

**DEWEY BALLENGER**

**Interview 32b**

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**Becky Bailey & Sue Baker, Interviewers**

**Dorothy Farley, Transcriber**

**Retyped by Daniel Guerrero**

**ABSTRACT:** In this interview Dewey Ballenger reminisces about his years working for Southern Pine Lumber Company, especially Mills One, Two, and Three. He remembers the company's executives and their leadership styles – T.L.L. Temple, Arthur Temple, Jr., Watson Walker, H.G. Temple, and Clyde Thompson. He also recalls his mother's boarding house, The Beanery, living through the Depression, the Baptist Church, and the Methodist Church.

**Dewey Ballenger (hereafter DB):** They had built Mill One and it burned and they rebuilt it.

**Becky Bailey (hereafter BB):** What caused those fires?

**DB:** I couldn't tell you that. I guess they were set. I don't know.

**BB:** Oh, really, you think they might have been set?

**DB:** I don't know what – Mill One burned since little Arthur has been here. He changed up things a whole lot. Mill Two cut pine. They ran both mills day and night at the time.

**BB:** When you first started working at the mill, did they run hardwood mostly?

**DB:** Yes, they had built Mill Three. I wasn't but fourteen years old when I went to picking up sticks at ten cents an hour.

**BB:** Did they run hardwood or pine wood?

**DB:** They cut hardwood at the hardwood mill. They caught part of the waste from the trimmers and edgers. They caught it and fired Mill Three with it. They weren't having too much luck just firing with hardwood. They didn't cut anything but hardwood at Mill Three

**BB:** They cut pine at Mill One and Two?

**DB:** They cut pine at Mill One and Two. They finally put in a gang at Mill Two and they put a transfer over the pond to Mill Two. Mill Two was lower than the other. They put the large logs that they made Bend Better Flooring out of through the gang. In other words, that gang – you never did see one.

**BB:** What was it?

**DB:** They take their best logs and cut them up into three and four inch slabs, stack them up on top of one another and run them through that gang two different slabs at a time and make the edge grain flooring.

**BB:** In other words, they had several saws?

**DB:** When we first moved to Diboll, they were logging out at Lindsey Springs. I don't know whether or not you know where Lindsey Springs is. I never was out there. They were logging out here east of Diboll and across the railroad up here on the hill. It's called Copestown now. They had an old man out there – he batched out there in a little old one room and he had a gate that he put across the railroad. When he would hear a train coming, well, he'd let the trains by. Directly after we came to Diboll, they went to logging out this-a-way. Went out here across the river, out here at Apple Springs, I think. They cut out there and they went across here and logged over the Cotton Belt. The timber was closer to Pineland than than it was to Diboll.

**BB:** So they processed it there? Tell, me, what did the forests look like when they were through cutting?

**DB:** Well, mother used to say when they moved out here at Ryan's Chapel, it was just like a prairie. You could see nothing but virgin pine, but there wasn't any underbrush. But since they have cut the pine down, the underbrush is more so. When we moved here, on either side of us was not under fence. It is under fence now to keep the stock out of it. There isn't enough stock to keep the underbrush eaten up. You take where there is Ballenger Street now that used to be School Street. I didn't know they were going to change it. Ballenger Street was way out here at the edge of town.

**BB:** I had a friend that lived on it.

**DB:** You did? I never did know where it was until one of my son-in-laws and I were - riding around and went by, the chap wanted to come out through that road there and he says "That's Ballenger Street!" I don't know whether there is any houses out there.

**BB:** Yes, there are house there.

**DB:** I remember going out there when my daddy was Justice of the Peace. Old man Waltman – he lived there on the old Waltman place – they found him dead one morning in a horse stall. My daddy was Justice of the Peace and he went out there and helped out. I was just a kid. I was only ten when he died so I was still younger when he went out there.

