

TED IVY

Interview 293a

February 21, 2020, at Ted Ivy's Home, Huntington, Texas

Jonathan Gerland, Interviewer

Allison Grimes, Transcriber

ABSTRACT:

In this interview with Jonathan Gerland, Angelina County native Ted Ivy reminisces about growing up in Huntington as a descendant of early Angelina County settlers. He recounts his family history in the area, tells where his ancestors came from and how they came to Angelina County, and describes what life was like as he grew up during the Great Depression and World War II. He also tells about his time in the military during the Korean War. Mr. Ivy remembers many of the area's oldest families and describes the businesses, schools, and churches that filled Huntington through the years.

Jonathan Gerland (hereafter JG): Today's date is February 21, 2020. My name is Jonathan Gerland and I'm in the home, today, of Ted Ivy in Huntington and we're going to do an oral history interview. Mr. Ivy, I guess maybe a good place to start is...we were looking at a map earlier about Cyrus Ivy...just start talking about how the Ivys came to this part of the world and what you know of your family history. Then we'll work our way up to where and when you were born.

Ted Ivy (hereafter TI): Well, from the documents that we have, Cyrus Ivy came to Angelina County in 1859.

JG: Where did he come from? Where did the family move from? Do you know?

TI: He was born and raised in Walton County, Georgia. He had a family of five children when he left Walton County, Georgia. He and his wife and five children, and one was an infant. The next we heard, they were living in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. And that's where his wife, Susan passed away, Cyrus's wife Susan passed away. He was with an infant and four other children. I don't know exactly the time frame, but he married an Alice White in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. My understanding is there was an Ivy plantation in Pontotoc County, Mississippi, where the people coming west, especially the Ivys, would stop over at that plantation. For what reasons, I don't know. He buried his first wife there in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. Then he, along with his brother Josiah, continued west. And his brother, Josiah, settled in Butler, a community called Butler that's east of Fairfield, Texas on the west side of the Trinity River. Cyrus came on across the Trinity with his family and bought acreage, I believe it was forty acres or sixty acres, in Anderson County, Palestine. How he heard about this land patent in Angelina County, I don't know, but he did and he came over in 1859 and got the land patent. We got records where he sold his acreage in Anderson County and moved his family here to this 320-acre land patent, with his new wife and a young baby from his first wife and four other children. So that's how he came here in 1859. That would be about thirteen years after this became a county.

JG: That Cyrus Ivy land grant, about how far away is it from where we are right now?

TI: It's about ten minutes, about four and a half miles.

JG: Okay, and that's where you were saying earlier where the Ivy Cemetery is?

TI: That's where the Ivy Cemetery is.

JG: And y'all worked on getting that historical marker a few years ago. About how many people are buried there in the Ivy Cemetery? Do you remember, offhand?

TI: Right. I think you probably have...I've got it, I've got [JG: That's ok]. I've got an account of it, but there's at least, probably, 20...approximately 20 of the older settlers buried there, starting in the 1800s. The first grave was in 1873. And then there's been graves added since then. Of course, it's really a community cemetery, it's not just a family cemetery. It's family...if you have family buried in there, you can get a plot to be buried in there.

JG: And that was on the Cyrus Ivy land grant?

TI: That's on it. He had a grandson buried in there in 1873 as far as our records show. That was the first.

JG: Okay. So, Cyrus's grandson.

TI: And then he and his wife, Alice, are buried in there and his son.

JG: Do you know where the old home place was?

TI: Yeah. Mrs. Lucy Connor lives on the old home place, yes. His first home place was just as you go into the...as far as I know because my dad was born there. His dad, my grandpa was born there, and my dad was born there, and I had one of my older brothers was born there on that old place.

JG: And what were their names?

TI: My grandfather's name was William Joshua Ivy and my dad was Bolivar Cleveland, and my brother was Daniel Palmer. And that's the reason the road's named Palmer Ivy Road now.

JG: Yeah. And that's your older brother?

TI: Yes, one of my older brothers, yes. My next-to-oldest brother. My oldest brother was born here in the edge of Huntington, out here. On Porterville Road.

JG: So, what did your father do?

TI: He taught school from 1911. He taught here in Huntington, he taught at Odell, and he taught at Fore. He taught school for ten years.

JG: How did he get to be a schoolteacher? Do you know where he got his certificate or anything?

TI: Self-taught. He went through whatever education he could get. There was three of the boys, he had two brothers, and all three of them taught school at one time. W. D. Ivy, Dan Ivy, everybody called him Old Uncle Dan, was the oldest. He was born in 1880. I did his autobiography in 1945. He was sick for about three months and so I did his autobiography. I roughed it with a Big Chief tablet every evening. He was in the bed sick, and I was taking care of his livestock up here where my pasture is now. It's probably one reason I was able to buy the pasture off my aunt because I did do a lot of work for them. But anyway.

JG: So, you interviewed him and got his story, is that what you're saying?

TI: Each evening after I finished my chores, he'd give me about an hour. He had asthma and he had, I don't know whether he had flu, pneumonia, but he stayed in bed about three months getting over it.

JG: Now was that just your idea to do that? Is that something you wanted to do?

TI: It was a project for English.

JG: A project. Okay, for school.

TI: For school. It was. We should interview a person. When I completed it, I completed it by writing on Blue Horse notebook paper. When I got through, my mother had to tie it together with yarn, I had so many pages. Mrs. Josie Cloud was the English teacher here in Huntington. They ran the newspaper also, her and her husband.

JG: The *Herald*?

TI: No, I believe it was called *The Huntington News*. I think that's what it was.

JG: Okay.

TI: This was in the '40s during World War II. My whole high school career was through World War II. I went in as a freshman in 1941, September 1941. The war started December 7, 1941 and right on through my school career. Anyway, Mrs. Josie gave me an "A" on it. She asked me if she could use it at the newspaper because he was born in 1880, he was here when Huntington came. He was already a merchant with his father-in-law when Huntington was started. So, I had a lot of valuable stuff that I didn't realize I had.

JG: Do you still have it?

TI: I read her part, the paper. It didn't have that much meaning until now, it has a lot of meaning now. But they used it and she taught school at Huntington. I went in the Navy and after I got out of the Navy, four years in the Navy, I went to work at Shell Oil Company in Deer Park, in Houston, at the refinery. I worked 36 years there. And they moved away to Midland. They closed the news and they moved to Midland. She taught at Midland and he worked-

JG: That's the Clouds?

TI: That's the Clouds. Occasionally...very seldom did I ever see her, and I would ask her if she still, if she knew what...well I think it's maybe at the school. Well I didn't pursue it. To make it as short as I can, if she retired and came back here...Mr. Cloud died, they lived in Denton and she and her daughter came back here, and she had searched frantically for that. She said, "I think when I moved away, I left a box of stuff in Huntington and they wrote me and told me they had it intact." And she wrote them back, unbeknownst to me, and said, "what can be used in the library, put it in the library and the rest of it you can do what you want to." So, I feel like that where my autobiography went away. I can remember bit pieces, but I had actual dates and times of things that happened. A lot of it was about my ancestors passing away. He knew when Cyrus, he was born in [18]80, Cyrus died in about '90, so he was ten, and then his dad died, Josh my grandfather died, in '94 or '95 and my dad was only four years old so he didn't remember Grandpa. Of course, he died before he was born, but he just barely could remember little things about his daddy.

JG: So, for three brothers to all be schoolteachers, what was going on with that?

TI: I don't know, they were intelligent men, they had good minds on them, and I don't know whether it came from the Collinses or from the Ivys. Their mother was a Collins. Her dad was the first sheriff of Angelina County, George Thomas Wharton Collins. He's my great-grandfather. And he's buried in the Carrell Cemetery down here on Ralph Nerren Road. They were self-educated. They got educated but they read, and they studied and all three of them almost wrote identically. Boy, they had pretty handwriting, so that tells me something. He studied old books, high school, self-taught, and stuff like that...He had a certificate, a teacher's certificate-

JG: Which school would they have gone to? The public school? If he was born in '80-

TI: No, my dad was born in '91.

JG: Oh, I was talking about-

TI: Oh, well I can't tell you much about Uncle Dan's teaching.

JG: Oh, okay.

TI: I know the majority, but I know more about my dad. Huntington High School by 1911. Bolivar Ivy.

JG: He's showing a photograph of the Huntington School...I was meaning before Huntington came around.

TI: Uncle Dan, he was always-

JG: Was it Odell, or Ora or?

TI: It would've been in the Odell School or in the Oak Flat or Ora School. Ora probably because...Ora was really the key city.

JG: Okay, we're talking before Huntington.

TI: Yeah, after he left Homer...well you know yourself that the first county seat was at Marion and Jonesville down here started growing, so the commissioners decided they'd move it to Jonesville. Well, Homer started outgrowing Jonesville, so they voted to move it to Homer. The railroad was supposed to come through Homer, but it didn't come through Homer, it went through Lufkin, so it ended up going to Lufkin.

JG: So, the early history of the county was more tied to this end, well not really end, but, this section of the county, and it gradually moved west?

TI: I'm sure that Marion was probably the largest, they did shipping up and down the Angelina [River]. It was clear for...

JG: Not necessarily the Neches, the Angelina was deeper.

TI: Angelina, that's right, and they came up it. They had log jams. They had a lot of problems with log jams. But Marion was made that first county seat. It was probably the largest thing on the river. They chose Jonesville because it was more centrally located in the county. The commissioners did.

JG: Talk about where were you born and what year?

TI: I was born June 16, 1928, right over here where this old white house is.

JG: I think your wife was telling me about that a little bit earlier, yeah.

TI: I was born in an old home that had a dog run through it and it burned when I was...in 1932 when I was four years old. It burned and I had a brother that was three and I had a little brother that was one year old.

JG: So, you grew up literally in the Depression.

TI: Yes siree. Right through all of it.

JG: And you probably didn't even know any different because that's all you knew.

TI: No because it didn't bother anybody because each dad was working as hard as he could to bring home...to make a living for his family.

JG: Was your dad mostly farming or...what was he? I mean, he taught school, but...

TI: He taught school for the ten years marrying my mother. He and my mother married in 1920 and his wife had passed away and he had two little boys and he was living at the old place. He had moved into Huntington in 1920 from the old place with his two boys and his mother-in-law and a small brother-in-law.

JG: Now who was his mother-in-law?

TI: An O'Quinn. Granny O'Quinn.

JG: An O'Quinn, okay.

TI: He married...her husband was the second pastor of Huntington First Baptist Church. A. B. O'Quinn. And my dad married his daughter. She passed away in 1918.

JG: Okay.

TI: And that left him with a one-year-old child and a three-year-old child. Flu epidemic was in you know, along in that time. So, he and my mother married in 1920.

JG: Who was your mother?

TI: Mary Ethel Prestridge.

JG: Prestridge.

TI: Mary Ethel came in...her father came here in the late 1890s with his dad and his family. But they came with a Frost. Frost-Johnson from Texarkana and Shreveport.

JG: A Frost? Of the Texarkana...yeah.

TI: They had sawmills. So, they came here with...I don't know if the Johnson came along with him, but it was T. L. L. Temple and George Kelly, and I think a Kurth.

JG: And that was for Lufkin Land and Lumber Company?

TI: Lufkin Land. They started Lufkin Land out there-

JG: Where did Prestridges come from? They lived in Texarkana also?

TI: From Texarkana, yeah, that's where they were from.

JG: Okay, because I know a little station on the railroad over here was named for them.

TI: That's right. Named for my grandfather Joseph Warner. He was a wood superintendent.

JG: Joseph Warner Prestridge

TI: He went all the way across the river to Broaddus and White City.

JG: Through Monterey, up to Broaddus, and now the White City, okay. I always wondered where the Prestridges came from.

