

CARL PAVLIC

Interview 204a

July 2, 2010, at his home in Diboll, Texas

Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer

Patsy Colbert, Transcriber

ABSTRACT: In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, former Diboll School Board member Carl Pavlic reminisces about his life in Diboll and his time on the school board, especially during the integration of the schools. He discusses the desegregation process, working with the school administration, the teachers, and the federal government. Mr. Pavlic also talks about his grocery stores and raising his children in Diboll.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): Today's date is July 2, 2010. My name is Jonathan Gerland; I'm with Mr. Carl Pavlic today. We are in his home and we are going to do an oral history interview focusing on his service with the Diboll Independent School District school board and specifically within that the experience of racially integrating the school. Mr. Pavlic if we could maybe just begin by telling us how it was that you came to serve on the school board. What prompted you to...I'm assuming you ran for an election, what brought you to that decision?

Carl Pavlic (hereafter CP): I think that I had a former friend that asked me to serve on the board and of course I had some children going.

JG: Go ahead and say their names if you don't mind.

CP: Lynn Pavlic, Dianne Pavlic and Ronnie Pavlic and along with Richard Albrecht and some of the others-we were looking at some of the things that possibly would come up that would take some decisions because of integration that happened and was to be carried out. We needed new buildings.

JG: And you came on the school board in April of '65 so that would be the time period.

CP: That is the beginning, uh-huh. I'm not sure just who it was but, we had Robert Conner and Mr. Smith was on there at one time but C.H. Shepherd, James Glover.

JG: I think in May of '65 it was yourself, Robert Conner, E. F. Hendrick, who was the president, and he had been on the board a good while. Marshall Capps who had just come on a good while before you coming on board, and that was sort of with Beulah being consolidated into the district he represented Beulah. Richard Albrecht, James L. Smith, and Leon Brown were the ones that were there but, anyways if that will help refresh some of your memory.

CP: Well that is kind of...I'm forgetting a lot of things.

JG: Well that is okay. We'll just try to help refresh your memory.

CP: As we went along a lot of the good solid citizens like Mr. Henry and Mr. Brown and different ones kind of just withdrew. They didn't run for re-election and it kind of gave other people a chance to come in and participate.

JG: We've got a lot of different things to look at but maybe in the background of all that just describe maybe your own background and really say your family. Where did you grow up? And also in that just your experiences prior to the school board with race relations. I know you ran a grocery store and we will talk a little bit about that too but if you could just talk about your own personal background.

CP: I grew up in Jasper, graduated from Jasper High School in 1940 and of course being on a farm all my life I didn't get to travel or didn't do a whole lot. But in order to attend A&M I sailed on the East Coast. Let's see, I believe it was the summer of '41. Went to A&M and then I got my greetings for the Navy.

JG: Yes sir.

CP: I spent, I believe, about 33 months in the Navy. Nineteen months of that was overseas and when I came back my brothers, in fact, in my family there was six boys and two girls. There was Tony, Walter, Frank, Joe, Julie, myself, John and Frances. Frances and I are the only ones now that are living and my brothers that were at home at that time, Walter and Joe and I went into floor sanding business. Home building was pretty good in them days and we had a pretty good opportunity to learn that trade. But, in the meantime while I was overseas a buddy of mine that I was in the Navy with we turned out to be pretty good friends. He was from Omaha, Nebraska, Tommy Davis and he told me at one time right after the war was over with he was married with one child. He had a buddy with Northern Natural, J.P. Briscoe was his name. He was vice president. He moved to Houston with Tennessee Gas and he wanted Tommy to come to work. That was where my first public job came in. I went to work as an assistant operator at the Tennessee Gas Station over close to Jasper on what is Hwy 63. I worked there until '49 when my friend here in Diboll had a grocery store and it was on Beech Street on the west side of Diboll. Burt and I came to Diboll in March of '49 and took over this little store. Diboll was growing pretty good and I was going to buy some property over across town to move my building across the street to have a little more parking space and so forth. And, I talked with a guy named Mr. Ben Anthony. Were you acquainted with him?

