

EDD KENLEY

Interview 158a

October 5, 2000, at the Kenley Ranch near Austonio, Texas

Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer

Brandi Clark, Transcriber

Abstract: Born in 1924, Edd Kenley tells of his life working for his father Dave Kenley in the cattle ranching business in Trinity, Houston, and Angelina counties, mostly on timberlands owned and managed by Southern Pine Lumber Company. He tells of Mexican workers hired to do fence work and chop hardwood brush, and also relates the brief use of goats to control the hardwood brush. He tells of the lumber company cattle rancher J. J. Ray and Rayville Ranch cowboys Dewey Tarwaters, John Silvers, Frank Rushing and others. Other persons mentioned are L. D. Gilbert, T. L. L. Temple, Henry Titus Mooney, Roy Smith, Walter James, and Grady Singletary.

Jonathan Gerland: This is Jonathan Gerland, it's October 5, 2000. It's a little after nine o'clock, and I'm at Edd Kenley's Ranch near Austonio. We're still in Houston County, aren't we?

Edd Kenley: Right.

JG: Mr. Kenley, just tell us your name, when, and where you were born.

EK: Well, I was born in Diboll, and my name is Edd Kenley, and I was born January 18, 1924 in Diboll. And I lived right...probably...right across from where the main old commissary used to be then. Which was kind of the center of town down there, till I was about 12 years old and then moved up to Lufkin. I feel like I'm well acquainted with this Rayville Ranch or Southern Pine Ranch, Southern Pine Lumber Company Ranch. My daddy had it leased from 1936 to 1966 and that shows how the timber grew, and at that time Arthur didn't want to lease it to us anymore and we didn't, did not want to lease it anymore. We had bought some open country in creek bottoms to the west side.

JG: And your father was Dave Kenley, is that correct? D. C. Kenley?

EK: Yea. My father was Dave Kenley. And he told a good many interesting stories about the place and so forth. When my father was young, I'd say around 1906 or 1908, he taught at the Pisgah School which is now in North Boggy. When he was...he started home one weekend and when he started home he got lost and he came upon some surveyors, and he wouldn't admit he's lost so he applied for a job and they gave him a job. He quit teaching school and went to work for Temple then in 1906 or 1908, right along in there somewhere. At that time they were surveying part of the country that is now North Boggy. I guess they had just purchased it or planned on purchasing it. Now, to my knowledge that ranch, now to me Temple, Southern Pine Lumber Company started in late 1800s down at Diboll.

JG: Yes, sir. In 1893 they started buying land there and then in '94 the mill started.

EK: Well that's...that's the way I kind of remembered it. It wasn't but a short time maybe 1910 or '12 or somewhere when Southern Pine Lumber Company opened up that ranch. Was it then? That early?

JG: Well, they started buying land...the railroad crossed the Neches River into Trinity County in 1907. So they started logging in there about that time period. Something that Mr. Burke gave me the other day, that thing I was mentioning about Judge Minton, he says that he thought it was sometime about 1913 that Mr. Ray came in. And I was going to ask you, Mr. Harber had told me that he thought that Mr. J.J. Ray, sometimes called Captain Ray, was kin to Watson Walker and/or L.D. Gilbert. Have you ever heard of that?

EK: He was not kin to either one of them. I don't think. But I'll tell you the relationship with Mr. Gilbert. He worked for the Temples in Texarkana, and Mr. Gilbert when he was a boy he went out to Stephenville area, and worked one summer on a hay crew. He was working, helping bale hay for Captain Ray. Later, when Mr. Temple wanted somebody to run this operation, over here, this ranching operation, Mr. Gilbert influenced him to hire Mr. Ray.

JG: Do you know much about Mr. Ray's background?

EK: Well he...I think his wife was dead and he had one son named J.J. that came with him and stayed there on the ranch. I don't think that...I think J.J. was out of school by the time they moved in there or was close to being out of school.

JG: I saw on the 1920 Trinity County Census, J.J. Ray was listed. He was living with Frankie...or Frank Rushing and his wife who I think was Josey Rushing, maybe? But, it showed that he was born in Georgia and that he was divorced.

EK: Captain Ray?

JG: Captain Ray. Yes, sir. And J.J. Jr., wasn't living with them at the time so I don't know where he was. That was in 1920. But, it's hard to find anybody that knows anything about Captain Ray, why he was called "Captain." Was that a military title, or just an honorary title?

EK: I think it was strictly an honorary title that the cowboys gave him, with his cowhands and help there.

JG: Do you remember Captain Ray?

EK: Oh yes. And we stayed with them a lot. And the fact is we had a room...

JG: Is that his house? (showing a photo).

EK: Yes, that's definitely..., and I'm looking right here...

JG: We're looking at a picture of Captain Ray's house that was out at Rayville.

EK: That's correct. That room right there is where was called our room, and here's where Captain Ray stayed and J.J. lived in this room here.

JG: OK. So from the front porch...I assume that's the front of the house? (EK: Yeh.) On the front porch, if you were facing the front of the house the room to the right is where y'all stayed (EK: Yeh.) and J.J. Ray was on the left? (EK: Yeh.) And then behind his room would be whose?

EK: J.J., his son.

JG: It'd be J.J. Jr's. Okay.

EK: And the Rushings lived there in the house also in a room on the opposite side from J.J. right across the hall there.

JG: And what years would you had lived there? Approximately.

