

**JACK NORMAN**

**Interview 262a**

**September 16, 2013, at The History Center, Diboll, Texas**

**Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer**

**Patsy Colbert, Transcriber**

**ABSTRACT:** In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, Jack Norman reminisces about his years as bartender, waiter, lawn mower, and odd-jobs helper at Scrappin' Valley. He discusses the events and parties he helped with at the Temple company retreat center, the famous people who visited, and the hunting parties that entertained the company's employees and changes that took place. He describes the facility and his fellow workers and reminisces about serving drinks to Arthur Temple, Jr., Charlie Wilson, Lady Bird Johnson, Kenny Jastrow, Anne Archer, and other guests. He also describes the hunting and fishing parties and the initiation ceremony for the Sportsmen of Boggy Slough.

**Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG):** Today's date is September 16, 2013. My name is Jonathan Gerland and I'm at the History Center today with Mr. Jack R. Norman and we are going to do an oral history interview. And I appreciate you coming down Mr. Norman.

**Jack Norman (hereafter JN):** You are welcome.

**JG:** Mr. Norman has worked, I guess, 36 years for Scrappin' Valley, and of course International Paper recently purchased it and it is for sale again. I understand new buyers are coming in, and so your name came up several times here in the last few weeks. Several people have said, "You know, you need to get that guy's story." So that is what brought us to today. So I guess just maybe to begin tell us how you came to work for the Temples.

**JN:** I was working at Rayburn Country at the Country Club and Mr. Temple and Mr. John Booker, who was the mill manager in Pineland at the time, would come to Rayburn just about every weekend to play golf and I got to know Mr. Booker and I got to know Mr. Temple. And I think Mr. Shands would be with him sometimes and maybe Mr. Denman, but one day Mr. Booker asked me to come to work for him, said he needed a bartender at Scrappin' Valley. I had no idea what Scrappin' Valley was or where it was or anything and finally I told him yes and that was the beginning of my career with Temple Inland. But when I first started, I worked in Pineland and Scrappin' Valley. We worked in Pineland when we didn't have guests at Scrappin Valley. We worked, they had the cleanup crew or whatever, you know, we worked around the mill. Some of us worked in the mill, very few of us, one or two worked in the mill, crew worked in the mill but the majority of us worked in the cleanup crew that way when they got ready for us to go to Scrappin' it wouldn't shut down anything. But I started then.

**JG:** Okay, so you said there is like a group of you – you said one of us. Tell me about that. What was this group?

**JN:** It was the cooks and the other waiters. It was a guy named Willie Moore, another guy named C. L. Garrett, Artise Williams and Reverend Belton.

**JG:** Now, who were they? Had they been long time employees?

**JN:** They were there when I got there.

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** I imagine all of those guys at one time, I think Willie worked for about forty years at the company. He died a couple of years ago. He had been retired a pretty good while ago, but all of them had been there a long time before I got there.

**JG:** Okay, okay.

**JN:** I think Willie said he started out working in the forest or something. He told me, he said, "my first job with the company was killing trees." He said they would go poison trees.

**JG:** Oh yes.

**JN:** I'm not sure what kind of trees, but...

**JG:** Probably hardwood; they would try to kill, poison and deaden the hardwoods. We've got pictures of Albert Mitchell in those, what they called the deadening crews, so Mr. Willie probably would have known Mr. Mitchell.

**JN:** Okay, yes. So when I started they were already there, but the guy that was their bartender was a guy named Lloyd Weatherspoon and he had just been promoted and he went to work in the Personnel Agent, Human Resource now, and I took his spot.

**JG:** Now what was the race of all these people? Was it mixed?

**JN:** No, at that time all the crew was black. Later on we had a couple of white guys come in the crew. They didn't stay a year or two, but when I started, all of them, all the crew was black.

**JG:** And it was '77 right?

**JN:** It was '77 right. Now the lady that did the housekeeping, her name was Mrs. Chandler, Jerrie Chandler. Now she was white and her husband, we called him the caretaker at the time. He wasn't a biologist but he just took care of the place and he lived on the property, Dallas Chandler and he...I don't know if you know, I can't think of his name now, Jason's father-in-law.

**JG:** Oh no, I'm sorry.

**JN:** I can't think of his name now but anyway, it was his uncle. He was the guy that took care of the place and like I said, we worked in what we called the roads and grounds crew, the cleanup crew. We just kept the place cleaned up, mowed, did all the weed-eating around the mill and then when we had guests we would leave and go to Scrappin' Valley. I did that for about the first 17 years of my...but later on I stayed in roads and grounds for about 7 years.

**JG:** What is the first word you are saying?

**JN:** Roads.

**JG:** Roads and grounds, okay, roads and grounds okay.

**JN:** Yes, the old roads and grounds crew. I stayed in there for about 7 years.

**JG:** Now, what were you doing, I'm kind of backing up a bit, when you were at Rayburn Country?

**JN:** I was the bartender, waiter and bartender.

**JG:** So what kind of enticement was that to leave that job to go and work in roads and grounds when you are doing a lot of inside work? What was the job offer?

**JN:** Well, the enticement was to go to work at Scrappin' Valley. Even though we were in roads and grounds, Scrappin Valley was number one.

**JG:** The main thing.

**JN:** That was the main thing, to go to work at Scrappin' Valley. And I knew Temple had, I had insurance at the Country Club, but I had no other benefits and I had really gotten kind of tired of it, that routine.

**JG:** How long were you there at Rayburn Country?

**JN:** Seven years.

**JG:** Who was your employer there?

**JN:** It was a company called American Lakes and Land, they owned it. You know at one time Temple, I don't know how that did, but Mr. Temple owned that Rayburn Country Club at one time. I'm not sure how that all...the Eastex Paper Mill, the old Southwestern whatever, Time built it and then later on Temple and Time merged and I'm not sure how that all came to be you know, but Mr. Temple used to come down all the time and he had

a condominium down there. He later built a house on Rayburn and him and Mr. Booker they used to come just about every weekend playing golf.

**JG:** Okay, so when you left you then were an employee of Temple Industries?

**JN:** Temple Industries, back then... later on. They were still a part of, when I came with the company, they were still part of Time.

**JG:** Okay, '77 that is right, Temple Eastex I guess.

**JN:** Yes, it was still a part of Time and that was exciting. That was really, I mean I had a good time and because those people from New York, they loved Scrappin' Valley.

**JG:** So, that was most of your clients then, were the Time people?

**JN:** The Time people, we had people from Diboll, you know, the sales department from Diboll would bring their customers, but Time magazine, Look magazine, HBO, and you know, Sports Illustrated and everything, they would all come down. I never got tired of hearing people when they walked into Scrappin' Valley and they would look out across that lake and say "wow." (laughter) You never get tired of seeing people's face light up.

**JG:** Right.

**JN:** But, Time [Incorporated], they loved it. They came out all the time. They really used it a lot. Mr. Shepley, the guy up there, he used to come out a lot and Mr. Temple would come out. Mr. Temple, that was an exciting time 'cause Mr. Temple was in politics kind of heavy back then. We used to get all kind of politicians out there. We would be out there one day and you would see the secret service show up and you knew somebody was coming, you know. Mr. Mondale and then Lady Bird would come out and John Connolly and people like that would always come out and we would have parties for them. You never knew who was coming with Mr. Temple. Everybody was coming to get his blessings and probably some of his money. (laughter)

**JG:** Yes! (laughing) I want to ask you a little bit more about that and maybe even Charlie Wilson and people like that...

**JN:** Oh, Mr. Charlie! (laughter)

**JG:** But, if we could, you said you didn't really know much about Scrappin' when Mr. Booker came to talk to you about it so, just talk a little bit about that and then maybe even in those early days when you were back home. And you were living in Jasper at the time?

**JN:** I still do.

**JG:** You still live in Jasper okay. What did you tell friends and family where you were going to work? How did you explain that?

