

VERNICE & ONETTA ROEBUCK

Interview 292a

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ABSTRACT:

In this interview with Jonathan Gerland and Richard Donovan, former Lufkin Industries employees, Vernice and Onetta Roebuck reminisce about their careers and their lives growing up in East Texas. Beginning with his early life in San Augustine and Zavalla, Vernice Roebuck recalls his life raising cattle and sharecropping near present-day Sam Rayburn Reservoir and his later career at Lufkin Industries. Beginning with her early life in Huntington, Onetta Roebuck recalls picking cotton and working for both Atkinson Candy Company and Lufkin Industries. The couple also discusses Zavalla High School basketball in the 1950s and the construction of Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): Today's date is December 5, 2019. My name is Jonathan Gerland I'm at the History Center today and I'm doing an interview with Mr. Vernice Roebuck and his wife Onetta Garlington Roebuck and Mr. Richard Donovan is here too. We are just going to share some memories of growing up in East Texas and see where that goes and hopefully, we can talk a little bit about Lufkin Industries as well. So, maybe Mr. Roebuck if you would just to begin and get us started just tell us a little bit about when and where you were born. Tell who your parents were and just some early memories of growing up in the area where you were raised.

Vernice Roebuck (hereafter VR): Well I was born in Oak Grove, San Augustine County, and my two brothers were Frank and Hubert and we moved to McGee Bend, that is where the dam is right now, we moved over there when we were kids and daddy farmed there.

JG: What year were you born and who were your parents?

VR: I was born in '35 and Vernon Roebuck, my dad, and Clara Hopson Roebuck was my mom.

JG: Okay, were they from San Augustine County?

VR: They were. Lived right there.

JG: Born and raised there?

VR: Born and raised there.

JG: Do you know if your father owned the land that he farmed or was he sharecropping?

VR: He didn't, he sharecropped it.

JG: Do you know by any chance who the owner of the land was?

VR: I sure do. (JG: that's good) Jim Parker and Tom Parker, they lived right down between Concord and Plum Ridge. They owned all that property right there and we sharecropped, he did, of course we were kids but we were out there too.

JG: About how many acres do you know? I know you were a kid and I'm asking you stuff kids don't usually know but.

VR: They had lots of land, both of them did.

JG: But I mean your family's plot that y'all share cropped do you know about how much land it was?

VR: I really don't; it was a bunch of acres though.

JG: Did y'all live there long enough for you and your brothers to work the fields as well?

VR: Well we lived there, I don't know how many years and we finally wound up in Plum Ridge and we were sharecroppers there. Vestal Marshall, L. V. Marshall, owned that place. We lived there more than anywhere. We just settled right there. We thought it was home of course, and it was to us kids.

JG: Did y'all move into a house that was already there or did y'all build a house?

VR: It was already there, yeah, an old house. We always called it the old house and it was.

JG: How many other share cropping families were near by that maybe y'all associated with or visited?

VR: Not sharecroppers but we had...let's see, let me think of their name, Letney, L. B. Letney and Lewis Letney. They lived right beside us. They had property, a farm right beside us and we farmed together.

JG: Did they have children as well?

VR: No, they didn't. It was two brothers and a sister, Lewis and L.B. was the men and I believe Viner was the lady.

JG: Do you remember working the fields?

VR: Oh yes, very much!

JG: What did you work; what did y'all grow?

VR: We grew cotton and corn down there.

JG: Cotton and corn.

VR: And peas and stuff to eat you know, for the family to eat.

JG: So, the cotton and the corn you got a share?

VR: We got a share. I believe it was a third and fourth.

JG: So y'all got a third, and he got two-thirds and three quarters?

VR: Right.

JG: Do you remember which was the third and fourth? Which one was the cotton?

VR: Same way in the cotton, we got a third. They had a gin in Zavalla then and we hauled it up there when it got ready and had a little store in Plum Ridge a Magillberry.

JG: There is a lake in that area called Magillberry Lake wasn't there?

VR: Yes. There is a big lake down there now. When we lived there it was a river.

JG: Talking about Sam Rayburn Reservoir for the recording.

VR: Boy when we would get the crop laid by, we would go camp on the river and stay two or three nights. Go down there in the wagon with a mule pulling it and sleep under that wagon really.

JG: And fish?

VR: And fish with trot lines.

JG: What time of year would that be?

VR: Right after crop was laid by, whenever that was.

JG: Okay, so fall. Did y'all ever make summer excursions to the river?

VR: Not very often then. We did a lot of hunting in the woods there though. My dad trapped mink and coons, them mink hides were good back in them days. And, that is what income he had and he drove the school bus for a long time.

Richard Donovan (hereafter RD): Do you remember what he used for bait Vernice?

VR: I don't know what he caught that mink with but I should.

JG: Would he take it into Zavalla or where would he get paid for them?

VR: We sold that in Alto. We would go up there. They had a place that bought, they finally might have done that closer. I'm sure they did but that is where I remember.

JG: But you remember going to Alto to do it?

VR: Yes.

JG: But y'all would do the skinning and everything yourselves and just take the hides?

VR: Yes.

RD: Stretch it over a board.

VR: Yes, put it on a board, yeah. That was fun for me.

JG: What did you enjoy about it?

VR: I would go with him when we was trapping and I would beat him to the trap every time. I couldn't wait to get there. (laughter)

JG: Just to see what was caught.

VR: I would start running just to see what we had caught. It was exciting to me.

JG: So, what all kind of animals did you...I know you were targeting certain animals but what all did you catch?

VR: Minks is what we wanted.

JG: Right, but what all did you catch?

VR: But mink and coons really, didn't want no possum.

JG: Any fox? I saw a beautiful orange fox right in the middle of the loop the other day, a beautiful fox.

VR: We never caught nothing like that. But I tell you a lot of people fox hunted though just to listen to the dogs. Hubert used to do that all the time, build up a big fire. That is

my brother Hubert, he had some fox dogs and just sit around the fire and listen to them run, call them by name and all that.

JG: Where would y'all do that?

VR: In the government pasture really.

JG: Okay.

VR: There was a pasture from Plum Ridge, that is where they had the bomb practicing too, you know, dropping them bombs.

JG: The bomb practicing during World War II?

VR: Yes, it was a big open pasture and people could run their cows and stuff in there. And, we did we had some cows out there too.

JG: How were they marked or branded? Did they have to be tagged? To run your cattle on the federal lands do you remember how that worked?

VR: We tagged our hogs but they were...it was a number that you put on them.

RD: But the government didn't require you do to that did they?

VR: No, I don't think so, no.

RD: That was just individually, you either branded them or cut places in their cattle's ears or hogs.

VR: It was crop under bit and split in the ears was daddy's mark.

JG: How many cows did your family run?