EK: Well we didn't really live there. My daddy was kindly considered part of the management for that ranch. Now I don't know whether he was actually being paid for it or not but he liked it so much that he wanted to become involved in that thing. He...therefore we went out there real often and he enjoyed the operation that went on there. It really tore him up when around 1929 or 1930 they closed that ranch out. Do you have any date on that?

JG: No sir. Charlie Harber told me he thought it was like '29 or '30 that your dad maybe moved out and went to around off 1818, Renfro place maybe. But, I might not be remembering right with what he told me.

EK: J.J. Ray went to the Renfro place.

JG: Right, right. J.J. Ray. I'm sorry, not your father.

EK: Daddy Ray, or Captain Ray, that's what we called him, he moved back to Glenrose and...

JG: Is that around Fort Worth?

EK: Yea. It's close to Stephenville there. I think he's buried at Glenrose.

JG: Well, actually he's buried at the Glendale Knight Cemetery in Lufkin.

EK: You don't mean it.

JG: He and J.J. Jr.'s tombstones are side by side.

EK: Well I'll be darn. I guess I'm just surprised at that.

JG: I took a picture of it and sent it to Arthur last week. His death record is recorded in the Tarrant County Courthouse.

EK: That's Fort Worth.

JG: I've tried Fort Worth and the Dallas newspapers and there is no obituary. You know, just hoping to find out more about him if it would say...

EK: By George you really...you really are a digger. Can you make me a copy of this tape when we get through and so forth. (JG: Sure. Yes, sir.) I'd sure like to have it. Because it's really interesting to me. But in this back room back here was the kitchen back in here and behind the kitchen there was a cistern in the room there. And she used that cistern of course as a refrigerator. Mrs. Rushing did. And she had one child about our age. Her name was Frankie Ray. She had...

JG: Was she named Frankie Ray after Mr. Ray?

EK: After Mr. Ray. She was a year or two older than I was I guess, but she....

JG: Do you remember Myrtle Nolen? Myrtle Nolen. N-O-L-E-N. She married Jim Rushing. Myrtle Nolen Rushing. She's probably 94, 95 years old but she was telling me that she would come out and that she and Frankie Ray would ride horses out there. And Myrtle, her name is Rushing now, but she had told me that Rayville was "the loneliest place in the world." She said that's why Mr. Ray's wife, Mrs. Ray, left him. She said it was too isolated.

EK: Well, it was really. It was really isolated. But you know out here in front of that place about 200 or 300 yards was a log train that went by.

JG: The TSE Railroad?

EK: Yeh. The log train went by every morning and every evening. And going back loaded with logs. And quite often they would bring a block of ice from Diboll (JG: Really?) to them, and that was their only ice. And of course they didn't have any electricity, it was strictly lamps.

JG: Do you remember...we're digressing a little bit, but do you remember any of the engine numbers? The numbers of the locomotives and who the engineers were and the crewman?

EK: Wait just a minute. You get...It seems like one of them was number 13. Is that right?

JG: Yes, sir. That would have been one of them. That I know of any way.

EK: Now Mooney. (JG and EK simultaneously: Titus Mooney.)

JG: Henry Titus Mooney.

EK: Yep. Titus Mooney.

JG: Charlie's told me some funny stories about him running over cattle, sheep, hogs, dogs. Said he even ran over his little gray horse he had when he was just a little boy.

EK: Yea. Now I think that Charlie was...actually lived and went to visit this school. He lived on what they called the Old Franklin Place.

JG: Yes, sir. I think so. He did go to that school there. Yeh. But...do you remember...what do you remember about Titus Mooney? Did you ever meet him?

EK: Well I tell you what really interests me when you think of Titus Mooney well he...they say that he wouldn't give if anybody would...if something got on the railroad track. And he hemmed up a fellow's horse there and ran him into a truck and run over and killed him. Tore up the saddle and everything and his name was Grady Singletary. Grady Singletary was from up in Alto. Grady had had to abandon the horse when the train crowded him against that trestle. And he came to Diboll and it was up to my daddy to try and settle things in a peaceful way with Grady Singletary. He and Grady got to be friends and eventually they became partners in the cattle business. Had cattle and would send them to Kansas and all that stuff...is a side track. Now, Titus Mooney had a reputation of being just...having a terrible personality. He would stop, they said, and get out of the train, he and the conductor or the brakeman or whoever else was in the crew would get in an argument and they would stop the train and get out and fight a while. Didn't you hear that?

JG: No, sir. They'd just stop the train and fight, huh?

EK: Yeh. Stop the train and fight.

JG: Did Dred Devereaux get involved in any of that?

EK: No. Not too much I don't think. Now, Dred Devereaux was a very firm man, and he was a good, capable man. But, you know people don't realize how big that Temple ranch was. Did you have any figures on the total thousands of acres?

JG: No, sir. I sure don't.

EK: Well, I want to tell you...and you're probably acquainted enough with the hunting clubs...it went around south of Diboll to what they call the Conn Place in there which Arthur kind of bought and they subdivided it now, I think. And that's where it started, and it went...(JG: Just followed the river on up.) Followed the river and it went up to what's Ryan's Lake Hunting Club, Eason Lake, Old River Club, Southern Boggy, North Boggy and Malibu Club. In other words, it'd reach from way down there to up at Anderson Road Crossing and within four or five miles of Weches. And it had the railroad through it, you know all the way, and the river on the east side all the way up. And from this headquarters here they had...(JG: At Rayville you mean.) Yeh at Rayville. They'd ride their horses down past Diboll maybe and work cattle 14 to 15 miles from home down there and then turn and ride their horses home that

night. They didn't go and camp out. And they did the same thing up towards the north end which was another 14 to 15 miles because they had some road crossings up there.