**JN:** You know it was hard to explain to them. They would say, “where you working now?” I would say, “I’m working at Scrappin’ Valley.” They would say, “What is it?” It is a Scrappin Valley community out there too. When you say Scrappin’ Valley, a lot of people thought at that time thought you were, you know, in this...it is two different...it is a community where people lived at Scrappin’ Valley. It’s an old town.

**JG:** Right, and that is a few miles west of there.

**JN:** Yes, it’s a lot of old families out there and they would say, “What are you doing out there?”

**JG:** Yes, what are you doing out there?

**JN:** You know, they say, “they are not really cotton to black folks out there.” And you say “well I’m not there.” And you know some people, the company used to have a commercial that ran on TV and they were showing these elk and the commercial said something about yes, there is elk in East Texas, you know, and then they would say Temple Eastex. I don’t know, I can vaguely remember it, so some of them would say yes, I’ve seen something about that.

**JG:** They just knew you were working where the elk were huh?

**JN:** Yes, a lot of them didn’t realize that...even today a lot of people don’t realize about Scrappin’ Valley. I’ve talked to people today about Scrappin’ Valley who don’t know about Scrappin’ Valley.

**JG:** Still don’t, huh?

**JN:** A lot of people have heard when they put it up for sale and they said, “what is this Scrappin’ Valley, what do y’all do out there? Is the mill out there?” I say, “no, no, no, it’s a lodge and everything and it’s a hunting lodge and a conference center and people come out” and you try to explain to them what goes on out there without really telling them...some of this you don’t tell everybody what is going on but you try to do that.

**JG:** So, how long did it take you to kind of know really what was going on once you got out there?

**JN:** I knew Mr. Temple. I had did some work for the company. I had an uncle, his name was Malcolm Bronson.

**JG:** What was his first name?

**JN:** Malcolm.

**JG:** Malcolm, okay.

**JN:** Bronson, and he worked for Eastex.

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** And Eastex had a place, Forest Lake, I don't know if you are familiar with it. It is down around Magnolia Springs. That was Eastex place that is what they had.

**JG:** Okay, like an entertainment kind of place?

**JN:** Right and they had a lot of exotic animals and stuff out there. Well before I went to work for Temple, and Eastex had another one in South Texas called Bruni. I don't know if you have heard of that one?

**JG:** Yes.

**JN:** Well a lot of time the guys would be in South Texas and they decided they needed some help at Forest Lake and my uncle Malcolm would ask me to come help him for a day. I wasn't working for the company, I would just go help him and you know they would pay me, or however. And that is where I first met Mr. Temple, was out there. He was a guest out there but I wasn't working for him.

**JG:** Right, you weren't on the payroll.

**JN:** I was just part time help. So I had a pretty good idea what was going on at Scrappin' Valley, what was expected of me, a bartender, a waiter. I didn't realize that Scrappin' was so much different than Forest Lake. It is a lot larger and the amenities were a lot more. Forest Lake was more of a hunting club, you know, bunk beds and stuff like that. It didn't have all the separate rooms like Scrappin' had but it was nice and it was right there on the river so I knew. That is where I first met Mr. Temple. That is the first time I fixed a drink for him was at Forest Lake, scotch and water. I never will forget that. (laughter)

**JG:** Describe that, your first meeting with Mr. Temple. Did you know he was anybody at the time?

**JN:** I had heard of Mr. Temple, I had heard of him.

**JG:** How long had you lived in Jasper?

**JN:** Oh, I moved to Jasper back in late '40's, early '49 or '50.

**JG:** Okay, so you had been there awhile.

**JN:** Yes.

**JG:** I remember you saying earlier you weren't born there.

**JN:** I was born in New Orleans but we moved to Jasper. He had a rough, you know how heavy his voice was, I said boy this guy has a heavy voice, but he was real cordial, you know. They was having a meeting I think with Southwestern. They were talking about apparently the log trucks tearing up the road and stuff and they were trying to figure out, you know...

**JG:** How to fix that?

**JN:** Yes. And Southwestern and Eastex, there was a guy named Ollie Crawford was head of the Southwestern deal. He was there and that is where I met Mr. Temple at. It was pretty interesting because I didn't, you know, I just fixed him a couple of drinks and that was it. I didn't think I would ever see him again. Had no idea I would wind up going to work for him. But, Mr. Sanford later on...

**JG:** Gene Sanford?

**JN:** Gene Sanford had tried to get me to go to work at the guest house in Silsbee, but I would have had to move. He wanted me to move to Silsbee. They needed somebody at that guest house. Have you ever been to that guest house in Silsbee?

**JG:** No.

**JN:** It was real nice. It was real nice. But they had a guy that was head of the Eastex Paper Mill named Mike Buckley and he wanted somebody there, but you had to be there 24/7 just about and I didn't want to do that. You had to be there because you never knew when he was coming or when the guest was coming.

**JG:** Do you have a family?

**JN:** I didn't at that time. I was single at that time but...

**JG:** Still didn't want to do that.

**JN:** Maybe if I had been married I would have did that. A single man, I don't know about being tied down 24/7, but I didn't want to do that so I turned him down. It was funny, once I went to work for Temple he had moved from Jasper to Diboll and he became, actually he was my boss. He was over the...

**JG:** Who was that?

**JN:** Gene Sanford, was my boss.

**JG:** Was your boss, okay.

**JN:** Well, he was the boss over all the wildlife and over that so, when we went to Scrappin' Valley he was actually our boss once we went out there. When we was in Pineland, you know, he didn't have any...

**JG:** Did you report to Mr. Booker then?

**JN:** I did, I did. Mr. Booker was...

**JG:** Was he mayor at that time?

**JN:** No, he was not mayor then. Mr. Earl Culbertson was mayor then, but he later on became mayor.

**JG:** But Scrappin' Valley had priority?

**JN:** Scrappin' Valley was priority.

**JG:** So, if you were on your mower and you got the call...

**JN:** If I was on my mower...if Dallas Chandler, who was the caretaker, if he decided he needed help he would call up there and Mr. Booker say, "Mr. Dallas called for y'all." And then, a lot of days we would call Mr. Dallas, "hey let's go to Scrappin' today" and we would pick up the phone and say, "Mr. Dallas you need some help?" "Oh yes, y'all come on down." We enjoyed being out there, you know, it was a lot of fun.

**JG:** You would rather have been there than at Pineland?

**JN:** Oh yes, we would rather be there and we would help him mow or rake or ride the fence line or just whatever he needed us to do, trap hogs, or just whatever he needed us to do, we did that. It was real fun. Even later on when Mr. Booker retired this guy named Bill Jones took over the mill, but he didn't... like when Mr. Booker was mill manager he had Scrappin Valley too but when Bill Jones took over he had no dealings with Scrappin'. Joe Hambrick was our boss man. I don't know if you know Joe Hambrick or not?

**JG:** No.

**JN:** He was out at Scrappin and Joe moved on the property and he became our boss man then. Joe was real nice too. I enjoyed working for Joe.

**JG:** Talk about those early days and then talk some, if you wouldn't mind, about some of the...I don't know if old timers is the best way to describe them, but the staff that had been there awhile and then just how long it took you to get up to speed to know what was going on. And ultimately I'm leading you into the Sportsmen of Boggy Slough having the big pow-wow out there. Tell me that little story too in that context.

**JN:** (laughing) Well when I first worked out there like I said, they had Willie Moore. Willie later on became the cook. When I first went to work out there he was a waiter. They had him and Cedell Garrett was the two waiters and I was the bartender, but when I would bartender but when they start serving supper I would close my bar down and come back and help them in the kitchen. We had another guy named Reverend Belton and he was a cook.