TI: Well that's where they came from. They were from Texarkana and Arkansas. My great-great-grandfather, George Hooper was the father of Joseph Warner.

JG: Now are those surnames or middle names? Hooper and Warner?

TI: George Hooper Prestridge was the father of Joseph Warner Prestridge...

JG: Okay.

TI: And George Simeon Prestridge. And they were the nephews of Enoch Wesley Frost.

JG: E. W. Frost.

TI: He brought his son Edward Ambrose Frost with him. So, he brought two nephews, his son, and his family. The reason that came about was because George Hooper Prestridge's sister, Mary Ann Rebecca Frost was a sister to Enoch Wesley Frost. So, the Prestridges were tied. And to chase another rabbit, one of those Prestridge girls married Warner Brown and they went from Arkansas toward Kentucky.

JG: Went backwards, huh?

TI: He was a founder of Brown Mule Chewing Tobacco. That's where it got its name. (laughter) Is that enough?

JG: (laughter) Well, that's interesting, I'm glad we chased those rabbits. So that's your mom, and you were born in '28. When did they marry? When did your father marry your mother?

TI: They married in 1920 and he had the two little boys.

JG: Okay.

TI: And in 1921, my sister was born. In 1923 my brother, George Prestridge, was born. Named after Uncle George and the Prestridges. Then, in '25, my brother Edwin Warner was born. Then in '28, I was born. I don't know where they got the Teddy from.

JG: Was it just Teddy or Theodore?

TI: It's Teddy, it wasn't no Theodore to it. Just Teddy.

JG: What was your...did you have a middle name?

TI: Bolivar.

JG: Bolivar. That's right, you said that.

TI: So that came from my dad, he's Bolivar, and that came from my grandmother's brother, Bolivar Collins, who...you're sitting on the land that's the Collins addition to the township of Huntington. Huntington ended right out here on the street that you drove up. Its first layout. This is the Collins addition to the township of Huntington, and the old home is standing right over here, that he built right around 1900. This old home, Uncle Bolivar Collins's home, and the Doctor Stewart home, and there may be one other home that was built in that, right around 1900. They're the oldest homes.

JG: Okay. Talk about growing up. What are some of your earliest memories?

TI: Oh well, it was during the Depression, and if there was a money crop around Huntington...if you weren't a merchant or a doctor or a say, a professional...my dad went to work in the bank in '21. His Uncle George, his brother, George, bought the newspaper out and he quit the bank, and my dad became cashier of the bank. He was in the bank from '21, Huntington State Bank, from '21 until 1935. My dad had a job up until 1935 during the Depression. So that helped him and certainly made us... you weren't wealthy working in the bank, but you could buy...you could meet your needs.

JG: You had steady income. So y'all lived right here?

TI: Right here. When this home burned-

JG: Technically, that was "in town" back then, right?

TI: Yes, you could say I was a city dude. I was born two blocks off of Main.

JG: Did y'all farm here? Did you raise your own food?

TI: Just let me give you one example.

JG: Okay.

TI: Right here on the corner of this vacant lot was a home. It borders Pecan over here and Walnut over here, down to Third Street. There was one little old car shed for the people that lived across Pecan Street. A buggy, a wagon shed, whatever you want to call it. We still had wagon sheds and buggy sheds as far back as I can remember. Somebody would plant that in cotton. One old home was right over here, that other two or three acres behind it could be cotton. Two houses were right here on Walnut and the gin was down toward where Dean's is, the cotton gin. We had a gin over where the City Park is, and you had an old cotton gin over where Brookshire Brothers is. So, we had three gins in Huntington. I've gone to sleep at night during ginning season, you know, say the middle of September, late August, middle of September, gone to sleep on a Saturday night, especially when so many came into town with a bale of cotton, with a team pulling a bale of cotton. They was ginning at night, so they had to go home at night, and those wagons and mules, they didn't have no flashlights and stuff like that, maybe a lantern. But I've gone to sleep and heard all three of those cotton gins running. Of course, we went to bed at dark.

JG: Right.

TI: Light's out. The lamp went out.

JG: No electricity then, huh?

TI: Well, there was electricity all right, in the house. When they built the new home, I was in the third grade, for a while we didn't have electricity, we moved in without electricity. They had wood stoves, a cookstove, wood heaters or a fireplace, we had a fireplace, and they don't know but that might have caused the house...he had a big chimney built in the house that sufficed. Cookstove, the kitchen cookstove in it also.

JG: But did y'all raise peas and potatoes and things like that?

TI: Anything that we could. My dad was a super gardener, and anything that you could plant anything on, it was planted, around this place. We had an acre here, and this place was an acre.

JG: Yeah, did you have any milk cows? Beef cows?

TI: Yeah, we had a milk cow, we had chickens, we raised pigs, hogs right here in town. We butchered them all.

JG: Was there a hog law for the town at the time? Or did you just let your hogs run free?

TI: Hogs ran loose. The city probably started a hog law, they had to be penned. But then the county's hog law didn't go into effect until sometime in the '40s.

JG: Right, but it didn't affect where y'all lived? Did your hogs run free or did you keep them penned up?

TI: No, we had to keep them penned.

JG: You had to keep them penned, okay.

TI: Now cows, cows could still run free. Cows and horses could still run free.

JG: Yeah, but the hogs had to be [indiscernible]

TI: [indiscernible]

JG: I've seen some of the older photos around your house, a while ago, you had picket fences around your place?

TI: Yeah, my dad, we had a picket fence around over here. Then we had a chicken pen and we had a cow pen, and we had a hog pen. Of course, we didn't have...every street...

JG: You had a milk cow too, huh?

TI: Yeah, we had a milk cow. My Uncle Dan had 30-something acres right up here that he farmed all the time, and then right across the railroad tracks, he had 105 acres. He had no boys, so guess whose boys worked for Uncle Dan?

JG: So, you picked cotton?

TI: He was ten years older than my dad. Yes, we picked cotton, we pulled corn, we picked peas, we did everything.

JG: Do you remember how much cotton you could pick in a day?

TI: Not very much. (laughter) I don't know exactly when I broke 100, but I had one older brother. I think about the same time, my brother Ed, he was a good cotton picker, he had picked 200 or 201 or something and I picked 105 that day. But he was older.

JG: (laughter) He was twice as good?

TI: (laughter) Yeah, he was really twice as good. As time went on, I could pick more than that, but I didn't want to pick it.

JG: How young would you be when you started picking cotton? Or how old did you need to be to start picking cotton?

TI: When I was...when our home burned, we moved across the railroad tracks to what we call the Caton Place. I don't know exactly how many acres Mrs. Caton had, but she was in Beaumont living with her sister, and we rented her place. My two older brothers, W. J. and Palmer, they were in high school and they had an ag project, and it was cotton. So, my dad

knew how to instruct them and everything, he was running the bank, working at the bank, and so that was my first cotton-picking, when I was probably about 5 years old.

JG: Five years old.

TI: That was just, you know about how a five-year-old would pick cotton. You can imagine.

JG: Try to get out of picking cotton.

TI: But I was trained by some of the best. Some people could straddle a row of cotton and pick both sides of it, just getting after it, if the cotton was at the right height. An adult. I was like a young kid, I'd pick and move it to this hand and do this, that was kind of the habit I got into, but as I grew older, I was taught by the adults. You pick that cotton, pick that cotton, move that hand, move that sack like that. It was a steady move.

JG: Talk about segregation a little bit. What do you remember of the races?

TI: Well, Uncle Dan always had a family of black people living on his place.

JG: Oh, as tenants? Tenant farmers?

TI: Yeah, and it wasn't necessarily sharecroppers. He was going to share, he and my aunt, they were going share and they were going to see that the family was taken care of and would be getting to the doctor or whatever.

JG: You remember what their surname was?

TI: Mott.

JG: Mott? The black family?

TI: Mott. The black family. I don't know what Adoah's wife's name was. Adoah Mott. And some of his family ended up...there's still some in Lufkin. I don't know how, great-grandchildren or what it is. But they were a good family. All I ever heard his wife called was "Go-Baby."

JG: (laughter) Go-Baby. So, did y'all work along beside them picking cotton?

TI: Right along side them. We played with them. There was a...I was younger than all of them boys, I was younger than all of the Mott boys, but he had a family of Trottis, Green Trotti was his name. He had some boys that were about-

JG: How would you spell that last name?

TI: I think it was T-R-O-T-T-I.

JG: Oh, Trottis, okay.

TI: I don't think it was with a "y". They were a real good family, and me and my younger brother we played with a couple of those boys a lot. Games, throwing a ball, or something. We didn't have much.

JG: Did y'all play baseball?

TI: Yeah, we played softball, yeah.

JG: Would you play with-

TI: Play around here-

JG: I mean, did whites and blacks play, anything organized?

TI: No, really, we didn't because the schools were segregated. They had an elementary school, a couple of different places in Huntington. One over here on the highway and one out on Gibsonville Road, and they went to high school at Dunbar in Lufkin.

JG: Oh, okay. Right.

TI: Those that went to high school went to Dunbar at Lufkin. When integration went through, well they all started just going to school here in Huntington. We didn't have...about the only time you'd see Hispanics was if we made a trip into Lufkin with the family or something, and you'd see Hispanics. The majority of those Hispanics, they said were from Nacogdoches County.

JG: What about the railroad? Do you remember seeing Hispanics or railroad laborers, track maintenance, anything like that?

TI: Not many. Of course, the Cotton Belt was still...it ran down to the tomato shed over here. It stopped in Huntington. They first started taking it up from Broadus across the river back to Huntington. So, this spur stayed active for a good long while. They didn't use nothing but a motor car on it. There was about three residential cars that stayed for a long time over here after the Cotton Belt shut down. I don't know who was in charge of that, but I know that they used it until...I can remember the Cotton Belt being taken up, but I don't know what year it was.

JG: Right. What about the Texas New Orleans? The road that went to Nacogdoches.

TI: It's been taken up since.

JG: Yeah, but I meant the workers. Do you remember seeing any railroad workers?

TI: Oh yeah. They had section crews. Mr. Rhodes, Powell Rhodes was a section foreman. Mr. Case was a section foreman. Used to go in the depot down here and talk to Mr. Buckner, and he'd show us how the telegraph worked and stuff like that. I enjoyed that.

JG: So, you remember the steam engines, I guess? The steam locomotives?

TI: Pridewell, I remember all the side cars, I meant the cars that come in and they'd put them on the sidetrack with loads of feed and whatever. Then they'd put the side cars down to pick up the...they had a big tie yard there.

JG: Crossties?

TI: Yeah, crossties. I don't think they...of course the paper mill was so close, after it started in '41 or '40, whenever it was. I don't think they ever loaded any. Men still made crossties and brought them in and stacked them there before the sawmill started cutting them. They were hand-hewn ties.

JG: Do you remember seeing those men carrying those ties on their shoulders and stuff?

TI: Yeah, I've carried those ties.

JG: You've done it too.

TI: Yeah, in high school, and it was a load. It wasn't something I enjoyed; I was just helping my brother. He had a truck, we was hauling for other people. We'd go to the woods and pick up their ties and bring them up here and put them in the tie yard.

JG: Okay. Did you ever hew yourself? Or you just hauled them?

TI: No. My dad did. I hauled them. He taught us how to hew a tie, but I don't think any of his sons ever cared anything about hewing a tie. (laughter)

JG: If you didn't have to. Yeah, that was, you talk about labor. Everything back then was. Muscle!

TI: It can really hurt your shoulder to lift up a tie and let it drop back down on your shoulders and start heading for the truck with it. Me, I staggered a whole lot because it was heavy on the legs.

JG: Oh, yes sir, yes sir.

TI: But my Uncle Dan, to jump back just a moment. He married Winnie Beard. Their old home is still standing.

JG: Beard or Baird?

TI: Beard, however you want to say it.

JG: Okay.

