

JOHN WILLIAM “BILL” TEMPLE, SR.

Interview 163a

July 27, 2001, at home of Bill Temple in Crown Colony, Lufkin, TX

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ABSTRACT: In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, John William “Bill” Temple, Sr. talks about Temple family history and genealogy and reminisces about his life. He mentions T.L.L. Temple, Arthur Temple, Sr. and Arthur Temple, Jr., Henry Temple and Latane Temple. He talks about growing up in Texarkana, working for the family businesses, staying in Hawaii while in the military, and changes in the forest products industry.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): Ok. Today’s date is Friday, July 27th, 2001. And I’m in the home of John William “Bill” Temple in Lufkin at Crown Colony. And we’re going to do a little oral history interview today. He’s going to tell me a little bit about his father and grandfather and his side of the family, as well as maybe some of his experiences working for the companies and with the family, especially at Pineland. Mr. Temple, if you would, just start off and tell us when you were born and just wherever you wanted to start talking about your father and your grandparents.

Bill Temple (hereafter BT): Alright. I was born February the 1st, 1929. And I was not to be named William. I was to be named John Raymond for my mother’s brother. And William Temple, the son of William, the William Temple who was T. L. L. Temple’s brother. In other words, that William Temple’s son, William Temple Jr., who was my father’s business partner and closest cousin and friend...died within hours of my birth. He actually died February the 2nd, when I was born late in the evening and he died right after midnight. So, we were within, my birth and his death, were within just a very few hours. And so, they named me John William. And, you know, William for him. My father was 41 when I was born, or was close to 41. He was born in Fulton, Arkansas, but he was raised both in Fulton and Tappahannock, Virginia. Essex County, Virginia. The reason for this was, is that his father, well I’ll digress, his father, John Newton Temple, was the eldest of the Rev. Henry W. L. Temple’s children. He was born, John Newton, was born in 1847. He served briefly at the very end of the Civil War from late December until Appomattox in, I think it’s in March or April...as a Cavalryman in the Army of Northern Virginia. His mother, Susan Jones Temple, had an uncle, a bachelor uncle, who was a doctor, an MD, named Orlando Jones. Now, am I going back too much on this?

JG: No sir. No sir.

BT: Alright. Orlando Jones was evidently an adventuresome sort. He came down to Arkansas and Louisiana in the early eighteen hundreds and...he obtained land grant farms, I suppose there land grant farms, in Louisiana. I’m not just sure the location of them...but he obtained a grant of a thousand acres there abouts in southwestern Arkansas, just north of Texarkana on the banks of Red River. He did this in 1840. Now, if you look

at a map, the Red River runs due east to west separating Oklahoma and Texas. And then it just peaks into the southwest corner of Arkansas, bends to 90 degrees to the south, and exits very quickly in a short distance to northern Louisiana. The farm was before the bend. In other words, it was while the river was running still on an easterly, westerly direction...and it was on the north bank. Approximately 15 miles north of Texarkana as the crow flies...maybe not quite that far. The reason he left this land, both lands, to two nieces...one the Rev. Temple's, Henry W. L. Temple's, wife Susan Jones Temple. And the other to her sister...I can't think of her name right now. She was married to a Wright that left her the land in Louisiana, the land in slaves. This bill was written in 1862 by Dr. Orlando Jones. I would assume that the land in Louisiana must have been in the very northern part on the Red, which would have allowed him easy access between his two plantations. These were working plantations. He left it in his will in 1862 that when, if either of them died, of these nieces, that it should go, the land and slaves and everything, should go to their two eldest, each of them's two eldest male heirs. And so...although I never heard my father or anyone talk about Uncle Charles, who was my grandfather's brother, inheriting any land...my brother-in-law, Max Cox, was nice enough to run the titles on the Temple place back to 1885 I think it was. And at that point there is a long deed, hand written deed, that describes the division of the land between John Newton and Charles. So, Charles died the next year at age 26 and I can only assume that the land, or maybe the proceeds of the sale of the land, went to his five remaining, or six remaining siblings. My grandfather worked his land, which was about a thou...I tell you, it was about two thousand acres. Orlando Jones must have had two thousand acres 'cause my grandfather ended up with a thousand acres roughly.

JG: That's John Newton Temple, your grandfather, ended up with two thousand.

BT: John Newton Temple, excuse me. Ended up with one thousand.

JG: One thousand.

BT: So there must have been two thousand originally for them to split it.

JG: Ok.

BT: And...but anyway, he went back to Virginia and he was the first to come down here because he was much the eldest. He was, I think, 12 years older than T. L. L., and perhaps eight years, seven or eight years older than Charles. William was the youngest boy. William was a couple of years younger than T. L. L. was. But anyway, I may be kind of jumping around here...but, he was the first brother to marry a Virginia bride. All three living, surviving brothers married Virginia brides. He settled on in Fulton and I can only assume there was no military road that ran from Ogden to Fulton along the north bank of the river. And the farm was on this road and with lacking bridges on the Red, even though Texarkana was a bigger town, I imagine Fulton was much more accessible than having to take a ferry across the Red and everything...particularly when the Red would get up in flood stage. So, my dad was born in Fulton, and...although they spent a lot of time in the winter back in Virginia...in his early childhood. My grandfather died in

18, John Newton Temple, died in 1899 during surgery in Virginia. I can only assume that was in Richmond because Tappahannock was a pretty small town that was within a few miles of Richmond. My grandmother, at that time, decided to remain in her native town of Tappahannock, Virginia and raise her two sons. I would assume for several reasons one: her sisters lived back there. And two: the education facilities were much better at that point than southwestern Arkansas. Uncle Henry went to Episcopal High Prep School. Dad went to Woodberry Forest. Uncle Henry did a year or less at Washington-Lee and Dad did less than a year at University of Virginia. People back then didn't...weren't all that...oh...set on getting a college degree. However, their...both of their grandfathers had college degrees. The Rev. Temple, of course, was an ordained Episcopal minister. He spent some of his time at Harvard. And...my, their maternal grandfather, Dr. Gresham, was an MD. Was an MD from the University of Pennsylvania, who studied some, for two or four years, depending on which account you read in Paris, France...post-graduates work in the 1850's. But...I'm digressing again.

JG: And what did your father do? I mean, not your father, your grandfather, John Newton.

BT: He was a planter. He was just a planter.

JG: He went out there and worked the thousand acres.

BT: Yeah, well he had some...he had slaves. Well, he didn't have slaves...by the time he inherited of course the slaves were free, as they should have been. And...but he had a lot of blacks that...some that had come from Virginia with him, but a lot that were there to begin with, a few that came with him. And...I've heard that, just by word of mouth. But, he did very well. What they did was, the Red was navigable as this picture shows. They floated their cotton down the Red to the Mississippi on down to New Orleans and sold their cotton to New Orleans. And, he...although he wasn't a wealthy man, apparently he did very well.

JG: And what did he die of?

BT: He was...it was abdominal surgery. Now I don't know whether it was appendicitis or what.

JG: He was about what...52 or 53?

BT: He was about 52 years old. My father was 11, and Uncle Henry would have been 14.

JG: 'Cause your grandmother lived until 1940 I see on here.

BT: Yes. She was quite a bit younger. Ma was, Ma lived to be eighty...but she was...

JG: She was the same age, I guess, as T. L. L. Born in, both of them were born in '59.

BT: Yeah. Ok. She would have been the same age as T. L. L. And...they, she was with it very early, as I say, and lived back in Virginia. But all she and both of her sons came, I think, different times...very early in the new century, the twentieth century, back to the southwest area. Dad came back to sell, well Uncle Henry probably came first as a very young man. He eloped with his wife. She was a rather wellborn Tappahannock girl. Lucy Anderton...and they eloped.

JG: And that's Anderton, not Anderson.