**JG:** Was he also a pastor?

**JN:** He was a pastor. He was an ordained minister.

**JG:** Did he have a church at the time?

**JN:** Not at the time, but later on he did get him a church. He was an extraordinary person, he really was. He couldn't read or write well, but this man, he raised all of his children, he educated all of them...excuse me. (becoming emotional)

**JG:** Go ahead, that is fine.

**JN:** But, he educated all of them and you know, he was real, real...he would come to me and I got to know him real well because he would bring his, Mr. Booker would give us a list of stuff to do and he would bring it to me and say, "hey, man look what all we got to do." So, I look at it and I go to reading it off to him, so it was a kind of a way of helping him, you know. (emotional)

**JG:** But he was always positive huh?

**JN:** I don't know why I'm getting...(emotional).

**JG:** That is okay, that is okay. Just take your time, just take your time.

**JN:** He was a nice...

**JG:** He meant a lot to you then huh?

**JN:** Yes.

**JG:** Just take your time, you want some more water.

**JN:** I got some. But he would bring his paperwork over there, you know, and he would say "boy we got a lot to do today" and I would say "oh yes" and I would go to reading it off. But Willie was totally different. Willie, he was a nice guy and me and him became really good friends, but he wasn't as outgoing as Reverend Belton, but later on he started taking over as the head cook. Cedell was (laughing) he was Cedell and he loved the ladies. (laughing)

**JG:** What was his name again?

**JN:** Cedell, I think he spelled it C-e-d-e-l-l.

**JG:** Oh okay.

**JN:** He loved the ladies, you know. We were working out there and every...we would get off at night and we would have steak night and every steak night he would wrap him up a steak and he would say, "I'm going to take this, I'm not going to eat my steak I'm going to take it home to my wife." One day we was in town and Reverend Belton, me and Reverend Belton went together and we seen his wife and he said, "boy your husband really be looking out for you he bring you a steak every night." She said, "Cedell ain't bringing me." (laughter) So, we got back to work and got back out there and Cedell said, "Man you quit telling my wife." (laughter)

**JG:** Oh man!

**JN:** So, he wasn't taking the steaks home but...(laughter)

**JG:** Oh!

**JN:** But every year they would have the chili cook and they would have the big chili making. They started out at Boggy then they moved it to Scrappin' Valley and even then they kept the name Boggy Slough chili even though they was cooking it at Scrappin' Valley.

**JG:** Boggy Slough chili. And this is the Sportsmen of Boggy Slough their big meeting.

**JN:** And Mr. Temple's daughter even wrote a song about it, something yum, yum, chili, chili, chili-chili-yum, talking about making Scrappin' Valley chili out of Boggy Slough deer or something. I don't remember the exact words but we were out there and I didn't realize they had all this ritual that they did and they were overlooking the lake over this big hill and had this big fire ring built out there and so along about dusky dark Mr. Temple told them and Jim Shepley, Jim Shepley...

**JG:** With Time.

**JN:** With Time, he wrote all kind of scripts and stuff. He would write all of these different scripts and every year they would change them and I guess being a newspaper guy or magazine guy he was a good writer and so he...I mean he would have these elaborate scripts wrote up for this.

**JG:** And they would recite them and act them out.

**JN:** Yes, they would act them out and do them and everything and...

**JG:** He really enjoyed that huh?

**JN:** Oh yes sir! And, they had this big picture window out there and everybody left to go get dressed and Mr. Booker...now this is my first chili making. I had never...so he told me said, “tidy up the bar and everything because everybody is going up here and they’ll be out there for about an hour or so.”

**JG:** To the bonfire huh?

**JN:** I said, “okay.” Everybody left and everybody in the kitchen left and I was in the bar and I looked out and I seen this lady come by and her name was...her husband’s name was Jack Fleeker and she came by and she had on a sheet. (laughter) And I kind of looked and said where is this woman going with this sheet? And I looked out there over the hill and I seen several people out there with sheets on. Red big fire and they had a outhouse built, somebody had built an outhouse, you know, but it didn’t have any doors or anything and Mr. Temple was sitting on it. That was his throne. (laughing) He had on this football helmet with all these horns coming out and I said, “Lord have mercy what in the world have I got into here?” (laughing) You know, I’m thinking this is the grand dragon and everything and I looked out there and I ran back into the kitchen and this guy, Artis Williams, the one I was telling you about, I said “Artis man what is going on here?” And Mr. Dallas who was the caretaker, he was there but I didn’t see him and he was standing over there and he heard me and he heard me telling Artis, I said, “man I’m fixing to go. What are they doing out there?” And Mr. Dallas went to laughing and he said “no, no, Jack, its okay.”

**JG:** Having a big pow-wow.

**JN:** I said, “okay Mr. Dallas, don’t tell nobody.” He said, “I won’t, I won’t.” He said, “that is just something they do and it’s an initiation.”

**JG:** But I bet you kind of kept an eye on them the rest of the night.

**JN:** I did, I did so. I walked around there laughing at myself, so I’m sure they thought I was losing my mind because I was laughing about how...I said, “gosh man I hope Mr. Dallas” and they didn’t they never mentioned it again. I never mentioned it again until years later and I started telling people how funny it was, you know.

**JG:** Yes, that is a good story. Were you ever asked to perform in any of these skits?

**JN:** No, no, no, it was strictly a Boggy Slough, you had to be a member of Boggy Slough or they had some honorary members and everything and they the only ones that really, but... so none of the help. Mr. Dallas, as far as I know, he never even took part in any of them.

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** We helped set it up and we knew what was going on later on with some of them but...before that, the day before that, that was on a Saturday night and that Friday we were getting ready for that and Mr. Booker asked me, he said, "Jack do you want a hog?" I said "yes, I would love to get me one and later on get me a deer and have me some sausage made." He said, "come on let's ride around I've been seeing a hog out there" so he had a station wagon and he had a big yellow lab and his name was Jack. (laughing) So he put the dog in the back of the station wagon and we took off into the pasture and we looked up there and we saw this sow and he got out and he shot it. He looked up the road there and here stood this humongous boar, I mean one of the biggest boar hogs I've seen in a long time. So he shot it and we jumped in his truck, I mean his suburban, his van, his station wagon I'm sorry, and we drove up there to where it was and we stopped and he had his pistol in his bag, in his belt and he started walking up there to it and he left his rifle in the car, in his vehicle and all of a sudden this hog jumped up and started coming towards him and he pulled out this pistol and he was backing up shooting it he hollered "Stay in the car Jack, stay in the car Jack." I'm looking at the dog and the dog is looking at me. I wasn't fixing to get out. I don't know which one is he talking to but I wasn't fixing to get out.

**JG:** Neither one of y'all were getting out. (laughing)

**JN:** I told him I said, "I hope he was talking to me and not the dog." He laughed, he said, "Well I was talking to you."

**JG:** How many shots did it take to take down that hog?

**JN:** I don't remember but I know it took more than...he emptied the clip. He just kept shooting until it finally stopped. That hog was about as far as that desk so he just pow-pow-pow, you know and I said, "well the dog kind of..."

**JG:** The dog knew better too.

**JN:** That was sort of my first chili make. I had some pretty good experience on that one.

**JG:** That was something they did about every year?

**JN:** They did it every year around January or February, late January or early February they did it. They tried to do it when it was cool. One year they did it and it got hot.

**JG:** You need some Kleenex?

**JN:** Please.

**JG:** Let me see if I got some. Here you go.

**JN:** Thank you. But one year they did it in warm weather and they left the chili sitting out there until the next morning and when they come out it was bubbling.

**JG:** Oh wow!

**JN:** So, they tried to do it in the cool weather.

**JG:** Are you going to reveal any of your secrets, and of the secret recipes or that kind of stuff?

**JN:** I never was a cook. I didn't cook anything. I used to tell everybody I can't boil water. (laughing) I will burn it, so I never did do any of the cooking. I only about once or twice did I cook breakfast when they had some small parties or something and Mr. Booker say well we only need one person and I would wind up cooking breakfast or something like that, but other than that I never did cook anything.

**JG:** Talk a little bit more about what you were saying earlier about people's reaction when they would come on the grounds, come and experience it.