JG: Not personally but I know of him, yes sir.

CP: And he was an Uncle to Mr. Arthur Temple I think. He and I gee-hawed around and I selected a little plot of ground and he got Kenneth Nelson, was the surveyor for Temple and he surveyed this lot off and everything. But, when it come to getting the deed to it and closing and buying the property Mr. Anthony was a little scarce. I don't understand why but he and I never completed the agreement. And, at that time Mrs. Temple was the

secretary here and when I called and tried to get a hold of Mr. Ben Anthony that is the way I would do it would be through the office secretary. One day when I called at that time Mrs. Lottie Wimp, she told me that Arthur wanted to talk to me. Anyhow, he wanted to know what Ben Anthony and I had going together. And, I explained to him that I wanted to buy that property over there and kind of start out more independently and have a little better location. And, he came over to the store and that is when we first kind of got introduced. I showed him where the property was going to be and he put a big no on it. He said there was no way that he would sell property like that. He said he wanted to develop the Village as it now stands. And, he said "I'll sell you a piece of land on 59 or up around where the post office was" or is. I chose that lot where the ice machine is now.

JG: There by the post office.

CP: Yes, so we agreed on it and I have a little hard time remembering but I think that was around '55 or '56 or something like that. We built a store there and then in the sixties we enlarged it and I think, I tell some of my friends after operating it took me thirty years to go broke. I sold out to Shep's Grocery in Houston. Later I got the property back and I sold it. I forgot what year it was. I just can't remember what year it was.

JG: Okay.

CP: About two or three years ago.

JG: So you were a grocery retailer. So, going back to race relations, that first store you were at was pretty much in the historically black neighborhood right?

CP: Yes.

JG: So blacks were regularly your customers?

CP: They were. They really were. I might not should say this but at that time we didn't have a bank in Diboll and we had I would dare say the majority of the colored people did trade with me. To begin with we did some credit work and I will have to say that as far as I know I cannot remember any disagreement I had with any of them. They were always supportive. In fact there was a barber, a colored barber, and when I delivered groceries at night I would sometimes be out at eleven o'clock at night. I would have my wife holding the tickets you know and she would tell me where the next stop would be and we'd go from house to house and sometimes I did it myself. But, anyhow I needed a haircut and I'd dropped by the barber shop and went in. The barber's name was Charlie Little and I just asked him if he would take time to cut my hair. He was still open. He said, "I sure will." I sat down and he cut my hair and we talked about interracial relationships.

JG: Yes sir.

CP: And he asked me how I was treated by those people and I told him I said "I felt like I was at home." They all got along and in fact I just can't remember any disagreements. So he told me he said, "If you ever have any friction come let me know."

JG: That was the barber, Charlie Little?

CP: That was the barber. And, I thought, I don't understand but I knew he was good mellow easy going fellow. He was interested in the community over there and what was going on. In fact I really enjoyed it and we lived there I believe it was about five years before we moved to Burke.

JG: You lived there at the store?

CP: Yes, lived up...it was a two story building.

JG: So, you got to know members of the black community and children and their children and things like that.

CP: Real well, that is right.

JG: So, when you came on the school board you had three children at the time?

CP: uh-huh.

JG: Okay, so there was a desire, I don't mean to put words into your mouth but a desire to serve because you had a vested interest in some ways.

CP: That is right.

Mrs. Pavlic: The three was all I ever knew about Jonathan. (laughter)

CP: What babe?

Mrs. Pavlic: I said the three is all I ever knew about.

CP: Thank you!

JG: Well that may have been strange way to say it. I'm not sure of all their ages so I didn't know if they were all born yet at the time you came on board the board.

Mrs. Pavlic: No we didn't have children when we came over here.

JG: Yes, but by the time...yes, I mis-phrased it maybe but by the time he came on the school board all three were born at that time.

CP: She talks about me making hints like that. I was in the Navy and I talked a lot about how sailors are and everything and I tried to impress her that I was one of the good sailors.