BT: It's the only Anderton I've ever been aware of. But, it's Anderton. And...I don't know if that's Dutch or Danish or something, Swedish or something...but it's Anderton. And...they came to Texas and he went right to Diboll as a youngster...and was in Diboll and Pineland all his adult life. Died in Diboll in 1948. My father, on the other hand, went to work for Southern Pine Lumber Company as a salesman. And was with them until...Indianapolis and the Dallas area and...he was unmarried. He was with them until he went to the service in World War I. And, when he got out, he and Bill Temple had this, William Temple Jr., had this plan of going into the wholesale grain business in Texarkana. And Dad was getting married to my mother, and Uncle Tom, very graciously, he was always, this is T. L. L. Temple, seemed to always have a way of developing win-win situations. He...during the war they had been unable to supply, now this is from my father based on my memory...during the war they had been unable to supply, through the war effort, lumber to some of their old customers in the quantities that the customer desired. And these were some of Dad's old customers. And so, Uncle Tom made the offer to Dad that he could have a working honeymoon...that he would pay their expenses in Dallas. And if Dad would work the territory during the morning, he'd have the afternoon. And they were put up at the, what was then, the nicest hotel. And, so they were there several months...it was an extended honeymoon...working for the company prior to his going into the wholesale grain business. He was in the wholesale grain business until...I'm gonna say '42. It could have been '43...it was either fall of '42 or the spring of '43. He sold out, he and his partner sold out of the grain business. That was getting to be a, sort of an obsolete thing...it was based on the farmer going by wagon to a country store to buy his supplies. They didn't have pick-ups...many. Their company supplied the country stores...they had flat bed trucks that they'd deliver supplies to the country stores in and around Texarkana. 'Course with the advent of the farmer getting pick-ups, he came to town and dealt with the bigger companies like Purina and things like that. So, it was sort of a business that was, had seen its better days. And he sold out and went to work for Temple Cotton Oil and worked with them until he retired shortly before his death in 1955. And, Uncle Henry stayed with the mills always...he was always with the mill, he was never went into sales or anything. And, I'm...

JG: Now, your father calls Texarkana home?

BT: Oh yes. Yeah. And, Mother...my mother was born and raised in Texarkana. And, they and my brother are all buried there.

JG: Henry Gresham came straight from Virginia to Diboll.

BT: That's right. He was in Diboll for years and then I suppose at the death at some manager of whom I do not know who it might have been...

JG: I think it was Adams.

BT: In Pineland.

JG: Yes sir.

BT: Ok.

JG: I knew Adams was one that...they've got the same name, but, I just don't know...Adams was the first one who actually started Pineland.

BT: It might have been.

JG: Then T. L. L. bought into it...

BT: Yeah. He bought it yeah...

JG: ...but he kept Adams on...

BT: I see, I didn't know that.

JG: I'm not positive on that, but, from the work I've done...

BT: Well, I remember that the mills name originally was Garrison Norton.

JG: Yeah, yeah. That's actually the firm.

BT: Yeah.

JG: But Adams...

BT: Was the manager.

JG: ...had actually started even before Garrison and Norton was formed.

BT: I see, I see.

JG: And I haven't really identified who Garrison and Norton were, but that's the...

BT: I remember when I was there in 1950, the boilers, which is a big 'ol Dutch oven, antique boilers. You know, they would have the name cast in the iron of the doors of the boiler of the furnaces in Garrison Norton...that was in 1950.

JG: Pineland was actually laid out I think in 1903 according to the Sante Fe Railroad...

BT: Ok.

JG: Of course, just like any other area where the railroads came through there was small sawmills that popped up...

BT: Yeah, that's right.

JG: ...all along the road. That just happened to be, I think, the Pineland story was when Adams started it and he was kind of keeping things up. But yeah, there was a man named Adams who did die and that's what...

BT: You remember about when he died?

JG: No, I put the little news clip in the last Pine Bough. There was....

BT: I like that...I like that...

JG: ...I can't remember, but, yeah, Henry Gresham was the something over, some kind of superintendent over lumber shipments I think, out in Diboll.

BT: Yeah, he was over shipping clerks. A shipping clerk, was then and probably still is, I don't know...saw milling has changed so much. When I went to Pineland in 1950 sawmilling was pretty much like they were to begin with. And...a shipping clerk was a very, one of the most responsible jobs in the organization. But, I knew Uncle Henry had gone from shipping clerk, in Diboll to Pineland, as mill manager, I didn't know what date. But I assumed it was around 1920 or somewhere in there.

JG: Yeah, it was 1919, I can't exactly remember what, but yeah, that's what brought him to Pineland.

BT: Ok. Yeah. I know this that...

JG: And then when Watson Walker died I think is when he came back to Diboll.

BT: Well he didn't come back, that's the thing is that...

JG: Where does he...(laughter)

BT: Well, what they did was they put him in charge of both mills when Watson was...

JG: Oh yeah, that's right that's right.

BT: And they wanted him naturally to move to...Diboll because it was the bigger mill. But Uncle Henry was a very sentimental type. And, you know, he'd sort of...Kipling has a poem about a man, you know, and his work, or something. Where he loses his virginity there his heart will stay, or something. And, you know, that was when he was mill manager and he didn't want to leave. He loved the town and he loved the people and everything. And...so they let him, Arthur, well first T. L. L. Temple and then Arthur Sr., allowed him to live in Pineland and manage both mills. And, I know he moved back to Diboll in 1938 into the home that Arthur lives in now, it's a company house. And I always heard as a small boy that Arthur Sr. had built that house for him sort of as an enticement to get Aunt Lucy and him to move back to Diboll. Arthur may not agree with that because that's just word of mouth as I recall what I heard. But, I remember, that house was built in '38 and I visited about Thanksgiving of '38. And, being raised in the Depression, I was nine years old. I was sort of starry eyed about a new home of that size. It was really, quite a lovely place...it still is. But I remember it had, this was before aluminum became economical to produce. We had aluminum, but, it was not at all economical...so it was...aluminum was fairly expensive. Apparently more so than copper, because, the screening in window screens were all galvanized steel mesh, which would rust out and everything. And that home had copper screens. Of course, to begin with they were bright as due, but then they darkened as they formed an oxide. But, I remember how all kind of startling it was to see shiny copper in the window screens. But...should I at this point go on about when I went to Pineland maybe?

JG: Yeah, yeah, that would be good.

BT: I went to Pineland right out of college, graduated from the University of Texas.

JG: And again, you grew up in Texarkana.

BT: Texarkana, yes. As did my wife, and, we were high school sweet hearts.

JG: What school did you go to? Just one high school in town?

BT: No, she was a Texas High School girl and I was an Arkansas High School boy. And, although, I'm sure we must have seen one another, because the town wasn't that large, neither one of us remembered having seen each other. I remember her car, having seen it with a bunch of Texas girls in it. But, we met toward the end of our junior year, in May of 1925. And fell in love, and attended different universities. Most of the kids in Texarkana attended, or many of them, a lot of them, more of them any other school, probably attended the University of Arkansas. It was a small university, and, you know how a town is. If a bunch of kids start going there it just sort of feeds on itself. But, there were a lot of Texarkana people there both Texarkana, Arkansas and Texarkana, Texas. I went to University of Texas because several reasons. One, it had the curriculum I wanted...and like that. But I, we still maintained our romance...about the hardest...

JG: Did she go to college as well?

BT: She went to the University of Arkansas.

JG: Ok.

BT: We went one year, she would have gone right out of school, but, I went one year to junior college in Texarkana. I went summer, two summers, and two winter terms. Started right out of high school, graduated one night and entered summer school at Texarkana Junior College the next day. She attended junior college because she wanted to...we wanted to be together. And so, we were only away at school, going summers and everything, two and a half years. I think we finished college, both of us, in three and a half years. I went to Pineland in March of 1950. We were not married at that point. And...I was a trainee down there in the mill. We married August of '50 after I'd been there about six months, and went home every weekend to see her. And...