**JN:** Well, it is amazing, and maybe and I still see it and I still enjoy it and I've been there 36 years, but it still amaze me when people come there... and sometime I guess maybe I take it for granted because I see it all the time, but when people drive up there and they talk about, "boy this is a nice place," but when they walk into that living room and they look out this big window and they look down at that lake and they see that view, I've yet to hear, everybody says, "boy what a view, what a view." Even with IP [International Paper] here, IP had their board meeting last year, they came out there and had their board of directors and they are truly international and so, they had people from all over the world and we had a guy there, he was English, but...he was from England but he had been living in Russia, he was a forester or something and he has been living in Russia and doing whatever for them over in Russia and he came there and he said that when he first got the letter that they were coming to East Texas and having a board meeting at some place called Scrappin' Valley, that he was just, "what in the world is going on?" But he said, "when I walked in here and I saw that view I was hooked right then." He told us, "this is the best board meeting I've ever been to in my life." He said, "This place," he said, "I just can't describe this," you know. And he said, "I can't understand why Faraci and them are wanting to sell it." I say, "Well, I don't know either." But people just...I've yet to have somebody to come out there who just wasn't just overjoyed to be there. I've never heard anybody left out there say they didn't want to come back, you know.

**JG:** Yes, yes.

**JN:** Everybody out there says, "boy I would love to be able to come back." Even Temple-Inland's board, they have had board meetings out there and they always told me how much they enjoyed it and always wanting to be back. They said the only thing they disliked about it, they had to stay in a meeting all the time. They never did get to really enjoy Scrappin' Valley, but other than that people just... that "wow" they'd come there and look out that window and I say, I've been seeing it for 36 years and I still appreciate it. But maybe I don't appreciate it as much as I used to now. I think now that the last

days are rolling around, the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month I won't be there anymore. That is going to be tough. That is going to be the toughest thing though for me leaving there is I enjoy every now and then just getting in a vehicle and just riding through the pasture, you know, and just looking out there and just looking around. And one of my favorite spots is a place there, it's got a lot of cypress, a lot of old cypress, it's a creek run right through it, and Rita really did some damage in there, but it's starting to come back.

**JG:** Hurricane Rita.

**JN:** Yes, Hurricane Rita, but it's starting to come back now. I'm just praying that the new owners don't just go in there and cut it 'cause it's not in the long leaf area. It's not one of those areas.

**JG:** The lower end huh?

**JN:** It's a little bottom there and there is some huge cypress.

**JG:** What do you enjoy about it?

**JN:** I just enjoy being out there, you know. I just enjoy riding and seeing all the...as many deer as I've seen I still enjoy riding and seeing deer and especially this time of year when, you know, the bucks got their horns on them now and they are in velvet and it's getting close to hunting season.

**JG:** Did you ever hunt?

**JN:** I do, I do. I do, I love to hunt. I hunt and fish and that is one of the, you know, I love to hunt and fish and I'm out at Scrappin' Valley getting paid to be out here, so you know. Every year we usually shoot us a doe. I'm not one of those guys that want to go out and shoot the big buck. I like to eat deer meat, so I told them I just soon shoot me a doe, a couple of does and that is it. I usually shoot one for the lodge because we make that venison chili and summer sausage, so I always shoot one for that and then I'll shoot one for myself.

**JG:** Talk about the fishing there in the pond.

**JN:** When I first started there, there was a guy Gene Sanford, about the first week or two I was there he came in and put a lot of something in the water and took all the oxygen out and they took all the fish out and restocked it with catfish and stuff, but it never did develop. They had a lot of catfish in there, but you would catch them and they would be big bodies, big heads and little bodies and then when Jason Sebastian took over, he really turned that lake around. Now they got some big bass in there, some huge brim and some of the best fishing you will ever want to find. If you got a kid that you want to get him started fishing it's an excellent place, because you know, if you go fishing and you are not catching anything...

**JG:** Yes, they are going to catch, not just fish.

**JN:** ...yes, and if you go fishing and you are not catching it is no fun unless you are a diehard fisherman. I can fish if I'm not catching anything, but if you got some kids and want to get them started, bring them down there and we keep a lot of old cane poles there too and so that would be a lot of fun, you know. Get out there with a cane pole and get him started and both lakes are that way, you know. They got that pier there so you can take them out there and let them fish.

**JG:** There is some brush piles and stuff.

**JN:** There is, Jason has added those aerators in there and they have dropped brush piles and everywhere you see those duck decoys, everywhere there is a duck decoy. This is on the Lodge Lake now, on deer lake it is not that way. Deer Lake is a lot deeper than Lodge Lake and there is no markers or anything you really have to just paddle around with a trolling motor and everything but, that is the best fishing.

**JG:** Which one?

**JN:** Deer Lake.

**JG:** Deer Lake is the better one.

**JN:** Deer Lake, to me it is the best fishing. It might be too much for kids because there is not a pier or anything, but if you just want to get out in a boat and it is beautiful scenery. Every now and then, we was out there one day and we saw this eagle swoop down and grab this fish and fly off. That was neat.

**JG:** Oh wow!

**JN:** It's a eagle hangs around Lodge Lake too. It surprises me with the Lodge being so close and all that noise, but it is still one comes there and it is good fishing.

**JG:** So, would that be part of the entertainment to the people coming there?

**JN:** It is and we got to keep those boats there with trolling motors on them. There is three boats at both lakes I believe, three boats with trolling motors.

**JG:** Now do the guests go out there on their own or do some of y'all take them out?

**JN:** No, they go out there on their own. The only person we ever take out was, I don't know if you remember Mr. Norton, Larry Norton? He was with Inland and he was I guess you call him a novice, he just didn't know a lot but he got hooked on it. He would get Jason and Booker to take him out and he was in the middle of the boat and Jason was on that end.

**JG:** Like a little 14 foot flat bottom?

**JN:** Yes, and Jason was on one end and Booker was on one end and you looked out there and Mr. Norton was fishing and every time he catch a fish he hand it over and Booker would take it off. (laughter)

**JG:** One would take the fish off and the other one was the baiter.

**JN:** (Laughing) I said boy you talking about sucking up! I say look out there and look at all.

**JG:** That is guide service right there huh?

**JN:** Yes sir! We teased Jason about that. I said, “we seen y’all out there and I saw what you was doing.” (laughing)

**JG:** So, mostly is it like bass fishing?

**JN:** It is bass fishing and it’s a few...

**JG:** With artificial lures?

**JN:** Yes, but well with him he likes, they would put worms on his hook too.

**JG:** So like live worms?

**JN:** Live worms, but he wasn’t going to put them on there, Booker was putting them on for him. That tickled me. That was a lot of fun.

**JG:** So, ya’ll keep fishing stuff there for the people; nobody has to bring their own?

**JN:** We do, you don’t have to bring your own and you just come there and fish. We try to keep stuff that everybody can use like Zepco’s and stuff like that.

**JG:** Y’all don’t keep any bait casting reels?

**JN:** We do keep some of those, but you try to keep those for people who, every now and then somebody who’s really into fishing, because most people can’t cast those things. You throw it out there a couple of times and you get a backlash.

**JG:** Yes, backlash.

**JN:** So, we keep some there, but if you are not into fishing, we prefer you use one of those Zebco’s because anybody can throw those.

**JG:** Yes, you catch a good size bass on a Zebco...

**JN:** Yes, you got a fight on your hands, you really do.

**JG:** Talk a little bit about...you were telling me a little bit about Shepley shooting ducks and stuff. How often did y'all duck hunt on that pond?

**JN:** That was when I first started that was the big deal and I enjoyed it. I really did!

**JG:** There at the Lodge Lake?

**JN:** We did it at the Lodge Lake.

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** There was a big old tower over there and I don't know how tall this tower is, but it is huge, at that time. The trees there now have grown taller than the tower but back then the tower was over the pine trees. And what we would do we would buy baby ducks, in fact I on several occasions went to Houston airport or Shreveport or somewhere and buy 2500 baby ducks. We would bring them back to Pineland we would raise them and...

**JG:** What kind of ducks?

**JN:** Mallards.

**JG:** Mallards.

**JN:** We would raise them and we would take them to Scrappin' Valley, oh maybe three or four weeks or a month before this hunting season would start. Not all of them, we would just take so many at a time, maybe take five or six hundred down and we had a place there on the lake that we would feed them, a pen, let them out and feed them so they would stay in that area. Then when we had a group in and they wanted to shoot...