TI: In the Bald Hill community. Louis Beard was his father-in-law and Mr. Beard had a grocery store and a saloon. Uncle Dan became his son-in-law, married Aunt Winnie Beard, and he started to work in the saloon and the store. Prohibition came along and they shut the saloons down and Uncle Dan bought Mr. Beard out in the store. Mr. Beard kind of rustled and tried to start a town pretty close to where the Prestridge is down there, where the tracks cross. They built a tavern down there. This was shared in something or maybe from my dad or whatever, and it didn't take hold...so when they brought the railroad through...Huntington was built here. They sold, Mr. Townsend and Mr. Blount had the land around here, and they cut it up into lots, city lots.

JG: Yeah. E. A. Blount from Nacogdoches and W. J. Townsend from Lufkin.

TI: Right. So, the Townsends married in with the Prestridges and everything, so my mother became a relative of the Townsends also. He operated that store until 1928, the one I wrote his autobiography, and when he went out of business, he had an old sign that said, "Beard and Ivy, Where A Dollar Does Its Duty."

JG: "Where A Dollar Does Its Duty."

TI: "Where A Dollar Does Its Duty," and it's a metal sign about so big, well he tacked it up on the barn. We'll say he tacked it up on the barn in 1930. My dad built his barns for him, he had two big barns. So anyway, he tacked that up. We pulled a wagon up, and there was that sign, always, "Beard and Ivy." My aunt sold me 24 acres of the 30 acres, 31 acres up here where their home was, on this side of the tracks. One day, I said "Aunt Winnie, what are you going to do with that sign out there, Uncle Dan's had by the wagon shed all the time?" "I don't know, son," she said, "you want it?" I said, "well I'd love to have it." Well my daughter has it in her family room in Deer Park now. On a rough board I put it on. We still have that old sign.

JG: So, the store closed, I guess the year you were born? You don't really remember the store?

TI: Yeah. It stayed a long time. We used to go through it, it was vacant. He had stuff he didn't take out of there, and it was old vinegar barrels and stuff like that. We'd go...some of them still had vinegar in them. Of course, they had a wooden pump. They didn't mean nothing to us, they was just junk, we didn't want old vinegar...but I said what a treasure. (laughter). You think back on it. Kids this day and time pass stuff up, well I did too, because it had no meaning. It was just something to hold vinegar or whatever else they might have sold.

JG: A curiosity to you, though.

TI: Yeah, we'd go by on our way to school, "let's go through Uncle Dan's old store." Well you'd go through and there's an old vinegar barrel and a wooden pump. It'd be a treasure today, you know. (laughter)

JG: Talk about school. What do you remember about school?

TI: I remember first grade pretty well. I started first grade here in Huntington and had one little friend that lived up the road from us there, we were living at the Caton place right across the tracks over here, and the old Caton home is still there. I started school and had a good friend, Sonny Jones, that lived right up...he lived on the Yancy place, his mother and daddy, Otha Jones was a merchant here for a good many years. But I think he was managing Brookshires, Brookshires was number 15 down here, they just tore that building down in the last two or three years, where Four Way Water is, when you turn off of Main.

JG: Okay.

TI: That was the big brick building. Well, when it was an automobile dealership in the early '20s, my mother could remember when it was being built, but she didn't know exactly the year that it was built. I captured a lot of my stuff off my mother too, you know.

JG: Did y'all have an automobile? When you were a kid?

TI: Sometimes. We didn't always have a car, but we had a car a lot of times. Of course, my mother and dad married in 1920 and she had come from Texarkana through...she came from Houston but from Texarkana. After her folks died, lived with her grandparents in Houston for a while, and she could drive. My dad had a horse, a saddle horse, and he had a horse and buggy, so he couldn't drive. (laughter)

JG: She was uptown.

TI: She was an uptown girl, but anyway, she adjusted to Huntington. Of course, she said, "there wasn't no sense in trying to talk your dad out of it, he's going to live in Huntington." But anyway, I started first grade...and we moved, Mrs. Caton came back and my dad's brother, George had a home over here, close to where the old City Hall is right there on Gibson Street by the bank, and the home is still there right now. But it sat there where the brick, old City Hall was. I think it's a nursery, or daycare now. We moved to there. My uncle was moving to Conroe. He had been in the bank, newspaper, but he was an accountant and went to Conroe and set up a CPA. And that's where he died, Uncle George Ivy died in Conroe. He became a county clerk, but in 1935 when the bank closed, my dad was out of a job. He got a job as cashier at the Kirbyville State Bank.

JG: Kirbyville. Okay.

TI: So, we moved to Kirbyville. About the middle of my, along at the last of my first grade. We moved to Kirbyville. I went into the first grade there, and they tried to move me to the

second grade, my folks said keep him in the first grade. So, the next year I went into the second grade, and my dad said we're going back to Huntington.

JG: Without a job?

TI: Yeah, without a job, but he went to Groveton and worked at the bank over there. We lived here in Huntington, we moved back to Huntington, and his brother George had another house over here, and we moved into that house, and that's where we lived while we was building. We came back when I was in the second grade. I moved to second grade in Kirbyville, we came back and I was in the second grade here, the same little building that I was in the first grade in.

JG: So, when your father...you said he worked in Groveton for a little while?

TI: Yeah, he-

JG: (At the same time) But y'all didn't-

TI: (At the same time) We were living here...he went over there.

JG: Okay.

TI: He wasn't satisfied with that. He came back, went to Cleveland.

JG: Cleveland, Texas?

TI: Yeah, worked in the bank at Cleveland. Wasn't satisfied with that. Somebody offered him a job here, it wasn't in the bank. Oh yeah! He came back and worked at Brookshires.

JG: Okay.

TI: Mr. Otha Jones was manager, he worked at Brookshires as an assistant manager at Brookshires.

JG: So, you and the family stayed here, and he was just trying out different jobs?

TI: That's right. That's right. Of course, he had a car, he traveled, but he had to room. He wouldn't come home from Cleveland. I don't think he came home from Groveton every day; he may have. Of course, I was pretty young.

JG: Yeah, you were only about seven then. Seven or eight?

TI: My mother said, "well, that's your dad."

JG: How many brothers and sisters did you have at that time that were living at home? How many people was he supporting?

TI: We had two older brothers, my sister, and four other boys. So, we had seven, there was seven of us.

JG: Were the older boys able to help support the family?

TI: They went in...the oldest one went in the Army in '30...let's see he was, I need to do my math real quick, he was born in 1915...he went in the Army in about 1935. And the next one went in at about '37.

JG: Okay. So, it was during that time period then?

TI: Yeah, in that time period. We were living in Kirbyville when the oldest one went in the Army because he graduated from high school and he came down and got my mother and dad to sign the papers for him to go in the Army. We were back in Huntington when the other one went in the Army.

JG: Okay. Did they stay through when World War II started? Were they still in the military?

TI: The oldest one did twenty-six years of continuous service; I believe it was. I got their pictures in there. The other one went in and he got out in...he did a three-year hitch, so he went in in '36 and he stayed out for a while. Then he went back in, and he was in Puerto Rico when World War II started. So, he did about nine and a half years, I think, in total.

JG: Okay. But they were both...during the War, were they in Europe or the Pacific?

TI: The oldest one went to Europe. My sister...and then my next two brothers were both in the South Pacific in World War II. And me and my next brother were in the Korean War. I went in in '48 and he went in in '49. Anyway, so there's six of us boys did service, and I'll show you their pictures. You may have looked at it.

JG: Your wife was showing me earlier, yes sir.

TI: That's all of the ones.

JG: So, anyway, kind of chronologically, did you finish school up at Huntington?

TI: I graduated from high school in Huntington.

JG: Okay, did you play sports?

TI: Yes, I played basketball for the Huntington Red Devils. We didn't have an organized baseball team or softball team. We played some softball, but we didn't even have a coach for that.

JG: No organized, yeah.

TI: I always try tell people, you don't realize, even the students, what a change World War II made. When the War started in '41, almost immediately you started seeing things. Of course, it took away the young men that went to the service and the young women, when the WAC started. But it took away young men graduating high school and older, and the draft started, and you went whether you wanted to go or not. If you passed the physical you didn't get a deferment or if you didn't have something valuable to the war effort, some jobs, that was a deferment. But it started taking away from the families. It took their children away and they started rationing goods. You had to get the stamps to get gas, you had to get the stamps to buy sugars; cigarettes were almost out of the question in a lot of cases. Merchants didn't get many cigarettes, so they kind of went out toward the favorites. We played, I played varsity 1945-1946. I was on the varsity, '45- '46. We were still using the same uniforms that the coach had ordered in 1939 or '40. The same warm-ups, the only thing we had new was if you were lucky enough to buy a new jock strap. Or socks and shoes. But we used those same Red Devil uniforms. I think they got new ones in '47. We got a jacket my senior year. You didn't get a jacket in '45 because you couldn't hardly buy them. Some of the schools couldn't afford much anyway. You got an "H" and a basketball for a letter. You got a red "H" you could put it on anything you wanted to. That was just some of the things you saw. So much was taken away from you, you didn't have the paper or the materials and everything to do the yearbook anymore. My sister got her '38-'39 yearbook, *The Echo*, my next brother behind her got his '40-'41 yearbook. No more yearbooks until 1947 and a guy gave me a copy. I got those four copies, a guy gave me a copy of the 1947 yearbook, and it lists all of us, it lists all of our graduating classes that went through the war. '42, '43, '44. '45. '46.

JG: Kind of catching up, huh?

TI: Yeah, it just lists our names in there. Would you believe that I'm in the senior class two years in a row? (laughter) I could tell you a lengthy story about me going back to get a credit. I could've got it at summer school in Lufkin. They had summer school; we didn't have any summer school. I could've gone and got that, but my dad, he let me know when I started talking about that...because I wanted to go into service. I had four brothers in the service and the war was still going on. I wanted to go in the service. I thought I wanted to go into service. My dad didn't want me to go in the service.

JG: So, he said go back to school, huh?

TI: He said no, he said no, I was still 16 years old when I would have graduated. I would've been 17 in June. He said, "I have you a job at the paper mill." Our neighbor was the foreman in the wood yard, and he said that he wanted to work me during the summer in the wood yard. He said, "you're going to work at the paper mill between '45 and '46 and you're going back to school next year and you're going to get that credit." Well, the thing about going back to school, you had to take three subjects if you enrolled in school. He said, "you still can play basketball, and you've got some more friends of yours that have to go back too." There was two or three of us, and he said, "oh yeah, by the way, I'm not going to sign

for you to go in the Navy.” And he said, “if anybody else does, I’ll have them sent to prison.”

JG: (laughter) He wasn’t going to have it.

TI: He wanted his kids to get an education.

JG: Right.

TI: And we did. I spoke last year at the high school graduation. They asked me to speak, and I tried to tell them how many times in my life that I had been so glad that I got that education. Because I can’t tell you the number of times I was asked on an application or anything else “did you have a high school education?” That’s one of the requirements when I went to work at Shell was you had to have a high school education. That’s was even one of the requirements when I went in the Navy, to get to take a test to see if you go to a Naval Training School. It just started out right away.

JG: It’s one of those boxes you can check.

TI: It is. I said, “you do not have to have a college degree.” I’ve got...three of my brothers had college degrees, and I’m all proud of them. I had to be a steward, probably as much as they had to be steward. You go through life having to be a steward of whatever you have.

JG: Right, right.

TI: That’s yourself. If you make or bring in 100 bucks a month, don’t spend \$150, you’re going to be in trouble.

JG: (laughter) Talk about some basketball rivalries. I guess I’m thinking of Zavalla, but were there other schools?

TI: Well, Zavalla was always...we usually had a scuffle with Zavalla. (laughter) We had a...Redland had a high school and they were a competitive group, they always had...they gathered from that whole area back in there, the Redland School did. Central, we played in the auditorium at Central back then, and it had a concrete floor. It wasn’t a very big gym. That was at the old Central School out there. And we played at Diboll. One of our rivals was Big Sandy, the Indian reservation. They had a gym that didn’t have lights, so we had to play daytime games. But they came to Huntington. We played Jasper. We played Newton, Silsbee, Hemphill, Kirbyville.

JG: You play West Sabine? West Sabine?

TI: That independent school district wasn’t...I don’t believe there was a West Sabine in the ‘40s.

JG: Okay.

TI: I think that was...wasn't that a conglomerate of schools, really?

JG: I don't remember offhand.

TI: West Sabine Independent School District, yeah, because I think coaches we had here left and went to West Sabine.

JG: Okay.

TI: I don't remember playing Buna. Of course, Cotton Robertson was the best-known coach in East Texas. He coached Buna for years and years, Cotton Robinson. Anyhow, we always put out a good team. Defensive teams especially. We played tournaments back then like they do now, and we'd go to Jasper, we'd go to Newton, we had them here in Huntington and Kirbyville had tournaments.

JG: When were the games played?

TI: Where were they played?

JG: When? What day of the week?

TI: Probably sort of like it is now, Tuesday and Friday. Maybe that's what it was. Tournaments were through a weekend.

JG: Okay. Y'all would play on Saturdays in tournaments?

TI: Yeah. Nothing on Sunday. Nothing was scheduled on Sunday, even Little League wasn't scheduled on Sunday. They wouldn't schedule on Wednesdays either, Wednesday night church service. Little League wouldn't for years. Everybody plays any time now.

JG: So, any particular memories about any particular games? You mentioned "scuffle" when you talked about Zavalla (laughter).

TI: Well, Zavalla had a guy with a short fuse, and we had a guy that had a short fuse. It was almost a given as to when they was going to get under the bucket and really tie up before it came out, maybe a technical foul called or two, something like that. That was a rivalry, you know. Of course, we knew nearly everybody there, and they knew us, but we didn't know like kids get to know now. There were no phones, there was no or very few vehicles. So, you might not see a guy from Zavalla until the school year started and you played him. You might not see them the rest of the...you'd go to Zavalla for a home game, they'd come up here for a home game for us. It was good. But going back, such a shortage during that time frame, that I look back and I think we were...Lufkin, of course, had more, well a stronger tax base than there was here.

JG: So, is it right to say that...I think maybe what you're getting at is that the war years were a little more depressed for y'all than leading up to the war years. Would you say that?

TI: Yeah, because, you know, you were coming up and there were new uniforms and jackets every year for kids.

JG: You're talking about the young men were just absent, they were gone when the war came.

TI: Yeah, they left and then you had the high school kids around here, and all of a sudden, in school, the things you look forward to, the little rewards, from the basketball jackets to whatever the girls' activities was. I think they had volleyball, but they didn't have any girls' basketball. A lot of that was taken. I don't bemoan that; it was a necessity because we were oriented from the get-go to win the war. We had a little shoe shop here in Huntington, and I'll never forget that, Leslie Denman ran the little shoe shop, and he was drafted, and he hung a sign on his door "Closed. Gone to Kill Hitler." We saw that every day when we went by. And our superintendent, Mr. Cannonburg, was a strong patriot, he really was, from the Pledge of Allegiance to even drilling the juniors and seniors that he knew that if this war was extended... Because he had been in World War I, he had been in the Army, and he knew what they were facing, so he could drill you just like a drill sergeant. And we practiced. It was volunteer, but we'd get there before school and practiced that.

JG: Do you remember the German POWs that were here?

TI: Oh yes. You'd see the trucks come through every morning. Saw the trains go through here with them and saw the trains go through with the troops, our troops and everything, and then a load of POWs would go through to wherever they was carrying them to. Of course, the Texas Forest Festival grounds, where the, is that the intermediate school, the middle school?

JG: Yeah, I think it's the middle school now.

TI: That was just a big rodeo arena and a baseball field and everything else out there. That's where we had the Forest Festival or something back in those days. It was the rides and the circus.

JG: Yeah. Talk about that a little bit.

TI: Well, it was the biggest...it was Barnum and Bailey to us. They had the animals, whatever show came in, and they had the rodeo for three or four days. It went on three or four days. And the Ferris wheel was turning for what seemed like two weeks. Every crazy car, bumper cars, and stuff.

JG: And they had livestock shows too.

TI: Well, you know, the 4H part of it came along later. They would have an animal show. I don't know whether that was for ag, I think that was for ag boys. I know because we'd have an ag show here in Huntington.

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JG: I think we were talking about the Forest Festival, which was more or less like a county fair, wasn't it?

TI: It was, it really was. People talk about going to the county fair, and that was really the county fair to all of us in that day and time, it was.

JG: So, the whole family would go? Or would you and your friends go? Or somebody with a car would take you?

TI: We went as a family.

JG: As a family, okay. Your dad and your mom and everybody?

TI: My dad was a good, fair-minded dad, but he believed in discipline and he believed in treating everybody like you'd like to be treated. He didn't like nicknames because he said nicknames usually portrayed a fault about somebody, you know, from the eyes, or...they called one guy around here "Hog Eye."

JG: Hog Eye?

TI: Hog Eye, they called him. He did look different.

BRIEF INTERRUPTION

TI: Yeah. Anyway, he didn't like the nickname part because he said they nicknamed somebody from the way they looked.

JG: Yeah.

TI: The "Shorty" business, you know. He called them by their names.

JG: Or "Curly" that didn't have any hair.

TI: Yeah, or "Baldy" or something like that (laughter). But we always went as a unit, it was family entertainment, you know. And we were given whatever they could afford to give us, moneywise, whether it would be 15 cents or whether it'd...you'd spend that on rides, you'd spend that on something to eat. If you get a quarter, if you get 30 cents or whatever, they let us go and have a good time on whatever we could have on that.

JG: So, you mentioned the Ferris wheel a couple of times. Was that a pretty big deal?

TI: Rode the Ferris, I loved to ride the Ferris wheel, yeah. Rode the bumper cars, me and my younger brother, that's usually what we did.

JG: How were the bumper cars powered?

TI: Electric.

JG: Oh, they were electric? Okay.

TI: You steer those deals, about the time you thought you was going, somebody would bop you from, they had a rubber bumper on the side. I don't know what the speed was, maybe 5 or 6 miles, some of them could inch pretty good.

JG: (Laughter) Kind of watch to see which ones were the fastest when it got your time, huh?

TI: (Laughter) And you found out real quick that the carnival people, they always know where the bean is. They'll take your nickel and try to get you to guess where the bean is. (laughter) And they always had the penny pitching things where you pitch a penny to hit a cup, and that penny would hit that cup and flip (laughter).

JG: What were some of the prizes you would have won? Do you remember?

TI: Couple of dolls. Trinkets, something like that.

JG: Dolls? Yeah.

TI: Back then, everything was made in Japan, up until the War you know. But every popper you got, anything else, it didn't have "China" on it, it was "Japan," "Made in Japan." The trinket stuff. They were just gifted at making trinkets that attracted us. Of course, I know a lot of the German-made stuff was recognized as a higher level, but the Japanese were taking all of our scrap metal back in the '30s if they wanted to turn them into ammunition, they was turning them into trinkets to send back over here to sell to us.

JG: I remember going through some old shipping records, bills of lading and records similar to that for the railroad here, the Shreveport Houston and Gulf. After the mill burned down, I forget the dates and everything. The papers of oxygen acetylene tanks, and there were several shipments of oxygen acetylene tanks to the mill, to Manning, and within a week or two, it was just scrap metal, scrap metal, scrap metal. And it was bound for the port of Beaumont, and I always thought that's what that was, was they brought in all those cutting torches and equipment, cut that mill up and then shipped it to the port of Beaumont. Let's see, that was in, what, '36, '37, '38, somewhere in there, and that's probably where it went, was over to Japan out of Beaumont.

TI: You bringing that up, my dad maintained a friendship with his first wife's brothers, the O'Quinns. He was pastor. Well Jephtha was the oldest boy, I guess, and then my dad married Abigail O'Quinn, and then they had a younger boy named A. B. named after his dad, A. B. O'Quinn. They moved to Beaumont and they took their mother, well Jephtha married a lady from New York and they came back to Beaumont. He went to work for the police force, and A. B. went to work for the Beaumont Fire Department, and that's where they all retired from. But, Jephtha came from New York and came and got his mother and his brother and carried them to Beaumont. My dad would visit them because of his relationship with his mother-in-law. My wife's parents were both deceased, and my mother's parents were both deceased. So anyway, he told us about going to the docks one day with Jep, Jep said, "I'm going to go show you this Japanese ship that's loading." So, they drove down to the docks there at Beaumont, and this was in the '30s, and he said while they was sitting there watching, they were loading it with cranes with everything. The Japanese sailors were all up on the merchant ship, they was all up there loading that iron. He said the scary part about it is one day, Jephtha told my dad, the scary part about it is one day they may be shooting that back at us. And they did. They did. But they made the trinkets and sold them to us up until that time.

JG: I remember there used to be the saying "Made in Occupied Japan," so that would have been after the War.

TI: That's right.

JG: Yeah. So, "Made in Japan" and "Made in Occupied Japan."

TI: That's right, you're right. But as far as going back to the Forest Festival. They turned it into a prisoner of war camp during World War II. That's where they kept all the German prisoners. They cut pulp wood all through East Texas. They had trucks that went through every day going to the woods.

JG: Now there was a wreck or something, do you remember that? This is going to be on the recording here, so I'm kind of admitting some of my ignorance, or that I've forgotten some of the details of that. But do you remember something about one of the labor trucks that was carrying the POWs had a traffic accident on the highway and somebody either got hurt or killed. There was a lot of, you know, bad publicity if nothing else. A local person died as a result of the prisoners. Do you remember anything about that?

TI: I can't remember that incident, even though it seems like you're reminding me of something that I read.

JG: Okay. Yeah.

TI: But I do remember the instance where they were cutting pulp wood down the old Cotton Belt tram that went across the river. Well, in the Ozias community they had a good size water reservoir there, right alongside the tram, and that's where the locomotives came in and watered up there. It was called Jones's Pump, and it's still there. There's still a body

of water there if you go down Sam Hawkins Road or whichever one it is, and you have to know where it's at to get back into it, or people could tell you where it's at. But, anyway, they were cutting pulp wood in that area, and at noon or sometime in the afternoon, they let them go in swimming. The old levy, the old railroad levy is still there, and here's the body of water, the railroad levy was really a dam to it, you know, to the reservoir, it would just back up in the woods and stop. Then they'd swim in there, even have family get-togethers there, when I was young. But there was Germans, and they allowed them to have swim call, like you would in the service. They allowed them to either take a bath or go in swimming, whatever it was. Well, one of them, it was brothers in that group, and one dove in and he hit a piling and it killed him. I remember that.

JG: You remember that. So, one of the German prisoners died?

TI: One of the German prisoners. That was in the papers.

JG: Okay, okay. Was that spring fed, do you know? Why was there...?

TI: I think probably, just from the slope of the land, it had a good clean bottom to it, and it wasn't going to evaporate. There was always water there, all the time. My grandmother was a Hawkins, and she was raised in Ozias community so we had relatives there. But that was one of the instances I remember with the prisoners. You may can correct me on this, but I believe they had it in *The Lufkin Daily*, there in the '40s. They did go on strike for one more beer.

JG: Yeah.

TI: They went on strike for the one more beer. That was in the papers for several days.

JG: In fact, the same...when we did our World War II exhibit several years ago, we got the...we were looking at D-Day, the Normandy Invasion, June 6th. There were like, I think 3 issues that day or the day after. Of course, different side of the world, so I forget the date of the paper, but it was to cover the Normandy invasion. On the same, right there with coverage of the invasion, the same page was the story of the POWs striking.

TI: I remember that.

JG: Right there. The same, so you read about the invasion, and they're striking here locally, and it was for more pay. And then I think it was settled the day after or something.

TI: But wherever they were working, we'd be in school or whatever you were doing, and truck loads of them would go by from here going to the woods.

JG: So, it really was trucks, not buses?

TI: No, it was trucks. It was old Army GI trucks carrying them.

JG: So open, and they'd just be sitting-

TI: They had a tarp halfway over it, or had a frame over it, cattle frames on the side, you know. But they just waved at us and we waved at them.

JG: What did they wear? Do you remember? Did they have uniforms or just regular clothes?

TI: Yeah, they had something to identify them, as a POW.

JG: Some way to identify them.

TI: Yeah, they had something, I can't remember what color it was, but they did. I want to think it was gabardine blue, like, I want to think it was some of this order.

JG: Like denim blue, a denim color?

TI: Yeah, yeah, I believe it was. They had the jumpers and stuff like that.

JG: Did the guards have dogs or anything? Do you remember if the guards had dogs?

TI: Oh, I think as time went by, I don't think they had much of nothing. If one got lost...every now and then one would get lost, and he'd come up. I don't think they ever had any problems with any runaways, or I don't remember any runaways. What did they want to escape for? They had a good deal, you know. They weren't any in any danger of getting killed.

JG: I remember talking to some people, and they used to have dances at those POWs...you know Lufkin had two camps. Where the Forest Service offices used to be was another one, and I've talked to some ladies. There were several instances where...basically what I remember the women telling me is that all the boys were gone. It's like what you were saying, all of the American boys of that age were gone. So, the girls, every so often, they would have a dance there at the camp, and the American girls would go and dance with the German prisoners.

TI: I don't think, I don't know if any of the Huntington girls went or not.

JG: (Laughter) And if I'm not mistaken, there were a few marriages later, after the War. They kept a relationship up, and then later married.

TI: Well that's all right if they were successful.

JG: Yeah. But anyway, that's neat because the Forest Festival is different now, even from the late '40s on, I guess. In the '30s and early '40s it was more like, not just forestry, but it was everything. Like you said, it was the county fair, it was the livestock show, it was kind of everything built into one.

TI: It was. I know it improved, but I believe it-

JG: They used to even have beauty pageants and stuff like that.

TI: Oh yeah. They crowned the beauty queens, and of course all the ag classes and everything always had the beauty queens, as well as...a lot of it has escaped my mind, I know. I'm fortunate to remember what I can, but I just...

JG: So, what year did you graduate high school? You had to go back for another-

TI: 1946.

JG: '46, okay. How soon after that before you went into the Army? Or Navy, I guess.

TI: I drove a truck for a couple of years and our draft started up again. I was 1A because I registered in June when I turned 18, and I carried that 1A card for, until I went into the Navy.

JG: What did you haul driving trucks? Was it ties?

TI: Lumber.

JG: Lumber. Where would you deliver the lumber?

TI: Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi, and any lumberyard. We had a planer mill right up here where the funeral home is now.

JG: Who owned that?

TI: Jenkins Lumber Company out of Dallas.

JG: Jenkins.

TI: We had a lot of small sawmills around then, you know.

JG: And then they'd bring the lumber here to be planed?

TI: Yeah, they'd buy tracts of timber, move their mill there, cut it, bring it in here, they'd air dry it, and they tried dry kilns.

JG: Like portable sawmills?

TI: Yeah, they could move them in a week's time. Usually they had the big diesel engines that powered them. That was what most of them were.

JG: Do you remember, did any of the Lowerys...?

TI: They came along after I went in the Navy.

JG: Okay.

TI: They started out, Lester and Grady, they were, and Kirby, they were the older Lowery boys. And then Herbert came along, and Giles came along, and then Buddy came along behind. They all did sawmill work of some kind. Of course, Buddy and Lester ended up, they were the last ones of the Lowery boys that had the big chipper mill in Woodville. They had the big chipper mill down there.

JG: So, you worked for Jenkins? Hauling?

TI: Yeah, Jenkins was out of Dallas. He was a businessman in Dallas, and he put this...got the idea. This old...all this land down by 69 and 1475, up to the top of the hill, I guess it was about 20-30 acres, was called the Welch place, and they leased that from the Collinses, the Collinses owned it. J. J. and B. L., two lawyers out of Lufkin, it was in their family estate. So, they leased that and put that planer mill in. It was just stacks and stacks of dried lumber. They'd buy any lumber off any mill that brought it in, buy it and pay them for the rough lumber. Had people working, stacking it.

JG: Pine and hard wood?

TI: Yeah, they did have hard wood, and they sold a lot of hard wood too. I hauled a good bit of hard wood to Crockett, over there to the...I don't know whether they had a pallet factory or a box factory, but they bought a lot of hard wood and all.

JG: Okay. But all the stuff you hauled was planed? It had all been planed?

TI: It all was. We hauled rough hard wood; I never did haul any. I used to haul hard wood to Alexander Schroeder in Houston. A lumber company. They bought a good bit of hard wood. Yeah, we hauled planed lumber, ready-build-homes, you know. The Jenkins bunch built a big subdivision off Sands Boulevard in Dallas. Several hundred homes, and we hauled all the lumber for that: the 2x4s and the siding and everything else.

JG: What kind of truck did you drive?

TI: Usually it was a two-ton Chevrolet or a two-ton Ford. That was about as big of trucks as they had then.

JG: How long would the trailers be? Was it just a truck or did you have a trailer?

TI: Anywhere from 28 to 32 feet.

JG: 32 was the longest, okay. Single-axle trucks?

TI: Yeah, single axle. We didn't have the duallys and all, tractors like you have. We had a single-axle tractor and then had double-axles on the trailers.

JG: Was it gasoline?

TI: Gasoline truck, yeah. I think when I went in the Navy, every one that was hauling away from here, they had some sleeper trucks. International put out a big truck with a sleeper on it, and the White Motor Company put out one. And they had the REO, it became popular. They were all gasoline trucks?

JG: R-E-O? Like the REO Speedway?

TI: R-E-O, yeah. They had, right as you go in on Denman, just stay on Denman and go across South First, there at what we call Four Corners, Five Corners or whatever, they had a REO in there about where the Lufkin Glass, Angelina Glass is now. That was the first dealership on the REOs I saw. I don't think they had a White dealership, but Chevrolet and Ford were popular.

JG: What speed transmissions?

TI: Well, you could get the five-speed transmission, but they could put a stick in it, it was a two-speed rear end, or you could get a brown-light transmission, that was the name of the one that would get it down even further. It had a shift in to it, it really had an overdrive, it had a low and a high, and an overdrive in it. That's supposed to help your gas mileage. Once you got your standard transmission into what you called high-gear, you could through your other transmissions. That was...10,000 feet, 10-11 was a real good load for the two-tons.

JG: 10,00 board feet? Board feet of lumber?

TI: Yeah, board feet of lumber. The Whites had a bigger motor in it and I think the International had a bigger motor in it, I don't know what size those motors were. I'm not sure that that International...The first diesel I heard of was a Cummings, but we didn't have any, I never drove a diesel then. I got a diesel 7.3 right now, the old Ford Power stroke. If I'd have had that motor that I got in this diesel out here and the right transmission and rear end in it, there's no telling what I could have pulled.

JG: So, did you work for yourself or were you a Jenkins employee?

TI: I drove for someone else. Two men that had trucks, then they bought a trucking partnership, and I drove there a lot of the time.

JG: So, like when you'd go to Houston, when would you leave, when would you come back? How long would it take, and that kind of thing?

TI: Well most of the truckers in that day wouldn't register their trucks to haul the full load limit, so they had to try to dodge the weight men. You had weight men on the highway, like you got now, so the weight men usually quit weighing about 11 o'clock. If they was going toward Dallas, they usually weighed you around Jacksonville. They'd pull up their scales and go home about...I don't think they worked a solid shift, and it was about the same way, if you didn't get weighed around Diboll, you might get weighed at Livingston or something like that. So, we would leave to go to Houston about 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock in the morning.

JG: Really?

TI: Yeah, if you left any earlier, you just had to drink coffee somewhere dodging the weight men. And Dallas, we'd leave a little earlier going to Dallas because it took us an hour or so to get to Jacksonville.

JG: So, you'd leave at midnight?

TI: Yeah. Now Corpus, Corpus you had to leave early. If you went to Zapata, the lumberyard in Zapata, down on the border. I went there, made a couple of trips down there.

JG: Now did you have to load and unload too? Or did you just drive?

TI: Very seldom did you ever have to help any at all. Most of the time the lumber yards had their own crew to unload. Some would get you out of there in a hurry. We hauled a lot of lumber to Fort Hood. They built, I don't know what they built up there, but they had a lot of caves in a mountain up there. We hauled up a pretty good hill out there and it was tough for those two-ton trucks to get the load because you went up a certain way and then you had a plateau, then you started up again. It was nice to have a two-speed transmission, it would help you get over the hill.

JG: You had to have some momentum to get up the hill.

TI: Yeah. When they inspected you, because it was Army, they inspect you when you went in, and sometimes they'd ride with you, sometimes they'd send a sentry with you. An armed sentry. He might get up on the back of the load and ride. It was pretty, I guess you could say it was pretty confidential as to what was going on.

JG: Yeah.

TI: They'd let us...they were building office buildings and everything on top. So, we hauled to that. When I got out of the Navy, well a trucker here in Huntington. He was hauling from Colorado to Florida, he had two new refrigerator vans and two new GMC trucks. I had just been out of the Navy about a week or ten days or something, and he said, "you're just the guy we're looking Ted." I said, "what?" He said, "I want you to start driving one of them trucks for me." I said, "I believe my truck driving days over." I never had any desire. It was fun for a young guy driving truck, having your own truck.

JG: Out on the open road.

TI: Kind of a macho thing. You was your own boss and this and that. After four years in the Navy, well my-

JG: What did you do in the Navy?

TI: Radioman.

JG: Radio.

TI: I served on two destroyers. About two years and four months I was on the *Taussig*, that's what I went to Korea on. In fact, I was in the Philippines-

JG: How do you spell that?

TI: T-A-U-S-S-I-G. DD-746. I was on it for about two years and four months. We went to the Philippine islands when the Korean War started in June of 1950, with the 7th Fleet, we were part of the 7th Fleet, just maneuvering. I don't know if they knew something was...you know usually they know everything that's going on ahead of time, so we were in that area. They detached us, a cruiser, and two destroyers, and an aircraft carrier. We went to, headed towards Sasebo, Japan. We went to Okinawa and fueled and took on more supplies. I don't know whether other ships went to get supplies, but when we got into Japan, well, we went into Sasebo. Shortly thereafter, we were either in the Yellow Sea or the Sea of Japan for about eight or nine months during the start and evacuation. As the movements went forward they pushed them back across the 38th Parallel and up toward, I can't think of what river it is now, then all of a sudden Chinese got involved in it to because they knew that the North Koreans was being pushed back towards China. They became involved and MacArthur wanted to stay with it and just get us back in World War 3, I guess, and Truman told him no. MacArthur must have argued with him because he relieved MacArthur of his command.

RECORDING STOPPED FOR A REFRESHMENT BREAK.

JG: Alright, we're back. We took a little break and we were kind of discussing, too, how to maybe finish up this interview. Like I said, I don't know, we may want to do another one at some point in the future if you'd like. But, to finish this one out, maybe just talk a little bit more about general life experiences growing up in your era, in your time period. Do you want to talk about things in life that might have regulated life? You were talking a little bit about the schedule of the trains coming through town.

TI: I'd have to say that my dad was head of the house. My mother was second-in-command, but she could move into first-in-command real quick. We were raised with standard discipline, and they weren't afraid to use a belt, but mostly a switch for children that didn't mind, that had problems with obeying orders.

JG: Now when you say a switch, for the younger groups, this would be a little branch off of a tree limb or something, huh?

TI: And we learned real quick. Yes, it could be a...the switch was off of a plum tree or peach tree because they would make marks on your legs alright. There was no such thing as child abuse, there was just putting a child back in line, you know.

JG: Were you ever given the opportunity of picking your own switch?

TI: Oh yeah. You cut your own switch.

JG: (laughter) Opportunity or was that part of the punishment?

TI: We had a small orchard but let me say we never had to prune it because there was enough switches cut off, it didn't need to be pruned. (Laughter) A willow switch would wear out real quick. We had a willow tree, and you cut a willow switch, it went away pretty quick. Anyway, my dad, he had a way of telling you something that I never really forgot. His index finger on his left hand had a ninety from a snake bite when he was young. It almost made a ninety, the joint was crooked. And when he was telling you something, if he'd put that joint under your nose, and he continued to raise you up to get eyeball to eyeball, you really understood what dad was saying.

JG: He would raise your head up to look eye to eye.

TI: You had better do what he was telling you. He didn't use his belt very often, but if it was necessary, he'd use it. We understood why because with seven boys and one girl, you know that's a good any. Of course, the girl was his favorite. She never got a spanking. (laughter) Anyway, my folks were, my dad, they were both Christians. They were members of First Baptist Church of Huntington. He served as a deacon, he served as the treasurer, he served as a, well he was a Sunday School teacher. Mostly he taught teenage boys, it seems like. We had-

JG: I want to ask you about church too at some point but continue on with what you were saying here.

TI: Like I say, we did attend First Baptist Church. We were raised in Huntington First Baptist Church. All 8 of the kids were saved and baptized in Huntington First Baptist Church. The last boy became a preacher and he preached for fifty, over fifty years.

JG: And who's that?

TI: Richard. My baby brother, born...I was almost sixteen years old when Richard was born. And Jerry, my younger brother, was thirteen. So, I used to have the standing joke, I said, "Jerry, you know Mother and Dad had their children about 2 to 3 years apart. When they had me, I was so cute and pretty, they couldn't wait until they had another one. Then they had you and thirteen years before they had another one." He said, Jerry said, "that was

an accident.” But anyway, yeah, they were older, I was almost 16. Richard passed away about three years ago. I think he was born in ’44 and I believe he was in his early 70s when he passed away. So, there’s just two of us, just two of us boys left. Two out of the eight children left. My brother Jerry lives in Fairfield. He’s eighty...eighty...eighty-eight. He’ll be eighty-nine this year, and I’ll be ninety-two. I’m three years older than Jerry. Three years and a month or two, I think. Bu we were raised in the church here and we attended Sunday School and church and BYPU and Wednesday night.

JG: Now say what BYPU was.

TI: Baptist Young People’s Union. That’s the way it started out, and I believe the Baptists may have gotten help from the Methodist Church. The Baptist Church was formed, Huntington was formed in 1900, incorporated in 1900. First Baptist Church was 1901, the Methodist Church in 1902.

JG: So, they always have separate congregations. Did you ever, did they ever share a church building?

TI: Well, yeah, they did, and we had bi-vocational pastors or pastors that might preach two Sundays at Huntington and two Sundays...like we had a pastor for a long time that taught two Sundays in Huntington and then two Sundays over at, preached at Forest. You know where Forest is? Outside of Wells.

JG: Yeah, yeah, Cherokee County.

TI: Yeah, he preached over there but he lived here in Huntington. Of course, churches couldn’t afford the full. The Methodist Church minister lived in a parsonage right behind the church, and they were full-time. We had the Church of Christ, they were without a pastor a lot. Brother Moody from Lufkin used to come down and preach for them. They’d have Sunday School, but didn’t have a preaching service. He’d come preach on Sunday afternoon. My dad was a student of learning, and he could go listen to anyone. He was a strong Baptist, strong Southern Baptist, strong Democrat. Everybody was a strong Democrat. We didn’t hardly...we thought a Republican was a foreigner. Now I’m a Republican, but it’s all in the matter of you making up your mind what you like about what.

JG: Y’all still thought of them as carpetbaggers, probably, huh?

TI: Yeah. We were faithful in church and all of us were, like I say, saved and baptized in one of the, either in Will Roy’s pond or the McEwen Gin pond. We didn’t have a baptistry at church. So, that’s the way we grew up in life, and every one of us had a chance at...we were just brought up...we were encouraged to accept Christ, we were never told...we accepted Christ when we felt like we knew what we were talking about. I guess when we reached the age of accountability, we knew right from wrong, if you were lying or cheating you knew it was wrong. Jesus didn’t approve of it, you know, and so we did have a lot of study courses and such as that, we were taught.

JG: You had Bible schools during the summers?

TI: We had the study courses, but we had revivals, we had outside pastors and song leaders come in and they would do a two-week revival. They'd stay with different people here in Huntington and eat every day with different people in Huntington.

JG: At the church building or would y'all do tent revivals?

TI: Well, the first tent revival I ever went to in my life was First Baptist Church of Pasadena, and we had about 2500 in Sunday School, but we had a tent revival. We wanted to have it out on the church grounds and show people what it used to be like. Or have it over in the city park there in Pasadena, in the city park.

JG: That's when you worked for Shell Oil?

TI: Yeah. Or they'd have it at the football field. They had crusades, you know, all churches went together, all Baptist churches in Pasadena would go together and put it on. That's our introduction to living for Christ. So, every one of us has held onto that throughout our lives and that's been...I talked to a granddaughter last night for a lengthy time about putting Christ first in your life and it just gives you strength and you don't realize it. Of course, I understand by my younger life what younger people...their feelings. My understanding as an older person is what I was jotting down this morning about perception and how easy it is for us to...for me to see you and you say ten words and me make up my mind how I perceive of something, either negative or positive. But you need to give everybody an opportunity because I might approach you and you might say, "well that's a grouchy old man" or something like that. Well, I'm not a grouchy old man because I enjoy having too much, I enjoy having fun. I enjoy life. I've noticed it's a whole lot easier to smile than it is to frown. I just told you some of the things...life was...as I came up, as I went into that...learned how to pick cotton, I thought well everybody picks cotton. When I went to school, well everybody goes to school, but there were kids that didn't go to school. I know a guy that just turned 95 years old, he and I were freshmen in high school together. He's four years older than me. You get my point? There was kids that didn't have an opportunity, a lot of the kids didn't have an opportunity to go to school. They lived in remote areas, there wasn't any funds, there wasn't this, you had to stay home and work to help somebody. We had a good opportunity because we were raised by a former schoolteacher that knew the importance of education, education that he didn't get. He'd have liked to see every one of us go to college. Three boys went. The girl married right out of high school, but we were all intelligent. We had the high school education. We could learn anything we wanted.

JG: Did you mother and father live long enough to see their youngest boy become a preacher?

TI: Oh yeah. My dad didn't. He was in his freshman year at Howard Payne [University] when my dad died. He never got to see him, but mother lived 41 days making it to 105. So, she died in 2009.

JG: Tell about the schedule of the trains you were saying earlier. About the...just kind of everybody knew in town when you heard the train coming through at night, what was it 11 o'clock?

TI: Yeah, well that one was. And they had a schedule. One went back through; I don't know whether it went to Beaumont and turned around. See that TNO [Texas New Orleans] didn't go into Lufkin, it went to Nacogdoches.

JG: Right.

TI: It had a spur going in.

JG: Yeah, it was Port Arthur to Dallas, Yeah.

TI: World War II, it was, I mean they was through all the time. Buses...of course gas rations, people couldn't get the gas to go to anywhere they wanted to, so they were on those trains, you know. They had those passenger cars, or they had the troop cars or they had, I think I remember them with prison cars going taken them from Dallas or somewhere else or to Port Arthur, in the Beaumont area. The schedule picked up, just like the bus schedules almost doubled, during World War II. Mr. McMullen from Huntington on the Lufkin-Beaumont Motor Coaches, and his son Marshall McMullen on Max Motor Coaches that went from Bryan to Jasper. Father and son had two bus lines. Greyhound and them, they didn't come through here. I think finally American may have started coming through. Trailways, that's the one it is. They started coming, but they didn't stop in Huntington. We had the bus station here in Huntington for the Lufkin-Beaumont Motor Coaches and the Max Motor Coaches. And they had that old bus station there in Lufkin that everybody used going to Houston or wherever.

JG: You were saying that the train whistle, at a certain time, was the signal to-

TI: Mile. At the mile sign they started whistling on each end of town. Had a crossing up here "1-mile Huntington." Had a crossing, not a crossing, had a cross "X" one mile to Huntington. They'd get on the whistle and start then because we didn't have a stop law.

JG: And those were just through trains, right? I mean they didn't stop?

TI: And they had the railroad fence their property too until you go into the edge of a town and everything. The city park that we have, Centennial Park down here, that's...of course TXDOT owns it now, but that was railroad property. That was their right-of-way, and they fenced it down...this is Second Street out here...there was only one crossing across the railroad track and that was Main Street. They wouldn't allow any other crossings. These crossings probably happened in...I want to say probably no sooner than 1950 for Second Street and Sixth Street that's on the east side of town. They were on the whistles all the way through, so you knew the train was coming through. If you lived on that end of town, when they went out, they were down on them whistles too because they wanted any vehicle and anything else away from Main. We did have a lady...I was in high school, a lady

committed suicide one night down there. She laid her head on the track. She hid, the whole family was looking for her and the train crew looked for her and everything else. When the train left out, she was laying there on the track. The only thing they could figure was she hid in the, where they stacked those ties. That was...it upset the whole town.

JG: Yeah. Do you remember her name?

TI: No. I don't know if she's still got family living. I can't remember her first name, but she was a Renfro, and her brother was C. D. Renfro and Bryce Renfro, and several...it was a big family. She lived with her mother down on Main Street.

JG: Is that the Renfros of Renfro Ranch up here? Towards Zavalla?

TI: Renfro Prairie? Yeah, they all came from that. Yeah. I don't know how much kin they were to like David Renfro down below Zavalla there and his daddy was Preston, and he had a brother. Preston was raised out here. Mr. John Renfro was his daddy, and Mr. John was also involved with these Renfros back in here. He was the father of three boys, I think, Mr. John was. He was state rep at one time. That's just some of my memories. I worked for different ones. There was several of us boys. We did odd jobs, we did from mowing to...I cut hay with a sickle mower, I hauled it in, raked it. I got a hay rake out here that I raked with when I was a boy. A fellow gave it to me several years back.

JG: Was that all square bales?

TI: Naw, this thing you just raked it up and hauled it, you put the fork, fork it in the wagon, and then you hauled it in bulk. We didn't have no baler.

JG: No baler. Just stacked it.

TI: No baler. I don't remember the first hay baler. They weren't popular around here in '40, during World War II. It had to be a pretty big farm to have baler.

JG: Yeah.

TI: They had the sickle mowers, and the only time I saw a combine was my uncle over across the tracks. He planted about 30 or 40 acres of oats and when it come time to cut it, they cut it with a sickle mower. There was a fellow here that had a combine, he rented a combine and brought it in here. They pulled it with two teams...they either pulled it with four or six horses to pull that combine. They raked those up with a rake and it went along and shocked them and tied them into...it'd pick up those oats and tie them up and drop them.

JG: Like sheaves?

TI: Yeah. Just like that. The heads was up just like that.

JG: Yeah.

TI: I remember that, and that was, I'm going to say that was about '40 or '41 that I saw a combine brought in here. I don't know how they brought it in here by truck, I guess. Because the man that had owned it, his son had a truck, a big trailer truck.

JG: Now your wife gave me a picture while ago, while we were talking and it's a picture of Sam Trinkle and William Morgan, taken in the early '20s. Mr. Trinkle bought a blacksmith shop? Or what is that?

TI: That's a blacksmith shop. Mr. Morgan started it; Mr. Trinkle bought it off of him.

JG: Okay. Who were they? Who was the...were the Trinkles, were they the ones that were pretty musical? Did they play a lot of music? Guitars and fiddles and...?

TI: I'm not sure. Mr. Sam Trinkle lived on, when you go out 2109 towards Zavalla, he lived on top of the hill where it says Huntington Cemetery. That was his home there where he raised his family. He was a blacksmith. And the Morgans, I believe are further on down on 2109, that started the blacksmith. I graduated with one of the Trinkle girls, graduated high school. So that's right there where our sanctuary is for Huntington First Baptist Church now. Right on the corner of Main and Linn. Our sanctuary extends out to where the blacksmith's shop was.

JG: Just about, that's probably early 1900s, huh?

TI: Well, Mr. Trinkle...that's...he had sort of the same looking...let's see, Mr. Trinkle bought the shop and ran it until it closed in the early or mid '30s.

JG: But that's like 1910 or earlier there isn't it?

TI: Yeah, that's early, that, yeah. Mr. Sam as a young man. Mr. Sam was an old man when he closed the blacksmith's shop, and he probably closed it in the '40s.

JG: But this would be after Huntington started though, right?

TI: Yeah.

JG: Yeah, so probably between 1900 and '10 or so. It's a picture that's got a bunch of buggies and wagons in it. You can see several houses in the background. It looks like one is painted. One of them is a white painted house back there.

TI: I don't know whose that might be. The businesses I can remember were Tucker's Variety Store, Gordon Scaff Domino Hall, Fred Thompson's Grocery. I tell you what I'm doing-

JG: Now the domino hall, say that name again.

TI: Yeah, a domino hall.

JG: But what was the name? I didn't catch it.

TI: Gordon Scaff. Scaff's Dominoes. He ran one for a long time.

JG: Now were any of your family big domino players? Forty-two players?

TI: Well that was one thing we were told to stay out of was the domino hall. And he meant it. He didn't play dominoes, he knew there was gambling that went on in the domino hall, said you don't have nothing to gamble with. My mother liked to play dominoes, we played dominoes at the house, you didn't go to the domino hall.

JG: Yeah. Forty-two or straight dominoes?

TI: Just straight dominoes, that's what we were taught. He didn't care anything about playing them. We played some canasta, we played Chinese checkers, or we played regular checkers. That was our house games.

JG: Did anybody play chess?

TI: Didn't like to play chess, didn't know anything about playing chess. We'd get a sack of marbles and we played marbles, and when we were out of sight, we played keeps. Any marble that you knocked out of the ring, that was yours, you kept it. If me and you were playing marbles together, and I could take your sack of marbles home with me before we left. (laughter) But you didn't tell anybody about it. "How come you have so many marbles?" You know. "What are you doing with so many marbles?"

JG: So, if somebody ran out of marbles, how did they get back in the game? Did they have to borrow?

TI: Well they got another nickel and go buy another sack.

JG: (Laughter) So you were a pretty good marble shooter?

TI: Yes. I won a few and lost a few.

JG: When I was a kid, we played around with marbles, we didn't know what we were doing though. We never...I remember me, my sister, and all of my friends, we never did quite figure out how to do it. I guess we had seen something, we knew the idea, the concept, but we never really were any good.

TI: I'll give you a...can I give you a quick overview of what Huntington looked when I was growing up?

JG: Yeah.

TI: That's what I was looking up.

JG: He's got some memoirs here, I guess, that he's flipping through. Now, are you the mayor of Huntington?

TI: No, I served on the City Council three times from '92 to '98 and got off when I was 70. Had the guy, he came to me wanting me to run for mayor. He was a City Councilman, and so before it was over, he's a deacon in Highway Baptist Church and we prayed about it. And I, knowing my age, I said, "well, let's just pray about this." We did and so I encouraged him to run for mayor with my full support. And I supported him and he's still mayor. Well, his first term in that, one of his council people had to resign due to some health issues with her family, so he came to me and said, "well, you got me in this job, would you come serve out this person's term?" I said, "yes I will," served out a year's term. So, I was sworn in and did a nine to ten month's term, finished it out. I was encouraged to run, so I did, I was elected again. I was encouraged to run, I did, and I was elected again. So, when I was 90, I got off the Council again. So, I've served six...about ten years as a City Councilman. I got off of that last year. I've been on the...I was encouraged to help with the Huntington Cemetery in 1990, and I did, I took the job. It was grave assigner or grave procurer, or whatever something they called it. I called it the gopher. So, I took the gopher's job in 1990 and along the way, they thought so much of me, I was made president of the cemetery association, Huntington Cemetery Association. I got the president's job but also retained the gopher's job. So, we elected a new board this year in 2020, we've elected a new board. Barbara and I see them every...she was secretary-treasurer when I was elected president, and they made her the...so we've had that, and we've been able to turn that over. We're still board members. Like I say, I was ordained a deacon at First Baptist Church of Pasadena. I became a deacon, a transfer deacon to Huntington First Baptist Church in 1989, and I'm still an active deacon at Huntington First Baptist Church. I've served on appraisal review board for three terms, for six years.

JG: That's the county tax?

TI: The county tax appraisal review board. I don't know where to...I don't really understand...I feel like God will give me an answer when I should go become an inactive deacon. I really feel like that. I've told the pastor several times that I was immune, or that I didn't feel like I needed to be moving any more tables after I turned 80. Then, when I was up in 90 helping move tables, he said "I thought you weren't going to do this anymore." (laughter).

(Reading from written memoirs)

But anyway, here's something that I wanted to say. I can remember a few things that happened before I started school in 1934. Our house burned completely at West Pecan when I was four. We moved to the Caton place on West Linn for a while and then to the George Ivy house on Gibson Street, where the old City Hall recently moved from. We moved back to Pecan Street between my second and third year in school.

Along about this time, I believe that Huntington had five churches. First Baptist Church 1901, First Methodist Church 1903, Highway Baptist Church, Pentecostal Church or Apostolic Church, and a Pilgrim Home Baptist Church, and also the Church of Christ. That would be six, I believe.

All of our school systems were bounded by Main, Spruce, Mulberry, and Fifth with First Baptist occupying the corner of Main and Spruce. That's where the Memorial Library is now. I remember the main businesses were McKewen General Store, formerly Hall & Hayter, located where First Baptist Church is at present. They owned and operated a cotton gin where the City Park is located now. On the general store that he closed down 19...on the west side of Main Street where Second Blessing store sits now, was my Uncle Dan Ivy's general store that he closed in 1928. He and his father-in-law operated this store for over twenty years. Someone asked Uncle Dan, who was born in 1880, how long he had been in Huntington and his reply was "since it began."

As you move south from the library toward the old railroad tracks, this was a vacant right-of-way except for rail tracks, the depot belonging to T&NO, Texas and New Orleans. Many times, you would see quite a few cattle cars, feed cars, flat cars, and they always had stacks and stacks of cross ties, hewed out by hand and mill cut waiting to be loaded for delivery. The platform at the depot was filled with bales of cotton for loading and transport. I believe most of our Huntington mail was brought in from Beaumont or points east.

Your next business, where the Mexican restaurant is located, was Dr. Stewart's Drug Store and his office facing Main. North on Cedar was the Huntington Bank, the U.S. Post Office. That was later turned into a printing office for the *Huntington News*. On the south side of Main was Uncle Josh Ivy's building that had been Bolivar Collins Grocery, Feed, and Meat Market. Also on the south side of Main was Mr. Charlie Walton's Dry Goods, Burbon Renfro's Barber Shop, and the telephone office with a residence in the rear. Backing up in this block on the north part of Dr. Stewart's building was Mr. John Dennis and Jesse Hamilton's Barber Shop, then Mrs. Jennie Dennis's Café.

You moved from boardwalk to concrete as you came to the Wilson Building. First, Dr. Wilson's Drug Store and medical office, and in a small cutout, Loyd "Pig" Johnson had a barber shop. And next Mr. Tom Wilson had a large general store with all the farming implements in the rear, also a large feed building. This covers the block of Main between Cedar and Pecan, but I left out one of my favorite spots, and that was Uncle John Arnett's Grist Mill located on Cedar, about where Willie Rick's shop is. You could always go by Uncle John's and get a pocketful of raw peanuts, free. Between Pecan and Walnut Streets on Main, the first building belonged to Dr. R. B. Forrest and housed the post office in the early '30s. Upstairs was a lodge. I think it was a Woodmen of the World lodge there. My Uncle Collins and Aunt Lucille Hudiburgh had a café in the front of the next building and printed the newspaper in the rear. Mr. Fred Thompson had a grocery store in a building in this group of buildings. Otho Jones later went back into the grocery business here. Gordon Scaff had a domino parlor in the next building. The next building to him was Tucker's Variety.

In late '39 or '40, Dr. Wilson built the brick building on the north and west corner of Main for a drug store and office building and leased space to the post office. They moved the post office from Dr. Forrest's building to Dr. Wilson's building. On the east side of Main between Pecan and Walnut, where the florist is now, was a two-story building which housed several different businesses and the Masonic Lodge was upstairs. It had been a

general store, furniture store, and maybe something else. Next to it was Hugh Johnson's Dry Cleaners, then Mr. Wallace Brown had a small grocery here, and later Mr. J. J. LeSassier had a store and lived in the rear. At one time the next building was the McMullen, Hawkins, and Chester Davis garage, service station, Texaco Chief, but was later all removed and the bus station and café was built on this site.

Across Walnut on the north side of Main is the oldest commercial building standing in Huntington. It's not there anymore. As I said, my mother and dad married in 1920, and she remembers it being built but not the year. You would have to say early '20s and I will show you something in my pictures to prove it. Dale Russell, he gives you some more information also. Behind this large building, which was built as an automobile dealership, later Brookshire Brothers number 15 until the late '40s, S. W. Brown's Sinclair Service Station and a garage repair run by Loftin Thomas when I was a boy. It changed hands a lot of times. The Hewitt Hotel on Walnut was immediately behind the old building. Also, there was another hotel on the east side of Main between Pecan and Walnut in the '20s and '30s. The First Methodist Church was directly across the street from this old building and is now the Church of Living Water.

I made an error in naming my list of churches at the beginning. The Church of Christ and the Huntington Library, courthouse, were on North Magnolia facing Centennial Park. I was told by one of the older settlers that everything in Huntington was built facing the railroad track when Huntington was first organized, all faced the railroad tracks. Also, a calaboose from the old days was in this area and later a new one was constructed, it didn't set well with some folks.

The Harvill Gin was located just past the Hewitt Hotel on Walnut which is now where Dean's Meat Service is located. And I think I mentioned McKewen's Gin. Moving out toward the highway past the old building was a horse and mule barn owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jiggs Stroop and their son. The horse and mule barn was a big thing in those days because farmers traded with them. That's where the farmer got his...instead of going after a car, he went after a horse and mule. Uncle Fulton Cochran had a horse and mule barn plus feed lot behind the implement store belonging to Mr. Wilson on Pecan Street. Lots of businesses and horse and mule trading took place when Uncle Fulton would bring in a new load from Elk City, Oklahoma. I never knew where Mr. Stroop got his horses, but it was big business.

Your next commercial building on the west side of Main before Highway 69 was the Cotton Belt Depot which sat about where Gary Gee's Auto Parts was. Across the street was the Wilson Gin. Mr. Grover Henry had a sawmill next to the gin for a while. A tomato shed and cannery was next to the railroad for a while. Fenley's Gulf Station was where Little Boots is now. The railroad tracks ran where Morris Hubbard and Morris McMullen's houses are, right through where Brookshires is now. In 1940, after the railroad was taken up and the depot turned into living quarters, a new Magnolia Service Station and café were built where the old station is now and where Dr. Penn's office is. I believe Mr. C. S. McMullen bought most of the leftover railroad property, as I know he let us use a portion to build the first Huntington Roping Club in 1946 and '47, along where Morris Hubbard's home is. The Cotton Belt Railroad left several family employee cars on a siding track after the trains rolled no more in 1939.

Across the highway where the Joc Stop is was a hotel that was run by several different folks. When I was young, Mr. Hubert Goode ran it because he had a son my age.

Mr. Carrell's Red and White Grocery and Feed Store was on the southeast corner of Main and 69, where the old feed store that had been removed was. Tap Holland had a blacksmith shop next to Carrell's store that evolved into a hardware store, and they also sold ice cream. J. Y. Foster had a goods store going out of Huntington in the curve of [Highway] 69 before the Huntington State Bank.

The above-ground water tank was riveted up in the late 1930s and the underground storage tank was about 1940 or '41. Most of what I have described is prior to World War II, 1940 to '41. There were many changes made beginning in 1945 after the War ended. You, that are younger than Tom, Dale, and myself, who remember how things were during the Depression years. Dale can remember when it started. Tom and I were born after it started and grew up in it. We realized that not much money passed hands until the War ended. Those who were not called into service went to the shipyards or refineries on the coast. They began to make money they had only heard of. After the War, many veterans who came home left to find jobs to raise their families with. Most civilians who had left stayed in the better jobs they had acquired. A good many of our folks worked in the Lufkin area, and a few that were business-minded and hard workers did well in old Huntington. I left when I was 20, came back when I was 60, and have been back 21 happy years, now 31 happy years.

I did forget one place of business that I will always remember in Huntington. The Green Lantern. The Green Lantern located on the opposite side of [Highway] 69 from the old tobacco store/shop. Kind of a little speakeasy for after hours, maybe with bootleg whiskey and beer. It was a pretty little rock building owned and operated by a Mrs. Renfro. Had a speaker out from for the nickelodeon to carry its sound far and wide. Nothing like going to sleep on a hot August/September night in Huntington with three cotton gins running and the music from The Green Lantern playing Bob Wills and "The Steel Guitar Rag." Over here with the windows up and everything, that speaker was out on the front of that dude, just about the time you'd doze off [makes noise like a trumpet].

JG: (Laughter) Yeah, we probably need to get a copy of that. It'd be easier to transcribe than trying to listen to. But yeah, at some point if we could get a copy of that, that'd be good. I wanted...I always forget to take people's pictures, so I want to do that. I want to make sure I do that. And I was thinking about it just while ago, but I noticed you got a little deer embroidered on your shirt, and that was one of the questions I had. I wanted to ask you about hunting and fishing growing up. Let me get your picture real quick while I'm thinking about it. Let's see here, on "three" One...two... and three. Alright, that turned out good. Yeah, yeah, just tell me real quick about hunting and fishing growing up.

TI: Well, my dad was a hunter, he loved to hunt. The old place down here, his part of the 320 acres. Can I just back up a little? His dad, William Joshua Ivy, purchased 50 acres from his dad. We have a deed to that. He paid him for 50 acres. One of his brothers had acquired 110 acres, so my grandfather Josh bought...they called him Uncle Tobe, Jamerson was his name, Jamerson Ivy, J. W. I think it was, James and Wiggins. But, as I said, Uncle Tobe. Uncle Tobe died plowing.

JG: So that's one of those nicknames?

TI: Yeah. Well they didn't mind Tobe. I don't know where they got the Tobe. But anyway, my grandfather bought 110 acres. So, he had bought 50 acres from Cyrus on this side of Palmer Ivy, and he bought 110 off of Tobe, and that 110 is in that 120 acres. I'm not sure about all of the 50, I don't know. So, he...when my grandfather died, he had 160 acres. And it turned out...well, my dad ended up with about thirty, thirty-something acres. So, he was the baby of the Ivy family. My grandmother married again and had two more children. When my grandpa died, he had four children, my dad was the baby. He got the home place. That's what he lived on through his first marriage with his first two children. And then he moved from the old place into Huntington when he married my mother. He moved over here and he taught one more year at Odell. That was really pretty much it. As we grew up...of course you could head up the railroad track and go across to the Blount land, and in there it was open woods, anybody...Nobody posted anything back then. You didn't see a thing, you didn't see no posted signs, unless it was a company. But, on my dad's off days, if he had a day off, and we didn't have things to do, we went to the old place. And we went straight down from his old home place to Stanley Creek and we hunted. We squirrel hunted both sides of Stanley Creek.

JG: Did y'all hunt with shotguns or .22s?

TI: We had shotguns. My dad had a pump shotgun and he had a single-barrel, and we had a .22. We didn't have guns for everybody, and of course you didn't need...but Jerry and I...it would be Dad, and Pres, Pres would usually have the single-barrel shotgun. Ed would have the single-shot .22 rifle, and Jerry and I, that's the way we went hunting. But that's the way he introduced-

JG: So y'all would just take turns shooting?

TI: That's right, yeah. You knew who would make the decision?

JG: The oldest one?

TI: Dad.

JG: Oh, dad, your dad did.

TI: Yeah. But anyway, and sometimes we had a dog, sometimes we didn't have a dog. Of course, we didn't understand still hunting like-

JG: Yeah, that's what I was going to get to. With deer hunting-

TI: You know if we still hunted for squirrels, it was all easing through and looking and watching and stopping and waiting. Well, you know kids, kids are nervous about waiting, stopping and waiting. But anyway, he'd still some. He'd usually get me and Jerry up for him. Anyway, with a dog, we just waited until the dog treed. And we had a couple of good squirrel dogs, you know, that you can depend on. There's a squirrel up there you know, and we'd just go to the tree and look then. He never did, he never owned a boat or anything.

There was a few times that we got to go to the river and bank fish. It'd usually be a family thing.

JG: Before we to get to fishing, I just wanted to ask...you mentioned you used the dog to squirrel hunt at times, but did you run deer with dogs?

TI: If somebody saw a deer track between here and Ora, ten miles, they'd get back into town. If they saw where a deer crossed the road, they'd get someone or somebody that had a dog. There might be several of them gather up with their dogs, that's about the...the deer had been wiped out. When they built the game preserve at the end of 1844...have you ever been to the end of 1844, 844? 844 as you go down-

JG: Past Manning?

TI: Yeah. Go right on through Manning where the blacktop ends, and from there to the road that goes from Highway 69 into Saron, the other side of Zavalla, I think it's five miles through that game sanctuary that Angelina Hardwood owned. Twelve or thirteen thousand five hundred acres there, and somewhere during the Depression time, they built...Texas Parks and Wildlife or whoever it was must have helped them, they built a game-proof fence around there. It was managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife, and that's where the majority of your deer came from, coming this way and going toward that river over to Corrigan. But that was the breeding ground because it was [indiscernible].

JG: Did they stock deer there? Did you ever-?

TI: Yes. Yes, and they brought deer in, and then Diboll pasture started doing the same thing.

JG: You're talking about Boggy Slough?

TI: Yeah, they did. So, that's where...you know-

JG: So, you didn't really didn't get to deer hunt much because there wasn't any deer.

TI: No. I got to deer hunt when I started my, the latter part of my high school. I went with some of the older men, and we went to Jasper County and didn't even jump a deer. Hunt down here, you might not jump a deer, take your dog. And the funny part about it, the funny part, the odd part about it right now, I can go up here to my pasture and feed my horse, and I mean, Bob show barber, we've stood there and looked at nine or ten deer in my pasture right here in town.

JG: Right here in town.

TI: It was a time when they were scarce. Now my dad and them, they killed some deer when he was young, but they were running with dogs or they still hunted, just waited. But that's in, you're talking about the late 18- or right at 1900 because he was born in [18]91.

He would've only been nine years old, but his older brother and his dad and them deer hunted when they came here in 1860. Yeah, they deer-hunted, and there was different, there was a lot more animals. Dad said when he used to get out of school at Oak Flat, they'd come home and...I think they went to school there where Cyrus, where Ivy was too. They had a schoolhouse there; I don't know who taught it or whatever. He said they just picked which one, which way he wanted to go and go kill squirrels in the afternoon. You know, as he was growing up. So, that was our hunting, and several of us boys took it up. Most of all of us liked to enjoy, we enjoyed hunting and going. And even my older brother that was in the Army, he was...his biggest...he stationed around Camp Wolters at Mineral Wells, he used to hunt the pecan orchards up there all the time. He killed all the squirrels he wanted to because they wanted them killed out.

JG: So, what about fishing? You said sometimes that y'all would go to the river and bank fish?

TI: Well, we just pole-fished or had a throw line, you know. We didn't have any trot line, no boat or anything. I didn't own a boat until I retired. I fished a lot. Fished in the bay, fished off of the jetties, fished down at Corpus off of the piers and stuff like that, but I didn't buy a boat until I retired. And I'd fish Rayburn for a good long while, and finally I didn't...my uncle died and my brother-in-law died and they were my fishing partners. And I when I met Boots, I fished a whole lot with Boots, he had a camp over on the lake. I've had my share of trot-lining. I've had my share of white perch fishing, or catfishing, or pole fishing. Barbara and I went out a time or two in my boat, and she enjoyed it. But she wasn't going to go with me every day to go fishing. She said that wasn't...she'd rather do needlepoint or something like that. A lot of our fun...when I retired, of course you can talk about that later, when I retired, we had three grandchildren that I'd gone to the courts to be guardian of. To see to, take care of them, raise them. And so, when we came back here, we brought the grandchildren with us and that's really one reason for the size of our home. We were going to build a three-bedroom home with a large family room, but when we got the grandchildren, we got three bedrooms in the back and one up here. We had another...we took our house plans and just added it and made a larger dining room and decided...In Pasadena we had a living room and we had a family room. We didn't use the living room, so that's the reason we built the bigger room in here. That's living/family, whatever. It's been slept in, slept on, and everything else because we have a large family. I've been really blessed; I know I have. I had angioplasty in 1990, not too long after we got this house built, and they didn't even put in stents or anything, and I've taken some medicine since then. Here I am, thirty, almost thirty-two years later. Didn't have any surgery, nothing like that. But when I was 50 I was-

JG: And you're 92? Is that right?

TI: I'll be 92 in June. And when I was 50, I was running four miles every day. Lost about thirty-something pounds. Ran it, did it for a long time and he had to retire, but I continued to walk and sometimes I jogged, you know. But I walked a couple of miles every day. I haven't done it in a few years now. I still do my own mowing. Last year I didn't have a garden. I've been thinking about starting back with a few tomatoes and peppers and stuff

this year. But we really have been blessed. We've got three children. We lost a little girl in '57, so we've got two boys...one boy and two girls. Our oldest daughter passed away. That was her children that we raised. She passed away about three years ago, I guess it was. Yeah. No, four years ago, yeah four years ago this year. Last year was four years ago. We have nine grandchildren. I think we've got about 15 great-grandchildren, and we have one great-great-granddaughter.

JG: Wow.

TI: So, we got a pretty full family.

JG: Yeah. Well you've had a full life and indeed have been blessed.

TI: I really have been. I know...I look back on my life and I don't ever say, "Oh I can't do what I used to could do." I think when anybody reaches 90, he can't do what he used to do, but I say I've probably...my mind still functions pretty good, probably at 90 percent. My body probably about 80 percent of what used to could do. I'm proud of it. I'm proud of every day that I'm given. Anyway.

JG: Well, thank you Mr. Ivy. I guess we'll just wrap this up if that's okay. I appreciate your time and I'll go ahead and turn this off now.

END OF INTERVIEW