?

AP: No he did not, he finished high school. Maybe he didn't. Do you remember if Jack Dupree finished high school?

EP: He didn't go to college.

AP: He didn't go to college and I did have a college degree that I had worked for at Berry College.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: That might have had some influence, I don't know.

CO: Yeah, yeah, well now being in the post office and being in the, well after that being in city politics you were, you had to be aware of life outside your home. It sounds like all of your life you have been, you know, you've been aware of more than just this domestic ...

AP: Oh yeah, I was very aware of what was going on in the city and state of Washington. And I went to Washington with a group of postmasters.

CO: You did?

AP: Uh huh. Sure did and we went in to see the Georgia Senators. Yeah we did things like that.

CO: And what was the purpose of that visit?

AP: The purpose was to make them aware of the post office and the condition.

CO: And so what do you think about the speculation today that post offices will close because there's...

AP: Kind of outdated, kind of.

CO: Right, what do you think about that?

AP: Well, of course I want them to keep on keeping on. But I realize times do change and people look at things differently over a period of years, and the post office goes back to the 1800's. And of course it's seen some changes. But I know there is going to keep on being changes, they'll probably have some more about the mail.

CO: Yeah, yeah. Can we go back to those middle decades of the 20th century, the 50's, 60's, and 70's, which were so-----well the 50's was all about many things, but the Cold War, do you remember worrying about nuclear armament and nuclear threats?

AP: Yeah, I remember that. I remember that Japan was developing all of this stuff.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And they'd worry about the Japanese being in California that became a problem.

CO: Yeah, well during the war especially. Did that affect you personally? Do you remember?

AP: No, I was too far away, but I knew about what was going on.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And you were in the Pacific, in Guadalcanal and Bougainville and they were fighting the Japs, he was fighting the Japs, he was fighting the Japs, he was a sergeant. But anyway, he made it, some of the people he knew did not make it.

CO: Yeah, right. How did you feel about the women's movement when it came along?

AP: Oh, yeah I know. When they marched on Washington and all.

CO: Well, and they were, some of them, particularly, protesting for more equity in the professions and more equity in the workforce. Did you have strong feelings about the women's movement?

AP: Well I had feelings, but I wouldn't say they were real strong, because I was in the women's workforce, and I got to be postmaster, so I appreciated it.

CO: Yeah, were you sympathetic to the movement?

AP: Oh yeah, sure was. I was sympathetic. I said, "More power to you!"

CO: Okay, alright. Do you remember a book titled, "*The Feminine Mystique*" that came out in 1963, "*The Feminine Mystique*?"

AP: No I did not read that.

CO: Okay. By Betty Friedan

AP: Was that about their position in society?

CO: Right, and about the alienated identity of the house wife, a woman who wanted more like you did.

AP: About being a housewife.

CO: But feeling confined to the house.

AP: Yeah, I remember that movement, I mean that feeling grew and grew.

CO: So, the women's movement wasn't the only movement that was spawned by the Civil Rights Movement, you had Native Americans, you had gays and lesbians, you had environmentalists, you had people...

AP: Indians?

CO: Yes, yes, right.

AP: We've seen a lot of things go on and read about a lot before we could remember.

CO: Okay, and at the time that was happening do you recall how you felt about it?

AP: I had a positive thought about women's position, I had a positive thought.

CO: Okay, alright. Now, what do you think has been the legacy of the Women's Movement?

AP: Well, it's got a legacy that they did something about the position, they did something about it.

CO: Okay, so you're an action person, if something is wrong you'd do something about it.

AP: Do something about it don't just sit and wait.

CO: Yeah, yeah, okay alright well, can you talk about religion? Can I ask you some questions about your [religion]?

AP: Yeah, you sure can! I belong to the Christian Church. I grew up, my mother was in the Methodist Church so grew up in the Methodist Church, and I was married in the Methodist Church to him, at Wadley, Georgia, down near Swainsboro. And when I came up here, this white church at the end of this street, that was the church, his family was a member, of course, it changed over the years. But at that time, his family was involved and so I began to go and they asked me to teach a class, so I taught a class didn't I [to Earl], for a long time.

CO: Sunday school? Was it Sunday school?

AP: Sunday school class for women and men.

CO: Women and men? Early in the, when was that, do you remember?

AP: Let's see, we married, I'm trying to think of what year we married (laughs).