JG: There you go. Okay, so you just came on the school board and it had already been identified as an issue I guess amongst the school board. There were other issues of course at the time. Before we were interviewing you were talking about the financial situation. Can you talk a little bit more about that, pretty soon here I want to get into the integration issue, but at the time where was that as an issue? Would you say that was a priority issue or just where in connection with everything going on when you first came on board, what were some of the major issues that you needed to address?

CP: Well we were facing up to federal law, you know.

JG: Compliance with federal mandates.

CP: Compliance yes, and so there was you know, a trial run with the freedom of choice but...

JG: Now when you say trial run what do you mean by that?

CP: Well it was just the federal government did not accept it, they wanted total integration. In other words...

JG: Now this was over the course of time. It wasn't an initial rejection was it or was it over the course of time.

CP: No, the best I remember it was that we tried to do it on a slow basis and give them a choice. Did they want to come over? But, we had a board meeting and I can't remember what year it was but, these officials from the...I don't know whether they were with the Education Agency or what group they were with but they insisted on total full integration. One of the things they prescribed was that they wanted the teachers and all to accept the children not as a separate group like the colored in one part of the room and white in the other part. They wanted everybody to mingle freely.

JG: Not just integrate the school system but the classroom as well.

CP: That is right, that is right and, fellowship you might call it and everything. I think ours went off smoothly.

JG: So this incident of someone coming to visit may have been, again I don't mean to put words in your mouth but it may have been that summer of '68 perhaps. I know the board had voted to implement Freedom of Choice one more year. It was implemented in May of '65 I think. I think you were the one that made the motion and Mr. Albrecht may have seconded it. But, in '68 the board had voted to continue it for one more year and that is when these officials from the representatives came down and then the next month voted to go ahead and have full integration. So, it was a process. Do you remember anything in specifics to the process? For instance, we are kind of jumping around but to help your memory maybe talk about some of the other individuals who may have

participated with the process. For instance let's start maybe with Coach Simmons, do you remember anything about Coach Simmons?

CP: Yes.

JG: How would you say, what was his role in all this?

CP: I think that Jim Simmons accepted it, you know, if you are speaking about racial differences. He took the men in, the football players, and any other athletes that he dealt with. There was no skin color with him. They liked him and in fact I remember one time when Diboll High played...what was that team in Lufkin? Dunbar?

JG: Dunbar, yes sir.

CP: Yes, and they kind of squashed us but...

JG: Now this is Diboll being integrated?

CP: No, this was before they were integrated.

JG: Okay, so it was the H. G. Temple School playing Dunbar or Diboll High?

CP: Diboll High was playing Dunbar.

JG: Okay, un-integrated Diboll High playing black non-integrated Dunbar?

CP: Dunbar yes.

JG: Okay.

CP: Anyhow, one of the things that is still mentioned sometimes today, Lynn was on the team, my oldest son. Somebody, a black player intercepted the ball and he was running the touchdown. Of course he was just leaving the white players when it come to our boys trying to tackle him. Lynn was sitting on the sidelines and he saw him coming down the field and he run out there and tackled him. (laughter)

JG: Lynn did?

CP: Yes, but you know he got a touchdown anyhow. It didn't go any farther. But, that was the talk of the town at that particular time and sometimes I hear some of the old-timers mention it to him, you know. About the tackle he made from the sidelines.

JG: The sidelines.

CP: The sidelines, yes. But as far as I know or remember there were never any fights in the school system between races. I am sure there might have been some but, nothing to develop into a serious situation.

JG: What was the role or non role of Arthur Temple Jr. and maybe even the Temple Company?

CP: Like I mentioned earlier the Temple has this foundation and when Buddy came on the board we had a sixty thousand dollar indebtedness and I think, I don't know, but I think that was Buddy's contribution as far as being a board member to see that the foundation paid off the school indebtedness. And besides that that foundation contributed towards some of the buildings, best I recall. In fact I think financially speaking, Buddy caused a lot of contributions to be made through Temple. His dad, Mr. Arthur, he supported Diboll in the growth factor. He believed in putting Diboll on the map.