JG: Were there other houses there besides this house of Mr. Ray's?

EK: Yeah. There was what they call the Bunk House it sat back out here, I'd say about 100 yards that was painted red and it really just had two rooms in it.

JG: About how far away was this from the railroad tracks and where those feed barns and things were?

EK: I'd say from the railroad track it's about 200 yards or 150, but that's...that's the memory...that's the memory of a kid.

JG: That's supposedly a photograph, about 1928 at the Rayville Siding. See, there's a cattle car. (**EK:** Right.) T&NO rail car. (**EK:** Right) This is a picture that Charlie had given to us, Mr. Harber. (**EK:** Yeah.) He and I went out there. We had a time trying to find where those hou...you know they've moved this house. I think Buddy Temple got it and had it moved and so we were out there...we finally found the old well and that helped us and we found where the railroad tracks used to run and the well. But we were trying to recreate you know where everything was out there. When is the last time you've been out there?

EK: Well, Vernon Burkhalter and I went out there about four or five years ago and all of the country here and been opened and we had mowed it and kept it up with a horse-drawn mower about 20 or 30 acres and in the neighborhood of the house and traps there and it had all been planted in pine trees when we went there. I believe it...I don't know...or maybe I didn't locate the place.

JG: Well, there's a pretty good size opening where it was and we found some pear trees and then there's a few hardwoods there, some oaks and that's where we'd determine that must be where the houses were and then we did eventually find the well, and then there's a big old cotton mouth down there. It's only about four feet deep. There's a cotton mouth in it. But...

EK: Well, this house and then that bunk house that we called it was out there. And then back down on the railroad there and then another 150 yards towards the...towards Diboll or south there would be the big red barn, we called it. (**JG:** Big red barn, OK.) And it was right next to the railroad and they got feed in there all the time. Here they fed out a bunch of steers and...have you talked to Tameshia Root?

JG: No, sir.

EK: She has some pictures and they are enlarging the pictures to put that in our office over here at that other house.

JG: And who is she?

EK: Tamesha Root. Do you know who Billy Lindsey is?

JG: Bill Lindsey, the pilot?

EK: Yeah.

JG: Yes, sir.

EK: She is the daughter of Bill Lindsey. (JG: Oh, Okay.) But she is...Tamesha is a Root and she's Paul Root's wife. He's a builder and she's an interior decorator type person. And my daughter-in-law has given her those pictures to get them enlarged and they're going to frame them up and have them here. But you contact her to Paul Root or Bill. Now Bill had an operation day before yesterday.

JG: Oh, he did?

EK: Yeah.

JG: I just saw him last week.

EK: Yeah. Prostate problems.

JG: And what photos does she have of it? Is it...

EK: I don't know what all. I think we've got some photos in here. Maybe.

JG: I'm going to go ahead and stop the tape while we look for those pictures.

STOPPED TAPE.

EK: Dorothy [speaking to his wife], we were here looking at the old Rayville house and this is the way it looked when I stayed there and so forth.

JG: Oh, Mrs. Kenley, go ahead and state your name in case you talk on it, we'll know who you are.

Dorothy Kenley: I won't be talking. Because I did not know any of this.

JG: Okay. Well, anyway, that's Dorothy. Is that correct?

EK: Dorothy Kenley.

JG: Dorothy Kenley. Okay.

DK: That's right.

EK: And she was born in 1927.

DK: I wasn't in this family when all...

JG: When all this was going on.

EK: Let me tell you...now that's a picture of my daddy.

JG: Now, we've got that one.

EK: Oh, you do.

JG: Yes, sir.

DK: Do y'all know who all of these people are?

JG: No ma'am we sure don't.

EK: I might recognize some of them, but I might not.

DK: He needs a better picture, it's a little bit...

JG: Yeh. It's a little blurry.

EK: Yeah. It's a little bit blurry. But let me tell you, an interesting story about Boggy Slough that you may have never heard. Tom Temple is the one that originally started Southern Lumber Company. (JG: T.L.L.) Right. And he was the grandfather of Arthur Temple Jr.. (JG: Right.) He would come from Texarkana and he had a black chauffer. He would sleep in one of the rooms and all of the...

JG: Now this is the early, the early...just for the tape I'm telling...you're talking about the early clubhouse the one (EK: That's right.) that was closer to the slough than the one that Arthur Jr. built.

EK: This was in the late '20s and early '30s. He would come down there. The black man would come with him. And they would make a...then as a chauffer, Mr. Tom's chauffer, and he had a pallet in Mr. Tom's room was where he slept for two or three nights while they still had the camp there. These heads of the departments would also be out there and they would...every morning they had an outhouse out there and they discovered that the black man was using the outhouse which was a bad situation. And so they decided that's...when they drawed straws that somebody would have to tell the black man not to use the outhouse to go to the bushes because that was for the white folks. The decision, or who drew the shortest straw was Clyde Thompson, and he was supposed to tell him. Well, Clyde got worried about the fact that he was telling the boss man's black man not to use the outhouse. So he didn't tell him. The next day well, they asked him why. And he said well I woke up early this morning and says you know it was awfully cold this morning. And says, the black man came out of the house and he went to the

outhouse and stayed about five minutes and he came out and Mr. Temple immediately went out and went into the outhouse and said I decided he wasn't really using it he's just sitting on the hole to warm it up for Mr. Temple. Had you heard that story?