**JG:** Pet ducks huh?

**JN:** Yes, when we had a group in we would take them up into this... catch two or three hundred, take them up to this tower. They had a pulley system, a hoist.

**JG:** A hoist?

**JN:** Yes sir, well what you would do you would hook it to a truck bumper and as he backed up it would pull, you know it had this pulley up at the top and it would pull the ducks up there and they would take them and they would release them from this tower.

**JG:** From that tower. (laughing)

**JN:** From the tower, and they would have these, say this is the tower, excuse me.

**JG:** Yes, go ahead.

**JN:** This is the tower and this is the lake, they would release them and the ducks would fly back to the lake. They had people stationed all around this lake and they would fly back and you would shoot at them. A lot of people thought it was cruel, you know, but...

**JG:** Different anyway!

**JN:** ...it was challenging, it really was. These ducks were flying from some pine trees and you got to hit them and if you did it the way the rule says once they landed you weren't suppose to shoot them.

**JG:** Okay, so if they landed, if they were successful don't shoot them. (laughing)

**JN:** In landing, fifty percent of them really made it back because it is tough shooting those, you know, these things are whistling down through those pine trees. Every now and then we would get a bad batch that didn't want to fly. You would throw them out and they would fall down to the ground and they would just walk on down to the lake. (laughing)

**JG:** They were smart huh. Well, that is what I was going to ask you do any of them just fly away or they knew the food was down there?

**JN:** We would band them before...the state said you have to band them so when we catch them in Pineland we would spend a day or half a day and we would band them.

**JG:** Band them huh so, what would be on the band?

**JN:** Numbers, I don't remember. It said something S-V-such and such, and Mr. Booker said they wanted to do a study and he did get people from Canada and everywhere to give them those bands.

**JG:** Oh really, getting those bands?

**JN:** Getting those bands, so occasionally some of them went.

**JG:** Got away.

**JN:** But, it was a lot of fun. I thought it was!

**JG:** How many hunters would there be there at any time doing all that shooting?

**JN:** It could be at least 12.

**JG:** Oh my gosh! That is a lot of shooting.

**JN:** Every now and then...

**JG:** Talk about shooting fish in a barrel.

**JN:** They had what they called the ribbon duck, about every fifteen or twenty ducks they would have a ribbon duck and they put four or five dollars, not a whole lot of money, on the ribbon duck and when they released that...

**JG:** The money duck huh?

**JN:** ...yes, and if you shot him, but the only problem was now he is coming back across there and you got five guys shooting and everybody, "I got him." (laughing) Who got him? They would have two guys at each station.

**JG:** I bet that was pretty wild.

**JN:** It was and my job back then, I never did have to go up to the tower with the ducks because like I said we had...they would be stationed around here and I would have a little small pickup and for some reason back then in the winter time it was always like it was colder, now our winters don't seem to be that cold, but I would have a thermos full of broth that Mr. Booker had gave me a recipe for this special broth and you make it and you put vodka in it and rum and it would warm you up and I had beer and soda and stuff, so it rang a bell because they want people...they had a bell, had a big old bell and they would ring that bell you would change stations so you.

**JG:** So, nobody got an advantage.

**JN:** Yes, so when they rang the bell you changed stations and then they would ring the kind of like a half time bell that is when I would drive through.

**JG:** Kind of like a refreshment break. Golly!

**JN:** Yes, I would come through with my little truck and give everybody a little...

**JG:** Make them open up their little cylinders and stuff.

**JN:** Yes, we would get them a little refreshment. I remember one day I got half way through and I was on my way back and somebody rang the go ahead bell too quick and they went to shouting "whoa" and I went to blowing my horn, whoa y'all wait for me to get out of here but, it was a lot of fun!

**JG:** Golly! And you said that Shepley didn't always abide by the rules.

**JN:** No, he...normally after the shoot was over Mr. Shepley, he had a lab and his name was Star, I never will forget that dog, and he would bring Star with him and he would

shoot them on the water because they had dogs retrieving them and his dog...he would work Star to death. Star earned her money that day because if anything was on that water he was going to shoot it. Mr. Temple would say, "Jim don't shoot them" and he would say, "you know they are wounded, no way in the world they come through all that and didn't get hit." (laughing)

**JG:** That is funny! (laughing)

**JN:** We had a...I told you about Time coming down and we had a group from Sports Illustrated come in and they had the Super Bowl in New Orleans, well they would bring some of their advertisers, people, their clients I guess. I don't know what they call them. They would bring them to the Super Bowl, well it was in New Orleans so they say well, we are going to spend two or three days in Scrappin' with our guests and they would always bring an ex football star. I don't know if you remember Pat Haden?

**JG:** Yes, the quarterback for the Rams?

**JN:** Yes, quarterback for the Rams, he came. And so they were like two or three days before the Super Bowl. They got up that Sunday morning and left and flew to the game, a helicopter picked them up and they brought them over here to Diboll and they caught the plane. They told him...when he got there he was like, "oh guns and shooting, I don't want to do nothing like that." They told him about the ducks and he said, "oh that is too cruel" and I mean he was just a party pooper. Before he left he was so blood thirsty (laughing) he shot everything that was out there. He said, they talked him into shooting that duck and he shot that first duck that was it. It was on then he didn't want to quit. He just did not want to quit. They had this big, up at Pineland we had a bunch of pigeons at Pineland and they said we need to get rid of all these pigeons because they are just messing up everything. So somebody, one of the guys, Buckshot Ferguson, have you ever heard of him? He was over the truck shop and over the welders and he got a lot of statues and stuff out at Scrappin' Valley that he would make using railroad spikes and stuff like that. He built a canon and he took it down to the trap range and this trap... Mr. Booker had Buckshot build a pen that you put feed in there and those pigeons fly in, but it was just open one way. They push it open and they could fly in, but then they couldn't get out. So we took those pigeons down there and so they rigged up this deal and they slide them pigeons in that canon and boom, shoot them out and had them guys stationed out. (laughing) So, we eliminate a lot of pigeons that way.

**JG:** Who maintained all the guns and stuff? Did y'all do that?

**JN:** We did that. Now the wildlife crew...

**JG:** What did y'all do any particular brands or makes of shotguns?

**JN:** When I first came there they had all pump Remington's.

**JG:** 870's?

**JN:** No, 1100's.

**JG:** Those were semi-automatics weren't they?

**JN:** Yes, the 1100's were a semi-automatic. I said pump but they were automatics. Then they got rid of those because they were kind of dangerous. You don't really know when they are empty or not, you know, and it is just unsettling if you see somebody handling a gun and somebody might point it towards you and so, they got all over and unders. That way they kept them broke open and it is a lot safer.

**JG:** Oh yes, right.

**JN:** They bought all Browning 1100's so, that is what we have used at Scrappin' and Boggy from then on just Browning 1100's.

**JG:** Browning over and unders. We've been laughing a good bit about all that but I just didn't want to let the opportunity go by was there any injuries out there?

**JN:** Not, we have been blessed. God has really blessed us. Seems like they had something at Boggy at one time but we have really been...in 36 years we have never had anybody get injured with a gun. That is a blessing.

**JG:** That is good. Like I said, with twelve people shooting at ducks in the same area and it probably could very well be people who have never done that kind of thing before too. That is dangerous.

**JN:** We've really been blessed. We talked about that all the time with safety and you get a lot of people, I guided some people the other day sporting clay, one guy had to keep telling him to keep his gun, once you get up there to shoot you have to keep your gun inside this frame because you don't want to point it at anybody and I had to keep telling him "sir, you" you know he shot it but he still want to turn around with it. It is just unsettling and so...

**JG:** Right, you can't ever be too safe.

**JN:** Yes sir.

**JG:** Well, talk a little bit about some of the interesting people. I guess we would certainly include some of the politicians maybe, or representatives and government officials.