JG: Well there was a lot going on. The city had just incorporated in 1962. There was federal monies that were coming in through the Housing Authority and the housing projects. The new public library received a lot. That was a federal funded project.

CP: Yes.

JG: So, in that context is anything jumping to mind about how...because ultimately this was the federal government wasn't it saying you needed to integrate?

CP: Oh yes.

JG: Maybe putting a little pressure even, you know, not only to do it but to do it as quick as possible?

CP: That is correct. They put a lot of emphasis on that. But...

JG: I think one of the other persons we interviewed put it this way, said that Mr. Temple, talking about Arthur Jr., never really came to the school board, never told any individual member directly "this is what I want to happen." But, the way they put it he set the tone and everybody knew that's what he wanted or just knew it was the right thing to do without being told that it was the right thing to do.

CP: I personally, and I know some of the other board members, when we was at the table making decisions we knew that if a decision was made Mr. Temple was in support of it. Like you mentioned a while ago, there was never any pressure put by Buddy or Mr. Temple on any decision the school board made. They were very, very supportive. The foundation put a lot of money into the school system. I can't put my finger on any one project but, I dare say it was all of them, you know.

JG: Going back to maybe individuals to address some of these issues, what about Willie Massey? What comes to mind when you think about Willie Massey and his role?

CP: You know, I liked him. He was...I really think he was a mellow fellow. I don't think that ever in my dealings with him in the grocery business or anywhere in school

business that he showed any kind of anger or excessive, he told it like it ought to be, you know. But, he was very, very common and smooth with it. And Mrs. Massey was a school teacher but not knowing too much about classroom activity, you know, teachers responsibility, I can't comment too much. But, the good part of it is I never did hear any criticism about her to amount to anything.

JG: You mentioned about some of the needs with funding and maybe projects involving capital improvements, the facilities. Can you comment a little specifically on the state of the school buildings, the facilities? Did the board ever take a tour or get reports on both the white schools and the black school?

CP: Oh yes.

JG: What were some of the issues involved with integrating and bringing students over and transportation for instance? I think at one time they were talking about integrating, you know, even the cafeteria for a temporary basis. Some of the high school students would come over and eat at the white cafeteria or something.

CP: I really don't remember that part.

JG: Okay.

CP: But and I don't remember about transporting them over. I think...

JG: I don't know if it happened but if you could just remember any of the issues involved with just integrating, the need for teachers, classrooms.

CP: Well now I know over what we called the colored quarters where the colored schools were, they were in a pretty bad state of repair. And of course, not only that but over here in ours.

JG: The white schools?

CP: Yes, it took even the walls and the interior had to have a good bit of maintenance. And then you know, I had nothing to do with when the building was built over on...what do you call that street?

JG: Lumberjack Drive.

CP: Lumberjack Drive. We built a gymnasium down here on this campus on 59 now and then there was a little portable buildings that we had to bring in for lack of overcrowding. And I think, of course I go up by there and I think all those are moved out now. Of course like I say in the last twelve or fifteen years I just haven't been as observing as I was in the earlier days.

JG: Let's see, I lost my train of thought here. What did you hear from say your constituents, those that elected you to the school board, those people around town, people who came in your store? You were showing me earlier a little clipping about something to do with raising the taxes and how customers might have commented on that. But, specifically to the integration issue, what did you hear from the talk about town?

CP: Actually the best I remember was minimal.

JG: I'm sorry, was minimal?

CP: Yes, was minimal.

JG: Oh, okay.

CP: Now, you know, you would hear people joking and making remarks about the two races getting together but it wasn't anything dangerous or sticky you know, that would create a problem. I did have one fellow that came in and I'd rather not names be mentioned but, I think he had a daughter that went to school.

JG: This is a white man?

CP: A white man and he was very critical. He said he was very upset that we got the whites and the word that you use, the n word all mixed up, you know. And he made the remarks that he would never be in my store again. But like I say that was the only incident that I can remember people quit trading and all. But overall I would say that 99% of the community was pretty receptive to it. And the children got along good.