JG: No, sir.

DK: Isn't that awful?

JG: Yeh, I hadn't heard that story.

EK: Just sitting on the hole to warm it up. But that's the way Clyde got out of it. But do you have a picture of these fellows that's...

JG: No, sir.

EK: That's the office personnel that goes way back beyond me. I don't believe this thing is dated. No, it was made in 1911 it says. Now, the only one that...let's see...Uncle Lynn Sayers in the center and Jim Fuller and A.E. Mantooth, tax assessor. Now, I didn't know any of them, but Jim Fuller's son I assume was probably 15 years older than I was or maybe a little more than that and he worked in the store there, commissary. He was a son I guess of this Fuller here.

JG: This is in the office there in Diboll?

EK: Yea. That's the old original office. I call it original but that's the one that had two stories in it. My father worked upstairs there. He had the upstairs for the Land and Timber Department and he and Kenneth Nelson were the main people upstairs there. Also upstairs they had the printing press. Did you know anything about that?

JG: Talking about making the money? The coins? The scrip?

EK: Yea. And Kenneth Nelson was in charge of making that scrip money or cardboard quarters and cardboard 50 cent pieces and so forth that the help was paid with. When I was a kid and I'd go up there where daddy was well they always warned me not to go in that back room cause if there was any of those quarters or 50 cent pieces missing well there'd be a problem. I just avoided going in there, but I did look in there and I'd speak to Kenneth always.

JG: Tell me about some of your earliest memories of Boggy Slough. About you, what your memories were when you went out there.

EK: Well...

JG: And again, about what time period would that be?

EK: Well, actually speaking I'd say that my memories went back into the ranch in operation there more than it did the hunting business because I never was that interested in hunting. (JG: OK. Well, tell us about the ranch.) Going on back into there I'd say that as a kid it really

intrigued me, you know, here's a bunch of cowboys...(JG: Out in the woods. Where's the cactus, huh?) They had those guys...all wore leggings. All of them was ranch hands and wore leggings. They didn't carry their pistol on their belt up here they had a chap pocket down here that was...oh probably about a 5x5 pocket. They cut a hole in the inside part of their pocket to let the pistol barrel run inside of the leather legging in there. That's where the pistol barrel went and of course he could pull it out and turn it this way. You really didn't realize that he was carrying a gun, that much.

JG: So they all carried pistols? That you remember?

EK: That's right. They all carried pistols.

JG: Did they have rifles too or carbines?

EK: Sometimes they carried some carbines. I remember that, but carbines are little bit inconvenient to carry on a horse and it does have the tendency to rust and all that stuff. But at the time they had several carbines belonged to Temple out there. They kind of passed them around there and Captain Ray had one in his room and each one of these cowhands, the one that lived up on the north end, North Boggy rather, had a rifle. But they just didn't carry them that much. It...to me there was a tinkle to the spurs and I remember them talking about...those cowboys talking among themselves. Now, this is when I was under five years old. But I'd hear them talking about the ring of the spurs and they had big...wore spurs with great big old rawls in them. And they'd talk about so-and-so's spurs tangling with somebody else's. And there was one character among them that I remember all of the people that kind of worked out there...Uh, that's my son Clay there. (JG: Hi. I'm Jonathan Gerland.) (Clay Kenley: Clay Kenley.) He lives at 1115 Reen where John Rhodes used to live. (CK: OK. Yeh.)

EK: But, here's a list of old cowboys that I remember. Herman Metcalf, and Frank Rushing, and Mrs. Rushing did the cooking, and they had that daughter, Frankie Ray. And they had a man, Walter Robinson...

JG: That was Charlie Harber's brother-in-law.

EK: That's correct. And they had Grumbles, and they were from Dripping Springs originally. Also, they had Dewey Tarwaters the way everybody pronounced it. (JG: Tarwaters?) Tywaters was the way I was raised to pronounce it. He was probably the most colorful one of all.

JG: And this would be in the '30s that you remember?

EK: I'm remembering the late '20s.

JG: The late '20s. OK.

EK: Because that place was closed about 1930. And he not only had the jingling spurs but he wore two or three bells on him. Bells on him...when the horse trotted all the bells would ring. And Dewey Tywaters went to...he had a piece of land...he was raised over there just west of

Boggy there...about two miles on North Cedar Creek. And I bought the land that he was raised on there. It's a real coincidence but he came over when they closed that place down. He came over on this piece of land where we're sitting right now, and became manager of this operation. This operation here, at that time and for years it belong to Dr. Blomburgh. And Dr. Blomburgh was a man that built the Galvez Hotel. Have you ever heard of the Galvez Hotel?

JG: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

EK: And this was his operation here. Dewey Tywaters lived right across the highway over there and ran this operation that we're on right here.

JG: How about that? What about John Silvers? Did you know John Silvers?

EK: Yeh. John Silvers was married to a Lovell lady and her great nephew is known...he's Kim Lovell. He owns part of these auctions up here and they were from Weches. John Silvers had a boy named Buster and he had one named Raymond, and Buster was about 8 or 9 when we were kids there, and four or five years old, got off on the horses there and we got to running and he fell off. Of course I got an eatin' out on that deal. I ought not been running the horses, you know. Taking a chance.

JG: What do you remember about a shootout, or ...