VR: Not very many, no.

JG: How often would you run out and gather them up and check on them?

VR: It was close, the pasture was close; everybody just run them out there. We had a horse we could ride.

JG: When you say not many, I mean is that 10 or 40?

VR: Probably 15 maybe.

JG: Okay. Did your family every run any cattle? (to Richard Donovan)

RD: I was the only one that ever did Jonathan.

JG: Okay, okay. Your dad was pretty busy working in the industrial business.

RD: Mt dad never even looked at a cow.

JG: Anything you want to ask him about what he has talked about so far Mr. Donovan?

RD: Well I was going to mention when you lived at Mr. Parker's down there that was known as Parker's Curve if you will recall was is not, Vernice?

VR: It was and that is where we had to come to get the mail.

RD: That was a real sharp bend in old Highway 63 before the dam was put in, Jonathan, and there was a big place down there and just as far as the eye could see was Mr. Parker's place, known as Parker's Curve.

JG: Now Plum Ridge, growing up as kids and working in the dirt and everything did y'all find many Indian artifacts, arrowheads or anything?

VR: Didn't even think about it.

JG: Now that is pretty near old Concord isn't it?

VR: It is yes.

JG: Did y'all go to the Concord Church or anything?

VR: We had church in Plum Ridge.

JG: In Plum Ridge, okay.

VR: A Baptist church and we went there. They had a big day at Concord in June, I believe and we all went there.

RD: You went to Concord School some didn't you Vernice?

VR: Yes, I did go to Concord School.

JG: Okay and you said your dad drove the school bus where did he deliver the kids?

VR: To Zavalla.

JG: To Zavalla, okay.

VR: You know back then when we would have a ball game, he would bring everybody that wanted to come to the ballgame. They don't do that no more, they can't; but all the bus drivers would bring the kids to the game or families.

JG: Yes, just the community huh?

VR: A community, yeah. He did that a long time, drove a bus.

JG: Anything else about Plum Ridge that you remember? What was the landscape like? You mentioned the pasture, open range...

VR: It was real hilly going into Plum Ridge.

JG: Real hilly.

VR: Yes, he would stick going down the hill sometime in the bus it would be so bad, just a dirt road.

JG: Now you were born in '35 so the government had started about that time planting pine trees to reforest and everything, can you just talk about what you remember seeing. I mean, of those hills and things compared to today any particular memories?

VR: Only memory I could have about the pasture, we had a fireplace and we would...that wasn't the route to come to our house. We would go out through the government pasture and stop in the bus and pick up pine knots to build a fire with. They didn't know probably, nobody but us. (laughing)

RD: Jonathan, I will just dove-tail into that. I can't remember what year it was but two different times and Vernice might can remember this, but out of DeQuincy, I believe it was, Louisiana they sent two crews over here, or one crew and then a few years later another crew but picked up all the pine knots and stuff off the ground. (VR: Oh yes) They brought dynamite and blew the stumps out of the ground and loaded them all onto carts and carried them out to the road and then loaded them onto trucks and hauled them off. Do you remember that Vernice?

VR: Yes, I do remember that.

RD: Have you run into that Jonathan?

JG: Yes, for turpentine.

VR: Making turpentine, yes.

RD: Wasn't that DeQuincy where they were going to?

JG: I think so, there were a lot of places in Louisiana and places that did it. Of course earlier there were some pretty good-sized turpentine operations near Aldridge was a big

one right there near the old Aldridge Sawmill and everything. Your great grandson mentioned the Aldridge Mill, said y'all had lots of memories and stuff of that. Is there anything...

VR: Of what?

JG: Of Aldridge. Of course, the mill itself was gone by your time but old Aldridge do you remember anything particular? Did you do much hunting or anything around it?

VR: We usually hunted right behind us towards the river.

JG: Towards the river, okay.

VR: We were hunting one day, us boys, and Momma...a big old holler tree there and he went up that tree, the squirrel, did and we couldn't find him. We built a fire under there, under the hole in the log and boy I thought we were going to burn the woods, all the woods up. We finally had to run. It went out, I guess.

JG: So, you didn't get the squirrel.

VR: We didn't get the squirrel, no. Beating-est thing I ever seen. It was crazy!

JG: Almost burn the woods down. So, was that government land?

VR: Almost had a forest fire.

JG: Yes sir! Was that government land?

VR: It probably was government land.

JG: Do you remember much land being posted or fenced?

VR: Not really.

JG: So just open huh? Did you ever run into any game wardens or pasture riders or anything like that?

VR: Yes. (laughter) My dad killed a doe down there one time. He was hunting with Milton and Hubert and a bunch of them and the game warden came up and he took him to that doe. He took him to the deer he had killed, wasn't supposed to kill no does but my dad took the game warden there. They took his gun but they give it back to him. Took it to Jasper.

JG: Yes, so were you a kid then? Still a child?

VR: Yes, I was older then.

JG: So, you were hunting too.

VR: But I wasn't hunting with them. I didn't care much about hunting. I liked to fish but ...

JG: Talk a little bit more about fishing. Where and how did you fish?

VR: We trot lined a whole lot, just game fishing.

JG: With a rod and reel?

VR: Cut us a pole down, no rod and reels, we would cut us a pole and put a hook on the end of it and just fish by hand.

JG: Fish by hand.

VR: We didn't have a boat we throwed trot line out there just a throw line, pretty much, with hooks on it.

JG: Did you use any hoop nets or anything? Did you ever try to use nets?

VR: That was against the law. (laughing) We couldn't do that.

RD: You never did use a wire net made out of chicken wire?

VR: No, I didn't but Hubert did, my brother Hubert did.

JG: Did you ever make any kind of weirs or anything in some back waters to trap fish or ever know anybody that did?

VR: I don't know anybody that did but I'm sure there was a lot of them did.

JG: Did you know people who fished with hoop nets, illegally fishing?

VR: The only one I know was my brother Hubert really. (laughing)

JG: Okay, okay.

VR: My dad didn't we always...

JG: So, what kind of fish did you catch?

VR: Just catfish.

JG: Catfish, you never caught any scale fish or not really go after them?

VR: Not back then, there was an old lake down there and you'd catch a grinnel, called them a grinnel.

RD: What lake was that Vernon?

VR: It was just a pond back down in the woods there.

JG: A backwater, natural like an oxbow lake or something?

VR: Yes.

JG: Did you ever fish in sloughs or anything when the water got up?

VR: Sometimes, yes back behind the house.

JG: Was that good fishing?

VR: It was, you would catch them every now and then but that is the one that would have the grinnels in them and they weren't no good.

JG: So not many bass or perch or anything you tried to.

VR: Perch yes, that is in the river but no bass back then. I didn't even know what a bass was back then.

JG: In the old records even kind of where y'all are talking about there is still some creeks called Trout Creek.

VR: Yes, there is a Trout Creek.

RD: Yes, it is in Jasper County I believe.

JG: Yes, and I read, I don't know if this is the place to tell this on the recording but, I've suspected because I don't think any trout were ever native here, but I think what they thought was a trout was actually what we call now a bass, a large mouth bass. Have y'all ever heard that?

VR: There was a Trout Creek close to Plum Ridge there as you're going into Plum Ridge.

RD: Yes.

VR: We used to fish it but we never did...

JG: Catch trout or bass huh?

VR: No, we would catch perch that is about it.

JG: It has been a long time since I looked into that but I suspected that.

RD: I think it's a bass.

JG: Yes, I think they saw or thought what it was and named it what they thought it was but they named it Trout Creek. Of course, you know, after the National Forest Service took over at Boykin Springs, they actually did stock trout, true trout.

VR: They still do I guess down there.

JG: I don't think any of them really lasted through the summers.

RD: No, it was a one-year deal.

JG: Every now and then I would hear someone catch one that weighed two or three pounds and that might have been one that survived a year because those things were small when they released them.

VR: We were kind of more into sports than we was anything.

JG: What kind of sports?

VR: Basketball.

JG: Basketball.

VR: Yes, that is all we had at Zavalla.

JG: You didn't play baseball?

VR: They had washers. We did play baseball some but it wasn't big.

RD: And softball.

VR: My dad and Milton, you might have been playing, kind of had an independent baseball team and my dad played with them.

JG: Kind of like a semi-pro team?

VR: No, just playing someone that showed up, some other team that showed up. Milton said Mr. Roebuck was the only one that got a hit. He liked baseball. We played baseball at the house, me and Frank and Hubert, us three boys and we played.

JG: Did y'all have enough to have 9 against 9 or just whoever showed up?

VR: We just had it ourselves. Our dad would play with us, one would catch and pitch and the other two hit.

JG: Somebody would go fetch it!

VR: Yes, somebody would go get it. We would have to make us a ball a whole lot.

JG: Yes, I was going to ask you if you had gloves?

VR: No!

JG: What did you use for a bat? Did you have a real baseball bat?

VR: We had a real bat, probably from the school I imagine.

JG: What would you make the ball out of?

VR: Some string, just roll up a bunch of string and make us a ball.

JG: Did you put any kind of a core in it?

VR: And Hubert would get mad and throw it away and we would hunt it the rest of the day or have to build us another one. Hubert was kind of...he was something else.

JG: Now is that an older brother?

VR: Middle brother, he was the middle one. I was the one in the middle, Frank was older and Hubert was the baby.

JG: Oh okay, so he was a sour sport, poor sport?

VR: He was a good ball player, wasn't he?

RD: He was a real good one!

VR: He was a good basketball player.

JG: Okay.

VR: He really was.

JG: Well tell a little bit more about the baseball if there is anything to tell. It was just y'all, I mean y'all never played...

VR: Just us.

JG: You didn't play for the school? Did the school have a baseball team?

VR: They did and I played for the school but it was basketball mostly.

JG: What position in baseball did you play?

VR: Outfield. It was mostly basketball in Zavalla.

JG: Well talk a little bit about that then, basketball. What schools did you play?

VR: We played Huntington, our district was Huntington, Central, Wells, Hudson.

RD: Hudson, Central.

VR: Yes, just the local smaller schools.

JG: Who was the better player Donovan or you?

RD: He was!

VR: I could shoot but he was the best player. (laughter)

JG: They pointed at each other for the recording.

VR: He could jump, he could. You could jump high, Dick, when you was playing. Mr. Donovan, we called him Dick or Richard. We had a lot of good basketball players down there. Hubert was a good shot.

RD: Yes, Hubert was good at basketball.

VR: Mickey Kitchens was very good, went on to play college. Milton Hudspeth went onto play college and coached there for a long time after college. We had a good team.

JG: Did y'all have a gym?

VR: Oh yes.

RD: Built way back there.

VR: Had an old gym. We called it old, they built another one.

JG: Everything made out of wood, wood floors, wood walls?

RD: Wood burning heaters.

VR: Yes, wood burning heaters.

JG: I imagine it was pretty dark. Was it painted wood or just natural wood?

RD: It was just natural, the bottom part was painted, six or eight feet, something like that.

VR: You remember the night...who was the coach? What was our coaches name that was so fiery?

RD: Oh, Nelson, Charles Nelson.

VR: Yes, he got mad one night and we was sitting on the bench and he threw his watch up, and it went up and went down in the wall. (laughter) So, he lost that watch!

JG: I thought he was going to have one of his players dig it out.

VR: No, he was a good coach I think, probably better than Gray.

RD: Oh yes, he was a graduate of Rice University.

VR: Gray would just run and shoot.

RD: That was all he knew.

JG: Run and shoot huh?

VR: Run and shoot no defense.

RD: He bought us about 15 basketballs and they were all on the court at the same time to practice you know, and that was all there was to it. You just got out there and run and shoot that was it.

JG: Nothing organized, no drills?

RD: No, no.

VR: We had good teams. We never did win state; one year we should have but we tied up with Central and Huntington and had the playoffs.

RD: Then we had two boys quit right in the middle of it, falling out with the Ag teacher and our Coach.

VR: I don't know how you could fall out...

RD: You remember who left don't you?

VR: Yes.

RD: Both of them were good athletes.

VR: That is the year we should have won it, for sure.

JG: So, what years would that have been late forties?

RD: Oh no, middle fifties.

JG: Oh, middle fifties!

VR: Middle fifties, yes.

JG: Do you remember the other schools where you played who had the best gym or you thought, "hey this is nice?"

VR: I can tell you who had the worst one. Wells.

JG: Okay, Wells.

VR: It was small.

JG: My wife played basketball for Central and she said they always had a pretty good team.

VR: I remember when they played on the ground, you remember that? Before they got a gym.

JG: She said Wells, I probably shouldn't say this, "they played their worst games against Wells." I think Central was always a pretty good team but sometimes...

VR: They were, they're the ones that won state when we tied up, those three teams.

JG: Sometimes when you play a scrappy team, you play down and I think that is what...

VR: Wells had a guy 7 foot tall.

RD: Sure did. Went on to play pro ball too.

JG: Really, you remember who it was?

RD: Oh, give me awhile Jonathan and I will think of who it was. He went off and played for maybe Kentucky. I'm not sure but...

JG: Mr. Lowery he played for Huntington.

RD: Yes, and he went to SFA [Stephen F. Austin] and he was Mr. Everything up there.

VR: He was good.

RD: Of course, that was before integration too.

JG: So, Wells' gym wasn't too good huh?

VR: It was too small.

JG: Too small, so the audience was right on top of the court I guess, didn't have any room to run and dive for a ball?

VR: No room.

JG: You could make a shot bounce it off the side of the wall into the ring huh?

VR: Yes, they wouldn't count it, though, would they?

JG: Trick shot, ricocheted off the walls.

VR: You can tune in when you get ready, baby.

Onetta Roebuck (hereafter OR): I am enjoying.

JG: Well let's ask Mrs. Onetta a few questions. Now you grew up in Huntington is that right?

OR: Yes.

JG: And you're about the same age as your husband?

OR: Yeah, a few months older.

RD: She is a lot younger than he is.

JG: Now your great-grandson said you were born in '34.

VR: She looks a lot younger than I do.

RD: She is a lot younger than you are.

JG: Well tell us a little bit about what you remember growing up? Who were your parents?

OR: Garlington, William and Easter Garlington, she was from Louisiana, my mom was and my dad was from Bronson.

JG: What was your mother's maiden name?

OR: DePhillips.

JG: I think your great-grandson said she immigrated from Italy?

OR: Yes, my family did.

JG: You have anything to share about that, anything particular you want to share about that?

OR: Not really because I don't remember much and we never went to Louisiana to see her people; they come to see Mom and Dad. But the funniest thing, I had a granddaughter that went to Hammond, Louisiana last year during Thanksgiving to the cemetery. They had a private cemetery on my mom's dad's land, and none of us, none of the families ever even thought about going because I guess we never were able to go, you know. She went, her and her husband, and she said it was one DePhillips after the other. It probably may have been 50 graves there and so many of the tombs you couldn't read on there who they were, you know, but you could see that last name DePhillips.

JG: Now you went to Huntington so, I guess Zavalla played in Huntington did you ever go to any of the basketball games?

OR: I would go to the games but I never played.

JG: Well I've been hearing from them now I want to hear your story. Who was...?

OR: I don't have no...

JG: You don't remember seeing them playing?

OR: No, no.

VR: It was always a knock down drag out just about when we played Huntington.

RD: It sure was. We played Huntington four times every year because of the money. Normally, you would play the rest of the schools twice a year, but we played Huntington four times for nothing but because Jim Gray had his eye out for a dollar but, anyway the gym would just be packed.

VR: Oh, they would be packed out. You remember the night the boy broke his leg from Huntington I believe in Zavalla? He got hurt really bad.

RD: I don't remember that Vernice.

VR: It might have been a different game.

RD: Onetta, don't you and I have some kinfolks that live on the old Lufkin-Huntington highway? A young woman lived back in there somewhere, she was a Garlington some way or another, that was her maiden name.

OR: Yes.

RD: But there was a young lady back in there that they're kin to you.

VR: On the Bald Hill Road was it?

OR: No, the old Huntington highway.

VR: Oh, old Huntington highway.

RD: You turn off there right in front of Buddy Lowery's house.

OH: Yes, that trailer park and go back in there. I can't remember.

RD: There is a lady back there that is kin to us.

OH: It wasn't Weatherford?

RD: I don't remember her name to tell you the truth about it. I just remember I was invited to her house one time following a book signing and I went and met her and her family and everything but I don't remember her name. Real pretty girl but she was a lot younger than me.

JG: Did the schools have girl sports? Did they have a girls' basketball team?

OH: Girls' volleyball is what they played. I don't think they ever played basketball, the girls.

VR: Zavalla had some good girls' teams. They never did win state but they went twice. They were good.

JG: Did you play any sports Mrs. Onetta?

OR: No.

JG: You didn't.

OR: I tell you. I married when I was 15, and I was married all but lacked a few months being 50 years, yes so. I've been married all my life and then I met him and three years later we married.

VR: We worked together.

JG: Yes, I want to get to that in a minute. I think y'all met at Lufkin Industries, didn't you?

VR: Yes, we did.

JG: What do you remember? So, you didn't go to school after 15 I guess but do you remember anything about school? Any particular memories, favorite teachers or anything like that?

OH: No and I don't remember any I didn't like either.

JG: Okay, so you ended up working at Atkinson Candy I guess for a while?

OR: Yes.

JG: Tell a little bit about that, when did you start and what did you do?

OR: I started when I was still in school and I caught the Mack's Motor Coach Bus and rode it in the morning and in the evening to Atkinson Candy. They asked you how old you are and I probably said 17 because they knew I was in school, you know, and I told them I was in school. During the summer I worked two summers there. I had a niece that was older than me went with me.

JG: What did you do there?

OR: Wrapped candy.

JG: Wrapped candy.

OR: It was everything then was by hand.

VR: How many years baby?

OR: Twenty-four.

JG: Twenty-four years.

VR: Then come to Lufkin and worked twenty, didn't you?

JG: To Lufkin Industries yes. I'm trying to think of a good question to ask about the candy place. Any particular memories that would be good to share about working there? You wrapped candy by hand. How many different kinds of candies?

OR: Well it was mostly peppermint, peanut patty, and peanut brittle.

RD: And peanut butter logs.

OR: Yes, that is right.

JG: Was it like an assembly line kind of operation or how did y'all wrap?

OR: Later but it wasn't an assembly line when you did it by hand, but later it was all under an assembly line, you just reach and grab it just as fast as you can.

JG: Off a conveyor belt?

OR: Yes, get it off that belt and wrap it.

JG: Okay, did you ever do any other jobs there? Were you involved with mixing or cooking the candy or anything?

OR: Well sometimes, as I guess most everyone did one time or another had to work in the kitchen if they were short. It may have been making peanut butter. It may have been weighing peanuts and putting them over in the hopper and things like that. I never worked in the kitchen.

JG: Right. Do you remember who your employers were at the time?

OR: Who the employees were?

JG: Your supervisors, people who were your boss?

OR: Yes, there was a lady named Bea Allen from Allentown, she was an old maid and she played the part well. (laughter) And, there was a good many after her but Mrs. Atkinson was a real good lady but Mr. Atkinson was a hard-core old man.

JG: So, you would ride the bus and you were still a student is that right?

OR: Yes, that was just two summers me and my niece did that, yes.

JG: So, what hours did you work do you remember? I know morning to evening but was it real early?

OR: No, it wasn't real early probably eight o'clock in the morning. I don't even remember what time the bus came through and stopped in Huntington, you know.

JG: How many people rode the bus? Was the bus always full?

OR: No not that many but...

RD: It was back during the war Jonathan; Mack's Motor Coaches was jam packed.

JG: Spell that.

RD: M-a-c-k-'s.

JG: Okay, Mack's.

RD: They built that...their house is still standing down there by the...right in downtown Huntington.

VR: Yes, right on the left as you go in from Lufkin.

JG: What was the route just Huntington to Lufkin and back?

RD: From Lufkin to Beaumont.

JG: Oh, all the way to Beaumont, so it was a big one. Okay I see what you're saying, yes, Lufkin to Beaumont. Did you ever miss the bus?

OR: I don't think so.

VR: I bet she didn't.

OR: I was serious.

JG: Have to spend the night at Atkinson Candy. (laughter) So the bus schedule and your work schedule pretty much jived together pretty good. You didn't have to wait too long for the bus or anything.

OR: I don't even remember his name but there was a young man that lived in Huntington that went to work at Atkinson and we rode with him. We started out riding with him on a Saturday, not working...when school was going on would ride with him on Saturday but we didn't do that very long probably three or four months.

JG: Mr. Roebuck what was your first outside job, outside job or public work, like working for somebody like Lufkin Industries? Was that your first job working for a big employer?

VR: No.

JG: Well talk about that when you graduated from high school transitioning into work.

VR: I graduated in '53. I went to...I worked in Orange a little bit.

JG: What did you do there?

VR: Construction, right after I got out of school then I quit that job and I had an uncle that worked in Houston and I went down there and went to work.

JG: Construction?

VR: No, I worked in a print place.

JG: Printing?

VR: Yes.

JG: Okay.

VR: I didn't stay down there too long. I come back and went to work for the Highway Department...

JG: In Lufkin?

VR: ...in Zavalla and worked there until '57. I joined the Army and went to Germany, three years in Germany. I came back and then I went to work at Lufkin Industries.

JG: Okay. What did you do for the highway department?

VR: Just everything, flagged a lot. I didn't like that job, that was the worst job you could have.

RD: Drove really slowly too Jonathan, going to and from work like if they were working ten miles that way or ten miles that way, they drove ten miles an hour.

VR: We worked hard Dick. (laughter)

RD: When they got ready to get off they knocked off early and drive back ten miles an hour. You would have to hold your finger up to see if they were moving, they were driving so slow. (laughter)

VR: That is true. (laughter) That is true. We had a lot of fun working at the Highway Department.

JG: How far away from Zavalla did you go? Ten miles, no more than ten miles.
(laughter)

VR: Yes, not very far. We went...

RD: To the river.

VR: Yes, to the river.

JG: The Angelina River, okay. Didn't go across it huh?

VR: No, no. I drove a truck sometimes, dump truck for them.

JG: Did you go into Lufkin; did you go that far?

VR: No, we didn't even go to Huntington actually.

JG: So how big was the Zavalla office; how many employees about? I didn't know that Zavalla had an office.

VR: Oh yes!

RD: A pretty good size one.

VR: A pretty good size crowd. Flloyd Barge was the supervisor for a long time.

RD: Do you remember Mr. Gillian?

VR: Yes, I remember Mr. Gillian. Floyd was running it when I went to work there and J. O. Grimes took over when he left. It was a pretty good job.

JG: State job huh?

VR: Yes, it didn't pay that much.

JG: You left there and went to...

VR: Went and joined the Army.

JG: Now why did you do that?

VR: Just wanted to. Me and my first cousin joined, Homer Lofton.

JG: Because in '57...

VR: Homer Lofton, you remember him.

RD: I do.

VR: Me and him joined.

JG: So, you were about 22 years old or so, no '57 what was that?

VR: Yes 22.

JG: Okay.

VR: And we went to Germany and stayed three years and got out when our time was up.

JG: What base or bases do you remember?

VR: Bayreuth in Germany is where we were. Bayreuth is the way it is spelled but it's pronounced "Bi-roid."

JG: What did y'all do there?

VR: Well I drove the company jeep; company commander's jeep and I was a forward observer. We had 105 Howitzers and you would look out there and pin point where you wanted that gun shell to go to and I did that and that is about it. Played some basketball! (laughter)

JG: He likes basketball.

VR: Yes, we even won our championship there at that battalion; Second Armored Cavalry.

JG: So, you just played other Army teams?

VR: Yes.

JG: Did y'all play any teams from Germany?

VR: No, it was all...

JG: Just military, yes.

VR: Yes, we had a black boy that played with us. He was good; from Port Arthur.

JG: So, let's talk about that a little bit. Was any other part of the service integrated?

VR: Oh yes.

JG: Y'all were integrated okay.

VR: We had some blacks in there. He was a good player too and he liked to play that basketball.

JG: So y'all had organized plays and good coaching and everything.

VR: Oh yes.

RD: Did high schools integrate in '54 or '55, '56? What year did schools integrate?

JG: It was the sixties and Diboll was '65, '66. It was gradual.

RD: That is what it was in the sixties.

JG: Yes, the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision was '54 but there wasn't anything to enforce it. Nothing really enforced it until the Civil Rights Act and then states generally used, or federal government used leverage on the states. The state's not going to get federal money until you integrate. You're not going to get state funding for your local schools until you integrate so that is what did it was the Civil Rights Act.

VR: We had a friend that was going to the service with us Dick. Kenny, he was going with us and we went to Houston. We were flying out from Houston and we had to go down there to get in, you know, Kenny we were in the motel that night and Kenny went out the window and left. He didn't want to go to the Army; he came back home.

RD: Did he really? I didn't know that.

VR: Don't you tell him that.

JG: Well it's on the recording.

RD: We won't say his last name.

VR: No, he was one of our good basketball players too.

RD: He was good enough that he was recruited by a college and he went up to play and he had so much trouble sleeping that the college let him go. I mean he would have...

VR: He still does that.

JG: Now when you say trouble sleeping you mean condition or?

RD: He was having nightmares.

VR: First night he spent the night with us in the middle of the night he was standing up in the bed hollering and screaming a snake was after him. He could see that snake, but it wasn't and he still has that. He will toss plum out of the bed sometimes.

JG: I have dreams like that. I will roll over and my arm will fall asleep and I feel my arm hitting me and I think a snake is on me.

RD: He would scream and everything, though.

JG: Alright, so how did you get to working for Lufkin Industries? How did you decide hey that is where I want to go?

VR: That is a good question. I did like to work out there.

JG: Do you remember what occasion brought you to go? Did they seek you or did you seek them?

VR: I'm trying to figure out...I probably did.

RD: Probably when you came back from the Army.

VR: Yes, I needed a job.

JG: You don't remember your job interview or anything?

VR: No, I just know I went to work there.

JG: Who were some of your early bosses or what were some of your early jobs?

VR: I imagine Hosey Harris probably helped me get on out there. He worked there.

JG: Who?

VR: Hosey Harris, he worked out there and I imagine he helped me get on the first time. And, we struck in '76 we had a strike out there and I went to Houston and went to work for Cameron Iron Works and worked down there until probably three or four years. And, come back and went back to work for Lufkin.

JG: Tell us a little bit about the strike. What was the issues with the strike?

VR: Just money, wanting more money. They done that in '76 and when was the last one? Was that '76 babe, the last strike?

OR: Well after me and you retired, they had a small two-week or three-week strike.

VR: It was about money.

JG: And you were a union member?

VR: Yes, walked the picket line yes.

JG: How long did you strike?

VR: Not very long because I had to go to work but I went to Houston.

JG: That is why you went to Houston okay.

VR: Yes, went to work for Cameron Iron Works doing the same thing I did for Lufkin.

JG: So, when you came back to work how hard was it to get back on?

VR: Not hard at all.

JG: The union welcomed you back?

VR: The union did and the company did.

JG: Let's back up a little bit. When you started there just...I'm trying to get your work experiences so what were some of your early jobs when you first started and I'm assuming you worked your way up.

VR: At Lufkin?

JG: Yes sir. What were some of your first jobs and who were your early supervisors?

VR: I worked in the pallet room building pallets was my first job. I didn't like that; that was a bad job but I finally got moved up and I finally wound up a supervisor. Her boss, until we got married and that changed. (laughter) Bosses changed when me and her married so, but...

JG: So, the pallets I guess they used pallets for everything they made?

VR: It was all manual work there.

JG: Right, so did y'all have nail guns or did you use hammer and nails?

VR: Hammer and nails.

JG: Hammer and nails. Where did you get the wood from?

VR: I don't know, I don't know but they made a lot of them and used them. We were making them for the company.

JG: Did y'all repair a lot of them too?

VR: Yes. I went to work from there to the tool room grinding tools, machine tools and that is where, I really liked that and I stayed there until I retired.

JG: Until you retired okay. So, how long did it take you before you got to the tool room roughly?

VR: Probably ten years.

JG: Ten years.

VR: But I didn't do pallets that long. I moved around and did different jobs. It wasn't a bad place to work. I liked it. It just wasn't enough money really. It didn't pay enough.

JG: What year did you retire?

VR: What was it?

OR: Was it '76?

VR: '98...

OR: In '97. It was '97.

VR: In '97. And you were in '98? When did you retire?

OR: In '97. I think you retired before I did, a few months. I think so.

JG: And did y'all marry while you were working?

OR: Oh no.

VR: Oh no. My wife passed away in '99 and her husband about the same time.

OR: My husband first in June and then your wife in July of '99.

JG: So, you were only retired a short time before your wife passed away huh?

VR: Right, yes.

JG: I guess that was disappointing huh?

VR: Yes, it was. She had cancer.

JG: Mrs. Vernice, Mrs. Onetta, sorry, how did you get to working there at Lufkin Industries?

OR: Lufkin first hired women, most of them, in the welding shop and that is where my husband worked. And he kept saying you can do twice as much as any of them women over there so just hush about money. Stay where you are or hire out with Lufkin Industries so I went to Lufkin Industries and hired out that day.

JG: And what was your husband's name?

OR: Jimmy Hamilton.

JG: Jimmy Hamilton, okay.

RD: I knew him did I not?

OR: Yes, you knew his mom and dad.

RD: I knew him a little bit.

OR: Did you? Okay, I didn't know you knew him.

JG: So, you went to welding?

OR: No, no, I didn't. I was hired into machine shop.

JG: Machine shop okay.

OR: And then before they quit hiring really, they hired seven women that left Atkinson Candy and went to Lufkin Industries.

JG: So, seven of you all about the same time.

OR: Yes, I'll say within two years probably.

JG: Okay, two years' time. So, where you worked did you work around all women or were you working with men as well?

OR: No there was one woman that left the candy kitchen and me were the only two on days at Lufkin Industries in the machine shop.

JG: Okay, so just you and one other woman. How many men would there be working like a shift?

OR: Oh, probably right there in that part probably 30 or something like that.

JG: So, what was that like being one of only two women among 30 something men?

OR: It wasn't bad, I mean, it wasn't...the boss man told us what to expect, you know, and it wasn't any problem whatsoever.

VR: They were good hands, all the women. They knew how to work because the candy kitchen worked them.

RD: All women knew how to work back in those days Vernice.

VR: Yes, right.

JG: So, what was the pay like between Atkinson and Lufkin?

OR: Five dollars more when I started.

JG: Five an hour?

OR: Yes, more.

JG: A good bit.

OR: It was as a horse is to a saddle blanket to me.

JG: What hours did you work? Did it vary depending on what all?

OR: No, I worked days.

JG: Straight shift. Did it ever vary with hey we got this huge order we have to do?

OR: Well most of the time it was either work Saturday and Sunday. It wasn't no ...

JG: Longer days just more days. How often did you work on Sundays?

OR: A good bit there especially in the '80s before they started cutting down on account of the oil business but I worked lots of Sundays.

JG: So about how many years each of you work at Lufkin Industries?

OR: I worked twenty but he worked 35 or 40.

VR: I worked 39.

JG: Thirty-nine years and that...

VR: More than that really but solid 39 years.

JG: Yes, you had three years between, yes.

VR: Right; it was okay. We had the best place to work where we worked in the tool room; that's where she wound up working. I think the best place.

JG: Who was a supervisor that was there a long time when y'all were there? Any particular ones that stand out in memory?

VR: Mutt Barr was a big shot for a long time, Mutt Barr.

JG: Any particular memories about him you want to share?

OR: Robert Poland.

VR: Robert Poland. Mutt Barr was okay, he was a good boss.

JG: So, what was it like to work for a company like Lufkin Industries? You know, you eluded a little bit to changes in the '80s and the oil industry and maybe that affected employment numbers and stuff and you talked about the strike and that kind of thing but just overall what was it like to work for a homegrown, large corporation like that?

VR: It was good. It was good for Lufkin and good for the people too.

JG: What about pride in the name and everything?

VR: Oh yes.

JG: What changes did you see during your time? Any significant changes, technology, other than fluctuations in the economy? Any big changes?

VR: Well yes, they...back in the early days machines you had to do all the grinding for the tools and they finally started using inserts that would cut that metal. It is amazing how that metal will cut metal. They started using inserts.

JG: Clarify that a little bit. So, you didn't have to change a whole blade or something it would just be insets?

VR: You would just put a little insert like that in a holder.

JG: In a blade like carbide?

VR: Carbide.

JG: So, that was a pretty big change huh?

VR: Oh yes, it sure was.

JG: And you witnessed that?

VR: Oh yes.

JG: How quick of a change over was it?

VR: It was slow. It was gradual.

JG: Do you remember the first use of it as far as like we are going to try it in this particular type of operation and see how that goes or anything like that?

VR: Not really. I remember when they changed because I was in the tool room, getting all the tools out and grinding all the tools.

JG: So, did y'all sharpen the insets or throw them away and get new ones?

VR: Just throw them away, the inserts.

JG: So how much sharpening and grinding or whatever did you do after that?

VR: Oh, we did a lot.

JG: Still did a lot.

VR: Still did a lot. They had the gear cutters...

RD: What were you grinding on mostly Vernice? What part of the machine did you grind on?

VR: You were just grinding the tools to go in the machine.

RD: Okay.

VR: The gear cutters, that is what Onetta did she ground gear cutters and it was to cut the gear on the big machines and we had to grind them.

JG: And all of it was forged and made right there on site?

VR: Oh yes, they would get dull and they would bring them in and we would grind them and send them back out there to them.

JG: Where did y'all get your raw materials from to make the steel? Do you know where the ore and stuff came from?

VR: To make the gear and stuff?

JG: Yes.

VR: They would get it from...they would cut those and make them in the shop.

JG: Did y'all do the gears for the oil industry?

VR: Pumping units.

JG: Did y'all do gears for anything else?

VR: Oh yes, commercial gears. We did a lot of work for even the Paper Mill on theirs.

JG: Did y'all do anything for the government while you were there, the federal government? I know at times they did stuff for submarines and tanks and stuff like that but was that during y'all's time.

VR: Not...

JG: They made gears for different things. What did Rudolph mean to y'all? It may seem a silly question.

VR: It meant a lot to us!

JG: Okay, well maybe it wasn't silly.

VR: We were proud of that too until they moved it downtown.

OR: We went and saw it yesterday.

VR: We don't like that.

JG: That is where it started downtown though didn't it?

OR: No.

RD: It started down on the railroad track, I believe was the first place wasn't it? On the railroad tracks over there by the Foundry over there?

VR: It might have been a little bit but they moved it to the mall, you know, where everybody could see it.

JG: Yes, but early on it was downtown; that is where it started.

OR: I don't remember it downtown.

RD: Well, Jonathan it was over there next to the railroad track for a while but whether that was the beginning or later on or something I don't know.

VR: G.E. [General Electric] screwed the place up; you probably don't want to hear that but they screwed Lufkin up. They really screwed Lufkin Industries up.

JG: Y'all weren't there during all that though; y'all retired well before that, didn't you?

VR: Yes, we were retired but we are still suffering from that though. We had life insurance, probably don't want to put that in there; but we had life insurance from them, me and Onetta both. Cost us about \$5,000 life insurance for a \$1.50 a month and they took it out of our pension and we just got a letter a week or so ago that they are stopping that. We are not going to have that anymore.

JG: A letter from G.E. or Lufkin Industries?

OR: No from Hughes.

VR: Baker Hughes, they bought the company out.

JG: So, Baker Hughes is the one that sent it.

VR: G.E. started it and Baker Hughes finished it up.

RD: They built that plant over in Romania or wherever it was, that was the death knell for Lufkin when they built that plant.

VR: Yes.

JG: I think I was supposed to ask y'all about picking cotton in Shawnee Prairie.

VR: Hey, I loved to. Can you believe a person would like to pick cotton?

JG: I never heard of that.

VR: I did!

JG: Well tell us about that.

VR: And I was good at it.

JG: Let me see your hands. (laughter)

VR: Hubert and Frank didn't like it but I liked to pick that cotton.

JG: Now why did you like it?

VR: I liked it because I was beating them I guess.

JG: Did you work on a commission?

VR: No, I was working for my dad.

JG: Your dad had more sway over you.

VR: We only picked what we growed right there but Onetta picked cotton.

OR: I picked cotton in Shawnee Prairie.

JG: How much cotton could you pick in a day?

VR: I don't really remember.

JG: More than your brothers huh?

VR: I could pick it, I didn't like chopping it you know, you would use the hoe.

JG: Well describe it for the recording.

VR: Well you thin it out a little bit. It would be too thick when you planted it so you would take your hoe and thin them out.

JG: When would you do that?

VR: When?

JG: When in the season?

VR: Just as it got up like this.

JG: So, what are you pointing at, how high?

VR: When it would get up seven or eight, ten inches high, you know.

JG: Did y'all prune it?

VR: Just to prune it out, cut some of them out so it wouldn't be so thick.

JG: How much later would it be before you started picking?

VR: Awhile!

JG: Was it September?

OR: Yes, August and September.

JG: So, that was at Shawnee Prairie?

VR: No, that was at Plum Ridge where I did. We did our own. She was picking for someone else of course at Shawnee Prairie.

RD: Onetta how much did you pick in a day?

OR: I never got to a hundred, never!

RD: I think I broke a hundred one time.

OR: I never did.

VR: We planted a lot of corn, pulling that corn. I would play basketball doing that, shooting at the wagon.

JG: I can tell you like basketball.

VR: I did like basketball.

JG: Do you watch the NBA nowadays?

VR: You know, I don't.

JG: I don't blame you.

VR: It's colored too much.

JG: Well it's all sports now.

VR: And I'm not really prejudice.

RD: Well you just can't identify with them.

VR: That is true.

JG: You mentioned money awhile ago and money has so affected sports nowadays.

VR: It really has.

JG: It has even gotten into college sports and high school sports because you talked about Zavalla playing Huntington four times because of money.

VR: But I'm still a Cowboys fan though. I'm mad at them.

JG: Let's see anything else that I forgot to ask, Mr. Donovan, that you know of? I want to give y'all the opportunity as well; anything that I have failed to ask you.

RD: I want to ask Vernice if he has heard this story before if he is familiar with it; about Andrew Quattlebaum and Tommy Knoll, one or the other of them was riding in the back of an Army truck going through Germany. I don't know which one it was, but Andrew Quattlebaum heard someone holler "hey idiot" and he looked and it was Tommy Knoll.

VR: Is that right? I didn't hear that.

RD: Both of them are from Zavalla and met up in Germany as one of them was passing by in a truck.

VR: Now ain't that something. I hadn't heard that.

JG: Anything y'all want to share to younger or future generations about your life experiences? We've talked about...

VR: I just wish I could have raised my kids the way I was raised in the country.

JG: Why is that?

VR: I don't know. I just would have liked for them to have had the experience I guess in working.

JG: Physical work?

VR: Physical work in jobs.

JG: Earning your living so to speak.

VR: Right, they had it too easy I think, my young-uns.

RD: All of them do.

VR: I just wish they could have had the parents I had, really, I guess.

JG: Well talk about your parents a little bit, tell about them.

VR: Well they were always Christians, always taking us to church and just good to us, good people you know.

JG: You haven't mentioned your mom much. What can you tell us about your Mother?

VR: She was awful good to us.

JG: Did she have a favorite kid?

VR: Probably not, I was the middle one. I wouldn't be the favorite I don't think.

RD: The middle one is usually not.

VR: But she loved us all and you knew it.

JG: So, she had all boys then huh?

VR: Well we did until my youngest brother was 18 years old. Momma got pregnant and had a girl and she was the best one of the whole bunch.

JG: Eighteen years after the youngest one huh?

VR: Yes.

JG: Okay.

VR: Momma was so embarrassed when she got pregnant.

JG: How old was she? Do you remember when?

VR: She was in her forties. Oh, she was embarrassed.

JG: When my mom was born her mother was 42. So, my mom grew up with her nieces and nephews. She didn't grow up with her siblings, she grew up with her nieces and nephews. So that is kind of the way your sister was huh?

VR: Yes, she was.

JG: What is her name?

VR: Dianne. She is married to my brother-in-law, Steve Wright, and he is a preacher, or was.

JG: So y'all went to the Baptist church I think you said earlier?

VR: Yes, we went to the Baptist church.

JG: So, there was a Baptist Church in Concord. Did y'all...were there other congregations?

VR: There was one in Concord and there was one in Plum Ridge.

JG: Did y'all share the building with another congregation?

VR: No not really and the church I went to at Plum Ridge, well Concord too, they had to move. You know, the lake took that.

JG: Right right. Were y'all around then when that was going on?

VR: No, not really, we had moved out when they built the dam.

JG: What do you remember of your own thoughts when the lake was going to come in when you started hearing about the land was going to be inundated and maybe your own personal thoughts, maybe your parents, your dad? What did your dad think about it?

VR: I never did hear him say. He worked on it some so he might have been kind of glad I don't know.

JG: Because it was a job?

VR: Yes.

JG: Did you feel anything about it once it went in, a connection to the land?

VR: I was gone when they did all that but it took up a lot of good land, I know that.

JG: I imagine some of y'all's farm land.

VR: Took out part of Concord, moved the cemetery out there.

JG: Did y'all have any family that was buried there?

VR: Not close family but lots of family, kinfolks.

JG: That had to be moved?

VR: Yes, that had to be moved, and the little cemetery at Plum Ridge though it's still there.

RD: Is it?

VR: Yes, it's still there. The lake didn't take it.

JG: On higher ground.

VR: Yes, it was on higher ground.

JG: There is a pretty big ridge there even today there on the shores of the lake.

VR: We lived right close...

RD: Once you leave Zavalla going east you get into pretty good, undulating hills there.

VR: There is some big hills coming into Plum Ridge where we lived.

JG: Did you ever go around White City, the little community of White City?

VR: Yes, we would go over there every year for a reunion because my parents are buried in Oak Grove over there.

JG: So Oak Grove, that is White City?

VR: Well White City is a little bit further west, east I guess from Oak Grove. Oak Grove is right down pretty close to the lake. That is where my parents are buried, my mom and dad.

JG: Did you ever go to...you remember any waterfalls or anything? There's a few little waterfalls that drain into the river just south of there. Did you ever go to any of those like Beef Creek?

VR: Beech Creek?

JG: No Beef.

VR: Oh, Beef Creek?

RD: That's it right over there.

JG: Yes, I got a picture of it.

RD: I doubt that Vernice has ever seen it Jonathan because that was always posted land through there.

JG: Posted land.

VR: I never seen it.

JG: Well, I think that is about all I had unless y'all knew of anything else. I was impressed that you remembered who the land owner was when y'all were a tenant.

VR: Oh yes, we moved around quite a bit in the early days. My dad worked at...when we moved over the first school, I went to was down towards Jasper in Jasper County

before you get to the river, Dick. Maxine, I believe, we went to school there a couple of years before we moved into Angelina County.

RD: Vernice is any of the Parker Curve still visible over there or is all of that under water?

VR: It is all under water, yes. Well, I say it is but it's not. You know we had our reunion down there and there is some land open down there.

RD: I never have gone up there and then turn around and come back like I was going to Concord, you know, go to Jasper and then turn left like you're going to Concord since they've cut it off.

VR: Well the Parker part of it is cut off but there is still a little bit open there because we did have a reunion there with some open ground. I don't know, some of my kinfolks used to live there, the Merritts. Did you ever know any Merritts?

RD: No.

VR: What about Evanses?

RD: Yes, I knew some Evanses.

VR: Yes, you knew Douglas and them. They used to live right there and it's not under water, just that area if you come down and come that far, yes, they have got a boat ramp and everything down there, part of it is under water.

JG: Well thank you Mr. & Mrs. Roebuck. I'll turn the recorder off.

VR: Thank you!

OR: Thank you!

JG: Okay we're back same date and time. Mrs. Roebuck, we talked earlier about her maiden name being Garlington and the big Garlington dog fight and shoot out they had I guess in the mid-fifties, early fifties maybe, made Time Magazine I believe If I'm not mistaken.

RD: I would say '52 or '53 somewhere in there.

JG: Anyway, I didn't see an appropriate spot to ask her during the interview but Mr. Donovan was asking her about it and I think she is going to tell us a little bit about what you can remember after the fact maybe.

OR: Well what I really remember is us going over there, we went on a Sunday.

JG: This was after the shooting?

OR: After the shooting and they had got out of the hospital and was at home. They may have been out two months or so but I know one of them was sitting in a wheelchair and the other his brother was sitting in another big chair and he called my Momma and said "Easter come over here I want you to see something out this window." And, Momma went and looked out the window there close to him and there were three deer right there at his house. And he said "see that is what I want to protect, Easter" and Momma agreed with him. But, other than that I don't.

RD: Was the sister present at the time?

OR: She was there and she fixed dinner. She had fixed lunch for us because I guess Momma had wrote her and told her we were coming, yes.

JG: What do you remember the family version of the shooting?

OR: I don't remember. I know they even talked about it then but I don't...I guess at the time it didn't interest me.

VR: How many was killed?

OR: Two...one...okay see there I didn't remember that.

RD: But there was several of them shot up.

OR: Okay.

JG: So, you weren't interested as you said.

OR: I guess not. I didn't think anything about it or something.

JG: But you went with your parents, with your Mom.

OR: Yes, of course, I was married and had one kid and my husband and one of my brothers and mom and dad went over there. And my dad, he was half way picking at one of them boys and just asking him he said "do you remember when there was some money hid under a tree?" And, the Garlington boy spoke up and said "yes but you know everything has changed since then." So, we asked daddy going home "what about the money?" And, Daddy said "I just remember their daddy hiding some money a long time ago." And, we all said we were bringing a shovel and coming to see you and had a laugh about that. But he said he did bury some money.

JG: Maybe during the depression, I guess?

OR: Before that, yes before that because I would have been 34, or 32 maybe at that time.

JG: Okay, alright thanks.

**TAPE STOPPED
END OF INTERVIEW**

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