JG: Yes, I was going to ask you about that. You were a school board member for about twelve years I guess?

CP: Yes.

JG: So from about 1965 to 1977, so did all three of your children graduate while you were on the board?

CP: Yes.

JG: And what was the feedback from them? What did you hear from them?

CP: They actually, I don't ever remember them complaining about anything racially. Sometimes my oldest boy would come up with some marks, some grades that we would question, you know, and he would always have a little excuse. But, everybody knew him and he just didn't, he was careless, but he did get through college and stuff like that.

JG: Now, I guess your oldest was Lynn?

CP: Lynn, yes.

JG: Okay, and he graduated in '70?

CP: I believe it was.

JG: And your youngest would have graduated when? Do you recall?

CP: Not really.

JG: Okay, but everybody did graduate while you were on the board, is that right? Well it's not all that important but I'm just trying to...

CP: Well I'm really not sure that Ronnie did.

JG: Okay, okay. But you had the opportunity to hear from your children through the whole integration process?

CP: Oh yes, yes.

JG: Did you ever remember asking them about, you said they never really commented, but did you go to them for instance not only a parent but as the school board member to get some feedback from the children?

CP: No I really don't recall that. Now, if there was anything controversial you know with the football team or something like that come up we would discuss it but we had a good relationship with Foster. He was there.

JG: Yes, tell a little bit about him. Now, he was the superintendent after Mr. Pate?

CP: Yes.

JG: Tell a little bit about him, what do you remember?

CP: Well he was a fellow that, I don't know how to put it, that stayed on top of things. Educationally wise I thought he was well qualified from what he did to be a superintendent when it came to improving the curriculum and other educational aspects of the school. And, he...his wife taught school and he had two daughters that graduated here. He was very active in the community affairs. I can't, I've never heard anybody criticize him adversely. But, he was real strict on conduct of the school kids and stuff like that.

JG: Do you remember where the school board meetings were held and maybe even the earliest days and any changes of meeting places?

CP: Let's see...I really can't remember.

JG: Okay, okay. I know I think there was one time early on where and I think Buddy Temple came on in...let's see when did he come on? He and Stacy Cooke came on together in April of '66. So, you had already been on board a year when they came on board. But, I think I remember seeing or reading where Buddy had asked to meet in the minutes, in an air conditioned room at the meeting room at the new library and for some reason it was turned down. But anyway, I was just wondering if that jogged your memory about some of the meetings or anything.

CP: I am just trying to remember early on...most of our meetings that we had as you go up 59, you know, right at the first light that little building to the right?

JG: Uh-huh.

CP: We had a guy that taught building and agriculture, Mr. Forest, I forgot what his title was. If you wonder why I'm so absent minded, December I'll be ninety.

JG: Ninety years old, well you are looking great and doing good for your age.

CP: Anyhow, they built this little building and that was the administration building to start with and that was the administration and that is where we met mostly.

JG: How would you describe some of those early meetings?

CP: Well they were very I guess you'd say comfortable. I mean, all the guys that I dealt with after a year or two there were on the same page. When you went in and the superintendent presented what had to be done or what was going on everybody seemed to participate without being critical. All decisions usually that were made whether it was raising taxes or building buildings or hiring or anything like that were very close to being unanimous and most of them were. I don't know how it would be now with all this digital stuff coming in and the way they keep records but it was real casual. It was just kind of like having coffee.

JG: Did you hold any positions or serve on any committees within the board?

CP: I don't remember committees; I chaired the board occasionally as president. I don't know how many times in the twelve years, but that was something that was passed around.

JG: The president?

CP: Yes.

JG: Okay, and secretary I guess that was an office?

CP: No, we had a superintendent's secretary.

JG: Okay.

CP: And, let's see usually always and always the superintendent was part of every meeting and the only time he was absent is when his name came up, you know, for consideration of extending employment or pay or something like that.

JG: How involved, the workings of the school board, how involved was the superintendent? For instance in setting the agenda for each meeting, can you comment on that?