JG: What was your job at the mill?

BT: It was a trainee, I was kind of being trained for possible management. And, I worked...

JG: Did you work at any of the mills like Diboll and Pineland in the summer?

BT: No I had not. But, I worked in virtually all the departments. Except the woods crew, I never was in the woods crew. But, I did cruise some timber with Mr. Prudhomme one time. That's the only experience I had at...

JG: Eck?

BT: Eck Prudhomme, yeah. He was...

JG: What was the...I'm sorry.

BT: Sure, go ahead. He was the mill manager then.

JG: Ok. Can you describe the mill itself, like what kind of sawmill did they have? Did they have two mills or were they cutting hardwoods?

BT: They had one mill. They had a hardwood side and a pine side.

JG: It was all under one roof?

BT: It was all under one big roof. All on the second floor.

JG: Right.

BT: The first floor was...

JG: Machinery...

BT: The first floor was not...it didn't even have a floor to it. It was strictly dirt...because, it was a...it looked like something out of Rube Goldberg. It was all belts and pulleys and everything. It was all steam driven...see, you had one big steam, huge steam engine.

JG: Big old...

BT: Yeah, and then you had the drive shafts that came down and all the machines were driven off of it. So, it was a maze of belts spinning belts and pulleys and wheels and flywheels. It looked like a millwright's nightmare down below. And the mill was all up on the second floor. You had two head rigs.

JG: Was it band saws I guess?

BT: That's right. As you came in the log deck from the pond, the millpond, if you'd came up that end. On the left side was the pine head rig, the man saw. And on the right was the hardwood.

JG: So the hardwoods all...just...they weren't into pine were they?

BT: Well, I think they might have been. I think that's the only way you could get them up that chain...was to get them in the pond and then on there. I'm not sure of that, I could be wrong on that. But, you had two green chains back down on the ground level. The pine green chain...after the boards were...

JG: Sawn.

BT: ...sawn and then edged, and they even had the gang saw for the lower grade pine lumber. And after they were...after they went through the process, up on the second deck there...they went down this chain to the, to two green chains they called it. There was the pine green chain and the hardwood green chain. The pine green chain they graded there, graded in the rough. And...now, and they were sorted somewhat by width, 'cause I've forgotten all that. But, they then went to the stackers, the pine did. The pine went to the stackers, where they were stacked on kiln cars and subsequently taken, I mean, to the dry kiln. The hardwood had required a slower drying. So, from the green chain, they went to, in these dollies, and I'll tell you more about those. They went to the hardwood yard, which was a vast area where they would stack green in stacks...

JG: Air dry.

BT: Air-dried. And then they were kiln dried after they were thoroughly air dried for so many months. This whole operation was on a tramway, they called it. Which was just a, it was an elevated wooden structure. Just to, I mean, just covered a vast area with these tramways.

JG: Plank walkways.

BT: Yeah, they used hickory. And, I don't think they were 2 by's, they were probably about, they were close to a finished 2 by, there about an inch and a half thick, I think the planks were. These, they could have been 2 by, I thought they were a little bit better than that...but they were green hickory. And they had a crew of men. They were black men. They had a strip down, flat bed truck, the cab was just off of it and the straw boss was black also. And they made, they had the wood they carried around and they would replace boards that needed replacing. It was constant maintenance. But, the lumber stacks were started at ground level. They had a base that was concrete footings with railroad rails down there. And you would start the stack below the dolly way and then it would go up the stacker. The stacks were about 16 ft. tall. And the...another very interesting thing about the movement, well now, the way they moved lumber on the dolly ways is they had what they call jitneys, which were usually stripped down little A-models or something like that. That would hook onto these little two-wheeled dollies that the lumber was stacked on and pull them to where they need to be stacked. The pine on the other hand was stacked in a structure where the lumber was somewhat mechanized to where they would get the lumber to the stackers. And they stacked them on these, but it was not an automatic stacker like they had in Diboll.

JG: Very labor intensive.

BT: That's right. But once they got the things stacked on these little trucks, they had little trucks that were on the narrow gauge rail, they had something that a mill ride had laid out around in front on the exit side of the dry kilns, there were a bunch of dry kilns in a row. And all of this was supported by or surrounded by this dolly way that I'm talking about, this wooden structure. They had blocks, which you know are like pulleys, you talk about a block and tackle, they had these blocks everywhere...snatch blocks they call them some places. And this cable, it must have had 100 miles of cable, and they had one stationary Ford V-8 engine with a wench. And they would run this cable all over the place with these, using these pulleys, and latch onto one of those kiln cars. They would stack a stack of lumber that was stacked on little rolling dolly's that were dolly way or...I think they call them kiln trucks, that rolled on this narrow...

JG: Could you spell that word kiln?

BT: K-I-L-N.

JG: Kiln.... dry kiln.

BT: Yeah. They pronounce it kiln. Though I don't know if that's right or not. But, I'd almost have to draw you a picture 'cause, but they would, you know, at some distance and many turns, with a guy at each turn, they would...with hand signals...they would tell they guy back at the motor, the engine, the V-8 engine, to start winching. And that would pull the kiln car along this track onto a traveling car that had tracks on it. And when it got on this transfer car then they'd tell them to stop. And they would unhook from the car

chuck the stacked car on that transfer, big transfer. Then they would hook onto it and they'd pull the whole darn transfer car down in front of the kilns. And then they'd tell them to stop, and then they'd rig through the kiln, and out back to this original stack of lumber and they'd pull it into the kiln. And...this took, you know, a lot of man power and a lot of time...but, it was high tech for the...

JG: Yeah.

BT: Nineteen teens I imagine. You know, but we were still doing it in the 1950's, and that was what Arthur really saw was....had to be changed is that, you know, it was so labor intensive. Anything you did was...no forklift trucks or anything like that. Straddle trucks. And so, he saw that everything had to be modernized, and did it. And...but, like I say, when I went to Pineland, the mill was pretty much like it was in 1920 I suppose, in 1950.

JG: How long were you in Pineland?

BT: I was there a year and a half...we, the nicest people in the world. We had a group of older couples, I married Joan there in August of '50, married her and took her there in August of '50. And she taught school in Hemphill...and we were there a year...

JG: I'm sorry, let me back up just a little bit...what was your degrees in?

BT: Industrial Engineering.

JG: Yours was in Industrial Engineering.

BT: Yeah, hers was in elementary education.

JG: And she taught at Temple?

BT: That's right. And...she, I...

JG: As a newly wed couple, just what was your impressions of, with no experience of going...

BT: Well...when I took her down there before we married to see about getting a job at Hemphill really, Pineland then did not have a brick structure in it. It had a big wooden commissary with a drugstore as part of it, and the big wooden porch out the front of it. And a rather new wooden office that was built I'd say probably...in the 19 probably during the war, or the late '30's. And, very nice, but it was wooden. And...I drove up in-between the...and all these faced the railroad tracks that was...and then on the other side of the railroad track was the mill. And...I drove up in-between the commissary and the main office and I said, "Well, what do you think of Pineland?" And she said, "Well it's fine but where is downtown?" And I said, "Well you're sitting right in the big middle of it." (laughter) So that was sort of the impression, you know, the early impression. But,

when we moved there we did go home a lot to Texarkana. It was about a three and a half hour drive on weekends. We would go a lot on weekends. But, the doctor and his wife, Tom Jones, who just died in the last year or so in Jasper, and his widow is still living there. And Bruce Burnett who was a bookkeeper and his wife...and Bill Fulmer, who died here a few years ago in Diboll...he was a forester. He and his wife were northerners, which was sort of unusual for Pineland. But...

JG: And he was the first, Mr. Fulmer, was the first...