**JN:** One of my favorites, and it has got to be everybody's in East Texas favorite was Charlie Wilson. (laughing) I really enjoyed, everybody would get excited when we heard he was coming to Scrappin' Valley, you know. He had the lady that was the belly dancer and I have to tell everybody about it. We were laughing about it. He told me they got

ready for her to dance and they cut out all the lights and had the candles and stuff burning...

**JG:** Now this is at Scrappin'?

**JN:** Yes, at Scrappin'. He told me he said, "Come here Jack I want to make sure you see this. I want you to come on behind me, they can wait on themselves you come on in here." (laughing) I was standing there by the door and I walked in and there was a couch a little longer than this and I was kind of backed up onto the edge of the couch and the lady was dancing and she started dancing and she started coming towards me and I backed up and when I did I fell and landed on the couch and she was just dancing and she just kept coming, she was standing there. "I wish I had a camera." I said "I'm glad you don't." But, that was a lot...like I said he was a lot of fun! Also the Guaranty, the bank, Guaranty Insurance, they used to bring entertainment. They would bring celebrity singers, you know, Jerry Jeff...

**JG:** Jerry Jeff Walker?

**JN:** Yes, Jerry Jeff Walker. And what is that guy's name, *Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places*?

**JG:** Johnny Lee.

**JN:** Johnny Lee, Johnny Lee was a hoot. (laughing) He would be singing and he would have two beers and he said, "when I finish this one" and you bring him another. And Mr. Jastrow's sister-in-law, Ann, she played in the movie with Harrison Ford, *Clear and Present Danger*.

**JG:** Oh!

**JN:** What is that woman's name? They call her Annie [Anne Archer] but I can't remember her last name and she is a real famous actor. An old age senior moment here, I can't remember her name, but enjoyed her. She was a lot of fun, real, real nice and I enjoyed *Lady Bird*, she was real nice.

**JG:** How often did she come?

**JN:** I only met her one time out there. She was part of the SOB's, she was an honorary SOB.

**JG:** The Sportsman of Boggy Slough.

**JN:** Yes, she was an honorary SOB. Mr. Mondale, he was alright. He wasn't real, real, friendly. I guess he was caught up in his politics at the time. He was getting ready to try to run for president and at that time I think Buddy was getting ready to run for governor,

so you know, they was talking about that. He wasn't a bad person but he just wasn't overly friendly.

**JG:** What about Connolly?

**JN:** I only got to meet him, it was a big barbecue. They was having a fundraiser for some other guy.

**JG:** A political fundraiser?

**JN:** Yes sir, they had a big barbecue out there and it was a couple of thousand people I guess, because they was all outside, maybe not that many but it was quite a few people there.

**JG:** How often did Charlie Wilson come?

**JN:** He came regular.

**JG:** Now, what would that mean regular? How many times a year?

**JN:** Two to three times a year he would come out and he would have something.

**JG:** Any particular like every year he would come for this event or just spread out?

**JN:** No, no, no, just spread out. When he was campaigning he was there quite a bit, you know, when he was running against that lady. What was her name?

**JG:** Peterson?

**JN:** Peterson, yes he was there quite a bit but, he was...

**JG:** How long would he typically have been there? Would it have been overnight?

**JN:** Oh he would stay a couple two or three days or something like that.

**JG:** Oh, a few days at a time.

**JN:** Yes, he would have a lot of his people with him and it would depend on what he was doing. A lot of time he had some people there, but he would come quite often. He would come quite often.

**JG:** Now, the runway, when did the runway stop? When did they stop using the runway?

**JN:** Oh, I guess right after they bought those Lear jets and they quit bringing them in there. They landed them in there once or twice and you could see they took almost every

inch of that runway to land and take off so, they...eight, nine, ten years I guess. Something like that.

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** Because...

**JG:** But before that was that pretty common people would fly in and fly out?

**JN:** Oh yes sir and they, Temple had, Eastex used to have a big plane and I don't know they took all the seats out of it and put couches and a bar and everything in it and a good friend of mine, Martin Credis, was the bartender on it. I got to fly on it a couple of times. That was a lot of fun and they would land it out there. But it wasn't anything to go out there and see three or four planes and a helicopter or something sitting out on the runway. That was pretty neat, you know, to go out there and see that. But, they used it, you know, quite often up until they went to changing planes.

**JG:** They are just letting it grow over now huh?

**JN:** They are...Mr....the new guys that bought it they had a fellow come in and land out there the other day and they used it as part of their promotion to sell it, you know, "hey look we do have a landing strip that small planes can land out here."

**JG:** Okay, right.

**JN:** They had this fellow who had these model planes with a camera on it so he was flying his model plane up over it and as the plane came in they filmed all that and they used that as part of their promotion to sell it. They advertise and sell it.

**JG:** So, they haven't taken possession yet but they are already using it.

**JN:** Yes, they are already using it to let people know there is a 3,000 foot runway out there.

**JG:** Any other interesting events that come to mind, interesting people?

**JN:** Well one of my favorite groups, I don't know if I told you about this that happened to me once, it was the insurance company, Guaranty Insurance and they had Hal Choates and Nick Grant were the two head guys for the insurance company.

**JG:** Hal Choates?

**JN:** Yes, and they used to bring some interesting people out there, they really did. They would bring a gentleman there that was a trick shot artist. He fast draw and had a trick shot artist and he had a scrapbook that he had taught all of these TV cowboys how to draw. He said Clayton Moore didn't know which end of a gun was what and he had this

scrapbook and showing him with Clayton Moore and John Wayne and all of these things. They had a gentleman there with them and it looked like he was about 70 years old, this was a few years ago, and this gentleman was bragging, everybody was bragging on him because they say he was a ladies' man. He was a total...even at that age said he had a wife, a girlfriend, and a mistress, said at his age he was just real viral. And part of my job in the mornings was to wake people up, especially during the hunting season. I would have a five o'clock wake up or a four thirty wake up for the deer hunters. Then I come back and have a seven o'clock wake up for the bird hunters and maybe about eight thirty I would come around knock on everybody door and tell them last call for breakfast, you know. I went around that morning and this guy he had a big wool coat on and one of them big hats they wear in Russia, you know, the big wool hats and so, he was staying out in one of the cottages and I had given my deer hunters their wake up call and I went around about seven o'clock and was going to knock on the bird hunters door and about eight something I went back and was going to give him the last call for breakfast. I hit his door one time and before I could hit it the second time his door swung wide open and he was standing there and all he was wearing was that hat. (laughing) That is the only thing he was wearing and he was looking at me and he said, "you are late" and I said, "now what do you have in mind?" I love Temple but there is certain things I just ain't going to do, you know. I've heard of taking one for the company but...and he kept saying "you are late." I said "sir, what?" and he said, "I was supposed to go deer hunting." I said "Oh, I'm sorry but your name wasn't on my list." They had scratched his name off because he had gotten drunk that night. But his roommate was laying in the bed and his roommate had his back turned and he was still asleep, so he walked over there and shook his roommate and he turned over and he was standing right on top of him. But, I thought oh my goodness! I tell them if this is the worst thing that ever happened to me in 37 years, but that was pretty interesting. We laugh about that and for years after that happened, every year that Mr. Choates and them would come, this guy died before they could come back and they would always have a toast to him. They get in the dining room and everybody get their wine glasses and they toast to him, you know, because we know wherever he is. (laughter)

**JG:** When they had a full house, say you had a full group of people there how many deer hunters would there be?

**JN:** You know in the later years we could sleep 36 people and most of the time once quail hunting got real popular out there more people would want to quail hunt on certain groups, especially with the bank groups. They had more quail hunters than deer, but they couldn't take everybody quail hunting so they could only take about 8 people at a time so the rest of them would have to go deer hunting. And we had people that loved to just sit and rock. We had one guy that would come out there every year and he came with the building products and he would come there, he would bring him two or three books, we would set a bottle of brandy. He would get him a chair, he had a favorite chair he liked to sit in right by that window so he could look out over the lake, we would get him, make sure we kept him a bottle of brandy and he would sit there and sip his brandy and read his books the whole while he was there and he was perfectly happy. When I first went there were no phones out there and the closest phone was down at the store there. That would

be pretty interesting at night after dinner you would go down there and drive through there and you would see seven or eight guys standing in line wanting to use the phone. But people from New York, and I can understand, Mr. Shepley and them kept on and talked Mr. Temple and then they only had two phones. They had a phone room. They didn't have them in each room.