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 1

JG: I was asking you about some shoot out or something that...Charlie Harber told me there was a fellow, he thought, by the name of Walter James. That was killed in about 1931. I don't know if that's what Mr. Burke was referring to, but if you don't know anything about that specifically just...Do you remember anything about some of that?

EK: Oh yeah. I went to the place where that happened. I was...oh I guess I must have been about nine years old when they took me over there and showed me where that happened. Now, of course, it'd been three years later that it happened. I knew when it'd happened. I'd heard the talk there they talked in front of me all the time about what...all of the cowhands that were out there were afraid that some of the James brothers, there was two of them still around, might kill us. Ambush us. Instead of wearing hats, which is normally worn, Mr. Walker, the Mill Manager got them...(JG: Is that Watson Walker?) Watson Walker gave them all a golf cap. With their work. They traded horses off and stuff so that they wouldn't know who was who out there. The story as I heard it and as Charlie probably told you...the people there...and Ward Burke kind of acted like he didn't want me to reveal all of this but since Charlie's already revealed it to you I'll go on and reveal it to you. But you might before you print anything, you might want to exclude a few names. It might open some old wounds and stuff there but I don't think there's any...

JG: Yeah. I don't want to be wearing a golf cap around Diboll.

EK: I don't think there's any James still alive that might feel that much of a desire to do anything about the situation. But, this Walter James was really bold and he hunted in there and

enjoyed tantalizing those riders and so forth. One time, Charlie Harber may have told you, he went up to North Boggy to the house where the rider was and he went hunting up there and he killed some deer and cut their heads off and hung them on that man's yard fence and told him that if he'd come out they'd hang his head on it too. It kindly...of course there he was in the house with his wife and kids and could have been shot up or anything like that, but it kindly, really made you feel kind of tough towards the folks and Walter would tell him when he's coming just to antagonize them and when he told them he's coming they told him not to come that they was going to arrest him. When they did try to arrest him well...well the shooting took place there and...

JG: Approximately where did the shoot out happen? North or South Boggy?

EK: It happened in South Boggy and let me...do you know anything about South Boggy?

JG: I've been there one time with Mr. Harber.

EK: OK. Well, anyway, it was off of the Highway 94 there that you went up the pipeline. They parked and went up that pipeline. That's where Walter James went. Then they would take an old railroad tram to the left or they did at that time. The Temple bunch hid behind that (railroad) dump there and told them to stop and lay their guns down. When they didn't do it Walter James shot first, they claim. They opened up with shotguns with buckshot. And really peppered the trees. I think that Walter was killed. I know that Walter James was killed, but there was one other man killed there. I don't know...remember who he was. But Walter James...

JG: So they were...the Temple people were hiding behind like a railroad grade or something?

EK: Yeah. They shot... another one of the party was Lloyd James. I think Cole James was along too on the trip. Those were all brothers. They shot Lloyd James' fingers off...couple of his fingers. He finally became a barber and he was real young at the time he got shot. He was the youngest one of them. He was a barber over there in Groveton in the '50s. I went and got my hair cut two or three times over there. Now one thing that interests me, they had a goat house out there. Have you ever heard of a goat house?

JG: Charlie told me about some goats being out there.

EK: Yea. Well they had that goat house and it was a two story affair. The goats climbed the ramp and got into the upper storage. You know a goat does climb anyway.

JG: Is that close to the railroad track?

EK: Well, it wasn't far from the old house place there.

JG: There at Rayville. OK. We've got a picture that shows some cows. In the background you can see a railroad track, you know just some ties, it's way off in the distance, and there's a structure I think when you said goat house I bet that's what this is. I need to get you a picture of that because it's got boards along the bottom (EK: Yea.) and then there's an opening then

there's boards then there's another opening. I said it looks like a two-story, some kind of house. I bet it's a goat house.

EK: That's right. And they had a slope on that upper floor where the goat manure would run on out the side you know and spill out on the ground and you didn't have to shovel it out.

JG: So that's the goat house.

EK: The idea was to control the hardwood brush with those goats and of course that helped some when I think back about it they didn't...by eating that hardwood brush well the pine bushes came up everywhere.

JG: Now was there something...did they bring in any special labor to work those goats?

EK: I don't know that they brought any special labor in to work the goats but they did have some Mexicans. Did Charlie tell you about the Mexicans?

JG: A little bit. That's what I was kind of...I didn't want to lead you on. Because I was talking to...well anyways...if you need to talk to him we'll stop.

TAPE STOPPED [Here in the interview, a truck pulled up and the driver got out to talk with Mr. Kenley].

JG: Alright we're back to recording now.

EK: My understanding about the Mexican workers...they were actually brought up there to work on fences and chop out some of the brush that was growing up there. But on the other hand that was during World War I when they were up there. And my daddy is the one that went to Laredo to get them. He used to tell a story that he went down there and when he inquired about some help and so forth down there they told him to go talk to a man that ran the bar there and he'd help him get some help. But when he talked to the man the man said "Two nights from tonight I'll have some boys from Mexico here to talk to you about going up and working up there." They came and he agreed to hire them and so forth and what he'd pay them, or what Temple would pay them. He was kind of amazed, before they would leave Laredo they had to be paid and leave their money with their families. He drew \$3000 from Temple some way, by probably Western Union Telegraph or something, and paid those men \$3000 in advance. They all came just like they said they would. They came up there and there was lots of death among them and they opened up that little cemetery right in here where the Boggy Slough camp house was. I guess everybody felt like that those people probably had some TB (tuberculosis) or something in them and when they came to that higher humidity that it really killed a good many of them and most of them were men I don't think many women at all were with them. That's the cemetery there and it can be found I'm sure but as I remember there was about seventeen graves there and everyone of them had a stone of some kind.

