

LATANE TEMPLE

Interview 83a-b

June 19, 1985, Galveston, Texas

Megan Lambert, Interviewer

Retyped by Courtney Lawrence

ABSTRACT: In this interview with Megan Lambert, T.L.L. (Latane) Temple, III recalls the Temple family history and genealogy, from its beginnings in Virginia to the various family branches that moved to Arkansas. He also discusses his grandfather, T.L.L. Temple, his father, T.L.L. Temple, Jr., his mother Hal Crouch Temple, his uncle Arthur Temple, Sr., and his cousin Arthur Temple, Jr. He speaks about race relations in Diboll, politics, the family's social and religious views, his childhood in Texarkana, visits to the family home on Long Island, and his career with the Temple companies.

Megan Lambert (hereafter ML): The date is June 19, 1985 and this is Megan Lambert in Galveston, Texas interviewing Mr. Latane Temple. Any time you want me to turn the tape off just let me know.

Latane Temple (hereafter LT): Okay, are we going now?

ML: Yes, we are ready to go. Why don't we just start that story you were telling Brenda Russell, the librarian at the Temple Memorial Library.

LT: All right, when you are a practiced oral history professional, you know, there can be a lot of inaccuracies and coloration and maybe legend or invention, but it's one of my favorite stories, I believe came to me from Gresham Temple, how our people happened to be in this country, a wonderful story about it. I believe his name was Orlando Jones. My grandfather T. L. L., the center of everything you are going to be hearing about the Temple family, was the grandson of Susan Jones Temple, and that was Mrs. John Temple. As far as I know, Orlando was her brother. It's been represented that he came to southwest Arkansas as a bachelor. I would like to, before we get mainly into the story, to give a little slack that may alter that, whether he was a bachelor or not, but anyway, he acquired a large holding of land. I had thought he had left it to his sister and it came to her sons through her. Gresham tells me though it was his grandfather, John Temple, who inherited it. John was the oldest of four brothers. Besides him there was Charles and Tom (T.L.L.) and William, according to my knowledge. Charles was one of them, followed him down to that large tract of land and, mostly, in Hempstead in Little River County, counties in southwest Arkansas and all started out on the farm. Charles, I think, died before he ever married. John married Alice Gresham and that was the line that was Henry Temple and Charlie Temple, whose descendants are Billy Temple in Lufkin and, well, he is Charlie's son and Billy and Charles Temple in Texarkana. Henry's children were Gresham, Frances and Martha Seth, who is no longer alive. And of course, there is Tom who was the next son, the next child who survived was William. William was the father of Bill Temple and of Alice Temple, who was in a wheelchair. I don't know if it was a birth injury or what. She spent her life in a wheelchair and was extremely handicapped.

Incidentally William married the sister of Alice Gresham, married Laura or Lolly, but they are only descendants through Bill or Sally Temple Barnes and Susanne Temple Dooley. Am I giving you too much detail?

ML: I need all this, I was going to have to ask you at some point, in fact, I want you to tell me more about Sally Temple Barnes, because she is reputed to be the family historian. I probably need to go see her.

LT: Yes, indeed, she is the one who is going to – and she returned it back to Bishop in England, the family. I've given you the several lines, John Temple, the oldest, died, I don't know how long ago, but before I was born so I never knew him, but his land went to, of course, which was mostly over in Little River County, I think, went to Charlie and Henry, his sons.

I don't know where Uncle Willie got his land. I don't know whether he acquired it or bought it or something, but his was over at Hempstead, near Fulton. John Temple's land was near Ogden on the Red River. William's was near Fulton on the Red River. Each about 30 miles from Texarkana, at those two locations.

Now I would like to tell you something I ran into in the letters that my sister and I found when Dr. Warner Lewis, whose sister had inherited Weyland, which is our Great-Grandfather Henry Waring Latane Temple's home place, farm. One of Henry's unmarried daughters, I believe, one of my grandfather's sisters inherited the place and it had come down to these Lewis', or one of the Lewis women. It was, the old house was tumbled down and we walked through it and it was really like something out of a novel. It had been used as a tenant house to farm the land and the land was no longer being farmed but the side of the house had fallen off but, in the roof was an old steamer trunk, a round top trunk in which there were a lot of letters. Also some books, leather bound books that had been damaged in rain, I guess, through the roof, etc. I asked cousin, I believe it was Warner Lewis, but anyway our cousin, if I could have some of them. He said "Of course." So we found an old pillowcase and I stuffed it with as many of those letters as I could. I really felt a little bit scavenging. I think there were more and I wish I had gotten more.

ML: How recently was this you found them?

LT: I beg your pardon?

ML: How recently did you find them?

LT: That must have been – time passes so fast, but that must have been 20 years ago. The house has gone now; Arthur has bought the place. I came back from there and the rest of my family, all of them are happy with my situation, the rest of the Temples, those of my generation, because their parents conserved and increased what they had and my father didn't, but anyway, I came back and tried to interest the family in buying that old place and restoring it. At that time we estimated it might have cost us as much as fifty or sixty

thousand dollars; no one was interested. Now it would be a great opportunity. Although my cousin, Arthur, who owns the place said the house wasn't that great, but what I saw of it seemed to me to be Georgian and basic.

ML: This is in Essex County, Virginia?

LT: Yes, it is near Miller's Tavern. Letters in that box were addressed to Rev. Henry Waring Latane Temple, Weyland, Essex. They didn't have the – the state wasn't mentioned, of course, I guess everything was within the state. Incidentally he was a graduate of Harvard. But I digress now back to the letters. One of those letters which is in the archives there was one that was not complete, it was written as I recall, in pencil, whereas the other things were written in ink, beautiful script.

ML: Brenda showed me that book, by the way. She says that you and she are working on getting them transcribed.

LT: I would very much like to see them transcribed because I think we can get an awfully good picture. It is interesting, they start and most of them are written before postage stamps were initiated, or else they were hand delivered, I don't know. Postage stamps, I think, started about 1848 or 1858, somewhere there, and these do go back, the oldest – many generations, to Mary Latane, whose brother was Thomas Lewis Latane, means that he was – his great uncle after whom he was named and he was a third son.

Anyway, back to that letter – it described coming to New Orleans and coming up the Mississippi and the Red River which was then navigable and which ran into the Mississippi at a different point as it does now. I think it sort of spreads and flows into the Mississippi now. But he described coming up on this boat which had to be towed from time to time and about how dull it was on a Sunday. I'm inclined to believe he was writing this to a daughter and that's the reason I'm inclined to believe he was not a bachelor but it could have been written to Susan, as far as that is concerned. But the transcription will give us more to go on, on that.

Well, he accumulated this land and it's in our inheritance; it attracted the Temples to southwest Arkansas.

My grandfather soon left the farm and soon became, I believe, assistant county clerk in Ashdown in Little River County and then came to Texarkana and went to work for Garrett Lumber Company in the commissary and that started the lumber thing. But Orlando, when he died, left a will and the story I have is that he did not trust his brother, Paul Jones, who was a lawyer. He left three trustees to, or executors, I don't know whether they were trustees or executives. One of them was Paul and I don't know who the other two were, but one died and one, I've forgotten what my word is, gave up the job. And that left Paul as the only trustee, or executor. I believe I have this story from Gresham, but the story I have is Paul managed to split the estate so that his line got the part that is down in Louisiana, down the river, and the Temples, John Temple whoever was the inheritor, got the Arkansas lands.

Now, in his will, and this is what is interesting – well, let me digress a little bit while I am still on the subject. I was in Cincinnati one time, visiting my cousin, Bob Keeler, and his wife and Nick Peay and Utley Peay. Utley Webber, Utley Temple Webber Peay and Nick were there and she was sort of talking about what – I’ve always been a little bit iconoclastic. It is a great tribute to my family that they have allowed me to be the radical or whatever, in the family, the aberrant. But she was sort of talking about our noble descent and I’ve said “Well, Utley don’t be too proud because right here in Cincinnati it is possible that we’ve got some black cousins.” Then I told her the story. Before I got back to Little Rock, my Uncle Arthur, Arthur, Sr. who was head of the family and much loved by me, called me to Texarkana because Utley had told her mother that I was putting it out that we had black blood. Today that wouldn’t mean anything, even then it wasn’t true, because the story is – I finally got to the story.

ML: Brenda said I had to keep an eye on you.

LT: Well, I was kind of saving the story because I think all this kind of contributes to it. But when Orlando died, he was an old bachelor, or celibate type. He was not celibate obviously because he left, I believe \$50,000 to his good and faithful servant, Sarah, and transportation, and her freedom and transportation to anywhere in the United States she wanted to go. In addition, he left \$1,000 and this was a lot of money in those days, to each of her children provided he or she was born within 9 months of his demise, plus freedom, plus transportation to anywhere in the United States. Now that is the story.

ML: Very fine story, very fine story.

LT: And, incidentally, the copy of that will which Gresham Temple sent me, is among my things that I have given them and there may be some inaccuracies in my account but I think it is all borne out.

ML: Goodness, that sure brings up a lot of things I want to ask you and a lot of directions we could go in. One of the things that interest me so much about the responses we are getting in Diboll to the interviews is the – just quite amazing amount of positive response that people have to having spent much of their life, most of their lives, working in a company town for a single company family. Black, White, Mexican, everyone so far is quite unanimous about saying very nice things about the company, about the experience of living and growing up in Diboll. We do hear, occasional statements that I know I am going to have to follow up on at some point, about racial relationships in the town; people are understandably loathe to say anything negative at the outset of a project like this and I want to be able to probe more deeply into what the actual situation was there. The Juneteenth barbecues on the other side of the track, and one thing and another. Would you feel like – well, considering your own political work with blacks and the kind of perspective you had on Diboll would you feel like commenting on racial relationships there through the years?

LT: Not at all and, again, you have to realize that I have an exalted sense of my grandfather’s spirit in this respect and I have often held forth on it. Going back to my

own childhood, I spent many summers going to my grandfather's place out on Long Island where he brought his servants, his cook, maid and chauffeur. And in my childhood was one of the summoned descendants summoned to dinners, and as a child I remember them and hated the long wait while the adults were talking. But that is only to say I was acquainted with his servants. Without exception they were very proud and were encouraged to be proud. Now here was a son of a Virginia slave holder but he was a Christian Scientist.

ML: That's something else I want to ask you about.

LT: Much of this is looking back but his servants there were Bessie, who was the cook, Henrietta in my early days; and later Mattie. His first chauffeur was John Stuckey and his later chauffeur was Pelvin Spears. I'm awfully glad I can come up with those names because I'm getting to where I have trouble remembering names – one reason I wanted us to work in the morning rather than in the afternoon. Mattie, I mean, Bessie was absolute master of her kitchen and, as children, we were allowed in her kitchen only at her behest which was seldom. And I got to know her better later on and I'll tell you about that as I review the others. Henrietta I remember principally, she was the maid who waited on tables and I can remember those long waits in the library with the door, I believe it was a sliding door – I'm sorry they are going to wreck that house – but it was a sliding door and a little boy sitting listening to this adult talk and finally Henrietta coming to the door and saying "Dinner is served," absolutely marvelous meals that were based on Virginia recipes. But I was there by myself in the dining room one time when Henrietta, and I don't remember any particular closeness between Henrietta and me, or any of the others but perhaps there was, but I said something about colored people and she said "We are not colored people, we are negros." That's just one little link. I remember John Stuckey, who I think had had a sort of uncertain life as a young man as far as drinking, or womanizing or something, but he got religion. I remember him at Quogue one time, I was out in the garage with him and he was reading the Bible and disturbed me because he said Burr was going to Hell because the Bible said that it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I don't know if that throws any light on John or not. Pelvin was getting older but Pelvin was a good pal to all of us and had lots of, well it seemed he had lots of little jokes. I remember he said "I know a lot of jokes." The only one I remember, it's scarcely a joke. He said "He who sits on a hot stove shall rise again." We all loved Pelvin. Mattie, the later maid, may have been there when Burr died, was a heavy woman and a very sweet gentle woman and I don't remember anything that distinguishes her except she was very lovable, and very considerate of me.

I graduated from Eastern Prep School and was on my way to Harvard when it was the depth of the Depression and I came down and lived with my grandfather from the fall of '32 until, I guess, the spring of '34 and I had occasion then to have lunch in the kitchen with Bessie. Bessie would go back to Kansas City where she had people each year. She carried herself with great dignity. She came to my father's, as far as I know, I mean my grandfather, as just a raw boned girl; I don't know how old and I don't know what probably Mrs. L. D. Gilbert, who was my grandfather's housekeeper when I was young,

whether she taught Bessie what she knew, but anyway, she had lots of Virginia recipes that were delicious, bread and other things. But I got to know Bessie there and she was a very proud person. She – absolutely no scrapping at all and remember this was in the early '30's and we – I asked her a lot about blacks because I was just beginning to awaken a little bit about discriminations because if you grew up in the south as I did, it was taken for granted and it was the – it was commonly accepted that blacks were different and they didn't want to be any different and they were happy. But she didn't scrape, she didn't use any of the traditional, hypocritical “Yes, sir,” “Yes sir” and I got very well acquainted with her and loved her always. I found a letter from her the other day that I think I put with the things that I took because I had written her. It was my letter and hers but I had written her later to tell her before it was too late, I wanted her to know and had a nice letter back from her.

These were proud people. They reflected my grandfather's respect which was another thing that awakened me at the time. I played football at Texarkana Junior College and most of the others were from circumstances not quite as good as mine had been. They were a bunch of good old roughnecks and it was a happy time in my life with the pranks we would be on. One time we went to municipal court and we howled at one of the cases we heard and we imitated the voice, or at least I did. And I was telling my grandfather about it after dinner. I had to have dinner there and breakfast, it had to be on time.

(End of side one)

I was telling my grandfather how funny it was about this black woman who was on the stand. She was accused of having knifed her lover and the story she told was that she was sitting there cleaning her fingernails with the knife and this man came up behind her and tickled her, she said “Whooooo and I cut him.” That was the story, my grandfather didn't think it was funny, he said “Well, what did they do?” I said “She got 30 days in jail.” He said “They just don't treat those people right, they don't treat them justly.” I just happened to remember that but it is very important to me.

Now then, let's go to Diboll. In the summer of 1933 one of the great experiences of my life was to go to Diboll and work in the mill. And part of that experience was the blacks who would come up to me and tell me about my grandfather. They said when he came down to the mill, he never failed to walk through the mill and speak to everyone of them by name and shake their hands. They called him Uncle Tom, his name was Tom and it is just a coincidence that that has a later bad connotation but I never, I gained that impression of him there and, of course, these were his contemporaries. In my rosy view of my grandfather and of the family and of Southern Pine I felt that he was way ahead of his time in his attitude towards the blacks and others. We have and do have – here I am saying “we” but we have a company dynasty – I don't know how many you can trace now, but second and third generation people who worked in the mills after their fathers. But my grandfather had a body of people, Arthur, Jr. can tell you more about this, but I am going to digress a little bit, that during the Depression the mills kept running, even though there was a – it would have been better to just shut the mills down and let the timber grow. Now there was a need for cash flow and there are a lot of other things but,

to my certain knowledge, when other mills were shutting down we kept running because my grandfather didn't want those people to be out of jobs.

ML: How do you account for your grandfather's enlightened attitude? What sort of background did he grow up in?

LT: Well, he didn't grow up in an uneducated one, as I said. His father was a graduate of Harvard; he was an Episcopal minister, his father was. Incidentally, my grandfather left home soon after his mother died. I'd like to know more about Susan Jones. But his father was a hard master and my Uncle Arthur has recalled that Burr, and I'm going to call him Burr from now on because that is easier, my grandfather, never had many happy memories about his childhood, particularly after his mother died. He remembers being disciplined with a paddle or something out behind the woodshed. And he went and lived with his cousins, the Walkers, when he was a young man, before time to leave home and before he came to Texas. He didn't – I don't think he had any real formal education. He probably had a very good secondary school education from his father and maybe schoolmaster. It would be interesting to know, I've never speculated on it.

ML: Did you say his father was a school master at one time?

LT: No, his father was an Episcopal minister.

ML: Yes, I had understood that but, I'm surprised to hear --

LT: At St. Paul's in Miller Tavern, a little town between Weyland and Tappahannock, a little crossroad settlement, I don't know how to account for it. He came from a good education background and kin to the Latanes and Lewises who are old names there and prominent names in the Civil War and before so I don't know – that would be interesting. I know that I have some of my love of music from him. After he began to prosper he would go to New York and he – I don't know if Jenny Lind, if that was before his time or if that was one – but there were prominent sopranos that he carried on a fantasy love affair with and later on with movie stars. I remember Mae McElvoy, he had a picture of Mae McElvoy and it was framed. Of course, he didn't know Mae McElvoy, but he had these fantasy sweethearts that were stars. So I don't know. He sent all of his children off to school, made them take all the schooling that they would and music. My father played the violin and other instruments because my grandfather made him, made him study. Aunt Gertrude, who was his older sister and was the oldest of the five children, played the piano and I think they had to perform for her. When I lived with him he would get me to play the victrola for him. Of course, those were the old records, later they were 45's and then 33's but 78 rpm's so you had to get up right often and crank but he would sit there and listen to the music and he had a player piano that he made me play for him and I remember particularly a Chopin, one of the polonaise, the popular one. (Latane sings) no that's not it – anyway I had to play that for him and I got where I would play it for myself. My father, of course, played but he wasn't around a lot – I remember we did have some records in my home, in our home, before my mother and father divorced and that was when I was 10 or 11. I remember some Fritz Kreisler records, but, anyway, how he

came to that, I don't know. I know when my grandmother died, she died when my father was quite young and was off at school. He was disgusted with doctors because they hadn't been able to do anything for her. That's when he turned to Christian Science.

ML: I was going to ask you that. What was that connection and do you think his Christian Science had a lot to do with his positive and social attitude?

LT: Oh, absolutely. Now then there is somebody whose name we should dig out. I never – well, I may have met her but she was a Christian Science practitioner and she – Burr met her; I don't know, it would be interesting. I'm afraid we've lost everybody who can tell us. Temple Webber, he should be alive, his memory was just absolutely encyclopedic.

ML: He died just before this project started, I believe, isn't that true?

LT: Yes, he died about two years ago, but this Christian Scientist had a home, on Long Island somewhere, but not on the South Shore where my grandfather's house was, but every summer he made one pilgrimage over to her and I believe it was through her that he met Mary Baker Eddy.

ML: Who was an ancestor of mine, as a matter of fact.

LT: Who was that?

ML: An ancestor of mine, so the story goes in my family. I do not know the exact connection but Mary Baker Eddy and Nelson Eddy are supposed to be in the family.

LT: Oh really, well, you've got some interesting things, all of us do. You know the story of the horses?

ML: Was that the story of leaving a team in the fields and going to town?

LT: No, it's a story of him giving her a span of fine horses.

ML: No, okay, that's a different story, you'd better tell it.

LT: I don't know the story except that he gave them to her and she returned them to him and there was some correspondence and the copy of her manumitted letters are among the things that I gave, that came to me from Aunt Georgia, or somebody, who had them. When my grandfather died one of the things that came to me was a locket that she had given him and he had her picture in it, a gold locket with a diamond in it that he always wore on a chain and I remember his watch, he'd put his glasses on but that locket, I had it in a safe in my office in Houston and there was a break in and it's never been recovered.

ML: Oh, my goodness.

LT: It should be in the archives.

ML: Yes, it surely should. If you are able to think around the problem of how we could get at that woman's name I think that would be important. You know, you don't have to think about it now but eventually, maybe we can dig up her name somehow.

LT: There is an off chance that Arthur would know, or even Ann, but Arthur is more likely because his father might have spoken to her. And even now Aunt Georgia has died and she could have told us; she was the last of the ones.

ML: But she lived on the North Shore of Long Island?

LT: North Shore or inland, I don't know exactly where on Long Island. I think it was on Long Island. It could have been some place else but he would be gone – it seems to me – for a day or so in those days, I don't think he would have driven through New York. Yes, and there is something that has been written about the church in Christian Science Church in Texarkana and I am newly aware that he was probably it's principle patron as he was of many things.

ML: Perhaps even a founder?

LT: Yes, I probably think he was a founder. I remember he would pay me \$0.50 to go to church and it was the driest thing I could imagine. Christian Science is my denomination. That's not that I am – in Christian Scientists eyes – I am not the ideal practitioner. I could go on about that, take it extremely seriously. Now then we were talking about where he got his – I can't think of any other place in there, he was Old Testament, now you're going to get everything. I don't know if you are going to get everything good about my grandfather but – well, what have you got next on your docket?

ML: I was going to ask you about Diboll Day and the question of about morale and independence that you and Arthur together began – with that kind of thing. He has nice things to say about it?

LT: Let me go back a little bit, speaking of Diboll Day, you mentioned Juneteenth. When I was there in the summer time, I worked there one long hot summer, I worked the following summer in Pineland. Juneteenth was the day I remember we celebrated, much more than July 4th. It was not limited to the blacks, everybody celebrated Juneteenth and, if I am not mistaken, it was in the park where we celebrated Juneteenth with a barbecue and everything.

ML: Was there a sense of – well, Juneteenth still had to do with the emancipation of the slaves and it was celebrated by everybody.

LT: Yes, and my feelings then, and it continues now, was that there – that although there was a separation and the blacks lived over in what they called "The Quarters," that there

was no great electricity about mingling – a lot of it was because everybody knew where he stood. Later on, after the Supreme Court decision, I remember we were going to have Juneteenth and some red necks – and I don't think they were company people – they made it clear that there was going to be trouble if we mingled.

ML: Do you remember when that was? Approximately when it was?

LT: I remember it was prior to 1956, no – when was Jack Kennedy nominated? '62?

ML: It must have been '62.

LT: Well, I remember, at that time I was chairman for, first of all, for Lyndon Johnson in what I think was the 6th Congressional District and we had planned a meeting at the Pine Bough Restaurant. In one of the private rooms of delegates which included 3 or 4 blacks, and some, I'm not – I shouldn't say "red necks" because that is ethnic also, but anyway, some men stood around on the curb. I remember feeling threatened, even came in a separate door but it was prior to that and, of course, that supreme decision was in '56, wasn't it? So it was right there around '56 or '57-'58, I would say that was. Now, let me tell you one of the greatest stories you will ever hear about the blacks in the mill. I don't know if anyone else will tell you this story – Arthur certainly wouldn't. But they started having the "sit-ins." Byrd Davis, the woman who ran the Pine Bough, and her food was wonderful.

ML: That's Sis Davis' mother? Sis Pickels's mother?

LT: I don't remember she having anybody, maybe she had a son but all I knew was Eleanor, her daughter, who married –

ML: I'll ask Edythe Weeks and straighten that out anyway.

LT: Yes, good. But she was very frightened that they were going to come there, she didn't know what was going to happen. She told Arthur and Arthur told her "I'll tell you what to do. If they do come, you call me and I'll come to the Pine Bough. We'll serve them; I'll be on the cash register and Lottie will wait on the tables." That put that to rest, with the waitresses and other. There was no "sit-in." After that they were perfectly willing to serve blacks when they came in and not many did but they did start coming in.

Here Arthur is – I have an absolutely unreserved admiration and love for Arthur. I think he is the greatest person I have ever known, personally. With marvelous reflexes, of course, I think he is a genius, too, in his field. I don't use that term in hyperbole. I do think he has some extraordinary intellect and the nervous drive to go with it, but Arthur has been in a position of great power. Now I have been able to go out and speak my piece but I didn't have to manage, oh, I lost a lot of potential allies over the years for my outspokenness but, I must say, that I have had a family behind me. I've had my name and my family behind me so I could do it without retribution. I wasn't going to get fired, I wasn't going to get demoted; I wasn't going to get held down, anything like that because Arthur

has been, before him Uncle Arthur, behind me and I've exploited that strength, that endowment. I've maybe lost a good deal from it but I haven't lost anything that I wanted that I know of. I've always had everything that I really wanted and do now beyond all dreams and expectations. But, anyway, Arthur has had to deal with people in industry and government and other places, he's never been on a soap box but he's played his cards well to move this thing, never retreated.

Incidentally one of the things that – the letters that I gave to the archives the other day there were several handwritten things from Arthur while I was there and he put up with an awful lot with me. I used my name to do what I wanted to do largely. I was made general sales manager but I had assistants there that knew the markets and knew the products and the production and everything so I had them there and I was able to go out on the stump, preaching for Southern Pine Lumber Company and Temple Lumber Company. I fancied myself as public relations and I wrote a lot of news releases and I also fancied myself as a sort of an employee relations person. That is probably fantasy; I don't think the people under me were bound to me particularly, those people out in the plant and everything, I had a lot of warm contacts with. But anyway, I was one of these, hand-written notes to me that I was in charge of the Free Press. I wrote editorials, I wrote a column, I wrote music reviews, I wrote art criticisms, mostly of art shows that I arranged there in the Pine Bough and then would write reviews and criticisms of them. But Arthur said that I was making the Free Press a political tract that may not have been his words but it was expressing just one point of view and he was right.

One of the things you may hear about sometime that – the Temples being what they are and connected with the company and everything, I was a Democrat and I am a Democrat by conviction, certainly not inheritance and not because I was raised a democrat and grew up – come back to that in a minute, but anyway, I was very active in Arkansas where I was head of Temple Cotton Oil Company. We carried Arkansas; I was chairman for Polasky County which was the big county in Arkansas in those days, and still is, but much more so. But we carried Arkansas for Adlai Stevenson, only one other southern state, Alabama went for him and I don't know if there were any other states, whether he carried more than two states but, anyway, we carried that. When I came down to East Texas it was in the McCarthy years and the people that I was thrown in with in business were all very conservative Democrats. They are Republicans now but the Republican party didn't have any power then. So I felt pretty much an orphan. I did get out and help organize some kind of a rally for Senator Gore from Tennessee when he came down there for one of the campaigns, maybe Stevenson ran a second time. Did he run twice? But anyway, whoever was running. But Lyndon Johnson had a very – was a split political creature in that in Texas he was part of the old guard of the old conservative establishment and was the creature really of that establishment, but in Washington he was a national Democrat. People in Texas would vote Democrat here to get their conservative government and congressmen in and then would vote Republican in Presidential elections. But anyway, when Johnson wanted to be nominated for the Presidency I got myself elected, or I got elected through my activities as an alternate to the Democratic convention, went out there to work for him for the nomination, very ineffectually, but

then when Kennedy was nominated I came back. It was Kennedy and Johnson, and this was, you see I could ease into my true liberal – so-called liberal Democratic posture.

ML: The perfect ticket for you?

LT: Yes, so I was chairman for the congressional district and Benton Musslewhite was co-chairman and we hit the ground running in the paper for Kennedy. Arthur wrote a letter to the paper. He could have shut the paper down, or he could have shut me up. He could have done any of these things but he wrote a letter and it was hot, but he wanted everybody to know that he did not share his cousin Latane's views.

[Interview 83b begins]

LT: Well, I was telling about Arthur writing a letter to the papers, disavowing community of spirit on that and it created a lot of conversation in Diboll and some in Lufkin. But Arthur has never wavered in his opinion that people should speak the truth and be as they are. But the footnote to that is that in that election we both voted absentee because we went to a National Lumber Manufacturers Association meeting in Washington and were there when the election returns came in. We were roommates there; we shared a room and he told me that night he said "I've a confession to make to you, I voted for Kennedy." And his politics – although he was a close friend of John Connaly and others of the persuasion – there is no doubt in my mind where his convictions lie and not easy for somebody who commands an empire as he does, leading entrepreneur executive in the United States, but he is able to look at things that affect him and affect the business very – in a very detached fashion and if it is right then he accepts it. Further than that he somehow or another flows around it, for instance, when – what's the big lake, not McGee Bend, but the other one – what is the big huge East Texas lake?

ML: Up at – Rayburn?

LT: No, that's McGee Bend, but the other one – no, well, that was one, too, where he was, they were going to take a lot of forest lands and he took a very moderate view on that – Ernest Kurth was contrived but also on the Big Bend National Park, Ernest Kurth fought it tooth and toenail and he had the, Ernest Kurth had the guile to recruit other people into his causes, make them give money and then he did it the way he wanted to. But Arthur, on Big Bend National Park – realized that it was a good thing. It was an important thing, so instead of using his influence to feed it, he used his influence to make it reasonable. He's that way in other things. He is able to see where the common good is.

ML: Has he been involved in any of the Big Thicket conservation activity or has any of your family?

LT: You'll have to ask somebody else, I don't know. I've been gone from there since 19 – actually from Diboll since 1960, that's 25 years. So where are we – I got off on Arthur.

ML: I had started off asking you about Diboll Day because I went and interviewed Arthur –

LT: You are going to find me coming back over and over again to Arthur.

ML: Well, he came over again to you when I was interviewing him especially about Diboll things.

LT: Oh, really? Well, what I have to say is that I may get a good deal of credit for Diboll Day and I'll get some credit for the library, but in both instances, it was Arthur saying "Latane, I think we ought to have a library, why don't you take that?" or "Latane, I think we ought to have a Diboll Day." And I think in connection with it he said "Build our pride to give people a sense of how important they are, etc." So I can't tell you how much more than that except I did throw myself into it, anything to get out of that office. Looking back on it I realize how miscast I was as a corporate executive – but I would like to say that I sublimated. I said that I used my theatrical bent to make talks to retail lumber associations to promote the company, and generally, to speak wherever I was invited and there were a lot of places. Speakers, I guess, are hard to find, but anyway, I was able to carry the message of the quality of our production and the integrity of our company, etc. In that way, also I took a big interest in advertising and more, I think, than Arthur and Temple and the rest of them thought it was necessary and probably more than was necessary but building this image of, or promoting this image of our company in publicity and in ads. But as far as Diboll Day is concerned, all I know is it comes to mind that Jewel Brown and I were the big workers. Jewel, I hope he is still alive, I'm sure he is, he is getting old but he was sort of the carpenter for everything around Diboll and, I got him to build a big thing to look like a cake which was about as amateurish as anything could be. I wrote a lot of publicity about it and about all the big events and the big parade we were going to have and everything and one thing I, again playing on my own ego and exhibitionism, I got, cleared out the attic of the old offices there, things that were of no importance and got everybody to contribute anything they would to a big auction. So that was one of the things we did. We had the beard contest. We had the parade which included it seems to me, mules pulling log wagons and everything. I honestly don't remember too much. Of course, we had a picnic and I think they had the dunking and all of these weren't my ideas but I was running around pushing them and that's about all I can remember about our first Diboll Day and, of course, there was a second one and a third one. I really don't have any particular anecdotes that I recall, mainly I remember that it was Jewel and I building booths and the big cake and I think we had the popularity contest that first year; I'm not sure.

ML: What I especially wanted to ask you about was the conversation that took place between you and Arthur Temple before Diboll Day was inaugurated, about the civic purpose of it and what it would do to enhance community spirit in the town of Diboll?

LT: I can't remember anything more than that, that we did talk about it and, again, I have to give Arthur credit although I've told you that part of the roll that I had elected for myself was the personal relationship of people. I told Brenda and Joe Bob Hendricks, this

is a little self-serving, but someone on the plant, one time, said there were three of us who stopped and talked and Arthur always walked through with other things on his mind, thinking. And I walked through and stopped and put my arm around everybody and talked business and that Carroll Allen always stopped and told people what they were doing wrong. I was conscious of this personal relationship; I had a good personal relationship when I worked in the mills. I worked under somebody named Cougo Austin. I don't know what his real name was, but he is another story; I've written about him in the Free Press. Before our time runs out I'd like to talk a little bit about my father.

ML: I wish you would.

LT: And about my mother and father and how I happened to even be in the world. My father was the – Arthur scolds me when I say things like this – but, in a sense, he was a black sheep – he was the oldest son. He was T.L.L. Temple, Jr. and I'm T.L.L. Temple III, and this had a big influence on his life and a big influence on my life as we analyze it. But my father, I've thought a lot about what shaped my father and one of the stories he told me was he was always sent off to school very young. His father was on the ladder of success and, I guess was making enough money, so he went off to school and his early memories was being hazed as a little boy, having to climb a pine tree and being spanked, or whipped, as he climbed that tree, or the bark of the tree, I don't know if it was a pine tree or not. Homesick and scared and everything he was as a little boy. But the big thing in his life was that when his mother died he was not allowed to come home to her funeral. He never forgot that. He told me many times "The only thing" – apparently he didn't say this as the only memory I have of my mother, but it seemed to be because he was parted from her so young. He was – I don't know how old he was when she died but Arthur, Sr. was a baby, say two years old, maybe, if that was the case the span in their years was, well, I don't know, maybe ten or twelve, because they came like that, I think, with some lost along the way. But he told me as if he had never told me before, he said, "You know what, I remember one time my mother sent me to the store for something and when I brought it home. She said 'you are mother's little man'" and that's the only memory he had of any tenderness but he never forgot it. He went off to many different schools. He was a fine musician, fine athlete, had a good mind, great bridge player but he – in his early teens frequented the bordellos of East Broad in Texarkana, ran with the older boys. He was great distress, I think, to his father. My mother tells me this story, she had been to a woman's school in St. Louis, Hasma Hall, and had graduated as salutatorian of a finishing school in Washington, Washington University. But as a young woman she was a fine horsewoman and she was a celebrated beauty in Texarkana. This is not of my manufacture. Contemporaries of hers, men told me over and over again, as a matter of fact, it was a tragedy of her life that she was beautiful, because she didn't cultivate some of the humility and some of the other qualities that you don't have to cultivate if you are beautiful. She had a sharp tongue and men all made a fuss over her and laughed and everything. She would be witty. But she tells the story that my father always worked his father for whatever he could get and that they were sitting on the gallery on the house that is going to be torn down now, there on 5th – and she rode by on her horse. Oh, she was engaged to someone who was socially prominent in St. Louis, I think his name was Dick Grunner. There were two names that I remember from her, one was just a man who was a

friend of hers and her fathers and the other was this one but I think Dick Grunner was his name. She was engaged to him and she rode by the house there on her horse and my grandfather said "Now T. L. there's a beautiful woman, that's who you ought to marry." She took that to mean if he did that he would be pleasing his father and would be a great benefit to him. He did court her and, I remember one of the things she told me, and my father was a sweet man. He was able to charm I guess you can say "Charm the pants off" a lot of women in his life. I ought not to be that cute, but anyway it is true. But he courted her and she remembers him playing Schubert's serenade and smiling over it.

ML: Oh, who can resist that, huh?

LT: So, she broke her engagement and married my father and I was free to say that he was socially prominent because the society section of the St. Louis papers – it must have been the dispatch instead of the old paper, but who knows – somewhere along the line I saw that page because she saved it – "Southern Beauty Jilts Socialite." It was that big a deal. They married and they were both residents of Texarkana, Arkansas and they went over, I think, to the Episcopal Church on the Texarkana side and got married. They got their license, I think, at the county court house on the Arkansas side, went over there and got married and came home and my Grandfather Crouch, they were going to spend their wedding night there and he said "You can't stay in my house because you are not married." So they had to go marry on the Arkansas side. It was always a joke since the marriage was a turbulent one and ended, they actually married twice, took the vows twice. I don't know how discreet we should be here but I think it is interesting to know that on their wedding night, she was so ignorant that she expected to see a seed and she described it as she looked for it, looked for something about the size of a watermelon seed. She had heard about a seed, that was all she knew. I'll make it a footnote here and perhaps a tragic one, that she got pregnant right away and had my sister right away and I don't think she was ever as fair and loving to my sister as she was to me.

After that my grandfather created a job for my father as assistant manager of Temple Lumber Company in Pineland, newly acquired because the old company was Kelley Lumber Company, or something like that. My grandfather bought that mill; he didn't build it as he did Diboll. My sister was born in 1911 so it must have been 1910 when they went there and that's where, I guess, my sister was conceived and they built the house for them, built a house for them right there on the main drag of the railroad tracks. They chose every piece of lumber that went into it. It was a B & Better, beautiful edge-grain pine floors, and Helen was born in Texarkana, but mother went back to Texarkana for that. After that though he was my father and he had good business ideas, but he didn't follow anything through – he talked my grandfather into starting Temple Lumber Company Retail Division down in Houston, started the old Polk Avenue Yard, that was the first yard and he hired as his bookkeeper, I believe his name was McFarland, I should remember better. I've mixed him with another name who was a self-taught lawyer, who was a friend of grandfather's in Texarkana. But anyway, I believe his name was Macmillan. But anyway, McFarland – well, soon after that, and I'm still telling what my mother has told me. World War I started, I was born in Houston at Fannin and Bell where the Humble Building is now, or across the street from it, but he was about to be drafted

and they were in society there in Houston. They were early members of the Houston Country Club, and a lot of the names, like Moncrief and the Howard Hughes, the Nelms, the Carters (Will Carter was my father's special friend), that was the W. T. Carter Lumber Company; he was the second generation as my father was a second generation. And Mae, I believe her name was, Carter (Will's wife was mother's friend) but anyway, he was about to be drafted and my mother says that she, at one of the social affairs, talked to a Commanding General, or Colonel or whoever it was, and got him a commission.

Oh, going back to the marriage, this is a key point, my grandfather was part of my persuasion of my mother, he said, "Hal, if you'll marry my son and make a man of him, I promise you I will never forget it." Well, now let's go back to Houston; he's drafted into the Army. He is sent off to camp. She is a woman with two small children. She went back to Texarkana and lived with her parents without any support or help from anybody. My grandfather was a railroad conductor. My grandmother did all her own work but she lived there during the war without any attention from my grandfather at all. Now this is the idea that all the rest of us have of him, but he completely ignored her. My grandmother, my mother said, was bitter toward him because my grandfather was a fancier of handsome women and she would see him ride by in his carriage – I don't know if it was an automobile or something – with these beautiful women and completely neglected my mother. Of course, my mother never forgot that and that's something I sort of want on the record. So, anyway, my early memories were living with my Grandmother and Grandfather Crouch on Hickory Street between 4th and 5th. Sorry, I don't remember the number. The house was only recently torn down. The Arnold Law Firm built an office there.

Something else about my father, he was – oh, some wonderful stories that I wish I could remember all of them, but he worked at Diboll in the early days and this was before, I'm sure, before Temple Lumber Company was bought. He played on a baseball team, he – but one of the stories I heard about him is that they would say – I won't use the term – but he could do more work than any black man on the yards, stacking lumber, feeding machines or anything but he would disappear every once in a while. In those days they used chits in lieu of money and they would find him up under one of the stacks of lumber shooting craps with some of the black men for chits.

One wonderful story that I heard, he was – he and Henry Temple, Henry Temple lived in Diboll then, well, I'll tell a less story but Lucy Temple was like her daughter, Frances Temple, had sort of a wry, sharp wit. I was scared of her as I could be, but Henry was his first cousin and Henry and Arthur – I mean Henry and T. L. – womanized and drank and everything together as boys. My father always called Henry "brother" and he would tell me that he felt – he didn't feel that Arthur Sr. was his brother, that Henry was his brother. Those were the Depression years- Arthur Sr. was in charge and was having to hold the purse strings and T.L.L. Jr. always felt he could just get money from the company and charge it to his account because he had done that against his stock that his father had given him. That's one reason his children are not peers of the other cousins because he would go through things. But anyway, Lucy told me one time, she remembered when T.

L. L. was young and she and Henry were newly married, she had just baked a cake and the cow had just been milked, had about a gallon of milk. T. L. L. came in the back door from playing baseball and he drank that quart of milk and ate that cake. But anyway, the story I like to tell that someone told me is Diboll had a baseball team and Lufkin had a baseball team. In those days baseball was real big. It was something everybody could play and every town, little town had a baseball team.

ML: Was it the town or was it the company that had a team, or did it matter?

LT: It didn't matter. It was one and the same, of course, the company was the town, there weren't any residents – and maybe even merchants were discouraged, you would have to go up the road to go to – but the people in the mill didn't get paid until, I don't know what intervals, but they were paid in chits and, of course, they had the company store.

Side 2

LT: The story I want to tell about my father though is that on July 4, I've said it then but it probably was, could have been on Juneteenth, but it was probably July 4th. The big game was with Lufkin, my father was, of course, the boss's son, the owner's son and everything so he took – he went into the safe and got the payroll and he bet it on – well, he bet it on Diboll, and then he went to Houston and he hired half of the team of the Houston, Texas League Baseball Team, paid them with that payroll and, of course, they beat Lufkin and he won the bet, and put the money back in the safe.

ML: Oh, with nobody knowing about it?

LT: Well, somebody must have known it, but that was the kind of guy he was.

ML: What year would that have been?

LT: It would probably have been – well, he was working in Diboll and he worked, so it would have to be about 1908 or 1909, somewhere in there.

ML: Can I ask you a question at this point?

LT: Yes.

ML: I've enjoyed not having to ask very many questions. I guess of the number of things we have, could, talk about would be – could you talk a little more now about the civic work that you and, at some time the company in general, have been involved in in Diboll and Houston, etc.? I understand you renovated an old home here in Galveston, which is that?

LT: It's over on 3518 Avenue M, a big eleven room house with four open fire places, 12 foot ceilings, 12 foot down stairs, 11 foot upstairs.

ML: Why that particular house?

LT: Well, I love – I have a real passion for houses, particularly old houses and for women. This – when my wife and I divorced, I lived for a while at my studio which is a building I had built over on Buffalo Bayou in a live-out-of-the-way place. Now it was a high rise condominium, where the condominiums start at a million dollars, I guess, or maybe more. But anyway, I love history and preservation and old houses and my first thought after the divorce – I wanted one of my sons Thompson. I don't know if he was right but I thought he was right at the time, he said "Kate (the youngest) , feels threatened for, naturally she thinks we are poor and you ought to have a visible residence that has some prestige about it so I got to thinking about that. I thought that living in Houston, my children who were married are not going to come visit me. They are going to visit their mother, logically, so where could I go where they would like to come to for other reasons and I thought of New Orleans at first, get in the French Quarters down there, one of the old houses. Then someone said "Why don't you think about Galveston, it's old and has a history and everything," so that led me down here and I really looked for a place on the Strand here and I looked at houses and I came upon that one. It was built in 1877, so it was past it's 100 years while I was living in it, something about it; it was the old Garnett house. I bought it for \$11,000.00. I offered \$10,000.00. Well, it was in disrepair but it was still – and I spent \$40,000.00 on it which was a good deal of money then, I don't know. That was just before inflation took off. It was on the Galveston historical tour. One year, for the annual tour that they have here, but it was regularly on special tours, where they bring people, maybe the wives of doctors meeting here, maybe garden clubs from Houston and people from all over the state would go through it. I did restore it but I didn't alter anything that was original there, so that's the story there and at the same time, I was appointed to the historic district board which rules on what can be done out there, because that was not in the historic district. There were two historic districts, one was the Silk Stocking and the East India and there was an ordinance that gave us, the government, of what could be done to the exterior of the house. I served on that, I don't know if it was two years before I asked that I not be reappointed. I immediately joined the Galveston County Culture of Arts Council, which is called the Arts Council now, and as the other things and all, the civic and the industry affairs that I had been in, well, I was immediately elected vice president and then first vice president, which meant I would have been president the next year but the Director of it was, I couldn't – I had worked in industry with good –

ML: Now I want to hear about the community concert series, too, in Diboll.

LT: All right, but what we are talking about here now is I dropped out of that business, well, I was out of industry. I was accustomed to some extremely good executive secretaries who let the principals think that they are doing the work and who actually do have conferences and share everything with them and make decisions, big decisions, but of course, it's the staff who knows – Southern Pine Lumber Association and National. Another thing I was very active in all those things. That was one of my sublimations, by the way, in trade organizations that we belonged to the company. But this executive secretary did all the work and didn't need any decisions and, in general, I couldn't keep

up with her so I resigned from that and didn't take it. I've been on the Board of Directors now, advisory board of the Historic Foundation ever since I've been here but I have become totally inactive in anything. It's typical of me that I've got about four good years in everything that I do. I run at it and think I am getting somewhere and look back and realize that I have accomplished a whole lot when I was in my first surge and then I'm off to some place else.

ML: It's good to know that about yourself though. Not only know it, but admit it.

LT: And I have to get things done pretty fast when I start because that will happen and, of course, I've run wild that way, getting a house that suits me and fits me down there and establishing a life style and a way of life. Back to the concert series, I was a member of the Community Concert Organization there and on the board, I don't think I was ever head of it but largely because Gale Medford was very active in it. We were in a position where we pretty much chose who was coming and we got criticized a good deal because it was all pretty long hair. I remember particularly the artists were entertained afterwards, and members, the subscribers – they would have a reception but we had the Virtuoso de Roma, who are even today, although they may have broken up, but they were one of the great chamber orchestras, along with – a well known – I think St. Martin in the Fields is another one, that's not Italian, there is another Italian one, but, nevertheless, we had a reception and invited – nobody was invited except Gale and Joe and I and here we had this chamber orchestra of about ten or twelve, however many there are in it, over at Gale's house and had a wonderful evening. Somewhere in the archives there is their program with all their names, all their signatures on it. But one thing there, I remember I was taking tickets at the door one time when H. J. Shand's wife, what was her name, Bubba's mother, what's her first name, famous, she was very outspoken and candid. Then as now, I like wine with my meals in the evening and just as some of my – and I was a member of the Christian Science Church in Nacogdoches and she was right behind some of them as they were coming in and evidently my wine was fragrant because she said "Huh, somebody is really – sauced up here." I remember that but it is of no importance. That's digressing. Other things that I did there, I was president of the little league one time.

ML: Was this in Diboll or where?

LT: No, it was the Lufkin little league and I made a big thing of that. Of course, I was an exhibitionist and I would announce things about – in Texarkana when I was there in the head offices at Temple Cotton Oil Company one other fellow and I organized a Boys Club, putting on boxing matches. We went into the Army before we really did anything with that, but there again was a big showoff thing because I was the announcer, maybe a little 85 year old boy, golden glove. But anyway, that's something you were talking about civics. I was involved in it all. Most of my involvement was in industry affairs so I was on the Board of Directors, everything we were involved in from the National Lumber Manufacturers Association – it is called something else now, and Chairman of the Trade Promotion in the Southern Pine – Chairman of the Trade Promotion Committee of the Southern Pine Lumber Association. Now, that was one of the great successes in my life. I

had two successes, one was operating, or reorganizing, operating and liquidating the Temple Cotton Oil Company up in Little Rock, which had a history of failure and plunder. The other was Trade Promotion Committee of Southern Pine Association. I have to be careful not to take too much credit to myself. But at the time, this was soon enough after World War II, which meant it was in 1950 or '53, in the '50's. Southern Pine had a terrible reputation, an awful lot of bad stuff had been shipped and the west coast was taking all the markets, shipping green lumber and it was war. I would say, that our trade promotion, while I was chairman, turned that around, Southern Pine industry. I managed our budget, I held regular meetings and did what we could do. I was sort of a czar on that, but it was all committee work, but if no one showed up for a committee meeting I was the committee and there – oh gosh, what was his name, was the Executive Director, was perfect. We worked just like that, gosh I've got to come up with his name – but we did, we turned that around, we brought respect and then on the national level I was one of the ones who fought the war to reconcile the west coast and south and standards were different until – we reconciled our standard so that lumber could be bought on the same standards. I think this culminated after I had left but anyway, I was in the vanguard of that battle, I often used it in so many things and I think our policy toward Russia is completely bankrupt but the assumption is that there is never any goodwill in anything they are doing. I've used, I don't know if you have any kind of stereo type of people from Alabama and Georgia, particularly in the old days, the "died in the wood," reconstructed southerners. Well, working and trying to arbitrate between Southern Pine manufacturers and the west coast manufacturers, every concession we would get out of the west coast these southerners would, then they would be things that the southerners were demanding – well, they'd say, "You can't trust those sobs, they've got something up their sleeve." It was hard they were the ones who were the trouble and not the ones on the west coast. Finally they reconciled but I'm proud of the work I did there, and of course, it was all on company time but I have to say that our sales department sailed along. I had somebody in charge of every item, hardwood, of course, pine, Bob Burns and Ed Price in charge of hardwood, I inherited them. I didn't – Jules Nogle in charge of the treating plant and Don Burnley, turned the seat – toilet seat situation around, but anyway, here I am going on trying to follow your question, why don't you ask it?

ML: How about your involvement? I guess what I am trying to get at is this really extraordinary personal charismatic quality that the company had because of your grandfather and others in the family and the legacy of that personal involvement with the town of the employees that has carried over into the modern business. I'm taking as a rough water shed between that personally organized charismatic leadership style and the modern business, the water shed is when the present Arthur Temple took over because he had a commitment to the principle of modernizing socially and of modernizing the business at the same time. I understand you and he have talked a lot about that, but there does seem to be quite a legacy left over from your grandfather's time of civic responsibility of the family and the business for the employees and for the people who made up that town from which it drew it's workforce. That's the kind of thing I'm trying to get at. I talked with Arthur Temple about this sense that he had, that your grandfather had not so much a stated social policy as he had a social attitude which informed everything he did in business and which have contributed so much to the way – the kind

of town Diboll is today. I've got to try to center around that topic because I'm supposed to write this book on Diboll from the point of view the Diboll Historical Society, but I'm fascinated with the relationship of the company there.

LT: Well, I don't know if this is quite the point but in my own mind, I over simplified things. Burr (T.L.L.) was the founder; Arthur, Sr. was the conservator and Arthur, Jr. has been, from the start, the innovator, the creator. But as far as I'm concerned my Uncle Arthur kept me in the family, you might say, because I've had a deep vein of resentment over the fact that, and nobody has done this to me except myself, that I was sitting at the second table, I was the oldest son of the oldest son and one line, the Gertrude Temple line, benefited from my father's throwing away – this - That's it because as he sold, as he had to sell stock, they bought it. The Arthur Temples, Arthur, Sr., Katherine and, after them, Arthur Jr., have been completely generous with me, I don't mean that they – and my Aunt Georgie was always loyal to my mother, but they held me in the warmth of their hearts and home always, but I think that those of us who are beneficiaries and, some of us who haven't contributed anything are obscenely wealthy. But we are fortunate that we had the founder – the Depression killed him; we are fortunate we had Arthur who was the youngest child, the baby of the family, and often called himself, talking to my mother, "As the son of the father, the protégé, but the son who stayed him." He said he never liked that story because the only importance was given to the son who stayed home. He was that one. My grandfather was partial to my father and my father could do anything with him. Of course, it turned out to be my father's money that he was throwing away but he was able to persuade my – one sad story – this is a complete aside here, but I'm told, I guess Arthur, Jr. told me this, that when my grandfather was dying my father was off somewhere, wherever, who knows, Las Vegas or off on some goose chase or off on some tout and he was dying, he held Uncle Arthur's hand and patted him and told him how – "T.L., how wonderful it is that you are here." It wasn't T.L. Jr., it was Arthur Sr., something like that. So, anyway, those three and that vein of decency and fairness runs through – I don't know though, I take honesty to be at the core of my being, I don't think I can claim to belong with Arthur, Sr. and Arthur, Jr. in that sense. Their reflexes to anything that is wrong or tainted were, and are absolute; they don't have to stop and think about it. Uncle Arthur was not an innovator; he had seen what had happened and it all nearly collapsed, and the banks were going to close everything and he was unwilling to do things that Arthur wanted to do but came along because he said "We've got enough and we got it back some." When Arthur came in, I'll never forget how he presented to the Board of Directors the things that were possible there in the plant and how he wanted to phase them and he was the great innovator in the Southern Pine Industry and, I think, nationally. I used to, as you know, as the barker, as the publicity man, I used to say that he brought automation to the lumber industry, which in very large part, he did. I traveled with him on the west coast, him and Larry Bovay, the engineer when we were looking at new things being done out there that he would bring back but he didn't. The old timbers in Southern Pine industry, of course, Arthur had a reputation, from being a child, of being sort of wild and sort of uncontrollable which was never farther from the truth. I recognized in him, and I claim this and I boast about this, that I recognized in him as a boy, his intellect and the trouble was he was smarter than his elders. But he phased into all this revolution and he did it within budget and his savings and his profits far exceeded

his projections in every phase. Joe Carter Denman was his young engineer, right hand man, that worked with him on this and he phased all this in at Diboll to make it the most modern plant in the Southern Pine industry and one of the most modern in the world. But, anyway, here the three people, each right for his time, found a creator who recognized this great market for a need. In the north it was then, it was Indiana, Chicago, Kansas City, where most of this Southern Pine came from but he was an early timber conservative, too, perpetual growth, he was not a cut out and get out. And then Arthur perpetuated this for sustained yield, perpetual growth, those were the three giants and the old saying is “shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations,” but Arthur broke that mold. I’ll say that my grandfather, that although he belonged, he was one of the founders of the National Chamber of Commerce, big of course, church, I don’t think he was ever an officer in the Southern Pine Association, I don’t remember him as being prominent personally there. And, actually, he was not, as I knew him and remember him, he was not up front much in civic affairs. Arthur, Jr. Or somebody else may be able to correct that, but his social conscience, and I think all of us owe that to him, his integrity, his morality, so, anyway, I am rambling on now.

ML: You are rambling on but you sure have answered my question. Probably there is only room left for one more question and this is something I’ve been curious about. It seems to me that there is a feeling among people in the company, maybe particularly, Arthur and also yourself, that some of the history of the company needs to be set down now. There are these projects that are being sponsored, etc. that have to do with this and the company and the town and the Piney Region of East Texas. Why do you think there has been no company histories written, so far, of Temple Industries?

LT: I think there have been, they are just scattered all over, I’ve written some for sort of publicity.

ML: Oh, I know well that you have done that; I meant more as a commissioned book. You know, a whole book where you bring in an outside author – because a lot of industries do that, of course, you know, I asked Alan Miller about this and he said, “Well, this company has not felt that it had to promote its image by doing anything like that.”

END OF INTERVIEW