BT: He may have been the first graduate forester they ever had probably. And but...anyway, we had a good group that we played, we started off playing canasta and then Joan knew how to play bridge and I think maybe Mary Jones did and we learned how to play bridge when we were there. And we had a good time. They were lovely people and...we, they had built some new little houses, they're still in existence. Up, sort of in the northwest end of town...and, I think they built three or four in a row, little, very small, two bedroom houses. And...tiny kitchen and everything, one bath...and hardwood floors, and we got one of them. It was brand new, we moved there from marriage...we'd moved there to be our wedding, we moved there on our honeymoon...we moved down there. We were there a year and like I said we loved the people, but, Joan didn't really want to raise children in that remote, she wanted better schools and things like that. So we went to work for the yards, the retail yards, they had the retail yards. And, I went to Houston, and was there just six months...while I was in Pineland, about the time we married the Korean War broke out. And I didn't have NROTC or ROTC or anything like that...but, the Navy offered, very briefly, this hardwood grater told me he'd seen it in the Beaumont Enterprise, we all took the Beaumont Enterprise...that the Navy was offering, this was in 1950, a...shortly after we married, a sixty minute quiz that was given in New Orleans and in Dallas as far as this areas concerned, for college graduates. And if you passed it you could get a reserve commission. They didn't have this very long, this was in lieu of an OCS. They needed some officers quickly at the time. And...you were supposed to go to it if you got your commission. So when you were called to active duty you went to a thirty day indoctrination school in Monterrey, California. And I don't know if you want to know all about this...

JG: Yeah.

BT: But anyway, in 790 they wanted you to be a thirty-day wonder. And so, I went to Dallas in January of '51, right after the New Years, and took this quiz and passed it. Then was on hold for several months because, just didn't hear anything. What had happened was, the Navy had, well I got my commission, but they didn't give me my commission until I used a little influence...my fraternity brother from Texarkana, fraternity brother in Texas, was a Texarkana boy, whose father was Wright Patmon. And so I wrote Mr. Patmon a letter, to see if he could facilitate my getting...the obtaining of my commission. Because I was due it, I wasn't asking for something I wasn't due. And it was forthcoming...and I was sworn in as a reserve officer...reserve in the Navy. When we went to Houston, I joined a reserve unit down there, Navy Reserve Unit. And so I got a little experience down there, precious little. I...along about the end of the year of 1951

they reclassified married being as 1A if you didn't have children. And so, I inquired as to whether I could be drafted with a commission of the Navy. And they said, "Do you have any service?" And I said, "No." They said, "Well, you better believe we'll get you as buck pilot." And I...it may have been a bluff, but they certainly convinced me. About that time the Navy came out with a plea for reserve officers to enlist. So boy, I sharpened my pencil and enlisted. And instead of my thirty-day indoctrination school I was sent directly aboard ship because they'd opened up an OCS program about the time I received my commission. Then they had discontinued the thirty-day indoctrination school. So I went directly aboard a destroyer escort. And fortunately I ran in with a bunch of real fine...a bunch of re-trans...it will be twelve guys from World War II that had been called back in, and were kind of bitter about being called back in. And so, they sort of welcomed a red-blooded American civilian. (laughter) And kind of took me under their wing, and I ended up chief engineer about 15 months later, due to attrition. You know, everybody left and left me as chief engineer. Did see some action in Korea, and we got hit, I was Damage Control Officer when we got hit and flooded the after fire room. But, I'm digressing there...when we got out in '54 I decided as much as I was, as crazy as I was about my relatives that I kind of wanted to launch out on engineering. I really wasn't using my engineering degree. And so, but, we like this area of the country, so, we came looking and found work at Lufkin Industries. It was then Lufkin Foundry Machine Company, it was there 38 years....so that's about it.

JG: And you were an engineer.

BT: Yeah, I was a manufacturing engineer.

JG: Tell me a little bit about Texarkana. Just growing up there...

BT: Oh, it was a wonderful place to grow up. Of course, I think it was a wonderful time to grow up really.

JG: And how close were you to...to your...to the Temple family? Arthur Sr. and...

BT: Oh well, I lived in a compound...I lived in a compound really. We lived close to town. William Temple, T. L. L. Temple's brother, had a very large home on the corner of Fort St. and Walnut. T. L. L. Temple's home was on the next corner, 5th and Walnut. They were really in the same block, there was one little house between them... and...where a cousin lived. And...right behind T. L. L. Temple's house or to the side of it, on 5th and Hazel, his daughter Gertrude had built there, his eldest child, a very fine smaller home, but it was a lovely home. And she had moved to Dallas, I think, by the time I came along. And her son Temple Webber...W. Temple Webber, had bought the house from her. And so, he lived right next door, across the alley from T. L. L. Temple. We lived at 6th and Walnut, a block from T. L. L. Temple. Actually, it had been his tennis court and in the late '20's Dad had purchased it from him I'm sure at a very nominal price.

JG: Did your grandfather ever live in Texarkana?

BT: No, he lived in Fulton, and then died in Virginia. See, he died in 1899...and so he never lived in Texarkana.

JG: And when did your father come to Texarkana? Who was first to come to Texarkana, that is?

BT: Oh I...now that's...I would think it was probably T. L. L. Temple.

JG: T. L. L.

BT: Because, he quit farming, you know, he was working. I'd heard he was working for my grandfather. But, Arthur said he walked the railroad track to town. And that would mean he was maybe working for maybe Charles, the year before, you know, before Charles died. I don't know. But, he was working for one of his brothers, just as a field hand as the story goes. And...left the plow in the field and...the mule and plow in the field and walked the railroad track to Texarkana. Then became a clerk, I heard, a store clerk, and then, you know, started dealing in timberland and everything. And made his money at an early age...made a lot of money at an early age.

JG: And then William came...

BT: Well, William was living in Fulton, in fact, Sally Barnes, Sally Temple Barnes, and Suzanne Temple Dooley, in going through some, their grand folk's memorabilia and things, unearthed an engraved wedding invitation from my grandmother, Alice Monroe Temple, John Newton Temple's wife, in Fulton to attend the wedding of her sister. Now these brothers married sisters, there were two Gresham girls married two Temple brothers.

SIDE TWO OF TAPE

JG: Ok. This is side two.

BT: William Temple and John Newton married sisters, the...Alice Gresham and Laura Gresham. And this wedding invitation was the year my dad was born, 1888, to attend the wedding William Temple and Laura Gresham Temple...it was my Grandmother Alice it was at her home. And so, I guess, since they...rather than William going back to Virginia to marry her, she came out to marry him. And so logically her only relative was my grandmother, so she got married in her sister's home, they got married in her sister's home. They lived in Fulton for a number of years, before moving to Texarkana. And I would assume since he had farm land there, and country stores, he had a big store in Fulton I think...he, they were probably later moving to Texarkana than was T. L. L. But I do not, that's supposition, I do not know. My Uncle Will went into the cottonseed oil business. And, his head office was...he officed with T. L. L. Temple – the combined office of Temple, the oil and Southern Pine Lumber Company. He had, they had at one

time, I think, twenty or thirty odd mills up through the state of Arkansas. As I say, my father, his last year before retirement ran the mill in Texarkana. And...

JG: Can you tell me, I was talking with Sally Temple Barnes a while back and...

BT: Oh Sally, can I...

JG: Yeah sure.

BT: ...let me, I want to...but Sally at that point, see Bill had died when I was born, Sally's father, Bill had died when I was born. And her mother and her two daughters, Sally and Suzanne, moved in with their grandmother who was one block west of T. L. L. Temple's house. So Temple Webber Jr., and Sally, and I were within a blocks radius of one another. We grew up, it was really sort of a compound. Sally's like a sister to me.

JG: Yeah. Ok. So y'all are actually cousins?

BT: We're double second cousins actually. Yeah.