CP: Yes, he would have, they would have the agenda all right but, there was always...

JG: So, the superintendent was pretty active in setting the agenda for the board?

CP: As far as kind of what the needs were and things like that. It's not that he tried to overrule or anything. It would always be a real open discussion and I remember a lot of times when things would be brought up that weren't on the agenda or everything you know. Our discussions were like I say just like having a discussion you know about fishing or anything else. You just brought up anything you felt like it. And again, I don't know how to say it but the confidence of the members, the board members, was on an even keel. In other words, there wasn't very little disagreements on some things.

JG: What about the community's participation in the meetings? Did you get much public input? Did the public come to the meetings?

CP: Not really. There might have been one or two, I can't recall what instigated it, but I remember that they were always pretty peaceful with just the superintendent and the school board members.

JG: But, they were open to the public and announced and advertised?

CP: Oh yes, they were. Yes, it would be announced.

JG: But often, would you say that most of the times nobody came? Again, I don't mean to be leading you but...

CP: No, there would be times that nobody from the public would come in with a complaint or a suggestion.

JG: Now did Paul Durham usually attend each meeting for the newspaper?

CP: Oh yes, he did.

JG: Okay. And, he generally wrote it up in the newspaper I guess.

CP: He would report it according to the way he saw it. And, I think in that little note he made the remark that we never did pressure him to leave anything out or put anything in.

He was the type guy that he could be your friend and he could disagree with you. He was one of the finest. He lived...

JG: Yes, just right there out your window there.

CP: Yes, his wife still lives there. But, Paul I assumed that he had as much input as any individual I know of, you know, about the school. And it would be good, you know.

JG: So he would participate in the meetings? I mean beside, I mean did he speak?

CP: Not too often, he might sometimes ask questions but...

JG: As a reporter.

CP: Yes, and to get certain facts straight. But, he like I say if he had an idea he would talk about it and let it be known. Did you know Paul?

JG: No sir.

CP: He was the editor a pretty good while.

JG: Yes sir, there probably wouldn't have been a Free Press newspaper if it wasn't for Paul Durham.

CP: No, that is true. He worked on it and I think Joe Denman helped him some. I don't know whether the company helped him or what his source of income was. But, it looks good now. It's turned out to be a pretty nice paper.

JG: Anything about Mr. Pate, Mr. Pate I guess would have been there the first couple of years during the Freedom of Choice Act and then Foster came in there near the end to complete the integration process, but anything specifically you remember about Mr. Pate or care to share, specifically in connection with the integration?

CP: About integration well, honestly I think that he had mixed feelings, not racially speaking, but I think he probably knew that there was going to be some gripe coming from some of the white folks to him, you know. But, that is about the only thing I remember that it might have affected him or how he felt in his responsibility and, you know, working during that time. He seemed to, I don't know how to say it, but he listened I think to the public a lot and to the board members when he...when we were kind of moving into the integration part. And, I think all around he was a fine man and he had a lot of things of interest but when it come to taking care, you know, of the property and everything, you know, he was a real, you know, he worked and tried to make things work with what you had. And, like I said a little earlier, the facilities weren't all that good. They had deteriorated; they weren't maintained as well as they should have been.

JG: I think in November of '66 the State Education Department recommended that you add two and a half classrooms and two teachers per year in '66 and of course that was not only addressing some integration issues but just the growth of the district. You had just brought in Beulah and brought in Burke. I think the company had just started the plywood plant in '64. Like I said, the city had just incorporated. They were anticipating citywide, community wide even, the county was growing at that time so I think it was an issue that was coming and integration was just another factor in that with facilities and that kind of thing. Do you remember anything specifically about the teachers as far as how integration might have affected the teachers?

CP: I really don't have input on that. My neighbor across the street, Mrs. Greer, her husband was a chemistry teacher I think. And then he became a principal but, I think it was a good little bit later. But, at that time it was Mr. Ramsey. Did you know him?

JG: Yes sir, briefly before he passed away.