CO: Well you told me that you married in 45'.

AP: Okay, well this would have been like 1950 or something like that, I began to teach in Sunday School and I taught for like 25 years of the Sunday school class and we moved the church over to the FAA area. Do you know about the Federal Aviation Agency being here in Hampton?

CO: Vaguely, vaguely I know about it.

AP: Well, our Christian Church moved from up here to an area right next door and we had a member, Mr. Ed Fortson in the church here in Hampton, I mean right up there at the end of the street. Well he didn't have any children, but he had a lot of land. So, he gave that land for the church, all that was given by him, and he also gave the 4-H Club Camp land for their camp out west of Hampton. He owned Hampton, west of Hampton, he had land out there, and so he didn't have any children. His house is still standing on Main St. it's a brick house on the right when out of town on the Main St. And he lived there and he didn't have any children like I said.

CO: Okay, can you tell me how different the Christian Church was when you changed from the Methodist church of your family to the Christian Church, what was that like?

AP: Well, the Methodist church had communion about once a month, but the Christian Church has it every Sunday. And the preaching part is about the same.

CO: Preaching is about the same?

AP: Yeah, it's not no big difference.

CO: But, how different is the service, okay you have communion every week, what else if different about the service?

AP: Well, that's the main thing, isn't it Earl, the communion, but we start off singing and stuff, we start off with singing, and we have a choir of the people that can sing. I'm not a singer, but they have a choir and some have musical instruments. In fact, our minister plays a guitar and they have a stage up there with all of the music people and their instruments and they have music and we sing, some standing up, some songs sitting down, but music is a part.

CO: Yeah, okay, so was your mother active in the Methodist church when you were at home?

AP: She was not because she had five children, but she always cooked chocolate pies to take to them. She was a good cook, they said, "Did you bring your pie?" But her sister didn't marry, Kate, was two years younger, and she taught school in Wadley for many, many years and she also was in the church choir and she could also play the piano. So, they were very much so a part of the Methodist church, in Wadley, Georgia. And that's where I finished high school, in Wadley. And from there I went to Berry College, and I had two first cousins named Edward and Dick Perkins. They went to Berry first and they would come home, they were older than me and that's how I knew about Berry. And they told me a lot about it, so therefore I got interested and I got some letters, the principal liked me. I was the valedictorian of the senior class in Wadley, and so he appreciated me and gave me a good recommendation. And I got it!

CO: Yea, I know, I remember you talking about it. Can you tell me about your religious beliefs, can you tell me what they are?

AP: Yeah, I remember going when I was in Sunday school, when I was five years old, I can remember that far back in Higgston, that little town in a white church, but I believe in Jesus Christ being born to save the world. I believe in that, and I knew about that from Sunday school about His life and what he did, and He sacrificed on the cross.

EP: And rose from the grave, he rose from the grave and went back to Heaven.

CO: The Resurrection. Okay.

AP: Yeah and we took a trip to the Holy Land, and I always wanted to go to Jerusalem. I had a chance to go with a group. So, we went to Italy first, Rome, and then over to Athens, Greece, and from Athens, Greece to Israel. And I remember I wanted to walk around the Walled City, so by myself I took a walk and I went around the town of Jerusalem, and outside and in the gate and went in the gate. And then walked downtown Jerusalem. I was thrilled to do it.

CO: So did you feel any particular...

AP: I felt like I was close to something important.

CO: You did? Okay.

AP: Yeah, because I imagined when He walked the streets of Bethlehem and Nazareth and Jerusalem, and he was crucified outside the city. They couldn't crucify in the city, they had to crucify outside.

CO: Right and did you go?

AP: Up on the hill. I think. And it was interesting, I walked up there and you could see the cave where they laid his body.

CO: What has been the most profound spiritual moment in your life?

AP: I think when I was baptized, I think was it.

CO: Do you remember when that was?

AP: I was about 12 years old.

CO: Okay, alright. Have you ever felt the presence of a spiritual guide inside?

AP: I sure have, I have felt the presence of a guide helping me decide, I sure have felt that.

CO: Sure, can you describe what that's like? How do you know that's the...

AP: You feel like it's outside of you, getting into you.

CO: And it influences your thinking?

AP: Yeah, I'm thinking I'm going to get some help (laughs)

CO: Okay, alright, has anything that you would identify as a miracle ever happened in your life, something you identify as miracle?

EP: . . . Colored man's backyard...

AP: Yeah.

CO: Can you tell me about that?

EP: (inaudible 08:23-08:18)

AP: Yeah, he was in Griffin, Georgia quite a few years ago and he was collecting door to door, and these Black men had a plan that was for Hampton, and they watched when he left to go to Griffin, and they had a plan to rob him. And so when he went on this certain street to collect.

EP: At their mother's house, at their mother's house.

AP: Yeah, at their mother's house, and they came from around the back of the house and they were waiting on him to come and his car was parked out there, and they hit

him in the head and knocked him out, he's a miracle man really. And so, the police came by didn't they?

EP: No, I didn't show up. I didn't come back home . . .

AP: Oh yeah, and I called. Well, when he didn't come home I thought I called the Griffin Police, and I said, "My husband is not here. Can you check on so and so street?" I knew about where he would be and that area I mean, and they said, "Yeah, we see his car now, the car is there with the door open, and they knew right off, so that tells you how Providence can help you. When I called the Griffin Police, they happened to be the one that were sitting and patrolling that area and they said, "Yeah, we know where that car is." I said, "Well go fast and check it out." And they did and they found him in the backyard.

EP: In a briar patch.

AP: And it was a lot of briars, and all grown up in the back, and it was on Christmas December. The 30th day of December.

EP: The 2nd day of December.

AP: Oh yeah the 2nd day of December, okay, when this happened, because he always collected after the 1st.

CO: Roughly what year was it, how old a person were you?

EP: I don't know what year it happened.

CO: Were your children grown, were they at home?

EP: Oh yeah, they were grown.

CO: Oh they were grown, okay.

AP: They were grown. Must have been I think 51'.

CO: In the 50's you think?

AP: Or the 60's. I believe it was 1960.

CO: Okay, so you feel like it was a miracle that he survived that?

AP: Oh yeah, I feel like it was a miracle that I waked up too, I had gone to bed and something [woke] me up and I checked and he wasn't, the car wasn't in the yard, and

he wasn't in the house. And so I called the Griffin Police and said, "Can you tell me about a car?" It was a green Buick wasn't it? A green Buick. They said, "Yeah, we know right where it is!" That sounds like a miracle to me. And so I said, "Go fast and check," and they did, and he was in the backyard. He had been hit in the head.

CO: Goodness gracias, what a story.

AP: And, then the next day it started freezing, but that night it wasn't.

CO: So did they take you to the hospital?

EP: Oh yeah.

AP: Right away, the ambulance took him on to Atlanta to the St. Joseph's I think.

EP: First they took me to Griffin. Then they took me to Atlanta.

AP: That's right, they took him to Griffin first, and then they said he needed to be in Atlanta, so they took him on to Atlanta and our preacher Vick Whithead(???) the preacher went with them. He had got word about it happening. He was down there, so we stayed there long enough for the preacher to find out about it, and go down there. So, the preacher went with him to the hospital in Atlanta. And our daughter, that's a lawyer was still here, she was, yeah, she was here at that time. So me and her went up there, and we slept in the couch, sofas in the hospital, because we couldn't hardly come back and forth that far. But anyway, he made it!

CO: Did they catch the people who did it?

AP: They sure did and we went to the court to see it.

CO: And did they serve time?

AP: They sure did, put them in jail. I bet they were sorry.

CO: Yeah, yeah.

AP: They thought they would get by with doing that robbery.

CO: So did they rob you?

EP: They sure did.

AP: That's the purpose, because they knew he collected on the weekends.

CO: What were you colleting? Were you collecting for a bank?

EP: I was collecting for myself.

CO: Oh for yourself?

EP: I sold stuff on credit.

CO: Oh okay, I see.

AP: Refrigerators, stoves, blankets, bedspreads, silverware, things like that.

CO: Oh okay, well has your religious values changed any over time?

AP: No, mine's been pretty steady since I was a little girl. I believe in right and wrong. We met in college and Martha Berry believed in living a good life and believed in Jesus Christ, Martha Berry.

CO: I'm sure she did.

AP: We were brought up in that atmosphere at Berry College, and Henry Ford was a good person, he came there once a year.

CO: Well do you believe in an afterlife?

AP: Yes I do, I sure do.

CO: What do you think it will be like?

AP: I think it's going to be sweet and lovely and kind and musical.

CO: Oh musical, okay.

AP: The harps, I think the harps will play.

CO: You think the harps are going to play? Okay. What single experience has given you the greatest joy?

AP: It might be when he was first born, Charles.

CO: Your first born? Okay.

AP: You might say that.

CO: Okay, alright. Do you feel at peace with yourself now?

AP: I do.

CO: You do?

AP: I do.

CO: Have you always felt at peace? Have there been times when you haven't?

AP: No, I've always felt like with the help from the Lord, that I could make it through whatever problem came up. And I had a lot of confidence in that.

CO: Now how did you reach this assurance, this confidence?

AP: Well, I started since Sunday School when I was four or five years old, and I grew up in a Christian atmosphere and a Christian home. And then I went to a Christian college, Berry College, and so I was exposed to it all along. Martha Berry was a Christian, and she required everybody to go to Sunday School and church, and they expected the dormitories, and you better not be under the bed or in the closet.

CO: You better be in church.

AP: (Laughs) Didn't you Earl? So that's the kind of atmosphere.

CO: Okay, and finally on religion, are you certain of anything, are you certain of anything.

AP: I'm certain that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, and that when you live a life that he approves and all, you will be in Heaven one day with the angels and Him.

CO: Okay, alright. Now we just got one last section.

AP: But I'm not worried I don't have any other appointments, I don't have any other appointments.

CO: Okay, these are open ended questions. This is a question about cause and effect, like you're life has been, like all of our lives are, a combination of circumstances beyond our control, things we can't help and things that we do, decisions we make, choices we make. Which of those do you think most affected the outcome of your life, was it circumstances beyond your control or was it more decisions that you made?

AP: I believe it was the beliefs that you had that there is a Superior Being and He would work with you on your problems and forgive you of your sins, if you sin.

CO: Okay, so your faith?

AP: My faith. It really gave me a lot to live for in my life. And then when I ran for city council and all of that, I prayed about it, and I got it. I won.

CO: So you felt a sense of purpose?

AP: A sense of people for life. I always wanted to do a little more than the average, and I was valedictorian for grammar school in the 7th grade, I was valedictorian in high school out of a class of 30, and then when I was in college, I was in the top 10.

CO: Okay, wow, you were smart!

AP: Well, I worked for it though.

CO: Oh, I'm sure, I'm sure of that. You identified yourself very early as ambitious.

AP: (Laughs)

CO: So when you look back over your life what was the happiest time of your life?

AP: The happiest time? Well I would say early childhood was one of them, and since I've been married, the other one.

CO: Okay, alright, and so what period of time was the most difficult?

AP: Most difficult?

CO: Yes ma'am.

AP: I would say it was when he was hurt, and not expected to live. I haven't had real difficulty in my life that I know of, but with him he's had some problems, and that was hard.

CO: So that accident, I mean that robbery?

AP: Yeah robbery, and leaving him for dead... left him for dead.

CO: So how did treat him. How did they treat him to recover?

AP: Well, he was in the hospital in Atlanta.

EP: I was in there for months. For months I didn't know nothing.

CO: Months?!

EP: I didn't know nothing.

CO: Oh my goodness!

AP: And I prayed.

EP: [there] until January.

CO: So you had a head injury?

AP: Oh yeah, that's where they hit him. And so I felt like it was a miracle that I woke up and called the line and all and prayer. And he's still here!

CO: Now, can you recall roughly how old your daughter, she went with you, was she grown?

AP: No, but she was a teenager, and she went to the hospital with me and slept on a sofa, but our son was not here, he was already gone.

CO: Okay, so that would have been in the 60's sometime, actually.

AP: Uh huh.

EP: She was about 12 years old.

AP: She was about 12 years old.

CO: That was in the late 60's then.

AP: Uh huh and she stayed up in the hospital, but Charles had already left home. He wasn't here when that happened.

CO: Now, how long were you in the hospital?

AP: 30 days.

EP: A month.

AP: Yeah, a month. And I stayed up there and they gave me a place to sleep and they gave me some food.

CO: At St. Joseph's? You were at St. Joseph's?

EP: At a veteran's hospital.

CO: A veteran's?

EP: Yeah.

CO: Okay, goodness gracious that was a long, trying time.

AP: And I remember the snow. I remember looking out the window and seeing piles of snow. But anyway, we were warm inside (laughs).

CO: Okay, so that was the most difficult period. What has been the saddest period in your life?

AP: Well, really in truly I haven't had many real sad times, I'm trying to think.

EP: When you lost your mother.

AP: Yeah, I think that would be it, my mother.

CO: Your mother dying?

AP: Mother Ruth.

CO: And let's see if I recorded that.

AP: Mother Ruth.

CO: You didn't tell me when she died. Do you know when it was, or roughly? How old were your children?

AP: Let me see, they were like 12 and 15, or something like that.

CO: That would have also have been in the 60's

AP: Yeah, in the 60's.

CO: Now, do you remember about when your father died? He died before your mother?

AP: Oh yeah, he died before that.

CO: Were you all married before he died or did he die before you all married?

EP: We were married.

AP: Okay, now wait a minute. Wasn't he at our wedding?

EP: I think your daddy died.

CO: You all were married?

EP: We were married when your father died.

AP: Yeah, we were married.

CO: Okay, so your mother's death would be the saddest time, okay.

AP: And then he had a step mother and his real mother died when he was ten [she said to Earl]?

EP: Twelve years old. Twelve years old.

AP: Twelve years old, he was living here in this area and I wasn't even around, but he was twelve years old when she passed away and then his father married a lady, at Pamona, between here and Griffin.

EP: And I stayed here.

AP: And he stayed here, he didn't go down there.

EP: I lived here by myself.

CO: Good heavens!

AP: He did.

CO: How old were you?

EP: I was school age, 13 or 14.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: So he stayed here, he wouldn't go down there with his new mother (laughs).

CO: Well, what have been the crucial decisions you've made in life? What are the most crucial decisions?

AP: I would say, well I don't know if this was crucial or not, but my decision I was going to college and getting a degree if I had to work, and then after that, I met him in college so that was a decision, and we kept in touch until after he went to the war and we ended up getting married.

CO: Okay, well I've asked you already, so you were engaged while he was away?

AP: Oh yeah, yeah we were engaged while he was away.

CO: Okay, do you have any, yeah, that's beautiful did you get that ring?

AP: I've had this a good while.

CO: But you didn't have that in the 40's?

AP: No, I didn't get it.

CO: So do you have regrets in your life, have there been regrets?

AP: As I look back over it, I think I made pretty good decisions. And I think I'm glad the way it went, I don't know of anything I'm real sorry about. Do you Earl?

EP: She's asking you.

CO: (Laughs)

AP: I thought I'd ask you. (Laughs)

CO: Is there anybody that you think you would like to make amends to in your life?

AP: I tell you, I've always tried to live honest and fair, and I don't know of anybody that I need to make amends to.

CO: Okay, alright.

AP: And Earl, what about you?

EP: She's not asking me.

AP: (Laughs) No, I don't know of anybody I need to make amends to.

CO: So, then this is probably a useless question, but if you could live your life over again, would you do anything differently?

AP: (Laughs) Well, I don't think so, I became a Christian, and went to grammar school, high school, college, and got married. So I think I would have done all of that if I had a (laughs).

EP: Stick with what you got, just stick with what you got.

CO: Yeah, okay, alright.

AP: Yeah, I'm contented with what I got.

CO: So, what do you consider the most valuable lesson you've learned in life?

AP: To work, if you want something, work for it.

CO: Okay, alright, go for it huh?

AP: And I worked through college. It took me five years, but I did. And when I came here and I ran for city council, I went to ever house and gave cards and talked to people so I worked for it!

CO: You worked for it. Okay.

AP: And I got it!

CO: Okay, alright, has there been a single individual or maybe even more than one that has influenced your life or changed your life?

AP: Well, one was Mr. Judson Tripp (???) in Wadley, he was my high school teacher and he was the principle and he inspired me a lot with his teaching, made me want to progress, Judson Tripp. And he left Wadley and went to Vidalia, Georgia. But anyway, I had him two or three years with geometry and algebra, and that kind of stuff and he was a good teacher, he inspired me and I ended up being the highest grade in the class and valedictorian.

CO: Wow, and so what now gives your life meaning or purpose, now that you're retired?

AP: Yeah, since I'm retired and all, I want to live a good life, be kind to people, and be involved with the church, and Sunday School and read a lot.

CO: You still read a lot?

AP: Uh huh.

CO: What are you reading now?

AP: Let's see, I think it's out there.

EP: It's outside.

CO: Reading, what's she reading now?

EP: She's got a book out there . . .

AP: I know it, I'll go get it.

CO: Well, it's okay, it's alright, it's okay.

AP: Well, it's a historical book.

CO: Okay, that's good, that's good. And what do you consider the most valuable, you just said to work hard, and what is your biggest worry now. Anything that worries you now?

AP: Well, really and truly I don't have any main, big, worries. I'm thankful. My brothers and sister, I've got their phone numbers up there, and I call, we call and keep in touch, and Betsy lives, she's my baby sister, she did this wallpaper. She loves to do painting and wallpaper, course it was a long time ago, since she's made it now, she came down here, she did a lot of work, painting didn't she? In the dining room too, she put something around didn't she, in the dining room? She loved to do home decorations.

CO: Okay, and what have you, you've talked a little bit about, you talked about your high school principle inspiring you but, besides that what has been the greatest source of inspiration to you throughout your life?

AP: One of them was my mother. She inspired me to do good, and work hard. I think she would be my inspiration.

CO: Okay, alright and what are you proudest of in your life?

AP: I'm proud that I had a good education, and then a good family life, with a husband and some smart children. Our daughter, I think I told you, is a lawyer.

CO: Yes ma'am you did, you did.

AP: In Maryland. And he's a doctor.

CO: Yeah, a sociologist. And how would you like to be remembered? What would you like for your legacy to be?

AP: I'd like to be remembered as a kind, loving person.

CO: Alright, okay. Is there anything that your children or grandchildren, or people who know you well, don't know about you, is there anything Earl doesn't know about you?

AP: (Laughs) I'm trying to think.

CO: That you would *like* for him to know (laughs).

AP: Well, I've been knowing him since we finished high school, and everything has gone real good. We haven't had any fights.

CO: There's no reason to, if there were something, there's no reason to bring it up I guess.

AP: And we haven't had to fight.

CO: That's wonderful! Is there anything we've left out or not covered adequately that you would like to talk about?

AP: One thing, when I was growing up, my daddy was a traveling photographer after the boll weevil got his cotton crop. He got angry with the boll weevil, and he learned photography in Swainsboro and so when school was out, we would pack up our clothes and like go to Savannah or Tybee Island, and went a place and he would make pictures to make money.

CO: So do you have a lot of pictures of you as a child?

AP: Well, I have some but I don't have a lot. But I have more than usual I think, I got a box hid somewhere (laughs).

CO: Well you son says he has a lot on his computer. Well so finally, most people don't like this question. It's okay, and if you don't have an answer, that's fine, but if you had to title your life story, what would it be?

AP: Title it?

CO: Alice Pendley: ---What would be the rest of it?

AP: An Ambitious Lady!

CO: Okay, wow that was quick! People usually have to agonize over that one. (Laughs)

AP: I was always ambitious to go forward.

CO: Yeah, you do too. So you accomplished your ambitions?

AP: I did.

CO: Is there anything you wanted to do, but you didn't get around to doing?

AP: No, I went to the Holy Land, I've been all over Europe, and been down to the Islands in Florida, and California and Mexico. So I got a lot of traveling in, which I liked. And then I had a fairly good job.

CO: Yes you did. You did. Do you have any idea when you were appointed postmaster, how many women had been appointed to that post?

AP: Never been another woman.

CO: Well, not in Hampton, but there have been other women.

AP: Oh yeah, oh yeah, sure.

CO: But I'm just wondering how many at the time you were appointed, how many have been appointed?

AP: Well, I think there are 8 or 10 in Georgia that are lady postmasters. I get the Postmaster Magazine and it might be in one of them, but I don't know which one.

CO: Oh, I could easily look that up, I was just wondering if, like when you were appointed if they made an issue out it.

AP: Well, the men in the post office did. Jack Dupree wanted it.

EP: But he's not living now.

AP: I know it, but she was asking if anybody else in post office wanted it. And Jack Dupree wanted it, he's passed on he's not living. So it doesn't matter about that, but he wanted it bad and he was jealous that I got it I remember that. It took a while with me working over him, for him to accept it.

CO: Well your son's going to get me some newspaper clippings that have those dates and so forth in them so that'll be helpful.