**BB:** What was it like living here in the Depression in the thirties?

**DB:** In the thirties? Well, when Mill Three burned, Ernest Rutland – his brother owned half the stock in the company and he was grading at Mill Three and they went to cutting hardwood at night. I was just a kid, I don't know why they put me out there to grading. I graded out there and marked lumber at night for over four years. That was just before I got married. They put me out on the yard inspecting lumber. I didn't stay out there long until they sent me to Kountze. The company advanced you money on the lumber as they cut it and I stayed down there about nine months and got mad and walked off. It learnt me to never walk off of a job again unless I had a job to go to. That's my advice to anybody, to never walk off, not unless you have another job.

**BB:** Well, you and your wife had been married about eleven years when the Depression came. What was it like for you to be raising children during the Depression?

**DB:** It's been so long, I don't know. I worked every day and the company put me on a salary. Like I said, I'd been to Kountze, walked off a job out there and I liked to never found another job. I went to work for Bob Weeks at the planer and Teets was yard foreman then. He was inspector at the time I went to Kountze, but old man Cleveland was sales manager. He's the one that got me on at Kountze. I don't guess he liked me or he wouldn't have given me the job. I worked out there for Teets for a while and he asked old man Walker – Walker was superintendent then – he asked old man Walker to put me on as inspector by salary and that was in 1903, I guess, and I stayed on a salary ever since. They sent Teets to Pineland to run the hardwood yard then and they gave the yard job to Ernest Rutland. Like I say, his brother owned stock in the Company and was manager of the commissary, over all the commissaries – woods and all. He stayed on the job for about a year and he died. He'd been off of the job about a week – he'd been up to Memphis to a lumber meeting and when he got back, I had to stop everything. I saw him Saturday evening down on the commissary porch. I got up Sunday morning and they said Ernest Rutland died. He had a heart attack and died.

I ran the yard right on and old man Walker came by one day and he says – they were paying me fifty dollars, what they were paying the yard foreman – he said “I raised your salary the first of the month by twenty-five dollars. If you keep giving satisfactory, I'll raise you another twenty-five dollars.

**BB:** Was this twenty-five dollars a month, or a week?

**DB:** No, that was a raise, a pretty good raise.

**BB:** What were you making before?

**DB:** To tell you the truth, I don't know. I was making around two hundred dollars a month.

**BB:** Do you remember what year this was?

**DB:** No, I don't remember what year it was. I never did ask for a promotion. I never did ask for a raise but one – I asked Henry Temple for a raise. My brother-in-law bought a –

we didn't have gas at the time – and he bought a gas stove and heater and things in his house. My wives...they lived across the street there where Mrs. – her father-in-law was a Baptist preacher here when I was a kid, He was the first Baptist preacher they had up there where the Congregational Methodists are. There weren't but two churches here. The Baptist and the Methodist. One would preach one Sunday and the other the next. I told you this before but I'm telling you again.

**BB:** That's okay.

**DB:** Strauss came here and went to work and he taught the Strauss Bible class.

**BB:** That's the man the Bible class is named after, isn't it? They still have a Strauss class at the Methodist church and that's named after him?

**DB:** That's named after Strauss. Strauss was head man at the office under Walker, Clyde Thompson is the oldest member, I say the oldest member in Burke Lodge. He was secretary when I went in. He's just about my age. He just went in a little before I did. The Methodist church and the Baptist church were there where Wes Ashworth lived. The Woodmen, K.C. and Methodists met underneath. They finally built a little hall. Arthur had it torn down, a place up there where the school is on top of the hill – Ballenger Street. They finally built a place up there. People donated for the bottom part and the lodges built the top part. The Oddfellows and K.C.'s. They first had moved up to Copetown and built it. They didn't last long up there. They moved back and built the lodge down there. A good sized building.

**BB:** Where was it located?

**DB:** It was located there where part of the school is now. When I went to school there, my first year at school was when the old school house burned. They didn't have but three school teachers up there then.

**BB:** Do you remember any of your school teacher's names?

**DB:** No, I just don't. I remember though, a professor.

**BB:** Oh, who was he?

**DB:** We moved up there and I was just a kid. We had ropes and we teamed up and cleared all the play ground there. It's all taken up by buildings now. Cows used to run loose up there. I noticed Billy Rogers and Homer Rogers. Homer used to own the Cash Drugstore in Lufkin. They went to school down here and Billy Burkett. Homer was older than Billy. Billy Rogers and Bill Burkett and myself was all in the same class. Old professor Burroughs, he'd made a little speech every morning about how he'd catch the boys by the collar of the neck and the seat of the pants and kick them out of the school room. He told Billy Burkett and Billy Rogers to get their books and come around and sit on the floor 'til they had learned a piece out of the book – a lesson – and Billy Rogers, he

grabbed his book and ran around and tickled him and Billy Burkett, he jumped out the window and ran home. He came back the next morning and told the old professor that he'd take a whipping for what he had done. The old professor asked if he'd sit on the floor and he said "No, I won't sit on the floor, I don't sit on the floor at home." So he said, "Well, get out of here." Bill said, "You'll have to put me out." Burkett, the two set together at the time, he just held the back of the seat and the front of the desk and Claude Tucker and Perry Ratcliff – Perry Ratcliff's daddy was constable at the time – so they put Billy out. They expelled Billy. I think Billy got a dirty deal.

**BB:** Did he get to come back to school after a day or two?

**DB:** No. They expelled him for good. Bob Weeks was one of the Trustees and Bob Weeks – all the Weeks' seemed like they are kin to me. You take this old lady Weeks down here at the school – belong out here at the chapel – her son gave me that picture of my grandma. He came in when we lived down there on School Street and says, "Here's your Christmas present." He says, "This is your Grandpa Ryan." He married a Ryan himself. Isaac Ryan is on Nolan Ryan's side of the family and my family was John Ryan. Nolan sent the picture down here. I think he is pitching for the Buffs in Houston now. They moved out to West Texas. Some of the Ryan's are still out here. One of their brothers settled out here right across the track from the crossing were they go out to Ryan's Chapel now. Driving up the old highway, coming home and I saw the train, it nearly hit the garbage truck. He just did make it, too. That was Goodrich. You seen that in the paper.

**BB:** Yes, that was bad. Mr. Ballenger, you've seen lots of changes in Diboll. So you think they've been good for the town?

**DB:** Well, I think little Arthur's made more changes than anybody and they've all been for the good, I think. I never did care too much about little Arthur. I've seen his grandfather. I worked under his grandfather. They used to live in Texarkana. That was where the sales office was – in Texarkana, but since Walker died, well Henry Temple – he used to be shipping clerk here. They bought out Pineland and they sent him to Pineland to be manager over there and, when Walker died, well he come back to Diboll and built down here where little Arthur lives.

**BB:** Oh, that was Henry Temple's house?

**DB:** That was Henry Temple's house. Little Arthur's done a whole lot of work down there, improving the place. The yard, and he's built a – I understand it's his wife's daddy living behind the place now.

**BB:** Yes, it looks like a garage.

**DB:** I didn't know what it was since we've been down here. Henry Temple and then little Arthur's daddy, I believe, when Henry died, they gave the job to him. Prudhomme used to be shipping clerk, then when they bought Hemphill out, they sent Prudhomme to

Hemphill to be manager over there. Prudhomme's brother was sales manager in Texarkana at the time. They didn't know nothing about sawmilling. Little Prudhomme didn't know a one by four from a two by four when he come down here. Course he had men working under him that did. Prudhome finally – well, little Arthur got shed of all the kinfolks. They had good jobs. But old man Anthony, I don't know whether you remember him, or not. He died, they tell me right here on this bed here – he owned this bed. He died here in this room. He married into the Webber family and E.C. Durham – you've heard of him, I guess – he was over at T.S.E. [Texas Southeastern Railroad].

**BB:** Yes, wasn't that Paul Durham's daddy?

**DB:** No, it was a different family altogether. Paul's brother married one of Henry's girls. They didn't like it. They slipped off to Louisiana and got married. They was at Pineland at the time. He was at a ballgame one evening – Sunday evening. They're both dead now. Paul's brother and that Temple girl, too. Henry had two girls and boy. The boy was in this here oil business. I don't know. He was raised to work. All the Temples, I'll say this, was raised to work. When they wasn't a going to school, they was down here handling lumber or working.

**BB:** Little Arthur, too?

**DB:** I don't know about little Arthur. I don't remember little Arthur ever...I'll say this about little Arthur. During the ration, when you couldn't get casings, I know there was people getting casings here that didn't need them no worse than I did. I finally drove my old car up to Lufkin. I had them condemned up there. I says, "Who can I take this to now to get casings?" Down there on the corner from the bus station they said to just talk to the ration board and they'll issue you. Nearly everyday they were putting in about people coming through Lufkin and getting casings and they had to go through the ration board. As I went out the door a fellow that knew me – I didn't know him – said, "Dewey, you take it down there to little Arthur." Little Arthur was manager of the Temple Lumber Company in Lufkin at the time. He says, "If he hasn't gone into the army, you tell him that you've worked for the company nearly all your life and you need casings." He says, "If he's gone into the army, you take it down here to that fellow that runs a restaurant that was on the board." I went down to little Arthur and caught him down there at the office and, I thought he was writing a long time. He wrote me up four new casings and the old car sure did run good.

**BB:** Are you talking about tires? What is a casing?

**DB:** That's a tire, I call them casings.

**BB:** I just never heard them called that before, is that what everybody called them back then?

**DB:** I guess, I don't know.

**BB:** So it made a difference, you working for the company.

**DB:** I don't know, I didn't tell him I worked all my life. I just told him I thought if I could get two casings – he said, “Well, you put in for four – you needed four didn't you?” That old car sure did run good after I put on four new tires.

He went back into the army and came back, his mother was a Webber, I think. Webber used to have a good job down here in the office but he retired. He was next to little Arthur. Little Arthur changed up things here. His secretary – she first married a Baptist preacher. She finally divorced him and her and little Arthur got married. But anyhow, they have done away with a lot of things that was done on trams and things. He did away with the trams and put everything on the ground.

**BB:** What did they use? Truck and stuff then? Instead of using the trams, they used trucks?

**DB:** What I called trams was dolly ways while they were logging at Pine Bluff – out across the river, out across from Pineland – they had virgin timber and they had a lot of lighted stuff and hard stuff and they build all the dolly ways then out of heart pine. They lasted a long time. I've seen farmers come in here and haul all the lumber off on a wagon that they could haul off for a dollar. Like I said, they had virgin pine and large timbers that would float. The timber they cut now, it won't float. That's the reason they don't put it in the pond. It's too small. It's all sap. It's heavy and it will sink. Virgin timber, some of it sank, it was larger.

**BB:** How big were some of the logs back then?

**DB:** Oh, I'd say, two foot in diameter, they used to turpentine all this virgin pine. I remember in 1920, I went down to Kountze, when they sent me down there – I went to Nacogdoches and changed trains and went down and they had turpentine stills all up and down the railroads where they cut into the pine.

**BB:** Put a tap into it?

**DB:** Put a tin vessel in there and caught the turpentine – that's where they got the turpentine, they had turpentine stills up and down the railroad.

**BB:** Then they would process it right there?

**DB:** They would run it out of the taps. They tapped every tree and they would go around to them taps and take the turpentine, rosin we called it – I often put it through this here turpentine still and made turpentine.

**BB:** First time I've heard that.

**DB:** Something else I wanted to tell you – oh, I'm eighty-six years old and I'm getting old. I've been here a long time.

**BB:** You've been here a long time.

**DB:** Mrs. – I ran the hardwood yard and the shipping over the manufacturing. Texarkana sent me to direct the orders just like they did the pine. The pine orders would come to the shipping clerk – the pine shipping clerk – and I wrote Pineland then – nearly every day – I had a typewriter – by using my finger.

**BB:** Hunt and peck? Well, overall, were you pleased working for the company all those years?

**DB:** Well, I didn't know no better. In them days and times, they didn't know what...I didn't know...I was raised different. Not to know what an allowance was. Now they allowance chaps so much. I made a nickel. As a kid I peddled a lot of buttermilk and vegetables mother had out there where the Nickels and Hudson's and the...what's a name...he was a Baptist preacher...in the garden. She had more. We had more taken in behind and she oh...I forgot what I was going to say.

**BB:** You weren't ever tempted to go off to Houston or someplace like that and try to find a job there or did you like sawmill towns?

**DB:** I bought me a little old gun and my brother...my daddy died when I was ten and there were two sisters older than me and a sister and brother younger than I was and my mother was keeping boarders at the time...and they come down...Strauss and Clyde Thompson. They come down to the house and we was living in a great big old house---three rooms one way and four or five the other way you see and... I got me a little old gun and my brother came in the room one day when we was up at what they call the old Beanery. My mother run it for about four years and she was running it when I went to work at night and she taken the little old gun away from me and I was going to leave home and she said, "Alright, I'll get a flour sack. Put your clothes in it." Right then I never did try to displease my mother any more. I always---like I say---I married on the twentieth. At that time they wasn't a paying but twice a month here---fifteenth and the thirtieth---and I married on the twentieth of April and I gave her my payday---the fifteenth. Course if I hadn't of give it to her I guess I'd have spent it.

**BB:** Probably so.

**DB:** She saved me up six or seven hundred dollars. I don't know just how much. She gave me that much back. She fed me and bought my clothes and everything and I never did. She said that when I got married that she didn't think there was any girl good enough for me and if Josephine, her husband, hadn't been a Methodist preacher up there and spoke well of the family, she wouldn't have signed for me to have gotten married. Like I say, they had Arkansas kiln---you don't know what Arkansas kiln is.

**BB:** No?



**DB:** It's kind of a hole dug in the ground and they built a fire in that hole and stacked lumber around it and let the smoke come up...

**BB:** Oh, to dry the lumber?

**DB:** To dry the lumber and they put in dry kilns in here and I can remember when the planer used to be down here where the old molding shed...I don't know whether you know where the molding shed is...I think it's still standing. But, old man Tom Temple that owned the mill...he had a tennis park put there about the end where they stack the lumber now—on the west side. He played tennis and Ernest played tennis and played poker with them. I asked Ernest one day...he worked in the store for his brother...how much they paid in the store. Oh, he says, "They pay so much that I knowed how much I was worth." So I don't know. He may have just been joking with me. He finally married a little kin to the Weeks and the Stovall's. He married Bessie Stovall.

**BB:** Did you ever meet Tom Temple?

**DB:** Ma'am?

**BB:** T.L.L. Temple

**DB:** Yes'm, I knew the guy. T.L.L. Temple was little Arthur's daddy, wasn't it, or uncle, one of the two?

**BB:** It was his uncle, I think, great uncle. [GRANDFATHER]

**DB:** Well, anyhow I knowed him. They all come down here and worked at the pine department. They never did...none of them worked on the hardwood.

**BB:** Did you ever meet the owner of the mill?

**DB:** The owner?

**BB:** T.L.L. Temple. Did you ever meet him?

**DB:** That's the old man Temple. I think. The Tom Temple.

**BB:** What was he like?

**DB:** Oh, well, as I remember, that's been years ago. He was kind of a heavy set fellow. He was a good natured fellow. He never did—like old man Walker—he never did come around and talk to the men. Old man Walker come around, he was manager of the mill here. He'd come through the planer—come through the shop out by mill one and up the track and across the ponds. He'd meet both log trains. They'd come—one would come in the evening and they'd come back—make two trips a day. He met both of them. Twice a day. In other words, the day he died he'd made three trips out on the yard. He'd

come by that morning and told me he was going to Pineland that evening right after dinner and I had a letter from old man Ennis telling me about a lumberman down there looking at some lumber to buy—about getting him a way over to Pineland if there was a way—and so I asked old man Walker and he said, “Yeah, we’d be glad to take him.” He wanted to know if the fellow was broke or something. I don’t know just what he did say now, and right after dinner we had a passenger train right after dinner—two each way—two in the daytime, two at night—and one come along about 1:30 and brought the mail from Texarkana. I went down to the post office to get the mail and a fellow had come here taking orders for suits at the naval commissary. He’s looking up towards the Walker house...Clyde Thompson lives in the house now. I remember when walker got married and they built the house. Them houses used to be all just boarded up one by twelve’s—boarded up with what they call a bat over the crack and they tore down one or two houses there and when we come to Diboll the drugstore was over there across the track between where the Wiese’s did live and Mrs. Farrington and I don’t know who was running the store but I was just a kid and the Ashford’s lived there in a house right next to where Mrs. Farrington lived and Ashford was a stockholder. Used to be when we came to Diboll, all the foremen had stock in the mill and he was planer foreman. When they built mill No. 2 they gave him a job looking after the manufacture of the pine lumber. He died and they gave the job to Farley, I believe, and then they gave Fogg, his assistant, he had Fogg sawing. They liked Fogg. They had a big lumber shed then. They had one shed for the clear lumber and the other shed for number one lumber (one inch and two inch), they didn’t keep anything but clear lumber, but one inch in there. They finally tore it down and threw it out here by the chapel. Mrs. Weeks’ sister-in-law and her husband bought the place – D. Henry was his name. They tore down the old dry shed and built them a house out of part of the lumber out here between Burke and Ryan’s chapel. I was born out there – just the other side of the chapel – on the Week’s place. Dave Grant was barbering at the time. He charged two bits for a haircut and fifteen cents for a shave. Course I got a haircut after I had needed it for several months.

**BB:** Didn’t go very often?

**DB:** I didn’t go very often. Now I understand they haven’t got a barber shop in Diboll. They have several beauty shops, the women are taking over.

**BB:** Well now I’ve been and there’s men that come to the beauty shops. They get it styled.

**DB:** They finally built a new commissary and they put the drugstore and the barber shop and the post office and the market all under one shed.

**BB:** Oh, you remember before this commissary was built?

**DB:** Oh, yes, I remember, this here’s the third commissary.

**BB:** Oh, really? What did the first one look like?

**DB:** Well...

**BB:** Was it just one...?

**DB:** I was just a kid. It was just a great big old building. Not too much like the old one although this new one's larger.

**BB:** It was just smaller, but it looked about the same.

**DB:** They finally put a furniture store up overneath—with coffins and caskets and things. In that time they didn't have undertakers. They had an undertaker, too, but people didn't patronize him like they do now. I think it's against the law.

**BB:** It is now.

**DB:** It's against the law. You've got to have an undertaker, which is a pretty good law I think.

**BB:** Well, what would people do if they didn't use an undertaker?

**DB:** Well, they generally rang the bell out here at Ryan's Chapel and when they wanted a grave dug, people dug the graves. I've dug several graves out there myself. Just help. People would just come and help. They had regular tools out there that they kept just for that purpose.

**BB:** Is that the only place that they buried people from Diboll?

**DB:** No, there's a graveyard out here back of the little store out here.

**Sue Baker (hereafter SB):** My kids go out there a lot and play.

**DB:** I never was at the cemetery; it goes to the end of –

**SB:** South Meadows, I think. Doesn't it go to the edge of those homes over there? Does it go that far?

**DB:** I think it is up about there. It goes to the edge of that street behind – it used to be all woods. I've towed a many a pine knot, they called them, out of where the high school is now, that all used to be in the woods and you couldn't see them where we lived up there. The old Ballenger house. You couldn't see down to the highway then, it was so thick. Me and a fellow, cut wood for old man Walker's heater out of that pasture, great big fine old oak trees. I was just a kid, but he kept the saws sharp and he had to have a partner and I was the only one, I guess that he could get.

**BB:** Is this after you were fourteen? When you were working for the company?

**DB:** I went to work for old man McCoy, he was one of them, he inspected lumber. He had a pan he put on and slipped over this nub. He'd tally and turn lumber, he lived down there where the Broker's houses were. The Minton's live there now.

**BB:** How did he hurt his arm? At the mill?

**DB:** I don't know how he hurt his arm, he came to Diboll. He lived down there. Brad Tucker was yard foreman – pine yard foreman and he moved out to Southwest Texas and went to farming and they gave the job to Frank Tucker, his brother. Aunt Ginny Tucker, she lived down there. She married a Jones. They are separated, I think. Old man Jones was a Baptist and all the Tuckers were Methodists. Used to be more Methodists here than there were Baptists, but there's more Baptists now.

**BB:** That's the truth.

**DB:** Old man George lived down here. Little Arthur owns the place now. He lived down here and rode a horse in. He didn't bring his wife. He just rode in on a horse and as soon as church was over he would get on his horse and go back home. Mrs. Johnson lived up there where "Rat" Johnson lived.

**BB:** During that time, would there be many revival meetings? Or brush arbor meetings around?

**DB:** When I was a kid I went to Sunday school – to both Sunday schools and I went to both churches. The Baptists when they built. There used to be a bunch of woods between here and Copestown. When they built Copestown they tried to get the depot put there but the company beat them to it and the post office put it down here where it should have been. I don't know if you know where the old depot was, or not.

**BB:** Isn't it right there by the commissary?

**DB:** It was right across the street. It fronted Thompson Street. You know where Thompson Street is? There weren't any streets then. What I wanted to say a while ago, there weren't any lights in the houses and the company went to putting lights in and charging them two bits a drop. Do you know what a drop is? It's each opening. If they had two openings to a room, that was fifty cents.

**BB:** Did they have to pay anything extra for the electricity once it was in? Or was the rent the same?

**DB:** They had to pay extra for it. They had to pay two bits. Then they moved me to Pineland. My two youngest daughters were born over there just this side of Mrs. Curry, in that old house—it's about to fall down now, I think. Then we moved over to Pineland and stayed six months. If I'd known I was going to come back to Diboll—when they started up cutting hardwood again at Diboll, they moved me back over the yard. They moved me there where Dee lives, across the street. My mother lived across there where

our house is, in a big old house, kept boarders. They told her if she'd move up and take the old boarding house, when she got tired of it and wanted to move back, she could have her old house back as soon as they could get someone out. Well, the people that was in the old house wanted the boarding house, so we just swapped house. She kept the room next to the Hudson's there—they were Brokers at the time, she kept that to store her furniture in.

**BB:** Was living in Pineland a lot different than living in Diboll or were they about the same?

**DB:** Well, people over there—I guess it was because I was a stranger over there—people there was more friendly than they were here in Diboll. I never was too friendly. I don't know if it was her husband—she's right across the street now—she's been married three times—she first married my nephew, Austin, and had three boys and a girl, I believe. Anyhow, one of her chaps said, "Mamaw, whose picture is that hanging up on the wall." She said, "That's your Papaw's." He said, "What's he mad about?" I thought I looked pretty pleasant. Like I say, I went to work when I was fourteen. I went to school—fifth grade I believe it was. Wasn't but three teachers at the time and I was in the old professor's room.

**BB:** Well, I think we're about out of tape.

**END OF INTERVIEW**