JG: Some type of marker?

EK: Yea. It can be found. And if you ever find it I'd like to know.

JG: Well, we'll have to go back out there and find that thing. Now of your memories, you know, your personal memories, do you remember any of the Mexican workers there?

EK: Oh no. I remember seeing them. Some Mexicans there but I don't think it's this bunch (JG: You don't think it's the same bunch.) because, in other words, I was born in '24 and I think these people were picked up in 1917 or (JG: Sometime around World War I.) '18 by my daddy. He was the one that was sent to get the men. Originally I think he planned on working them in the mill but they just were not that capable. They hadn't been around machinery that much and they just weren't that capable. Talking about Captain Ray, there...this was a real old ranch you know and they had a hitching rail out front with a cover over it and every morning Frank Rushing would get up and saddle the Captain's horse and tie him to that rail there so if the Captain wanted to ride out into any of the pastures his horse was ready for him to go anywhere he wanted to. That was an old story, and I feel certain that it was, that the Captain whenever they took on any new employee or anything that his test on the man's ability was to get him a half broke horse and send him over to the neighbors to get two dozen eggs with an old burlap bag to carry them in. Also, he had instructed the neighbor over there that's selling them to let him have a couple of round watermelons and the man left there with two dozen eggs in a burlap bag thrown over his shoulder then those two round watermelons and he to get down and open the gap and get his horse through and close it and get back on that half broke horse. And if he could make that and not break too many eggs, well he got the job. But that's really a pretty big story I guess but you got to keep in mind that this was...you know Temple was a big ranch for East Texas, it was one of the bigger ones. I don't know how many thousands of acres were involved but they had three locations that they fed some cattle in and they fed these steers some hulls and meal, and then they shipped them on the railroad to Fort Worth is where they went. And of course, in '29 the market was low and everything and also out there close to Rayville they had an old slaughter house where they killed big calves and things and they hauled the meat...the railroad train stopped and picked up the meat and carried it back down to Diboll and it was sold in the commissary there. So it was kind of a shame that this thing was ever closed out but it was losing money in those '29 - 30 years, everything was I guess.

JG: Again that'd be in the late 1920s, early '30s?

EK: Yeh, it was losing money. And the boys, which was Arthur Temple's father (Arthur Temple Sr.) and T.L.L. Jr., wanted Uncle Tom as they called him, they wanted him to sell it out. And my daddy felt like that it was losing so little money compared to the rest of the business that it...Mr. Tom always wanted to go out there when he came down. He wanted to go out there to the ranch and drive around and look around. Daddy felt like that he should've had that privilege as long as he lived, you know, to have that ranch there. But one of the interesting things that I remember, later when we leased that thing the water well consisted of...and water system it had pipe water and so forth under there. And they had, upon the hill, they had a house up there on the hill with a big old tank car tank in it and the well was down here in the corrals and you pump water up into that tank car about every three to four weeks you'd begin to run out of water maybe. And the water well pump was right down there next to the horse corral and it had a pump jack on it and it had a big old gasoline engine on it with one cylinder. Probably a seven to

eight inch bore for the piston there. And the fly wheels were just tremendous on it. That engine probably developed close to five horsepower but it probably weighed over a ton. You spun the fly wheels and got it started and then you flipped the belt on it and it was squealing and going on until it got the pump jack to working and when it got the pump jack to working well it'd pump water right on up there on that hill. As that poor old motor got older, and I was probably by this time I was probably 15 to 16 years old and we had the place leased there. Well, we'd get there and we couldn't start the motor that way and we'd take a rope, lariat rope, and wrap it around the belt pulley on that fly wheel of that old engine. Then we'd stick it out the window and we'd wrap it around the saddle horn and run off with it. That'd spin that old motor just like you cranked a lawn mower. That was a system we developed for starting that old gasoline motor. Roy Smith story is something that...he was one of the neighbors there to the south and he was always friendly too and had worked originally on the section crews some for Temple and he finally owned, before he died, two or three thousand acres of land. He's been dead about 10 years now, I guess, or maybe less. But Roy Smith was down there and I remember probably it must have been around 1941 or somewhere around in there, well Mr. Smith was out there and my daddy and I were riding around looking at the cattle there and one morning about 10 o'clock we met Roy Smith driving some cattle to the pasture there close to the Rayville house and he said to my daddy said, "I bought these cattle up near Weches," and said "I'm driving them home," and said "It's so far around this place I decided just to take the fence down and drive them over the fence and drive them on through and put the fence back up when I get through to the other end." He says, "I hope you don't object." And my daddy said, "No, no I don't object Roy," said "I hope you don't leave them in here over night or anything and get them to where they think this is home. I hope you can manage to get them on through. And complete your trip today." And Roy said, "Well I'll have them out before dark, you can depend on me." That was about 9 o'clock in the morning and at that time the log train was making two trips a day out there from Diboll to pick up logs. We didn't see Roy Smith until about 5 o'clock that afternoon and he was near the same location and he...that time when we saw him he had a cast on his shoulder and a broke arm in a cast and had his arm all in that and he's still after those cattle. My daddy said, "Roy what in the world happened?" He said "Well I ran into a tree and the horse did with me," and said "I broke my shoulder and arm," and says "I rode over there to the railroad and the log train was going to Diboll and so I got on there and I rode into Diboll and Dr. Clem," yea Dr. J.C. Clements, "set my arm and put the cast on," and says "I caught the next log train out and came back," and said "I had told you that I'd have these cattle out of here at dark and I'm going to make it."