CP: Let me see, we had several of them but actually I think they all worked hard conscientiously to make it work. What there inter-feelings were I didn't get much of a feed back on that.

JG: This would be white and black?

CP: Oh yes, of course the only one I dealt with to amount to anything was Professor Massey and he you know, he didn't push anything either way. He kind of just went along and saw that it had to be done and he worked with the other school officials real well. And, I can't think of any of them that quit, you know, from being disappointed.

JG: It may not be a good way to ask you this but I know there was a black coach, Mr. Jeffero, he also taught agriculture that was at the black school and kind of in the midst of all this he left. Do you remember anything about that?

CP: Vaguely.

JG: It was Algianon Jeffero, A.M. Jeffero.

CP: Yes, I remember that something about that he was pretty outspoken like and he would say things that sometime might not have been appropriate. But, in detail I really don't...I really don't...I think he was here after I left the board I believe. What year was that?

JG: I forget exactly when he left but it was right in the middle of the integration.

CP: Oh it was, well.

JG: He had been here a good while, taught agriculture. In fact, there was a segregated kind of like Future Farmers of America for the whites but then there was another organization called New Farmers of America that was sort of the black version and he

headed that up. Mr. Temple even let them use some of his timber lands and they had a little forestry plot here in town.

CP: Yes, I don't recall that, I really don't.

JG: Okay, any others, the coaches maybe at Temple School, anything with the athletic program that you remember specifically?

CP: Joe Wyatt was a real moral person.

JG: Now who was that?

CP: Joe Wyatt. You know Jay Wyatt?

JG: Yes sir.

CP: His dad.

JG: Okay.

CP: He was coach here a pretty good while and he treated like I say, there was no skin color whether it was out here on the street or on the football field or wherever in the classroom. I think he encouraged that kind of attitude quite a bit. I really liked Joe. He is out close to Waco now somewhere.

JG: Well is there anything I've neglected to ask you that you would care to add or any other thing. Maybe some of the other school board members, I didn't ask you about that. You commented a little bit on some of your fellow board members. Anything you care to add? But, also when would you say integration as an issue was finished or completed? Since you served from '65 through '77 when did it, if you recall anything about it being finished?

CP: I don't remember the time?

JG: Not an exact date maybe.

CP: I think it went real well. I think it went real well and I do recall the meeting that these two gentleman...

JG: From the federal government came down?

CP: Yes, when they came down.

JG: It may have been in '68 I guess.

CP: That is when Mr. Foster came and he was taking over.

JG: All right.

CP: They kept talking about what they expected and what the schools had to do and all that and Mr...

JG: You were telling me earlier who was...you said that two of them were black lawyers. Is that the way you described it?

CP: Yes, that is the way they introduced themselves.

JG: Okay.

CP: They were with some legal department.

JG: Okay.

CP: Anyhow, he just stood up and told them he said...the meeting was kind of extended that night.

JG: Who stood up?

CP: David Foster.

JG: David Foster, okay.

CP: He stood up and just told them that, told these men and the board, he said, "If you are going to hire me, which you said you are, I'll take care of all this and we won't have any more concerns." Just as good as telling them to kind of move out. And, sure enough I don't know just how long it took to make the total move, but it was pretty rapid. And that is when the renovation and all that other stuff had to start taking place and even building some of these putting those little houses out there.

JG: The temporary buildings.

CP: Yes, the temporary classrooms.

JG: What would you say some of the other issues after integration, you left in '77, anything you care to share in general about those other years, some big issues maybe that the board faced?

CP: I really can't unless it was bond issues during that time.

JG: Okay, not very popular.

CP: No, it never was and it's still not today. (laughter)

JG: How much campaigning did you have to do? If that was something the school board felt was really needed, did you feel you needed to speak out about it?

CP: I had some people that talked for me, that would tell them they would like to have me on the board, or re-elected and stuff like that. But I did not do... spend any time passing out cards or anything. I would see a lot of people in the store and the bank and in them days we had the Pine Bough. You remember?

JG: The restaurant?

CP: Yes, and the Pine Bough was a popular spot to see people.

JG: So, you were just available at the store and just in town. People would see you and if they had questions they knew to ask you?

CP: Yes, they would sometimes they would ask about certain things. Did we really need this or that? Sometimes they would be a little critical of maybe some teacher, but we felt like or I did personally that if you are going to hire a superintendent he is the educator and he knows who to put where and what they are supposed to do. Not being a college graduate myself I left that up to them. But, overall I would think and I don't know what Richard and the other guys think about it but, I thought it was a good time for the school district. I don't know, people back in them days didn't seem to be as busy and falling over each other like they are today.

JG: Different times for sure isn't it?

CP: Yes sir.

JG: Okay, well I kind of didn't let you speak when I asked if you had any other thing you wanted to add and kind of jumped to another subject so I guess just one more opportunity if there's just one other thing you wanted to add. That is pretty much all I had, as far as my questions.

CP: Well, going back, you know to a little bit of the introduction, like I say, Bert and I came over, she worked...

JG: And that is your wife?

CP: Yes. She worked for Morgan and Lindsey. She had a pretty nice job.

JG: I'm sorry, who did she work for?

CP: For Morgan and Lindsey. It was a ten-cent store they called it back in them days. Of course I worked for Tennessee Gas as I mentioned.

JG: There in Jasper?

CP: Yes. When we came over Diboll, oh man, it didn't have any places to live. The houses over what we called the quarters were three room houses. You walk in the front door it would be a living room, the bedroom and a kitchen at the back. The outhouse was behind it. And, but anyhow we chose to come over and when I look back now I'm just tickled to death that our kids grew up in a small community. We still got good people, but during our generation we had some fine folks that there would be parents that would look out for my kids just like they would tell us keep an eye on so and so. I think it was a good thing, I think sometimes the Lord led us over here for some purpose. They grew up and graduated and they all doing all right. Dianne is a school teacher and of course Lynn is with Temple. I think he has his CPA degree. Ronnie, he was like I was, he didn't finish. I went to A&M and got drafted and then I didn't go back. Ronnie went to SFA a couple of no, a year and a half I think and he told me he was wasting my money. He said he was going to quit and go to work. And, he did and he's got a pretty good job with Temple. By the way, he has got a step-son that is in Saudi Arabia.

JG: Oh, okay.

CP: Sure is. Overall I think the journey over here was good.

JG: And that was in '49 you said?

CP: 1949, March the 15th.

JG: That was right after Mr. Temple came from Lufkin to Diboll to manage things. He came in '48.

CP: Now did Arthur come in '48 or did he come in '50?

JG: Forty-eight is when his cousin Henry Gresham Temple died. So, he...I don't know if he moved here at the time and lived, but he was the manager of operations. When his dad died in '51 is when he took over.

CP: That is kind of what I remember.

JG: Yes, his father, Arthur Sr., didn't die until '51 so Arthur Jr. didn't become head of the companies until then. But anyways, that was a good while ago so you have lived through all these significant changes. Would you say that the sixties might have been the more, for lack of better term, significant change?

CP: It was.

JG: As far as a decade. I mean each decade has it own significance of course but, the sixties seem...

CP: I would think so. My wife and I frequently talk about the blessings and when I see what college graduate now comes out and looks for a job compared to back then. People in the fifties and sixties could make a pretty good living if they was willing to work and take responsibility. I think it was a serious time and it was an opportune time for a lot of us because we were building up after the war, you know. Refrigerators and cars and homes and everything was a little bit scarce. When things got back on the market and started developing times were good, I think. I remember employees when we came to Diboll they, I don't know what the salaries were but, they were very, very meager but, after Mr. Temple's taking over and starting up things perked up pretty good putting in the new plants and all.

JG: Okay, Mr. Pavlic I sure appreciate it. I know there may be some other stuff we may want to follow up on if that would be okay.

CP: Yes.

JG: But I think we've pretty much covered all that I had for today. So, with that I guess we will conclude the interview.

CP: Well I enjoyed it and I appreciate you coming by.

JG: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW