

James Rhone
Interview 100a
April 24, 1986
Marie Davis and L. D. Smith, Interviewers
Dorothy Farley, Transcriber
Retyped by Elaine Lawrence

Abstract: In this interview with Marie Davis, long-time Diboll resident James Rhone reminisces about growing up as an African-American child in Diboll in the 1930's through the 1950's. He talks about the black school, recreation activities for children, and the families they knew. He also recalls starting with the Temple companies and working his way up, to where he was in charge of all the trucks – dispatching them from all of the plants and making sure all orders were filled in time. Mr. Rhone speaks about his race and its influence on his career, and the changes integration brought to Diboll as a member of the school board and the housing authority.

Marie Davis (hereafter MD): Tonight we are talking to James Rhone, his address is 711 Booker, Diboll. Today's date is April 24, 1986. With me is L. D. Smith. My name is Marie Davis. James, when were you born?

James Rhone (hereafter JR): Born April 23, 1931

MD: Okay, and where were you born?

JR: Born in Longleaf, Louisiana.

MD: Now, did you have a large family?

JR: Large family, yes, we have a family of twelve.

MD: How did you fit in there, were you the youngest, oldest?

JR: I was the oldest.

MD: Oldest. You helped raise a big family, didn't you? Had a lot of work to do, didn't you?

JR: Sure did, a lot of it.

MD: How old were you when you came to Diboll?

JR: Eleven years old when I came to Diboll.

MD: James, you were eleven when you came to Diboll? Can you remember anything about what Diboll looked like?

JR: Yes, when we first came to Diboll, I was eleven. We had just left a sawmill town in Longleaf and I was trying to make comparison with the towns. Actually, I cried a lot about leaving because we were used to everything over there and we had to change and make new friends. I didn't know how we were going to make it. In about a day or two we started meeting friends, and I fell in love with Diboll. But we weren't used to a lot of the fences they had in Diboll and the streets were a little bit different, but other than that it was about the same. The people were friendly. Also, our neighbors we had were real nice to us and we started socializing with them. We got where we liked it pretty good then.

MD: Who were some of the old-time people that you remember in your community? Did you have any special friends?

JR: Well, in our neighborhood we had Fred Lewis. His mother's name was Nettie Lewis, I believe. We had Robert Williams and Jack Maynard and Dave O'Neal. Those were some of the old timers. A lady living next door was named, we called her Mother Smith, her name was Lillie Smith. We just fell in love with those people. They showed more interest, you know. They were right around in the neighborhood with us. Another elderly lady by the name of, we called her Mother Harris. We had a lot of friends and we got along pretty well.

MD: I don't think it is where you live, I think it's the people that make the difference.

JR: It's the people, right.

L. D. Smith (hereafter LDS): Professor Jackson was here, too, wasn't he?

JR: Yes, Prof. Jackson. At that time Prof. Jackson was teaching music and also, he was Worshipful Master in the Lodge at that time, too. And he had a band and also, a church group he was teaching music too. He got around real good in the community with his music. There was another fellow that was the barber, was Joe Rogers and Charlie Lilly's (unintelligible). They ran the barbershop. A lot of kids would meet at the barbershop a lot and make friends.

MD: What about your Uncle Lloyd?

JR: Yeah, Lloyd came over after we did and he worked for Mr. Smith for a number of years. After Mr. Smith retired, he sold the shop to him. He bought the shop.

MD: What was Lloyd's last name?

JR: Triplett.

MD: Triplett?

JR: Lloyd Triplett.

LDS: Lloyd was one of the finest fellows I ever worked with in my life – real fine fellow.

MD: I interviewed Mrs. Denman and she was talking about him.

JR: There was only two of them, my mother and Lloyd, in their family.

MD: Did you have any children?

JR: Yes, Ma'am. Two girls.

MD: How old are they?

JR: Fifteen and sixteen, and I have two boys and two girls by a previous marriage.

MD: When you were growing up did you have any special games you played?

JR: Yes, we did. A lot of our games were homemade games. We couldn't afford to buy any. We created a lot of our games. We would make a lot of our toys. We would take tin tops and make wagons. We would make popguns out of these Elderberry limbs, and use the Chinaberries to put in them to make them shoot. We made a lot of rubber guns – take an old inner tube and take the board and carve it out and load it with rubber and shoot those things. Then we took ten gallon buckets, fill them with sand, put wire between them and we'd use them for roller-type cars, you know? Also made Tom-Walkers out of the same things. Then we would play a lot of different, regular home games where everybody would participate in. Call off numbers, and we would play hiding the handkerchief, stuff like that. We created a lot of those games when we got a bunch of kids together.

MD: You didn't have television?

JR: No, it was a long time before we had television. Barely had a radio.

LDS: You played ball over there, too.

JR: Yes, we played ball a lot. On the basketball deal, we would make our own goals. If we didn't have a ball, we would take twine and make a ball. We used everything we could. Sometimes the ball would just be a regular can that we would play ball with.

MD: But you had a good time, didn't you?

JR: We had a good time.

MD: Yes, that's the main thing.

JR: We created a lot of interest for all the neighborhood kids. We would meet at various places. We'd put up a goal in one area and all the kids in town would come to that location and play.

MD: L. D. was telling me about he made him a train.

LDS: I expect James has made some of them, out of 2 x 4's and spools and snuff cans.

JR: The same way on those we made on those trains, we'd hook up all those cans and things, pull them, see how long we could get them to pull. And riding stick horses, just ride them down.

MD: Now you attended school over at the black school?

JR: Black School. I wasn't in the integration part of it before.

MD: Can you describe your school? What did it look like as you remember when you were growing up and maybe something about the equipment you had?

JR: In our school?

MD: Yes.

JR: When I came here, the school was located, not where the junior high is now. It was up behind the junior high, what is now the playing field. It was a small building. It had four rooms in one section of it and then there were three in another section. There were seven rooms in it. We had old iron wood heaters. The chairs, some of them were good and some of them weren't. They were the old regular desk-type chairs where you could take your books and put them underneath and some you would put up under your chairs. A lot of our books we would get, would be from over at the white school. We would exchange books in that way. I believe, the first year I came they had just made it into a high school. At first it was, I believe, to the eighth grade, then they started to twelve. Mr. Bradley was the principal at that time. Mr. Pate was the superintendent and they kept in contact with each other on the school system. Every time there was a change made we would be informed of it, too, in the school system. We didn't have a large library. We had a small one but we had a few books in the library.

MD: And you just got, more or less, basic education in high school, you didn't have typing?

JR: Didn't have typing.

MD: Or homemaking for the girls?

JR: They added homemaking before we finished, but they didn't have it in the beginning.

MD: What year did you get through?

JR: I finished in '48.

MD: '48, okay.

JR: Eleventh grade. We had a special subject in sociology. It was in negro history and we had to buy those books. The state didn't furnish them, and if we were required to have that course, we had to buy them –buy our own books.

MD: How old were you when you had your first paying job?

JR: My first paying job? You are talking about the very first public job of any kind? All right, the first job I got was working for his mother, Mrs. Lon Smith, mowing her yard. I was still going to school and she paid more than anybody. I don't know whether it was for me or what, but she paid me, I believe I was getting \$4.00. I could go to Mrs. Smith and get that \$4.00 while I was going to school even if I didn't mow the yard, you know. She'd know I would. I kept her yard all the time. That was one of my first jobs. After I left there I worked for Mr. Albert Jackson at the Antler Hotel. I was washing dishes. From there I was doing short order cook. I'd work after school on that job. After I finished school, that's when I went to work for Temple, Southern Pine Lumber Company. I had planned to go to college and I worked that summer. On this job, there weren't any jobs available for schoolboys, but they had bought a tract of timber in the big thicket in Hull-Daisetta. They were hiring a good many people to go down to cut right-of-way. So, out of the five boys that graduated, three of us got a job and went down and worked for Mr. Bonnie Brown. He was the TSE [Texas Southeastern Railroad] section foreman. At that time the Company had their own logging equipment, all the trucks and everything. They had a labor bus, and they would transfer us from Diboll to Hull-Daisetta every morning. We would work and come back that evening.

MD: What time did you have to get up?

JR: We would have to get up around four o'clock because they would leave at least by five. We would ride down and work and then load up and come back. We did that maybe three or four weeks, and they decided that was too hard and not getting enough done either. We did more riding. So they located some places for us to live down there during the week and paid our rent and board plus our regular pay, salary. I worked there until, during the summer, I believe it was in August, and went to Houston to college. This was Texas Southern University for Negroes. I went on an Athletic Scholarship. But going to Houston, they had all the boys, the city boys and this was just the first year that it went to a university. Most of the scholarships were awarded to the boys in Houston from Jack Yates and Wheatley and all those. I stayed there until October and I came back and went to work for Temple.

MD: And you have been here ever since?

JR: Been here ever since.

MD: That was about '48 or '49?

JR: That was '48.

MD: Can you remember anybody who, more or less, helped you along, giving you special help?

JR: Yes, I can. Willis Jordan helped me a lot and O.D. Stivers. When I came back I was put in W. W. Jackson's crew. He was in charge of dwellings, painting and all that. I was working with Squinch Weisinger. I was mixing mortar and we were laying bricks for a foundation on a house and stuff like that. Well, I worked there for maybe six months and then I was transferred to the truck shop under Mr. Jordan. When I went in I didn't even know how to drive a car or nothing. When I went in the shop – I went in there as a flat man, service man, washing and greasing, changing oil and cleaning up.

LDS: That's when I got to know him.

JR: I went in there and I did that. I learned how to drive there. I went on being promoted from service man to mechanic. Like I said, Mr. Jordan and O. D. Stivers, we worked together. I told them that I would like to be a mechanic. They said, "If you want to be a mechanic, we will help you." And they did. They gave me the opportunity to try and I learned to be a mechanic.

LDS: And he was a good one, too.

JR: I worked in the shop, I believe that was when –in '54, I'm not sure, but somewhere in the '50's I was promoted to mechanic. Well, the Personnel Director and the plant manager talked to me about – I was on vacation – taking a supervisors job. At that time there was some part of the integration taking place, and they were trying to improve the equal opportunity and all that. That was going to be a job outside my department, you know, and they gave me time to think on it. I didn't know if I wanted to take that job or not, going into another department that I didn't know a thing about. But I just trusted and went on and made the decision to take it anyway. They made me a supervisor of log processing which was a night job. And I went down there, and I'm telling you, it was a job. It was really a job, but I went on and made it. I worked seven years at night on that job, and then I finally decided I didn't want to work any more at night. I was tired of log processing. I went in and told them I wanted to move out of the log processing. They said "You have stayed down there and did what you could". So they transferred me back to the truck shop as shop foreman and I went to work for O. D. Stivers and Gay Baldree.

MD: And who?

JR: Gay Baldree. And I've been in the shop ever since and been promoted from shop foreman in '78, to superintendent of road trucks in both shops, truck shop and machine shop. I was over the truck drivers and all the mechanics. Then I did dispatching for all the plants that we hauled, the manufactured products here in Diboll, dispatched the trucks.

MD: Now, so you have worked – what – from '48 to '86?

JR: To '86. This year in October, it will be thirty-eight, won't it? Thirty-eight years here.

MD: Well, that's a record almost, too, isn't it? Do you feel that it is difficult for a black person to advance as you have done?

JR: No ma'am, I don't think so.

MD: You don't think the color makes any difference?

JR: The color don't make any difference; I've experienced it. I don't think it makes any difference if you know what you want and you put your heart in it and set your goals. You are going to have some blows but, you know, you are just going to have to go ahead and do what you have to do. I don't think color has anything to do with it at all. We have a lot of blacks that back up on that and use that as an excuse, but I don't think that makes any difference. If you prove yourself out there that you can do it and they will give you the opportunity to do it. There are mistakes to be made either way, but you understand it. There are going to be mistakes made but you just do what you have to do.

LDS: You speak of right here in Diboll, aren't you?

JR: Right here in Diboll.

LDS: It's not that way everywhere.

JR: No, it's not.

MD: Do you think the Company bases their promotions on qualifications, whether a person can do the job?

JR: I think so, yea. If a person who can do the job. And this Company has been behind us 100% or a lot more. You can go to Lufkin and it's a lot different in Lufkin than in Diboll, compared to that. Diboll didn't have any incidents or any problems at all when they integrated. It was a smooth transmission but Lufkin had problems. In fact of the business, still have.

MD: Since you have progressed upward in your job, have they sent you to any different kinds of schools, any kinds of management schools?

JR: Yes ma'am, we have training from A & M – we had it last year. In fact, I went eight weeks, and they continue to give us training all the time.

MD: You say this is a pretty good Company, then, to work for?

JR: Yes, I think it is. I haven't ever worked for any other Company, but I have some brothers who have worked for other companies. We have talked about this thing, you know, and I have had friends who have worked for other companies. I think it is a good company. We have a lot – whether – I believe it was the last Juneteenth Celebration that we had, Mr. Temple made a talk and that was right after he got over here, talking over and making all the changes, and he told everybody, he said – “you know a lot of them are going to California.” And at that time everybody was moving here and moving around because everything looked better in California and the majority of the people were going to California for better jobs he said “Ya'll just stay in Diboll, we are going to have a city right here in Diboll, you are going to have the same things in Diboll that they have in California. You have good schools, you have good jobs and the streets will be paved, just like they are any where else, it will be a model city.” And which it has been, he did what he said he was going to do. We had believers and a lot of them asked me “Why didn't I leave?” All my people left. I said “Well, one reason, I believed what he said and I've had my chances to advance and prove that I could make it here.” And then I look around and see so many of them that have been out there and they are coming back. They didn't stay so I decided it wasn't any use going, doesn't make any difference where you go you're going to have to work anyway.

MD: I'm sure you are glad of your decision, aren't you?

JR: I am, I sure am.

MD: You were out of school when integration started. How did you feel about this when it started, when people first started talking about integration?

JR: How did I feel about it? Well, I had – I don't remember now what – I wrote an article in the... what we called “the Buzz Saw paper” then, and I wrote an article and the article was – the subject was “As I See It”. That was the name of the article. I made the comment on the good and the bad on the integration part of it at that time. No one could see what was going to happen to our teachers at that time and I brought out some points on that. Of all the black history part of our culture – where it was going to go and what were they going to do about it, you know, and things like that. It didn't leave the impression that I wasn't for integration. But a lot of the things that we had accomplished, what was going to happen to it? That's the way I felt about it, but I didn't have any idea that it would be cast aside. I didn't know how many of our black teachers were going to be hurt, or how it was going to be handled, for that part of it. But you know, everything worked out better. I don't know what happened to that paper, I kept it for a long time.

MD: I wanted to ask you if you knew what year it was? Do you know the year?

JR: I don't know what year.

MD: They have all those old buzz saws up at the library on microfilm and I thought we might look it up.

JR: I kept one of the papers a long time, we keep a lot of papers, you know, scrapbooks. I believe Paul Durham was in service at that time because another fellow was running it.

LDS: Jake Durham?

JR: No, it was another young man writing. He was from Huntington who was writing the paper at that time.

MD: Probably in the '50's – No, it would have to be in the '60's. We decided that integration – freedom of choice – started here in '65.

JR: Yes, that was the first time.

MD: Then Mr. Ramsey said about a third of the high school went over and then the next year they fully integrated.

JR: Yes, fully integrated. It was somewhere in there.

MD: Yes, so it would be some where in the late '60's. Okay. Do you feel that the black children have benefited from the integration?

JR: I think they have, surely have. For the simple reason is this. When I was going to school we were getting books that you already had. Right now, everybody gets the same books and they keep up with the same flow of education that way. They would always be behind, they might get the same thing but they would be behind. They were always kept on a level behind, right now they can keep up. You are right in there with them.

MD: And they have the benefit of all the equipment.

JR: Right, all the equipment.

MD: You served as president of the school board; how long have you been on the school board?

JR: I've been on the school board eight years.

MD: Eight years?

JR: I served as secretary one year and I served as president one year, so I've been on it eight years.

MD: What are some of the plans that you have?

JR: Well, we have been studying – you probably saw a lot of it happening in the paper here lately – about a bond election. We see the need of expanding the school and that's all three of them. Because of the state requirements is a lot of it. With the ration of kids this new house bill they are going to have to do something. Right now, we are studying on the land situation and not going to call the bond election right now. We are just making plans and studying it.

MD: What other boards or committees have you served on in town?

JR: Okay, I'm on the Housing Authority Board.

MD: And what do you all do?

JR: We meet and approve the bills and also approve any remodeling on the housing project, we have one on LBJ and the Housing Authority over in the Walter Allen Addition, and also, one by the nursing home. We are on that board to see that everything is carried out according to the board rules and regulations. I'm also on a MHMR Board in Lufkin, and a member of the Lion's club.

MD: I noticed that a street was named for you.

JR: Sure was.

MD: Have you ever served on the city council?

JR: No, not on the city council. This was done in this housing deal that was part of it.

MD: Because you worked on that?

JR: Yes, worked on it but I've never been on the city council.

MD: Well, maybe when you get off the school board you will run for city council.

JR: I think I'll just retire. I drove Mrs. Temple a lot from Texarkana to Lufkin and to Diboll and –

MD: Arthur, Jr.?

JR: Mrs. Arthur, Jr.'s mother.

MD: Oh yes, Mrs. Katherine Temple.

JR: Yes, she was really concerned about the welfare of the people of Diboll and not only Diboll but everywhere there was a need. She always talked to me about conditions of the

schools and the conditions of the children and she decided they would put up the money for the day care center. They named it in her honor. Also, the Temple Foundation was set up that way, it helped a lot of people not only in Diboll but all communities, on libraries and schools, giving land and stuff like that. I don't believe there is another family of people who is concerned about the welfare of the people as the Temples were. They were really concerned about it. Not only the people who worked for them but any body. I admire them for that and Mrs. Temple would always want to talk, in going to Texarkana and back, about her plans, doing this and doing that for the community.

LDS: I drove her several times. Of course, they paid my driving wages right along, just like I was driving a truck, but yet she would want to give me something, too. I'd tell her, they are paying me to do this, you know, but she'd say I want to pay you, too. One time it was Christmas, during Christmas, she gave me a hundred dollars check, and they paid me to go get her just like I was working.

JR: I remember one time I was taking her to Texarkana and it came up a norther. It was right after Thanksgiving. I mean it was cold before we got there. And we were in Mr. Temple's Cadillac and the water pump went out. We got to Jefferson and Mrs. Temple, she had to stop to use the restroom. When we got to checking the water pump, it was out, so she decided she would call a friend in Texarkana to come pick her up. She had the guys fix the car and paid him before she left and gave me money for a motel because I had my wife with me. She told us, too, "Don't try to go back tonight. You stay, get it fixed and leave in the morning, don't get on that road tonight". And she said "Don't you tell Mr. Temple a thing about it." But I had to tell him about what happened.

LDS: I'll tell you something else.

MD: It is usually the other way around.

LDS: She was always asking questions about the plant down there, how it was doing and if you liked the way they were doing things and all. I know when, I guess when they first elected him president, he really didn't have enough stock, I guess, to be president. But anyway, she asked me what I thought about it and I said "Sure, that's fine, I think it is all right." If he has things he wants to do and everything, he sounds like a go-getter to me. She said, "Well, some of them didn't want him over it. And he didn't much want to take it either."

MD: James, you and L.D., both, have seen all the changes take place in Diboll, haven't you? I guess L.D. more than you because he was born here.

LDS: Yes, I saw a lot of changes.

JR: And there have been some good ones, Diboll – it's not a good word to say but, was kind of ragged at one time. The housing was bad and the streets were bad. Everybody went to changing when they got into the Housing Authority, you know, moved out of those little shacks and got into the Housing Authority. They made progress where two

people started working on this low-rent deal. You live in that according to what you made, your rent. A lot of them had to move out of that when they were able to buy their own. You know, very few blacks owned any homes in Diboll. It helped them to get started on that.

MD: A lot of blacks own their homes now, don't they?

JR: Yes, a lot of them.

MD: Well, they have improved the city services, too, you know, like sewage, lights and water. When you first came here did you have hydrants on the inside of the house?

JR: No, they were outside, and the closest one to the inside would be on the back porch and no indoor toilets at all. One of the first black foremen for Southern Pine, long years ago, was Walter Allen. He ran that millpond for them for a long time.

MD: Cleaning out the millpond?

LDS: Him and Cossie?

JR: Him and Cossie. That's where they would put all the logs in, logs for the mill, and he was in charge of that. When I graduated, I graduated with one of his boys, Ed Allen. There were five of us, and one girl and five boys in the senior class.

MD: You mean there were more boys than...

JR: Than girls.

MD: Well, that's unusual, isn't it? What about the black athletes? Several of them had made pros, haven't they?

JR: Sure have, Mack Mitchell, Emmitt King and – I was trying to think who he played for?

LDS: I believe it was Cleveland at first.

JR: Yeah, he went to Cleveland, I'm trying to think of his grandparents name. He is one of the old timers, too. We had a Louis Mitchell.

LDS: I was thinking that was his daddy, Louis.

JR: No, it wasn't. No, now, it was his daddy, too – Louis Mitchell.

LDS: He was big, like Mack.

JR: Yes, he was.

LDS: What about the one that played over there at A & M? What was his name?
Teel, yeah.

MD: Mr. Massey spoke of Freddie Randolph from the black school before they integrated and Butch Davis. What do you remember about Juneteenth Celebrations when you were a little boy?

JR: Juneteenth Celebrations? Oh, we would stay up all night. They would be out there cooking barbecue, and we would run around playing games all night. And the next day they would have, sometimes they would have ball games. They would have the big feast and lots of soda water to drink and eat all day.

MD: Did you have entertainment?

JR: Yes, they would have entertainment, too. Have bands and different games and stuff like that.

MD: Did any of the white people come over?

JR: Yes.

MD: Did the Company furnish this?

JR: Yes, I think the Company would furnish this, I believe the last one the Company sponsored, Mr. Temple had donated us the Walter Allen Park over there, old timers were used to having it at the school, didn't have a park or anything so we'd have it up there on the school campus. They had a barbecue pit built over there for that purpose and they decided they weren't going to have it at the park. He found out about it and he said, "Well, if you're not going to have it at the designated place, we have a beautiful park down there, they wouldn't sponsor it any more." That was the last one we had that they sponsored.

MD: Do they still have celebrations?

JR: They have had some, we had one, not the past year because we went to Lufkin. But we had one over at the Walter Allen Park in '85 – not '85 – '84.

MD: '84? Getting back to the Housing Authority, did you say that people pay according to how much their income is?

JR: Right, based on the income and the number of people in the family.

MD: Do these houses stay pretty full?

JR: Pretty full. Now they have a few empties now and that was on account they had to cut back in the plant, but they stay full all the time.

MD: Does the government supplement these – I mean the up keep of them or anything?

JR: It's turned over to the city; they will become the city's after they are paid for. But it was a grant that got the government to build them and the upkeep is based on their rent. They supplement so much for improvements and stuff like that to keep it up. They do all that.

MD: I notice they are all the time working on them, and I just wondered where that money came from.

JR: Yes, it is coming from the government.

MD: To keep them up?

JR: To keep them up.

MD: Is the government cutting down on it?

JR: They haven't so far. We are looking – we are expecting them to but they haven't cut any back. I don't know but it seems like Diboll has been fortunate enough. Other cities have been cut back, but they made inspections on all of them. We always had the better-looking projects and always been able to get the money to keep them up. A lot of them cut back, but Diboll wasn't.

MD: You know, it's such an improvement, I think, when you drive through there.

JR: They really do a good job of keeping them up. The way they do in a lot of these cities, a lot of them went down.

MD: Yes.

JR: They won't give them any more funds because some of them didn't do what they were supposed to do in the beginning. That's why they got in the shape they did.

MD: How many employees do you have working for you at the truck shop?

JR: I have twelve in the shop and have fifteen truck drivers.

MD: Let's talk a little bit about the truck driving. L. D. told us some about it. Where all do you go?

JR: All over Texas, and then we have a plant in West Memphis, Arkansas. We go into Arkansas and then come back around by this plant and pick up a load to drop somewhere in Texas, but mostly, all over the state wherever we have a load.

MD: Do you keep the trucks busy, pretty busy?

JR: Pretty busy, they have been really busy this first quarter. Haven't missed a load, none of the trucks have missed a load so far this year. Making money.

MD: Are they selling a good bit? They must be selling a lot to keep them busy.

JR: Yes, they are selling a good bit; even production people went on six days now in production.

MD: All over the plant?

JR: I mean the lumber division. The interest rate has dropped and building has picked up and they said they were going to go ahead and run and keep things rolling while it is rolling. So they make six days.

LDS: How many outside lines are coming in there now?

JR: Outside lines? Let's see, they have Spike and Hunterday, Ennis. Well, they've got a lot of other customers coming in, you now.

LDS: There were several outside lines coming in there, wasn't there? Have they eliminated some of them?

JR: No, they haven't, surely haven't.

LDS: Does Melton still come in there?

JR: Melton comes in occasionally. But it's a little different in the operation now. You know, they would just give you a load, but they won't give you a load now unless you've got a truck that can cover it that day. If you can't cover it, they won't give you the load.

LDS: And they have combined all the plants, trucks from different places now, dispatched out of Diboll?

JR: All the Pineland trucks are in Diboll; they are operating under Diboll.

LDS: West Memphis?

JR: West Memphis trucks are still there, that is – well, next week will be the last week they are going to operate company trucks to West Memphis.

LDS: Oh, they are getting rid of them?

JR: They are getting rid of them; they are going on lease trucks.

LDS: What about the plants in Alabama, are they dispatched out of Diboll?

JR: I don't think they are dispatched out of Diboll.

LDS: Just West Memphis?

JR: Just West Memphis. They are supposed to open a plant in Oklahoma.

LDS: Oklahoma?

JR: Next month.

MD: Then will you be hauling out of this?

JR: Yes, I'll be hauling out of this.

LDS: What it is, that's where they get their rock from, to make the Gypsum end of it. They build a plant where the material is. They have been bringing the rock from Oklahoma to West Memphis by rail, which is probably pretty expensive. I guess they will still run the plant in West Memphis?

JR: Yes, they will still run it, one of the drivers said they thought they would cut that plant out, eventually cut it out up there.

END OF INTERVIEW