**JG:** So, Mr. Shepley kept asking and finally they got phones.

**JN:** Yes, they had phones and then they didn't have them in the rooms, only when Mr. Jastrow got there did they put phones in the rooms.

**JG:** Phones in the rooms.

**JN:** Phones in the room but up until then they had two rooms and they had a phone in each room.

**JG:** What about cell phone service? I'm trying to remember if my cell phone worked out there.

**JN:** It is tough out there. People with Verizon can get it in certain areas but, and...

**JG:** I have AT&T and I don't think it worked.

**JN:** That is what we have AT&T and everybody, every time they get a new CEO or something they go to talking about putting towers and stuff out there and then they look into it and said it cost too much and it wasn't worth it. When IP [International Paper] first took over the guy asked us about, he was trying to make a long distance call and he said "I can't make it." So, we asked him where was he trying to call and he said I'm trying to call Russia and I said well I don't think you will be able to do that. So, if they had kept it they were going to fix it where they could call Russia from out there.

**JG:** Wow that is truly international.

**JN:** Yes sir! I don't think you are going to get Russia from here.

**JG:** Talk a little bit more about the change, you mentioned the phones changing and of course the place has changed hands recently, but just not necessarily recent change but all change. Compare the first year or two you were there to recently.

**JN:** Well the first year when I got there Mr. Temple was really into it and Mr. Denman, like I said, was the guy that we...when we left...

**JG:** You were telling me that Mr. Denman, I don't think we had that on the recording but you were saying at some point Mr. Denman was sort of over the scheduling?

**JN:** Yes, if you wanted to use the lodge he had to approve it. He had to approve it.

**JG:** And that came about because Mr. Temple showed up one time and it was already full or something.

**JN:** That was in Pineland at the lodge in Pineland.

**JG:** Oh that was Pineland.

**JN:** Mark Shepherd, that is the guy that was there, he was there and Mr. Denman was over it and Mr. Booker and that was pretty much...we did things a certain way. We could go to Scrappin' when we got ready. If we decided we wanted to go out there and help Mr. Chandler we would call him and say hey you need some help and he would always say yes. But when Mr. Booker retired we got a new...when Joe Hambrick took over it was different because Joe had nothing to do with the mill in Pineland and Bill Jones was the mill manager in Pineland, so they would have to request us to go and it was a little change in the way we operated there but it wasn't a whole lot. It was enough to matter. All Joe had to do was get on the phone and say I need them and you know, the paperwork would follow.

**JG:** So, and I don't want to put words in your mouth, but as you described you wanted to go to Scrappin', ya'll couldn't just go.

**JN:** No, we couldn't just get up and run out there so, that was a little change, you know, everybody has their little way of operating but it wasn't a whole lot. You couldn't really tell. It wasn't enough to make that big of difference in the way that we operated and then Mr. Sweeny, no it was Mr. Maxwell that had to approve everything.

**JG:** Harold Maxwell?

**JN:** Harold Maxwell had to approve everything and then after him Mr. Sweeny had to approve everything. There wasn't a whole of difference in Mr. Sweeny either, and he is probably one of my favorite people, Mr. Sweeny is. I really like him. He has really treated me well, but the deal when the company was part of Time and later on, I don't know how they acquired Inland but we was Temple Eastex and then all of sudden we were part of Inland start coming out, and they really loved the place. They would come out a whole lot. They would really...they had a...they wasn't as laid back as Temple was. They would bring whole different people out there. They would bring mill workers and like with Temple most of the people that came with Temple were the upper part of the company.

**JG:** Upper management.

**JN:** Yes, and everything but with Inland you got guys out there who are foreman and worked on the mill. They had a deal they would reward their people with the work they had done with a trip to Scrappin' Valley and they would do two or three of these a year, maybe every quarter they would have one of these.

**JG:** So, it would be more the guys out in the plants, where as Temple it was more the management.

**JN:** Yes, and you talk about have fun, those guys (laughing) come to Scrappin' they would have fun. They really would and women too. They would have men and women so, you know, you would get some guy...and it would be real weird too, you would have a guy that was a plant worker but he would be rooming with probably a guy who was vice-president of...you know, so they really had a ball. That was a lot different and then later on they quit doing it and we would have other groups that come out there that would have fun. The Paper Mill would have a group from Mexico a couple of times a year. They had those deals in Mexico and you couldn't half understand a whole lot of what they were saying but you know they was having fun and they would be speaking in Spanish, but they would be pointing and you know, they couldn't understand me and I couldn't understand them, but before the time was gone we pretty much made out what they wanted and everything. That was pretty interesting too. They was a lot of fun because they would bring their guitars and they would be singing at dinner and clapping and they was a lot of fun. (laughter)

**JG:** Oh yes!

**JN:** We had those groups from Mexico. Then when Mr. Jastrow took over and remodeled the place that was, you know, the first thing he told us, he said we are going to build y'all some...he asked us where did we live and we told him that we...he thought we were driving home every night originally. He said, "y'all drive home every night?" I said, "no, no, no, we got crew quarters up here" and he said, "well how do they look?" I said, "they look alright, they are some trailers, you know we just need a place to lay our head." We weren't living there, when you only got five or six hours of sleep anyway. He went up there and looked at it and he told us, "no, no, no, that is not good enough for y'all. I want ya'll, because y'all will be putting in some long, long hours y'all will need someplace." He said, "I'm going to build y'all some crew quarters." I said, "yes, sure I bet you are." And that is the first thing he did when he remodeled was build the crew quarters and that surprised everybody. Nobody thought he was going to do that. I didn't. That was a good change, we enjoyed that. When he left and Mr. Malley, I'm sure you know him. He took over.

**JG:** Is it Pat Malley?

**JN:** Yes, Mr. Malley. We had heard all kind of horror stories. Mr. Malley did this and Mr. Malley did that and he is the meanest man in the world, so we was pretty nervous about that. We really was, and when he came out there, he may have been all that on the job but when he came to Scrappin' Valley he had to be one of the nicest guys you ever want to see. We still get a text message from him or an email or a card or something right today. He still send us something, tell us how he is doing. The deal, we had been on a roller coaster for a long time though. It started out when they sold the land and then they spun off the banks and everything and we didn't know what was going to happen to

Scrappin' and everybody was kind of nervous. Mr. Jastrow and them took over and for a year or so everything was pretty good and then here come Mr. Icahn and all that stuff and we never knew what was going to happen and then IP [International Paper] come in, you get nervous, you know, nobody knows what is going to happen. IP [International Paper] took over and everybody found out they weren't two headed monsters, you know, you still had some resentment because you figure one day IP [International Paper] doesn't really need us. They still going to do alright if they didn't have Temple-Inland, so you kind of settle down a little bit. After a year or so with IP you think well, maybe everything is going to be alright and then they come in one day and say, "hey we are going to sell y'all." You say, oh not again! So, we've been kind of up and down out there for the last seven or eight years because by the time you get settled, something else comes up and somebody else say, "well we fixing to sell you." Now they figured the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month I guess it will be my last day out there. I don't know. I haven't talked to Jason yet. I'm going to go by there when I leave here I'm going by there to talk to him.

**JG:** Do you think you'll probably be at Boggy Slough?

**JN:** We talked about that, being at Boggy and finish out the year at Boggy Slough and then return in January. I'll be 69 October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**JG:** Now did you ever work any of the Neches River Rendezvous'?

**JN:** I've worked just about every one of them.

**JG:** Okay, I thought Ellen Temple mentioned that to me the other day, so I've had some of your ice cream and cobbler.

**JN:** Okay, you been out there?

**JG:** Yes, yes.

**JN:** I've worked every one of them, you know.

**JG:** That is good stuff.

**JN:** I enjoyed it too. We look forward to that every year.

**JG:** How common was that for ya'll? I guess Scrappin' was your main place of work but did y'all come out to do things at North Boggy a lot too?

**JN:** Quite a bit, quite a bit. We come over there quite a bit. We come over there more than they come to Scrappin'. We have a bigger, larger crew than they do, but they had a larger wildlife crew than we do. I don't know maybe because they are taking care of both North and South. I'm not sure why, but that is the way it worked out. So...

**JG:** So, y'all would come over and help out?

**JN:** Yes they didn't have cooks. After Clara, I don't know if you know Clara Mitchell? Mr. Mitchell's niece?

**JG:** Okay.

**JN:** Jervoski's...not Jervoski but what is that...her grandson is...

**JG:** Fenley?

**JN:** Jermichaels' grandmother, she cooked out there for thirty something years I guess, but after she left they didn't have a full time, they just had seasonal cooks. So, during the hunting season they would have cooks but after that we would come over, then so we would come over quite a bit.

**JG:** So, you said you never really cooked but, you...just what were some of your jobs? You were bartender and?

**JN:** I was bartender, helped waiter, helped clean up in the kitchen, I did all the...not all of it but I mowed and raked.

**JG:** Mow and raked, I think that day I was over there you were mowing and raking.

**JN:** Help them in the wildlife. We would go out and help them burn, help them clean up around the food plots, help them clean out the deer stands, just whatever.

**JG:** Just whatever needed to be done huh?

**JN:** Just whatever needed to be done we would do it. We did a lot of that and we even got to travel with Mr. Jastrow. We would go to Austin maybe a couple of times a year and he would have stuff at his ranch out there and we would go up there and work and that was a lot of fun.

**JG:** I'm trying to look over my list real quick. Is there anything I've neglected to ask you that you would want to add?

**JN:** It has been a good 36 years. It is been...I wouldn't trade it for nothing in the world. I've got a chance to meet some nice people. Temple Inland has really been good to me. I've been blessed, I really have. I thank the Lord for putting it on Mr. Booker's heart to hire me and I thank the Lord for Mr. Temple too for letting him hire me. I...you know, like Charlie there and just so many other people.

**JG:** Talking about Charlie Havard?

**JN:** Yes, Charlie Havard, yes, just so many other people that I got a chance to meet with the company. We just...

**JG:** So, you would get to know them I guess around the bar, just visiting and talking?

**JN:** Just met them at the bar and part of my job too when I first went to work for the company, I was in roads and grounds, but I was also, back then they didn't have UPS and Fed-Ex and all that so, I was the courier. I would bring the mail to Diboll and bring the mail from Pineland to Diboll and...

**JG:** Back and forth huh?

**JN:** ...back and forth, bring the payroll over and then come pick it up and take it back and somebody get hurt I would take them to the doctor or go visit them. They would give me the credit card and if they had somebody in the hospital I would run by and see if they needed anything, you know, and if they did if it was anything reasonable, you know, Mr. Booker would tell me, you know, if they need something around \$25, \$30 or \$40 just go get it for them, you know. And, one lady told me she needed some Levi Garrett [chewing tobacco]. I said I can't bring you any Levi Garrett. She said "I want some Levi Garrett." I said okay I went and got it but I said look I didn't bring this to you. (laughing)

**JG:** She was in the hospital?

**JN:** Yes, she was in the hospital. They had a lady in there that had a hernia, a white lady, and she had a hernia and I brought her to the doctor and I come to pick her up and she stayed in the hospital for a week or two, I'm not sure how long now, but they told me there one day they said that she was well and when I dropped the mail off in Diboll to go to Lufkin and pick her up and bring her home and I couldn't find her. The nurse told me that she was up at the maternity and she was in there looking at a bunch of babies and there was one little black baby in the whole crowd and she looked over there at that baby and she said, "it don't look nothing like me it looks just like his daddy" and everybody turned around, and this is in the seventies and everybody turned around and looked. (laughing) I said are you trying to get me hung! (laughing) But...

**JG:** Oh, that is funny!

**JN:** I enjoyed that too. I guess that is why I don't care too much about driving today because I done a lot of driving then.

**JG:** I bet so, man yes!

**JN:** I had to go to Beaumont, Houston.

**JG:** Yes, even Jasper, even still today. So, you have a family now in Jasper?

**JN:** I do, I got three boys and a daughter. My daughter is in Dallas. She used to work for Guaranty for awhile there when she first got out of high school and she works for Chase now and I got a son that is a barber in Texarkana and another son that works for Redi-mix

in Jasper and my baby boy, hasn't been too long he got out of the navy. He got a bad hip so I don't know. He might not ever be able to do physical work. He may have to get him a sit down job.

**JG:** You mentioned to me, I think off the recording that you were born in, well you mentioned it on the tape too that you were born in New Orleans. What year were you born?

**JN:** In '44.

**JG:** In '44 okay and, what day?

**JN:** October 8, 1944. And, my mother told me I was a war baby.

**JG:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, a war baby, yes.

**JN:** She said I got my name, it was two doctors had been in the service, I'm not sure which branch of the service, one's name was Jack and the other was named Robert and both of them said that was the first child they delivered so they said, "name him Jack" "name him Robert" so, she called me Jack Robert.

**JG:** Was your father in the military?

**JN:** No, no, no, no.

**JG:** What did your father do for a living?

**JN:** Well my dad, my mother and father were separated when I was coming up but he told me he did a little of everything. In fact, he told me that he helped build one of the early mills in Pineland.

**JG:** Oh Really? What was his name?

**JN:** His name was Clifford Norman.

**JG:** Clifford, okay.

**JN:** But, he said he worked in...he said he was living in Oakdale and back then jobs were scarce and they heard of a mill being built in Pineland, Texas and he said him and my uncle, my mother's brother, hopped a freight train to Pineland.

**JG:** That is Oakdale, Louisiana.

**JN:** Right, and I knowm brother...my mother's...

**JG:** I think in the early twenties they rebuilt that mill. Would that have been about that time?

**JN:** It might have been about that time. He was just saying, I was talking to him before he died and he was telling me about Pineland, I was telling him about Pineland and he said, "I helped build a mill there in Pineland." He said I worked there for about...I don't remember now, two or three months or six months or something like that. And he left and went back to Oakdale but my mother's brother met a lady in Jasper and he stayed. So, that is basically how we wound up...

**JG:** How you wound up, your mother's brother, your uncle, okay.

**JN:** Yes, he stayed in Jasper and his name was George Harris, but dad said...and it was funny oh, I guess probably in the 80's or something in Pineland there at a store this woman came up to me and she lived in San Augustine and she asked me what was my name and I told her "Jack Norman." They called my daddy Jock, and she said, "do you know a man named Jock?" I said "yes." She said "I used to know a man, you look just like him." I said, "Oh lord." I heard my daddy was a rolling stone. (laughing)

**JG:** How many brothers and sisters did you have?

**JN:** I had Clifford, my other brother's name is Clifford Jr., Clifford, four brothers and one sister.

**JG:** And where were you in the birth order?

**JN:** Next to the last, no I had two brothers younger than I am, I take that back.

**JG:** So, you were pretty young when y'all moved to Jasper then?

**JN:** Clifford and my sister, Clifford is seventeen years older than I was and my sister was sixteen years older than I, so my other two, the ones that are younger than me we don't have the same mother. They are Daddy's children.

**JG:** Okay, alright Mr. Norman well again, I sure appreciate it. Like I said...

**JN:** I hope I...

**JG:** Oh yes, you gave some good stories and some good experiences there. Like I said we wish you the best for the future.

**JN:** Thank you, I appreciate you showing me around the museum.

**JG:** You are welcome.

**JN:** Anytime I can be of help to you.

**JG:** Let me go ahead and stop this.

**END OF INTERVIEW**