JG: Double second cousins.

BT: Our father's had common bloodlines, they were first cousins, but, they had common bloodlines.

JG: She had mentioned that you and her at one time had come to Diboll and...

BT: Oh yeah.

JG: ...she said y'all rode the train...

BT: Yeah...yeah.

JG: ...sitting in a cab of a locomotive...

BT: Yeah, I think it was probably the summer of '39 or '40 was our first year. I've forgotten, it was long in there. My Uncle Henry came to Texarkana, which he did frequently to see my father. And also he'd come to Texarkana to check in with the head office too, of course. Although they traveled, Arthur Sr. and Temple Webber Sr., traveled to Diboll and Pineland frequently on business junkets. And the head office was in Texarkana until 1952, I think. I was in the Navy when it transferred down here where it really should have been all along. But...at any rate Uncle Henry came up and he offered for Sally and me to come back with him to Diboll to spend a couple of weeks. And we did...and this started a regular, a routine thing. We did it for, I guess, three or four summers in a row. We would come and spend two or three weeks...and we would ride horse back and we did ride the train between, rode the engine, between Lufkin and Diboll. The T. S. E [Texas Southeastern]. And then somewhere along in there, not the

first year, but, somewhere along there he built a little shallow pool, swimming pool, that was probably, not more than five foot deep, and rather small, but we would...we enjoyed it quite a bit.

JG: Now, would that be little wading pool or pool that...where the library used to stand?

BT: No, no this was out in Arthur's yard.

JG: Oh, in the yard.

BT: It was in the yard of Henry Temple. Yeah, I think they filled it in...but, it did not have a filter system they just used well water. And...so, but they finally filled it in I think.

JG: And...so y'all just came up...

BT: Yeah, and what we'd do, we rode horses quite a bit and then we would go on little junkets. We'd go over to Pineland. And, I remember one time we went to Pineland, do you have a record of anything about the huge above ground pool that was built in Pineland? Well this was something. It was like Noah's Ark. It was built during the war and...for some reason they wanted a community pool and instead of digging one they built it out of lumber. It was painted and I mean, it was built like...

JG: Swimming pool, is that what you're talking about?

BT: It was a huge wooden swimming pool that was built above ground...you had to climb steps to get up to it. And, of course it eventually rotted out, it didn't last to many years.

JG: They built that during World War II?

BT: Yeah, I remember we went over there the first time they were filling it. And then we eventually went swimming in it. But...south of Diboll in Jasper...south of Pineland in Jasper, Mr. Heart, Mr. Tom Heart...had some small lumbering interest in, he had his finger in a lot of pies as they say. He had four days for one thing. He and Uncle Henry were good friends. And they lived just on the south side of Jasper, and had a nice home, sort of a country home, and they had a spring fed creek that was as cold as an iceberg in mid summer...it was a swimming hole. I guess they had excavated enough to have sort of a swimming hole in this creek. And...you know, a rope tied to a tree to where you could swing out and drop in it; it was a lot of fun. We'd go over there and...we sort of, I remember we went to Boykin Springs one time, and just sort of take excursions from around here. But, mainly we stayed in Pineland, and did more horseback riding than anything else...we'd ride in the morning. And he would always get, Uncle Henry would get somebody...Jay Boren, the peace officer, rode with us quite often. Sometimes Henry Gresham's oldest boy, who lived with Uncle Henry, Gresham lived with Uncle Henry after his first wife died they invited him to live there and he raised his sons in that house.

And...Henry would come with us and my Uncle Seth, Uncle Henry's other grandchild, Mary Lou Durham would ride with us sometimes. And...like I said Jay Boren took us sometimes. Chester, there was a black man, have you heard...he was quite well known.

JG: Chester Willis.

BT: Yeah, Chester Willis rode with us some.

JG: Where would you ride? Like...can you point out like...landmarks or any...

BT: Gosh, you know, we were kind of lost. We would ride either west of town or east and now...when we rode east, where the main office is now, was a pine forest, no underbrush at all.

JG: Is that right at, was it, 1918...?

BT: Yeah, I think that's what it was, it was a gravel road...and we would ride out there. Coming back through, we would cut through what is now the main office. I got thrown coming up out of that creek. I was on a horse with a...had a, the horse had been very gentle, but Henry was behind me. He was...Henry's, probably four years younger than I...this is Henry Gresham Temple the 3rd, it's Gresham's sons...Uncle Henry's grandson, he's on the wheel there somewhere. But...

JG: Yeah, '34.

BT: Yeah, ok. He's about five years younger than me. He was on behind me and Henry was sort of a little imp, you know, good looking little fellow, fine little kid, but, he was always sort of mischievous. And, we surmised as we were coming up that, I was in a Mexican saddle, one with a great big horn. T. L. L. Temple Jr., who was called T. L., had given that to Uncle Henry as a present...and I thought it was really the cat's meow, it had a big sterling silver horn on it, you know, and everything. Henry was behind me and I was about, I guess, twelve or something. But we were riding with a kiln foreman, I can't think of his name...but, he was a real nice guy. But...we came up out of that creek that runs by the main office there. And we were in the pine forest of course...and we surmised Henry must have kicked this horse in the flank as we were coming up, you know. Because, all of a sudden the horse started bucking like crazy, and I was not an accomplished rider and I had had Henry around my neck (laughter)...so we both went off. He fell off, but I grabbed a hold of...I lost the reigns of course and I grabbed a hold of that horn on the saddle. And I was just...I'd lost my stirrup, so I was just hanging...then he started running at a fast clip. And this guy I remember yelled, "Jump Billy, jump." Of course there was no way I could jump I just fell, I just let go...and fell in soft sand, and fell on the side of my face and the shoulder. But, it didn't hurt me at all, but, if I hadn't...if he hadn't told me to let go the horse would have probably raked me off on a tree, you know, pretty badly.

JG: Just your experiences in, you know, the time that you were around Henry Gresham Temple...you mentioned that Chester Willis was riding with y'all, the black man.

BT: Yeah.

JG: Of course the black community named their [school] H. G. Temple, and he was esteemed highly by the black community. The black cemetery there in Diboll, the grave shed...supposedly the story I gathered from the community...a trusted friend and maybe manservant of Henry Temple's that he brought from Pineland, when he came from Pineland. Just your experiences, you know, your personal experiences of those things you've maybe heard. Can you comment on Henry Gresham Temple's relationship with the black community?

BT: Yeah. Now...you know, I don't know how public I should...I'm going to tell it like...

JG: Yeah. Now, I realize, you know, you were young at the time.

BT: Well, but he...and I think he was a lot like my father, who had a lot of blacks on the Temple place. He and my father owned the Temple place, so to speak...the land grant farm, north Texarkana. Yeah, they inherited it from their mother, but Dad ran it for the two of them. And...I think they both had a paternalistic, the best way to put it, paternalistic relationship. They were not civil rightists...but they actually loved the blacks. I mean, they loved them for being nice, God fearing, friends. And...but they were, they had an older viewpoint, which is understandable, I think. You know, they wanted justice for them and they wanted them to be treated fairly and they wanted to be fair with them themselves, they were very fair minded, and sympathetic, and empathetic. But, they were not...they were not modern enough...they had come from a culture where they were really not...they weren't as progressive as Arthur was subsequently. You know, but new times teach new occasions, you know. And so, I think they were very well liked by blacks because they were fair and they were actually, in their way, loving. You know, they cared for them. Does that answer your question?

JG: Yeah, pretty much. Also, just another...just wanted to mention to you and maybe you can comment...you know, in 1947, you know the Buzz Saw newspaper started. And of course that was when Henry Gresham Temple was manager in Diboll. I know Arthur, of course he was just twenty-seven, and I know he was a big friend and supporter of the newspaper and kept it...

BT: Yeah.

JG: ...and I'm sure he has kept it going all these years...

BT: That's right.

JG: I don't know if you...I haven't even had a chance to talk to him about it so I don't know what his role was initially. But even, something that's impressive to me, or remarkable, it stands out, is the fact that in the very first issue they had, even though it was segregated, the black community did have a voice in that newspaper. And, you know, where they would list, who their contributors were from different departments, they had black departments.

BT: Yeah.

JG: And, you know, they were always getting at least one full page of the black school news, the black sports, you know football...so in many...you know, even though Diboll was a sawmill town and could be looked upon as being backwards...

BT: They were progressive in that.

JG: Yeah, they were very progressive enough...even...

BT: I think...

JG: ...even a little bit before, like I said, before Arthur came in. Like I said, I don't know what...

BT: I think this comes a lot from their upbringing I think. I think that part of Virginia they were from and everything, I think, it must have a certain paternalistic viewpoint in fairness.

JG: Even living, you know, there's newspapers in that time period. They'd want to...

BT: That's right.

JG: ...they didn't write any news unless it was crime related.

BT: Well, T. L. L., from what I've heard of him, I barely remember him...I was about five when he died, five or six. I remember him, but you know, just as a great uncle who lived down the street. But...from what I've read of him, he was very much that way as far as fairness to the blacks and everything. And the Dr. Orlando Jones will, when I mentioned the 1862 will, that would be obviously my great-great-great uncle, I think. That would have been my fathers, that would have been my grandfather's great uncle, my father's great-great...our great-great-great uncle. His will in 1862, where he was leading slaves and naming them Ben the Elder, you know, and all this. At the end, at the last sentence, he said, "I would hope that..." he called them his servants, "Regardless of whose care, in whose care my servants eventually come, that they be treated with the Christian decency and fairness." And there was a real nice statement in there...even though he was talking about slaves. And so...you know, nobody's trying to justify slavery, don't get me wrong, it was an evil thing. But, there were some people who did use it as evil as others would, more paternalistic.

JG: Totally shift the year again. Tell me who William Grim was from Texarkana.

BT: Oh, now see, I never knew Mr. Grim but, I think he was kind of Mr. Texarkana. He was the banker there and the reason why I call him Mr. Texarkana, is they named the whole town. The town built a hotel, like Nacogdoches built the Fredonia. They sold, you know, bonds and things like that to build this nice hotel and for, to stay in town...in fact when I was a kid it was still a nice hotel.

JG: Now, was that built from the '30's?

BT: Oh no, it was built in the '20's, at least.

JG: '20's. I told you...the thing to look...were talking about that. Arthur...the papers are in Nacogdoches. When we get our new archive built I'm going to try and get all those papers back down to Diboll. But, there were some papers, there [were] some correspondence files. And Arthur Sr. had some connection with that project. Of course at that time it was all new to me.

BT: Yep.

JG: I just saw Grim Motel, Grim Motel. But, somehow Arthur was connected with that. On a committee or...

BT: I'm sure...because it was a local...

JG: Project.

BT: Project, yes.

JG: But, several people throughout the community, people that lived outside of Texarkana, maybe Texarkana people that their jobs have taken them away. But they were petitions that were petitioned to Arthur, not wanting him to name it the Grim Hotel, or Hotel Grim or whatever.

BT: Yeah, I would imagine that they probably didn't want it named that because of the way it sounds.

JG: Well yeah, and then they were just saying that from a business standpoint, you know, when you go to a hotel like, you know, you mentioned Beaumont Empire a while ago. I worked in Beaumont a little while and they had a hotel called Hotel Beaumont.

BT: Yep.

JG: Beaumont Hotel or different things...but, that was sort of the gist of some of these letters of why not name it the Hotel Texarkana, Texarkana Hotel.

BT: That's what...yeah.

JG: So that when people write on...they even got specific enough to say that "when people write on stationeries, the name of our great city will be seen all around the nation. Why link the words Texarkana and Grim...?"

BT: The Grim Hotel. Yeah. (laughter) Well, I'll tell you Frank Dooley who married Suzanne Temple Dooley, before he married Suzanne he was with the Texas Industries in Dallas, a concrete mill. And he had occasion to spend the night in the Grim Hotel in the '50's when it had become pretty grim. And his comment was that it was the most appropriate named hotel that you'd ever have the misfortune to be lodged. (laughter)

JG: And just for the tape, that's G-R-I-M, Grim.

BT: G-R-I-M. But now, the reason I think he must have been an awfully good man is all the, I'm sure like any big man, he probably had some enemies. But, from everything I've heard he was very benevolent city father. And...but, one story I had and I don't know if you want to record this...you want to take a special recording...was my wife Joan had a friend, a classmate. And I was in her house when we were in high school, junior college...and her, her name was Sissy McDonald, her nickname was Sissy. And Mr. McDonald had a small foundry; it was a successful small foundry. And...I just asked him, I was interested, I said, you know, "How did you get into the foundry business?" And like most of the people in Texarkana, he worked for the railroad. Texarkana was a big railroad town. And he'd had the Cotton Belt, Missouri Pacific, the...well, I think for a while the Kansas City Southern was a big one that came north and south. Everything ran sort of northeast and southwest except Kansas City Southern and it ran north and south, went through Louisiana up into Kansas City, you know. But, he was working at...the Missouri Pacific was really the big railroad there, and it had a lot of repairs on it. And he was in there to work in the little foundry. And he was a young man, and he said that he got a call that Mr. Grim wanted to see him. And it just scared the heck out of him because he was a young man and he didn't know...the only thing he could figure Mr. Grim wanted with him that he was overdrawn or something, you know. And he knew he wasn't overdrawn...and he was ushered into Mr. Grim's office, and this was told to me by Mr. McDonald. And, he was a wage earner from the railroad, and Mr. Grim told him that he'd seen in the Arkansas Gazette that there was a small foundry for sale in Little Rock, the equipment, you know. And that he would give him...that he thought Texarkana needed a foundry, and that he had heard that Mr. McDonald was a top notch young founder, and that he thought Mr. McDonald ought to go up there and bid on it. And Mr. McDonald said, "Well, Mr. Grim, I don't have any money." And he said, "Well, I'm going to give you a letter of credit for so many thousand dollars." He said, "If you can buy it for anything less than that, up to that, we will loan you the money." And he said, "Well, I don't have any collateral." And he said, "You don't have to have it." Now you can't, they can't legally do that anymore...the bank inspectors would get them. But, he started that fellow in business, 'course maybe paid him back. And so he evidently was a pretty benign sort of leader. His, I bet his great grandson here, in this house, just recently came

down to...name is Robert Fulton, I don't know if you've heard of him before. He's, he was with the bank, of course they've sold out. I think he's retired. But, he's probably not a lot older than you, I wouldn't think, he's fairly young. Well, he's quite a bit older than you, I'm sure, still a young man.

JG: I'll be 34 next month.

BT: That's a good age. 30's...you know, I remember hearing, it wasn't a poem...it was just a sort of an observation that the 20's are something, and the 40's are something, and the 50's are something, and the 60's...but the 30's are pure gold. Pretty good saying.

JG: Well, we've got one child right now, and he's three and a half...

BT: Oh boy. Now where are you from originally?

JG: I was...my family's...my mother and father grew up in Houston.

BT: I see.

JG: And...but, I'm at least six generations native Texan.

BT: Oh boy.

JG: But, I have to back that up...I joke to say that I'm a native Texan born in the far western province of Hawaii. (laughter)

BT: Were you an Army brat or a Navy...?

JG: No, no my dad did his time and got out...but I was born in Honolulu.

BT: I know it.

JG: He was in the Navy.

BT: I see. He was in the Navy.

JG: I was born in '67, during Vietnam, so he joined the Navy, like I said, did his time and got out. So, we moved back when I was two and moved back to Houston...when I was just starting to get into Junior High, Dad moved to Lufkin just to get away from the big city.

BT: Now, now...

JG: So Lufkin's home...

BT: Does he live here now?

JG: Yes sir, yeah, he works for the company.

BT: Oh, he does.

JG: Yes sir. He's in the computers...

BT: I see.

JG: He learned computers in the Navy.

BT: Navy...uh huh. Was he aboard ship or...?

JG: No, no. He was in the Navy all that time and he said he only got off the island twice, and that was to go fishing. They didn't even, my mom and dad didn't even travel to the other islands because they wanted to save up their money to bring me home for Christmas.

BT: I tell you what I...I went to Hawaii, left in October of '52...heading for Korea. And we were steaming with, I think three other ships, a whole squadron, a whole division. They were diggees. And...we got to, on the way into Hawaii, just a day out of Hawaii, our main condenser pump went out. A steam turbine ship has a condenser, it's a big scoop that scoops water in to condense the steam after it's gone through...the turbines have formed a vacuum see. And when you're going, I think it's fifteen knots or more, maybe ten, you don't even need the pump. Just the flow of the sea will do it. But when you're maneuvering of course you have to have a pump to cool it. And the main pump went out on one of our engines...so, this was a grave misfortune that left us instead of spending a couple of nights in Hawaii we would have ten days. The rest of them went on sail...just wonderful...I mean just to be marooned in, nearly in Hawaii...at Pearl you know. And so I...and that was before the jet airliners, so it was really pretty much like it had been in World War II. About the only thing at Waikiki was the old Bawana, which was a U shaped wooden structure around a big Banyan tree. And of course the Royal Hawaiian and then the Halekulani which was a small, and still is fairly small, but, you know, they weren't all the high-rise stuff. The tallest structure was the Royal Hawaiian, it's the smallest now, you know. And...but, it was really sort of a paradise. We were there ten days. I was there a couple of days coming back from Korea. And then when we, I went back one more time, I went back to Guam. And I thought seriously about spending the money to fly Joan out and back...but, flying was then...you know, I was making like four hundred thirty dollars a month as a Lieutenant J. G. which was pretty good wages back then. And, the round trip was probably more than a, more than that, you know. And we were only going to be there a couple of nights. And so, it just didn't seem...

JG: Feasible.

BT: Yeah, feasible. But, I remember I often kind of thought I wished I'd done it 'cause we went back...but, I'd like for her to have seen in that...

JG: Just three years ago my mom and dad went back and they always said growing up that if they ever went back they were gonna take me.

BT: Yeah.

JG: But, they didn't. (laughter) So they went back, of course I was busy and I probably couldn't have gone anyway so...they went back and they said just from the late '60's to now it's totally changed. In fact, all the places where we lived, we just lived in old, you know, Navy, actually it was Army housing. They couldn't even find where all that was, in fact, the best they could tell right now is that Honolulu...the University of Hawaii football stadium is where the old housing used to be and my dad was saying that if he remembered right that it was old Army housing that they just real quickly constructed during World War II.

BT: Yeah.

JG: And...it was actually built on state property and so he thought maybe that's the reason the University of Hawaii has it now, not the federal government is that it was state housing that the Army leased or whatever, just for the war.

BT: Did he mention how much the Japanese have bought too?

JG: No.

BT: Oh yeah...we were there...

JG: But they just said it's totally changed, it's so commercial now, they said that you know, Mom, you know they didn't have much so everywhere they went my Mom walked. You know, she used to push me in the stroller, and, you know, I've heard the stories of all the places we used to go and she said all those places where every day, you know, me and her would walk and go to the park and now she said it's totally changed.

BT: Yeah, yeah.

JG: It's so commercial now.

BT: Well, when we went Joe Carter Denman got out, Joe Denman got up a bunch of us. There were nineteen of us from Lufkin and four from Dallas, two couples from Dallas. We went in January of '89, we flew over there and cruised around the islands. So we had three days of Pearl living. In Waikiki, three days in Waikiki before we left from the hotel. And, real nice hotel. Joe made good deal on them, you know, it was reasonable and we got to do a lot. But, he's good at that, and he's really good. But, we went out to see the Arizona, and we got on this tour bus with a driver who was a native Hawaiian, but he was a Philippino, his parents were both Philippinos. But, he'd been born and raised, middle-aged man, he was too young to get in the war. He was even younger than I, I think. But,

and that's been twelve years ago. But, we started driving, and he'd been raised in Hawaii, but, I guess being Philippino he spoke around a broken English. He said, "All this belong Japanese." And then we'd drive, "All this belong Japanese." All this, but if all that, one man, one guy, we get out near Pearl Harbor and there's this nice house and he said, "All this belong to United States Navy." And Jean Swayne who is a card, she's older than Arthur....gonna be 83 here pretty soon. She said, "Thank God we didn't sell them the Navy." (laughter)

JG: They couldn't take it by force but they would try...isn't that the American way, everything's for sale?

BT: That's right. Yeah. Well, that was right when Japan was in its zenith, you know, economically. And they even had some hotels over there that they owned that they rotated employees, you know. Just so many floors were taken up just to bring employees from Japan on the R&R, you know. That was part of that little burst. But, anyway...I've taken up a lot of your time.

JG: Well, I want to ask you one more question.

BT: Oh, well listen, I'm enjoying it, I've got nothing to do.

JG: You were telling me about William Grim and having a, that he had a private rail car. Here's a picture that...

BT: Yeah. Now, I don't know that that was his car but I kind of imagined it was because I, my father had told me. A lot of this comes from, you know, word of mouth, my father.

JG: Yeah.

BT: That Mr. Grim had a rail car that...he would loan it to...T. L. L. Temple when he would come through to Pineland or Diboll. Of course back in the early days the roads were all but impassable, and you came by train.

JG: Yeah, it looks like they were on an observation deck, I guess...

BT: A private car, yeah.

JG: ...I don't know if you'll know the answer to this but, I guess they were hooked up and would get permission to hook up on the back of the train.

BT: Of yeah, of a passenger train. Yeah. And you paid a certain fee for hauling you, I'm sure. I know this, that one reason sawmills held onto their railroads, I was told this long after they quit logging much by rail. See, earlier the reason why they had railroads, that's the only way they could get logs from a distance to the mill...was that if you're shipping something from A to Z the initiating railroad, the one that picks it up...

JG: The originating line.

BT: Hauler...or whatever it is, gets a lion's share of the break. And so, they kept that for...

JG: Yeah, and then there were numerous court battles over that, notorious it was especially in Texas, it became known as the Tap Line Case...and that's what these old roads were called, Tap Lines.

BT: I see, ok. Tap Line.

JG: TSE was one, A&NR was one, and down in Camden – the Moscow, Camden and San Augustinethose were three that survived...there were close to a hundred incorporated, they were called common carriers.

BT: Yeah.

JG: Common carrier meaning that you also supplied passenger service...you know, I guess if you were a, if you owned the sawmill, you mentioned for one you needed to bring in the raw materials to the mill.

BT: And then ship it out.

JG: Now, Diboll, I've always thought, is a pretty unique example. Here they are, smack dab on the mainline railroad.

BT: So is Pineland.

JG: Yeah, but see Pineland never had an incorporated railroad.

BT: Yeah, that's right.

JG: So see, so Diboll, even before they formed the TSE in 1900, and of course the mill started running in 1894, they already had a logging railroad that was just bringing in the raw materials and they were probably just shipping the lumber right off the mainline railroad where the mill was located. But, they incorporated the TSE Railroad, made it a common carrier. You had to be a common carrier to participate in what they called the rate divisions, the division of the rates.

BT: Yeah.

JG: So, that's the reason why he wanted to, and other reasons, too, why he moved his timber holdings along the river northward so he could kill two birds with one stone, and have the logging railroad cross the river into Trinity and Houston counties, but then, he aimed for them operating into Houston [intended to say Lufkin]...well, that's like eighteen to nineteen miles to make that triangle shape [to Lufkin] and only like ten miles

to go the straighter way. Anyway, so, he could do that and then Diboll always had, and I think, you know, certainly the company, Southern Pine Lumber Company, I've often wondered what T. L. L.'s personal relationship was with the people that ran the Cotton Belt, the railroad that they shipped all their lumber out of Lufkin was the Cotton Belt. Of course Cotton Belt came right through Texarkana.

BT: Yeah.

JG: But some of these towns that are on the TSE Railroad like, you know, the one here in Lufkin...Farrell. F-A-R-R-E-L-L. I always wondered what that station was named for... I was going through some old timetables and there was the surname Farrell that appeared for a number of years as like a shipping agent or...

BT: I see. So he probably named it for him.

JG: Yeah, probably named for him. Then there was a town Neff, which I thought might be the name of the Governor.

BT: Yeah, Pat Neff, yeah.

JG: But the town was named before that Neff ever thought about being Governor.

BT: I see.

JG: About fifteen, twenty years earlier, sure enough there was a Neff there in Texarkana who worked for the Cotton Belt...so, you know, I just wondered what T. L. L....

BT: I don't really know...

JG: ...personal, I mean, you know, with him being a businessman...

BT: Oh yeah.

JG: ...and then, he really was, especially in that day that was the time of the railroads, that was a high tech...today the high tech stop, you know.

BT: Well, actually...

JG: I'm sure he had a good friend...

BT: And I know Arthur Sr. served on the board of some railroad, maybe it was Cotton Belt. But Arthur Sr. sure was on the board...

JG: I didn't know that.

BT: Yeah, because I remember he was violently...violently, there was nothing violent about Arthur Sr. He was probably one of the most noble gentlemen I've ever known in my life. He was, Arthur's wonderful, I'm not, but Arthur Sr. had a certain nobility about him, a certain reserve. And just, he was not assuming. Latané, have you ever gotten a hold of Latané's little book of poems?

JG: I've read some of his poetry.

BT: Well, you know, I didn't care that much for most of it (laughter). But I love Latané...but, there was one to Arthur Sr. that I thought was wonderful. And it started off, "Uncle how can you buy us such gentle things." Those were the opening lines. And, you know, here he was head of an empire...and he was such a gentleman. But, he was opposed... he thought it was unfair that the trucks, the eighteen-wheelers, were not taxed sufficiently at one point. This was right after the war. Because, the railroad had to maintain its own roadbed, you know, the government wasn't supplying them anything.

JG: Well, that was true, in fact, most of the, you know the airports, all that... 'course the railroads were helped out in the nineteenth century but, over the years they've kind of paid most of that back. Because they always gave the government reduced rates...

BT: Yeah.

JG: ...for shipping government supplies and also troops, during World Wars I and II. But...you know, the airports they were given all that money and they never had to pay it back. And then most of that, you know, was where does government money come from but from taxes?

BT: That's right.

JG: And in many areas the railroad paid the lion's share of taxes, until it was the railroad tax money...the railroads had probably the highest value so they were taxed the most. They paid for all these roads and interstate highways...

BT: And we've actually put the railroad pretty much out of business now that freight deal is really come back strong here more recently, but, I remember in 1955, I was new with, I just been here about a year and a half, with Lufkin Industries. And there was a big tool exposition up in, machine tool exposition, up in Chicago. And some of us were supposed to fly out on a Friday morning to go up there and spend a few days. And I wanted to take my wife on to Texarkana Thursday evening. So, I started checking flights to...they were going to get up to, they were going to fly out Friday morning and get up there Friday afternoon. Fly out of Dallas, that's when Trans-Texas came through here, the Trans-Texas Airways. TTA, they called it.

JG: Treetop.

BT: Treetop. (laughter) But anyway, they were going to fly out to Love Field and then catch a plane on up to Chicago. And I started checking flights out of Texarkana...and I couldn't get up there anything like Friday afternoon, you know, flying out Friday morning. And...so then all of a sudden, it dawned on me, the railroad. I could catch the Missouri Pacific there Thursday evening and be in Chicago by noon Friday, get there actually, maybe a little ahead of them. And...so, I caught the...I got a Pullman out of Texarkana about nine o'clock that night, drove her up there that afternoon. And got into St. Louis the next morning, had breakfast on the train, and then caught the Wabash, and it was called the Bluebird. It was a little silver streamliner and it, since it was a day time train it just had first class cars. And they had the sky dome. You had a reserve seat down below or you could go up and sit in the sky area. I rode from St. Louis to Chicago and at times I was the only person on that car. And other times I'd be one of four or one of two or one of three. Then on the way out...and it wasn't near, that was '55, they didn't last much longer. But I had the car to myself.

JG: Yeah. They quit running the passenger trains through Lufkin and Diboll in '54, the day train, and then they quit the night train in '55...

BT: Yeah.

JG: ...and they were saying, I was reading just the other day that just to run the two night trains the railroad lost something like \$60,000 a year to run from Houston to Shreveport. They said, "Nobody's riding them." You know, they were trying to petition to get away from having to run passengers...[unintelligible] and to be a common carrier, you had to carry passengers to participate in all this. But, the downside to it was, especially if you were a lumber company, if you were a common carrier you couldn't just build your tracks and then pick them up and move them somewhere else as you pleased.

BT: Yeah.

JG: You had to stay there. And that was the thing...you couldn't...say you had this railroad and Mr. Kirby or one of the other competitors, Mr. Temple, wanted to build a mill on the new railroad.

BT: Yeah. You couldn't...

JG: You couldn't...you'd have to...

BT: Honor it.

JG: ...honor it and give him the same rates that you gave yourself.

BT: Yeah.

JG: You know, so it was regulated.

BT: Yeah.

JG: But...Kirby, you know, he had at one time fourteen sawmills.

BT: Oh I know, he was the biggest.

JG: He was the biggest...

BT: He went under during the...Santa Fe really was the big receiver.

JG: Yeah. And that was how he got started. When he built that railroad out of Beaumont going up in through Jasper and everything, he was the inlet for Santa Fe into East Texas. All that other, by the 1890's, all the land was spoken for by mills and those mills' relationships with the railroads that were here. Santa Fe wanted to get in and get...

BT: And so he gave them, allowed them the right away.

JG: He sold them that, his railroad, and that gave them an inlet, and they gave him basically a loan. He sold that railroad for a loan, ten million dollars.

BT: That was a lot of money back then.

JG: He then formed the Kirby Lumber Company, and bought all those mills up. And paid off his loan with guess what, at one time all the Santa Fe cross ties across the country came from East Texas. But, anyway, so he was a pretty shrewd character.

BT: Oh yeah.

JG: Himself...but he...

BT: He had a home, you know, close to downtown Houston.

JG: Yeah.

BT: South side of town. I remember when I went there in the 50's it was still in existence then. I don't know...it may be...

JG: I haven't seen it in years.

BT: I think it may have made a...but, you know, I wish they would save the William Temple home in Texarkana. It's still in existence. And, of course they tore down the T. L. Temple home. But...

JG: ...just in defense of Kirby and then I won't talk about him anymore, but he never did incorporate any new logging railroads because he was in business with, because his relationship with Santa Fe...

BT: Santa Fe.

JG: Most all of his mills, not all, but most of them were on the Santa Fe already. And so he already had that tie-in with them. So he didn't need to have a little railroad that went to another railroad because he was pretty much bound to stay with Santa Fe. And well he did go under to Santa Fe.

BT: Took it over, yeah. Just one thing, I don't know if you're interested in antiques and all, I'm really not per se, but, I have, I really have some nice heirlooms. I mentioned my father's maternal...

END OF TAPE

END OF INTERVIEW