JG: Broke arm and all, huh?

EK: Yeh, he had that much determination to do what he said he was going to and of course anybody would know really you could've told what happened and got by without any black marks against you. But he wanted to do exactly what he said. But that kind of...I don't know anything else that I might add. Do you have any ideas? We're thinking that ranch started what year, now do you think?

JG: Judge Minton wrote something in 1956 and what he wrote then was that he remembered that L. D. Gilbert hired J. J. Ray in 1913 to take on that ranch.

EK: OK. Let me tell you about L.D. Gilbert. He was the Texarkana man worked in the main office. He never lived down there. But he came down to these Boggy Slough camp houses to camp out when all the big officials would come in. He had forgotten his coat and he borrowed one of my daddy's hunting coats and he fell with a heart attack and died there at Boggy Slough camp house. Did anybody tell you that? And he had seven pecans in the pocket of my daddy's hunting coat, and my mother planted those pecan trees, and all of them made a tree. But several died and there's only one or two left, and they are in our yard, which is the house where I was raised kind of there across from the Lufkin City Hall there. Red brick house. Well there's two of those pecan trees still in the yard, the last time I was around, and still living.

JG: Those were in L.D. Gilbert's pocket?

EK: Right.

JG: Do y'all still own that house?

EK: No. We sold that house and there was three of us kids and really none of us wanted it so we all joined in and sold it and it's been refurbished and it's used for what now?

DK: CASA? That children's home. It's connected with...

JG: CASA?

DK: CASA.

JG: CASA. OK. Yeh. Court Appointed Special Advocates.

DK: That's correct.

JG: For the kids. Yeh.

DK: And it's... You know, this man bought it and he re-did it and then I think Temple gave some money, or the Foundation did, to start this program, and have it close to the courthouse.

JG: Yeh. Well, that's an interesting story about those pecan trees.

EK: Yeh. It really kind of shows how our history ties in and so forth.

DK: Jay Brittain painted the Kenley family's home.

JG: Oh. OK.

EK: Sharon do you have that painting of the old red brick home?

Sharon Kenley (Clay Kenley's wife): I believe it's...

EK: Do you know Jay pretty well or work with Jay?

JG: Yeh, yeh. He's the one...those magazines that I brought, he's the one that puts all that into the computer and gets it to the printer and stuff.

EK: I wish Jay had come with you. I started to tell you that...

JG: And Jay painted that?

EK: Yeh.

JG: He did huh?

DK: He did our house on Reen too.

JG: Well that's pretty doggone good. I didn't know he painted too.

DK: He's real talented. Very talented.

EK: Jonathan Gerland here lives...bought the house that John Rhodes had up above us... 1115 Reen Drive. You remember up there?

JG: 1115 Reen.

DK: I was thinking Bob and Helen Rhodes were at 1115 but they must be...

JG: You mean Dr. Rhodes? Yeh, I don't know what their address is but they are just across the side street there.

EK: I think they're in the 1200s aren't they?

JG: Yeh. Well I'm going to have to talk to Jay about that.

SK: You'll know our house because the yard's never mowed.

DK: No. It's been mowed. We had to cut that big tree off on that side of the house.

EK: Is there anything else that you think might stir up my memory or anything?

JG: Let's see. You had mentioned earlier that you remembered more about the cattle end of it rather than the hunting end of it. One of the things in Judge Minton's little account that he wrote...he'd said that kind of how the game, specifically I guess the deer were protected was that when the company started fencing all those lands in the '10s and '20s that there was a 640 acre tract that they put hog fencing in and some how the deer...when the people in the surrounding woods would run those deer with dogs that those deer found that if they got inside that hog proof wire that it kept the dogs out. They just sort of discovered that those deer would

run in there for protection and then supposedly the Company, or Uncle Tom Temple, decided, "hey, well we could do a little something for...to protect this game." Did you remember anything...or have you ever heard that?

EK: Well that was called "The 640" and I didn't ever hear that much about that or realize that that went on but I can see that it sure possibly could've.

JG: Where would "The 640" have been in relation to where the Rayville house was? Was the house on "640?"

EK: It'd be about 400 yards south of this house where "The 640" started. It was on the side of the railroad there on the east side of the railroad and it went of course, a mile this way and a mile that way. There was a Boggy Slough Clubhouse there on the pipeline. I think that clubhouse was probably already gone, it had burnt down or something and they used Arthur Temple's private club house now I think is the way it worked out.

JG: What was "The 640?" I mean did it just happen to be 640 acres that they fenced in? From the hogs?

EK: Yeh. That's what they fenced in.

JG: OK. So you were born in '24 so a lot of these are memories of Captain Ray would be in about the mid to late '20s up until the time that he moved to Renfro?

EK: That's right. I was under six years old when he moved. Now, the Captain Ray never moved to the Renfro Ranch. But his son J.J. leased it for 10 years and operated a ranch there. And then Captain Ray went on to Glenrose was my understanding. But that's interesting to me. He tells me, Jonathan says, that both of the Rays are buried there in what cemetery? Glendale?

JG: Yes, sir. Here's a picture. There's J.J. Ray senior, and J.J. Ray Junior side by side there in Lufkin. At the Glendale Knight Cemetery.

DK: Yes, on Lufkin Avenue.

JG: Lufkin Avenue. Yes ma'am.

EK: Well, J.J. lived...

JG: But J.J., Captain Ray died...what's it say there, in '41? 1941?

EK: Yeh, yeh.

JG: His death certificate is recorded in Tarrant County but I've checked the Fort Worth and Dallas papers and I can't find an obituary. And the Lufkin paper for that time period...there aren't any. They're missing. It's like a whole year's worth of newspapers that are missing.

SK: Was there a Diboll paper at that time?

JG: No ma'am. Not in '41. But we'd love to find out more about the Captain.

DK: Tarrant County or something that Glenrose...where Edd thought maybe he was living.

JG: Yea. I think that's where he died.

DK: Then he would have been close to Fort Worth.

JG and EK: *Simultaneously:* Right, yeah.

DK: Maybe he went to a hospital there. So there might be something in the Glenrose...

JG: Yeh, if they have a little newspaper maybe.

DK: I don't know.

EK: Now, J.J.'s son was real interested in horses. He went to New Orleans, I guess you heard that, as a horse trainer for C.L. Dupree had some race horses. J.J. went there as a manager of C.L. Dupree's race horses. C.L. Dupree was the old Chevrolet dealer there in Lufkin.

JG: Did you ever know what J.J. stood for?

EK: No.

JG: According to the death records it was John Jones.

EK: I'll be dog.

JG: John Jones Ray.

DK: You've really done a lot of digging.

EK: And, I've enjoyed it so much.

DK: I know it. If we move back to our house on Reen, you could just come visit all the time.

JG: Well, if we have a little bit more time, just tell me more about your dad, maybe. About your memories of working with your dad.

DK: I wonder if he'll tell it. Edd wasn't as interested in hunting but his mother and daddy were, of course Aunt Lucy and Uncle Robert Minton they all...

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE 2

BEGINNING OF TAPE 2 SIDE 1

JG: This is tape two with Mr. Edd Kenley and I was just asking a question about his dad and maybe some of the earliest memories you have of your dad or working with your dad, or maybe growing up in Diboll. How much...did you go to the Diboll Schools?

EK: Yeh. I went to the Diboll Schools through about the fourth grade. We lived there as I said across from the old Commissary kind of and also across from what they called the library. The library was just an apartment there that the Temple's stayed in when they came and stayed. And they stayed in that apartment. They ate over at that old Lone Star Hotel, is where they ate their meals except Arthur. He usually ate at our house.

JG: Talking about Arthur Senior?

EK: That's the one that's my age.

JG: Oh OK. Arthur Jr.

EK: Yeh. He was around there all the time. Whenever they came they'd stay about 10 days I guess, he and his daddy every summer. He'd come over and eat all his meals over there with us. He was really tight with our family and we thought a lot of him and he evidently thought enough of us to stay around a good bit. Or thought that much of our cooking. Anyway, going back to my dad and I. We've had pretty much the same interest in cattle and all that stuff. I mentioned earlier to you that I was going back to south Texas to kind of take care of the ranch down there. That ranch originated from that trip that he made to get those Mexicans to come up there to work for him in World War I. It originated because he had to wait for those Mexicans to get ready to go up there and he rented a horse at the livery stable and went east out of Laredo to Miranda City in that area. It had rained and everything looked good down there so he leased the pasture down there and bought some cattle while during that two day period. He eventually had partners they worked their way on up and finally wound up there close to Cotula. Leasing country, leasing country and leasing country. When I got out of college there in the early '50s I had seen this place here that we're on right now and daddy and I had come and tried to buy it. We found that we wasn't financially able to buy it or trade, it was for sale but it wasn't to where we could afford it. We went on from there and about that time the ranch that we had leased was bought by Dolph Briscoe, who was later governor. It was a big ranch. It was 120,000 acres but we had 26,000 of it leased. He offered to sell us 26,000 acres of it and we bought that 26,000 acres with the money that we'd spent buying this place. Only we didn't have that much money and we nearly lost it, that south Texas ranch due to drought several times. We finally got it all paid for and my son Clay and I got interested again in this place in the late '80s, 1986 or something, and came over and looked at it and we started trying to trade for it and finally traded for it. I believe it was '93 or '94 when we finally bought this place here. I'd like to drive you around here a little bit if you have time, just to let you kind of see what this is like around here.

JG: Alright. Yea. I wouldn't mind.

EK: I wished that Arthur had come with you because I'd like to show him. He told me the last time I saw him that he'd been getting out of the cattle business...

STOPPED TAPE [EK gave a tour of his ranch to JG].

JG: You could probably just talk normal and it will pick you up.

EK: There's one more story that you might be interested in. Somebody down at Diboll decided that they would have turkeys out there on Boggy Slough and so forth. They decided the best way to get wild turkeys back to the country was fence in about 20 acres of land there and put chicken wire all around it about eight or 10 foot high and put the turkeys in there and when they got able to fly over and go out into the world well they'd be ready to populate the country there. When they fenced it up well they fenced in three or four deer believe it was three deer and the gate was on the middle of one side of it. The water ran out in there and those deer just didn't seem like they could find that gate to go out of there even though we left it open. My daddy sent Charlie and I up there to get those three deer and drive them out of that 20 acres. Well, they just immediately when Charlie and I went up there horseback the deer just ran crazy and wild and they made a run there and they hit that chicken wire fence and it looked like three cannon balls had gone through that chicken wire fence. It just tore a hole as big as the deer and they kept on running.

END OF TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW