

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

**WITH**

**WAYNE TIPPS**

OCTOBER 14, 2015

BRACHFIELD, TEXAS

INTERVIEWED BY PERKY BEISEL

ORAL HISTORY #1022

**EAST TEXAS RESEARCH CENTER**

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Kurt Terry transcribed this interview in December 2015. Perky Beisel reviewed the draft of this transcript and incorporated her comments in May 2016.

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## **ABSTRACT**

People Mentioned: Aubrey Tipps; Lillian Tipps; Pinkerton Family; Frank White; Owen Williams; Henry White; Sonny White; Joe White; William White; Larry Maxwell; Newton Orr; Mervin Orr; Jack Maxwell; Clyde Dirks; Crawford Taylor; Graham Hudman; Clayborn Smith; Joshua Jones; Charles Orr; Kim Orr; Gayland Keeling; Dr. Timothy Deason; Dr. C.A. Dawson; Jim Conway; Bill White; Dorothy Powell; Ira King; Ross King; Wendell Crowe; Virgil Moon; and Deb Hunt.

Places Mentioned: Brachfield, Texas; Nacogdoches, Texas; Lufkin, Texas; Land O'Pines Dairy; Borden Dairy; Houston, Texas; Pine Hill, Texas; Fair Play, Texas; Carthage, Texas; Timpson, Texas; Mount Enterprise, Texas; Gary City (Gary), Texas; Purina Feed; Henderson, Texas; Jumbo (community), Texas; Patrick (community), Texas; Minden, Texas; New London School; Henderson Clay Products; Tyler, Texas; and Pleasant Springs Presbyterian Church, Patrick, Texas.

# ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH WAYNE TIPPS

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PERKY BEISEL: So today is Wednesday, October 14, 2015. We are here in Brachfield, Texas at the home of Mr. Wayne Tipps to interview him about his life and times and agriculture and the Brachfield community. And so we'll start with a little bit—if you could give me your name, um who your parents were, a little bit about your early education and childhood.

WAYNE TIPPS: My name is Wayne Tipps, my parents were Aubrey and Lillian Tipps, and, and I was born on this place. And we were sharecroppers at the time. And uh they managed to get ahold of it a few years later and I'm still here.

BEISEL: Was it the same size of property or have you added onto it?

TIPPS: Uh, yea it's the same size. Uh, I had three brothers who—and I bought one of them out, and the other two kept their part. Yea, and uh there's 176 acres in the place.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: I think it was in 1945 they bought the place. He gave 'em \$3,000 for it, and liked to lost it three times: scratching it out of the ground. Cotton, corn, peanut, anything you can sell, raise and sell. That's the only way to make a living. Like to have lost it. It was hard then, man. I tell people that. They can't believe it. You know there are a lot of people who carry that much around in a billfold now. [laughter] Back then there wasn't no money.

BEISEL: Mmm hmm. What—did your father do other types of jobs to help earn some extra money in addition to farming?

TIPPS: Yeah. Uh his daddy was a carpenter and he knew how to carpenter, and hang paper, and paint. And we'd get the crops laid by, well he'd take in odd jobs, you know. Yeah. And uh [clears throat] in 1946 they went in the dairy business. And we had to run the dairy by hand. We had to get up and milk those cows before we went to school and we got off the bus we went to the dairy barn instead of the house. And we did that—finally got up—finally got one milk room. That was when we really got on top of the world then, boy we was up there. And uh dairy business done good and everybody around here put in a dairy. Wasn't long I think there was thirteen dairies in just about hollering distance around here. Then we went into the chicken business. Built a 2,500 capacity chicken house. And we sold them chickens and made \$800. That was more money than we'd ever seen in their lives, mam. And we was down there at two o'clock in the morning with a wagon and team cleaning them chicken houses out, getting ready for another batch. And one o'clock that evening, we putting down another batch of chickens. Boy, we was in money now. [chuckles] And we went, finally built the second chicken house. Then it wasn't long before everyone around here was in the chicken business. And chicken business and dairy business went out. Yup. It just went from there to—well, people, finally everybody just quit farming. You know, you couldn't, you couldn't make a living farming no more. All the farming—the cotton acreage and stuff we had went to uh west Texas to the big farmers.

[clears throat] I bought 131 acres across the fence, Mr. Will Orr place and I have no idea about that cotton acreage, you know. I don't know, I had it a couple years and here comes me a pretty good check in the mail. Some farmer out there had bought that cotton acreage from here and moved it out there. They didn't ask me if I wanted to sell it or nothing, you know. [laughter] I'd given it to them if they wanted it. I'd done pulled a cotton sack over it enough. And gradually went into the cow business. You know, people started fooling with cows. And then daddy got old enough to start getting his social security check, and when he did that he quit. [chuckles] Well are you ready to go now?

JAKE KEELING: I was going to ask you, who did your parents buy the place from?

TIPPS: Mr. Billy White. Yup.

BEISEL: Did he own more than just this property? Did he have others?

TIPPS: No. Before those boys come in here, from somewhere I don't know. And uh he married—fact of the matter is he married uh into the Pinkerton family, which my daddy's momma's side. And you know, we had Mr. Frank White, Joe Ed Williams had it. He built a dairy barn above uh—He went into the dairy business up above Brachfield. Then Owen's [unclear] Maxwell's house. Go down that old road and Henry White bought land down there. Then old Sonny White, you know where he used to live [talking to Jake Keeling] over 'round the Hudlands. Mr. Jim White. And he wound up buying three to four hundred acres. He was the biggest one of them.

KEELING: When you say Joe's daddy that Joe that got's Uncle Wiley's place or that other Joe White.

TIPPS: No, the other Joe White. William White's brother. Yeah.

BEISEL: So when you were doing the cotton—we'll start with the cotton—where were you taking the cotton to sell or to gin?

TIPPS: Here at Brachfield. We had—Brachfield was a pretty big town. We had uh two grocery stores, a barbershop, two filling stations, uh blacksmith shop, and a gin. Yeah, we carried our cotton up here to gin.

BEISEL: Do you remember who owned the gin?

TIPPS: Mervin R. Orr. Well, there was a M. R. & Sons. That was Mervin Orr's daddy...

KEELING: Newton.

TIPPS: Newton. N. R. & Sons. Yeah, Newton Orr. They started out with it. I think Larry Maxwell daddy wound up owning part of that gin too.

KEELING: Jack Maxwell.

TIPPS: Jack Maxwell. Yup and uh you pick, pick cotton, finally get a bail, you know. Take a wagon and a team. Now that was uh—you know how these kids have a big time going to Six Flags? They don't know nothing. M'am, we got to go to Brachfield gin, boy.

BEISEL: Now would you use horses or mules for your wagons?

TIPPS: We, we used horses all the time. Now, uh several people around did use mules. And uh, uh people uh are kinda like horses and mules like people are now tractors. Some people think a John Deere tractor is the best. Some people think a Kubota's the best. And back then, there's some people wouldn't plow

mules. Some people wouldn't plow a horse. And I was always—daddy liked horses. I'd always act like I don't care, see?

BEISEL: Did you—did he like a particular kind of horse? Or was he just looking for a good workhorse? Or did he like a particular breed?

TIPPS: No. Uh huh. No, if he could walk and pull a plow, he was a good one.  
[chuckles]

BEISEL: Alright. Then uh when you got into the dairy business where did you get your calves from to start with?

TIPPS: The cows? You just picked them up. Just about everybody had a milk cow. And some people had two or three. And, and daddy put in that dairy barn. And we had four or five already, you know. And he gonna—he'd buy them from the neighbor and stuff around. And they'd sell him a cow. And he started raising some heifers, you know. Build up a herd pretty good that way. We milked about twenty-five head of cows. That's a lot of cows milked by hand before you'd go to school.

BEISEL: Yes. Was there a particular breed? Did you...

TIPPS: No. She gives milk, she was a money maker, boy. Most of em were Jerseys. Uh, uh Jerseys uh—they people got into the Holstein business. Jersey milk has more protein in it, more fat in it than uh the uh Holstein, you know. It'd bring a little bit more money.

BEISEL: Who were you sending the milk to? When you got the milk, what company came and picked up the milk?



TIPPS: We carried it to Nacogdoches. To uh—well went to Lufkin some and Nacogdoches some. Lufkin uh put it on a truck there and they went to uh Land O’Pines. Uh then uh, when it got pretty big, we’d carry it to Nacogdoches and put it on a truck and they carried it to Borden to Houston.

BEISEL: Were you ever members of the Texas Dairymen’s Association or anything like that?

TIPPS: I doubt it. We weren’t a member of nothing but the Presbyterian Church up here. [laughter] There wasn’t nothing like that going on.

KEELING: When you carried your milk was it just your milk or was it the milk from all these dairies around here?

TIPPS: Do what now?

KEELING: When you carried the milk to Lufkin or Nacogdoches was it just your daddy’s milk or was it milk from...

TIPPS: No. Huh, Clyde Berks put in a dairy and Crawford Taylor put in a dairy. And we had about three ten-gallon can fulls, Clyde had two or three, and Crawford had three or four. And to start out, we would take time about. We’d take it and load it in a pickup and carry it to Nacogdoches. Then after wasn’t too long so many more dairies got in. Graham Hudman went and bought a truck and built a wooden box on that truck. And we’d leave out about three—I hired out my first job. I hired out to him, I’ll admit. And we wound up with about 180 milk cans on that truck. ’Cause we’d leave Brachfield and go through Pine Hill to Fair Play and into Carthage, Timpson, on into Nacogdoches.

BEISEL: How many days a week would you do that?

TIPPS: How many what?

BEISEL: How many days a week?

TIPPS: Every day.

BEISEL: Every day?

TIPPS: A cow'll never take a day off.

BEISEL: Well, I know that. [laughter]

TIPPS: That job was a—that job was seven days a week. I got one day off, Christmas Day, but I had to make two runs Christmas Day to get off.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: Yea, mmm hmmm. The cows don't take off.

BEISEL: Well, no. I know that. But I didn't know if you all stacked it up for a day. Did people have cold cellars? Coolers or...

TIPPS: You had the uh—Now see it was about thirty-three degrees in them coolers. And we had to get it to Nacogdoches before it got warm. Yup. And there was uh—those cans, full of milk, weighed one-hundred-and-ten pounds apiece. You had to pull them out of them coolers. And they just couldn't anybody do that. But I got pretty good at that. [chuckles]

KEELING: That was ten gallon...

TIPPS: Ten gallon cans. Yup.

BEISEL: Did you ever sell to the ice cream company there in Nacogdoches? Did they buy from you?

TIPPS: No, nuh uh. No.

BEISEL: Just through Borden...

TIPPS: They uh—they'd buy their milk from Land O' Pines and Borden, and [unclear] yea. Make their own ice cream.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: What we'd do, we'd back that truck up to a window and it had a ramp and you'd just dump those ten gallon cans in a vat, you know. Of course, they'd taste it. Now and then sometime an old cow might get ahold of a bitter wheat, you know and the milk be a little bitter. And they'd condemn it on you. We had to be careful about that. That old man—I never will forget it—I don't know what his name was, we called him Snuffy. He had a big dip of snuff in his mouth, tasting it. He'd take a straw and tasted that milk. Now how could he tell if that milk—with that snuff in his mouth? Yea, he kept it... [laughter]...he kept his job.

BEISEL: Now you said that you had three brothers.

TIPPS: Yea.

BEISEL: Uh were you the oldest, youngest, where were you?

TIPPS: I was—No, my oldest brother, Lavelle, was older than me. Then they had Dale and Don, were under me. And Lavelle and Dale have passed away.

BEISEL: Okay. And so all of you worked, as kids, on the farm?

TIPPS: Oh man, that's all anybody knew how to do was work, you know. And, and Momma and Daddy didn't have no money. Didn't nobody have no money. And uh we all knew how to plow and that ol' fella over there he was an old Baxter, he—everybody wanted one of them little Tipps boys 'cause they knew how to work, you know. And daddy would let us work out. He might let me

work out today, and one of my other brothers tomorrow. Like that. We'd make our own money. You can't get an education like that out of college. We knew how to take care of [unclear] [laughs]. Yup.

KEELING: That was Mr. Wood that you were talking about?

TIPPS: Yea, mmm hmmm. Yea, he'd hire—he'd hire us all the time. And uh the first job I had plowing, dad let me work for a fella down here in Taylor's bottom, he rented that bottom. And I plowed that horse all day long. Fifty cents a day. You didn't have no watch. When that sun started above those trees, you said get up. When you could step on the head of your shadow, it was noon. You'd go out there and get that iced potato or something—biscuit and sausage out of that—off that limb, you know. That was your lunch. And you'd drink water out of the creek. Then, when the sun started down behind those trees over yonder, you said whoa. [clears throat] I plowed down there three days and I come to the house, I had a dollar and a half. I was the richest Tipps in the house. Momma and daddy didn't have no money. [laughs] I'm never going to forget them days now.

KEELING: Did you use his horse or...

TIPPS: Yea, I plowed his horse, yea yea. Yea, fifty cents a day. At noontime, you could say I got a quarter made. That was big money. [laughs]

BEISEL: So did you uh—when—where did you spend your money?

TIPPS: Do what?

BEISEL: Where did you spend your money? Would you go to the movies? What would you do with it?

TIPPS: Every once in a while, we might get to go to Henderson to a movie. And, I always tried to get down on a half ticket. And make me half ticket. It cost uh twelve cents. And a nickel for popcorn and nickel for coke. But you know, we would go to the Shiloh picnic every year. And we would get up and plow to about ten o'clock that morning. Momma'd be fixin' dinner, and uh hook a team up to the wagon, put them washtubs in the back with the food in it, and go down through here, you know, to Shiloh. Now boy, and you get to Shiloh, and dad would give us a dime, a nickel a piece—ten cents apiece to buy a coke and an ice cream cone. That was big spending, boy. [clears throat] Yup.

BEISEL: Which school did you attend here in town?

TIPPS: Which what?

BEISEL: Which school did you attend?

TIPPS: I went to Patrick over here. They had a twelfth grade, but when I got in the eighth grade, they had cut the high school out. And, and uh there was Jackson. 'Cause up one day at the Hunts—'cause every Sunday we would gather up somewhere, you know. And uh we were playing basketball, and I guess he liked my moves or something, anyway he come back by the house and talked momma and daddy about letting me come to Mount Enterprise. So, that's—I wound up going to Mount Enterprise. And I didn't let him down. [chuckles]

BEISEL: Oh, which position did you play?

TIPPS: Do what?

BEISEL: Which position did you play?

TIPPS: Guard.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: Yup. My last year—we won the district my last year.

KEELING: Did you run the milk route all through high school?

TIPPS: No, no. Nuh uh. On the weekends. [clears throat] But—see we would have to leave at about three o'clock in the morning. And get back around 9:30 or 10, but it was too late to go. I had—I just went on the weekends, holidays.

KEELING: Did Mr. Glenn run it by himself?

TIPPS: He had another fella that helped him some. Yea.

KEELING: It was on the milk route that you got the idea for the roping pen, wasn't it?

TIPPS: Yea, me and Hoden Arthur Berdan needed something—I was going to make an old brush cowboy anyway, and we built that roping pen up there. And we roped Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday night. You couldn't find a popularer place in Brachfield, boy. We had about fifty goats, most of them was give to us. We charged a dollar a night, and there'd be thirty or forty people up there roping goats. Yea.

BEISEL: Could they rope as much as they wanted for the dollar?

TIPPS: Do what now?

BEISEL: Could they rope as much as they wanted for the dollar?

TIPPS: Yea! Yea, you'd pay a dollar and run your horse down, you know. Didn't hurt them goats. [laughter] It was a lot of fun. Lot of fun. [unclear]. You know, then that was the first time anybody had seen anything like that around here, yea. It was pretty good.

KEELING: Did you tell me you've gone somewhere to pick up milk and they had a—they had a roping pen at Gary or...

TIPPS: Gary, yea. I went down there one night, while I was picking up old Clayborn Smith's—Clayborn Smith's milk in Gary and he got me to come down there. And I went down there and that's what got us started.

BEISEL: How long did that run? How long did you have that going on?

TIPPS: Well, let's see. We run it about three years and I went in the Army. And they kept it going uh about a year after I got out of the Army and then it just kinda faded out. Goat pen rotted down, uh you know.

KEELING: What year did you get out of the Army?

TIPPS: 1955.

KEELING: Who did Arthur own the land where—one of the uh—the pen was?

TIPPS: Richard Orr.

KEELING: Okay.

TIPPS: Yea. It's right there where the fire station is now.

KEELING: Yes, sir.

TIPPS: Yup.

BEISEL: When you had the chickens, who did you sell the chickens to? Was there any buyer?

TIPPS: I can't, I can't give you—We would—A.J. Crugle come to Henderson and put in uh Purina Feed Store. And he was, he was uh a pusher now. He's the one that come out and, and talked daddy into going into the chicken business. And what he done, of course he went through the bank too, but he financed that a

penny a chicken. And he would furnish the feed. Then, whenever uh—I imagine he's the one that got the check first 'cause you know they'd come out at night and catch them chickens, and I don't know where they carried them to. But they carried them somewhere and had them dressed. Then the next morning, daddy would go to town with Mr. Crooms and uh get our check, you know. But he told us, he knew what them chickens gonna weigh and what they was gonna bring too, you know. And he come out that night we were catching them, told us how much money we's gonna make, and he was right on the money too.

BEISEL: So did you get the new—did he deliver the new chicks? You know, you'd clear it out, um would he deliver all the new chickens? Or, would you have to go pick them up somewhere?

TIPPS: I'm not—they delivered them out. We'd go down there and we'd clean out that chicken house. And I mean, we had it, we had it spotless. Now, you know they go about a year before they clean them out. We cleaned them out after every house, you know. Sweep the walls down, you know disease, keep them from getting sick. And uh put down new shavings, fresh water, and everything. And they'd send them little bitties out. We'd go around and put them out, you know.

BEISEL: So you never got involved in the large Pilgrim's Pride or Tyson, all of that?

TIPPS: No. I have no idea where they carried them chickens to get 'em dressed. But evidently, it wasn't too far from here. Yea.



KEELING: Mr. uh Josh Jones's chicken houses did they come along later after y'all had quit or is it during the same...

TIPPS: He started about the time we got ready to quit, you know. He might of bought, what about five houses up there.

KEELING: Yes, sir.

TIPPS: Yea.

KEELING: Between here and Henderson.

BEISEL: Now Jake here noted that at some point you became a restaurant owner. The Country—The Cowboy Kitchen. Is that right? [laughter] Uh oh. Better tell us.

TIPPS: Well, Brachfield was dead. And me and Dick York and my son Toby, Charles and Kim Orr, and Gayland Keeling, we bought a little ol' house and moved it over there for a coffee shop. And we got that done, and people just kept pushing us to get gas, and we did. And started cooking, and started crawfish boils, and it wasn't long we was on the map. [chuckles] We run it for, I don't know, a good while, and finally let a lady have it to—after—well we were going to put in the gas. We told her she could have the building, and the rent would be for her to take care of the gas for us. That was our rent and that was her pay. And she did. And she, she done real good, but she, she didn't do all that good, you know. She uh she couldn't manage money, and she was heck of a good lady, but she couldn't manage that money. You know, if she sold \$200 worth of food up there a day, she made her \$200. Now there's no spending to it. [chuckles] Yup.

KEELING: It changed hands several times in later years, didn't it?

TIPPS: Oh, uh who was that fella that bough her out. He didn't buy her out, he just took over.

KEELING: Some of the Greens had it.

TIPPS: Huh?

KEELING: Some of the Greens...

TIPPS: No, it was before the Greens. Shirley, Shirley.

KEELING: Oh yea.

TIPPS: Yea. He got it and his wife was running it, and she was doing good. And his brother was cook—he was, he was—boy he cooked that Cajun food, now boy he was. There was people from Longview and Nacogdoches lining up in Brachfield, Texas to eat crawfish now. He had it going! And uh, and ol' Chuck was a preacher. [25:21]

KEELING: Down at Jumbo.

TIPPS: And he uh—well, bottom line he just got jealous over her. He thought maybe she was shopping I guess, or something anyway. He made her quit. Then the Greens got it then. And they let it go to the dogs. [chuckles]

LINDA REYNOLDS: Is that where the building is now? There's a little restaurant. Is that the same building? Down here in Brachfield at...

BEISEL: Is it that same building that, that has the old restaurant sign on it? It's still standing.

TIPPS: Yea, mmm hmmm. Yea, mmm hmmm. That was a—it was a man and woman lived over at Patrick—that was just a little old two bedroom one bath frame house, what it was. And uh Boyd Patrick and his momma lived in it, and they

died, and we bought the little old building, and you know, moved it over there.  
Yea.

BEISEL: Well, at its largest peak, that you remember, how many people were in Brachfield? When it was the busiest that you remember.

TIPPS: Oh man. Well, when we were—back when we were talking about all that farming, there was somebody on every corner. It was uh, it was uh a lot of people. There was uh well there was a twelve grade school at Patrick. And uh then we had the [Pleasant Springs] Presbyterian Church up here. Isn't that—a church at Patrick too. It'd take me too long to count them. But it, it was a pretty thickly populated community.

BEISEL: Mmm hmm. Did it ever have its own post office here?

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: Did you ever have your own post office?

TIPPS: There was a post office here, years before me. And I understand ol' Dr. Deason lived up above our—you know where Paul and Mike live. Mary Frank an uh—who was—somebody robbed that post office. And they found them all the mail and stuff in a stump up yonder behind our place Wasn't that ol' Possum Jackson?

KEELING: I don't—I never, I've never heard that story.

TIPPS: Somebody robbed that—I remember that. But I wasn't—It wasn't during my time, but I remember the older folks telling me about it. Somebody robbed that post office. Yea. Yea.

BEISEL: And then that pretty much ended the post office after that robbery?

TIPPS: Yea, mmm hmmm. Yea. You know old Dr. Deason—of course then there was a doctor in every little old community, ya know. Dr. Deason was here at Brachfield and Dr. Dawson in Minden. And uh momma, I think I was six or seven months old, in the winter time and ice—well I was born in December—I may not have been that old. But any well, momma slipped on the doorsteps and fell with me and broke my leg. And old Dr. Deason set my leg. It ain't never gave me no trouble. [chuckles]

BEISEL: Really?

TIPPS: Yup.

BEISEL: That's wonderful.

TIPPS: Yup.

BEISEL: Would he...

TIPPS: I don't remember that now, I was told that. [chuckles]

BEISEL: It's probably good you don't.

TIPPS: Yea.

BEISEL: Did he make house calls? Would he come?

TIPPS: Oh, yea. Yea. Mmm hmm. Yea, yea. Yup. And you, and you paid them with milk, bread, butter, anything like that. That's what they—if you had the money, they'd take it but, you didn't have to have the money to get service. If you had anything, you—they'd take care of you.

KEELING: Do you remember him travelling by horse and buggy or did he already have...

TIPPS: Have what?

KEELING: Do you remember him travelling by buggy or had he already got him a car by the time you?

TIPPS: If he ever owned a car, I never did know it. I didn't know it. Nmm hmm. And I can remember—I don't know why daddy had one 'cause we had a old '34 Chevrolet pickup up there at Mervin Orr's store. And he, he was there. And, and we had little old red bumps all over us, and daddy had him over there. And he come over feeling of them. And I believe he said they were measles or something, what was wrong with us, you know. He, he prescribed something [unclear] took the measles off. And really, that is the only time I remember seeing him. But I can see him now, pulling my arm out, rubbing those little ol' things.

BEISEL: Was there a pharmacy in town that you got that, or did he give you what...

TIPPS: No, no. He had, he had medicine at his house. But no, you couldn't buy nothing. You might buy an aspirin at one of those stores. That'll be it, you know. Yup. And we had a garage there too. Uh Joshua Jones, he was a mechanic. He run a garage and welding shop there. Brachfield was booming at one time. Yup.

KEELING: Is Mr. Josh the one who originally put that garage in?

TIPPS: Who?

KEELING: Mr. Josh, he put it in or...

TIPPS: Yea.

KEELING: Okay. And the Jim Conway...

TIPPS: Jim Conway come along and bought it after him I think. Yea. Yup.

BEISEL: Now did your parents talk much about the Depression, um you know, any of the plans or the programs of the New Deal stuff Roosevelt stuff? Um if they thought it worked or didn't work or made things better or worse?

TIPPS: You know, I can't answer that. Uh back then, when I was growing up as a kid, there wasn't but one thing to do and that was work. And, and some years were gooder—better than some years, but what made them that way—the weather had a big factor in it. But uh now I have always been told when the Republicans was in there the rich got richer and the poorer got poorer. And back then, everybody was Democrat around here, but now then it's turned around, you know. Everybody's changed but me; I'm still a Democrat.

[laughter] [31:50]

KEELING: Mr. Williams wouldn't even let the Republicans vote in his store.

TIPPS: [laughing] He was something else.

KEELING: And [unclear] polling places.

TIPPS: Yup, yup, yup. Well I—far as uh who was in office, uh whether it made a difference or not, I don't know. I know uh I can remember—I don't remember Hoover—they had a work program called the WPA. And they would hire—I don't think my daddy ever worked for them, but I know some people that did work for them. Work on the road, you know. He built, he built the road. This dump down through this bottom was built with a, with a team, you know. Yea. Yea.

BEISEL: During the Depression?

TIPPS: Hmm?

BEISEL: During the Depression years?

TIPPS: Yea, mmm hmm. Yea, that—what was that Depression in '29?

BEISEL: '29 to '39.

TIPPS: I was born in '31. Mmm hmm.

BEISEL: So uh a horse, a horse and mule team coming through there?

TIPPS: Yea, just about everybody had a slip, you know. One of those things you pull dirt with. And you, you could take a team, usually took two teams, two horses, and use that slip, you know. And you'd get a washtub full of dirt in it and take it where ever you wanted to and dump it, you know. And this levy down through here was built with one. That's where they built that. I remember when that was a dirt road over there. We'd save up uh magazines and papers, and stuff like that. Here come a shy of rain, had clay over there and cars couldn't get up that hill. And, and we would run down over there with them magazines and papers and stuff, and put them under them tires. We'd get them up that hill, boy. [laughter] Get'em going. Mmm hmmm. Sometimes we'd get a nickel, sometimes we didn't get nothing. But we was hustling, boy.

KEELING: [gust of wind] One time, you told me about a slip. What's the difference in a slip and a Fresno?

TIPPS: Not much. Made different. One of them—a Fresno may be a little bit bigger. Yea. That slip would be about that wide and about that deep. And uh you'd have a handle on the back, you know. And, you know, when you get to where you're going you'd throw it up and the edge would catch, you know, and it would flip over and dump. Yup.

BEISEL: Now did your parents ever talk about the New London school explosion?

TIPPS: [clears throat] I would remember—I heard that. I was on the back porch over yonder, that big old house we lived in, and, and I heard that explosion.

BEISEL: Did you?

TIPPS: Mmm hmm. Sure did.

BEISEL: Did you...

TIPPS: We didn't—far as I know we didn't have folks involved in it. But uh a lot of people around Henderson did.

BEISEL: Right.

TIPPS: Yea, I heard that explosion.

KEELING: How long did it take to find out what, what it was?

TIPPS: It wasn't long. Uh you know, we had those old phones, and you know you'd ring'em, ring'em uh what do you call the phone...

KEELING: Party.

TIPPS: Yea, yea. Your number would be uh two longs and a short, or a short and three longs or something like that. That's the way you answer it, you know. It wasn't long, but it—we knew what it was. Yup.

BEISEL: So the house—where did you live originally?

TIPPS: Do what?

BEISEL: Where, where was the house that you lived originally? Where you grew up. The house that you grew up in.

TIPPS: It was a big old house over yonder where that brick house is at.

BEISEL: Oh, okay. That one replaces...



TIPPS: One of them big houses. There's still one right up here. Everybody built one of them ol' big houses with—called a dogtrot. There'd be two rooms on the right and three rooms on the left. And that's what—we were living in a little old house over here, a little old bungalow house. Right where you turn off to come to my house. And, and we were sharecropping here. My daddy called him Uncle Bill White. And uh his wife died, and uh later on he got feeble, and we all moved in the house. My momma and daddy took care of him, see. They don't do—they send them to the rest home now, so. They took care of that old man till he died. And everybody thought that he would leave them this property. But he had a little old '33 Plymouth automobile and that's what he left them. [chuckles] And they had to buy the, buy the property.

BEISEL: Was that their first car?

TIPPS: We had an old—we had a '34 model Chevrolet pickup, yea. And the heater in it worked real good. Uh if it was in the wintertime, you'd take the floorboard out—a plank out of the floorboard, and the warm air from the motor come back and kept you warm, boy. [laughter] [36:54]

BEISEL: When now—when did you get married before or after the army?

TIPPS: After the army.

BEISEL: After the army?

TIPPS: Mmm hmm. Yup. Yea, I was about, I was about twenty-eight years old before I got married. Yea.

BEISEL: Is your wife from this community or did you meet her elsewhere?

TIPPS: She's from Henderson. We had one boy, Toby, and he had just had his third birthday and she left. So, I kept him. We lived by ourselves for seven and a half years. Momma and daddy were across the road and they helped me out.

BEISEL: In the, in the dogtrot house? Were they still living in the dogtrot?

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: Were they still living in the dogtrot house at that time?

TIPPS: No, no. We—in, in '59, we tore that house down.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: We moved down here to Orrs where Charles Orr lives now. Now, we moved down there and pulled that old house down and turned around and built the brickhouse that is down there.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: Yup.

BEISEL: Okay, so then you, you lived nearby with your parents to help raise your son.

TIPPS: Right. Mmm hmm. Yup. I'm a hometown boy. You know, about seven and a half—I met Jan, we got married, she likes to travel, but I say y'all go leave me alone, boy. They gone, they go, or used to go skiing and Florida. What's down there Disneyland or something? San Antonio or Water-world. They've been on them cruises. I say leave me here, boy. [laughter] I can be in Henderson thirty minutes to get homesick.

BEISEL: Now did you ever take any extra jobs off the farm? You know, any other besides [crosstalk].

TIPPS: One time I worked at the brick plant a few months. Yup. Yup. Yup. Well, in fact, I did that regularly for about a few months. And uh they went on a strike, and uh, and uh they bumped me up pretty good. You know, one of them kilns. And uh I quit. I went back to baling—well it was just a bad hay year, you know, I had to have some money. And uh went back, and uh the next spring went back into hay, and they had, they had uh three operators on those kilns, twenty-four-hour shift. And uh they didn't have anybody to relief them. And I told them I would work one day in each one of them place. And I, and I did that for two or three years.

BEISEL: Wow.

TIPPS: Yea. Let them have a day off. Sometimes they'd want it sometimes they'd call me, "I'm just going to work tonight." That was fine with me, you know.

BEISEL: Now, where was that located?

TIPPS: Henderson, Texas. Henderson...

BEISEL: In Henderson.

TIPPS: The Henderson Clay Products. Yup. And that's it, other than that, well, I was a farm boy.

KEELING: Mr. Wayne was the cowboy and veterinarian and everything else around here. If you had a problem, for years and years he...

TIPPS: They still do that. [laughter] Well, when I went in the hay baling business, I knew right quick I had to learn to work on that bailer. Because you know you can be out here baling hay and go through a gate and them things go to missing something and you can't, you can't hire people to come out. And I

knew if I was going to be in the cattle business, I had to learn to doctor that cow. And I did. Now people call me, day and night, “I’d rather have you than a vet.” They ain’t fooling me, most the time I don’t charge them nothing.

[laughter] I’m a lot cheaper than a vet is. Mmm hmm.

BEISEL: Now would you do—what kind of hay did you put up? Around here.

TIPPS: Well, years ago, anything that’d grow. Then—coastal now.

BEISEL: Coastal now? All coastal? Round? Square? Or both?

TIPPS: Square bale. Uh I got a few rolled now, but I never was a square bale—I never was a roll man. I did nothing but square bale. I was raised to not waste nothing. And there is too much waste in them rolls. But, I understand now why somebody feeds them, ’cause you can get too old to handle them square bales. Yup.

BEISEL: So do you still do baling?

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: Do you still bale?

TIPPS: Them kids do. I run the show, but those kids do.

BEISEL: Alright. Now I know who to call.

TIPPS: Yea. [laughing]

BEISEL: Alright. Did you do—did you hire out for people and do their property as well?

TIPPS: On the hay?

BEISEL: On the hay.

TIPPS: Oh yea. I had uh, I had two hay baling units. I was—I baled, I baled, I probably baled more hay in Rusk County than anybody. [42:26] And uh the first year, Toby was eight-year-old, well, may been past eight a little bit. Now I was up at the [unclear] Ranch baling and that ol' boy helped me, and he had got a fine. He—a ticket or something and his daddy made him work to pay that ticket. And he asked me, about middle of morning, said, “How much money I got made?” I told him. He said, “That’s all I need, I’m gone.” And he left. I went—I called momma, I said bring Toby up here. And I put him on that rake. And we baled 102,000 bales of hay that year. People kept saying you’re gonna kill him. But it didn’t hurt him. Made a big old boy out of him. [laughter] Mmm hmm. Yup. I had a big hay baling business. I still got two square balers. Mmm hmm, yup.

BEISEL: Do you think there is more or less hay being produced around here now, than when was that, in the '50s?

TIPPS: A lot less.

BEISEL: A lot less.

TIPPS: [clears throat] You know when I started, you didn’t have to have a trailer or nothing to haul nothing. You was off of this place, and the next one, just down the road to down the road down the road. And now then, you have a trailer to haul that stuff, you know instead of rolling it so far. Yup.

BEISEL: Uh I didn’t, did you have a question? I didn’t want to interrupt you.

KEELING: Are you waiting on me?

BEISEL: No, no that’s alright. I wanted to check.

REYNOLDS: I was just wondering about dipping vats.

BEISEL: Dipping vats, oh yes. We're on that theme.

TIPPS: Dipping vats?

BEISEL: Did you have a dipping vat?

TIPPS: No. We sprayed our cows. We used a sprayer. Now, there were two dipping vats in the community.

BEISEL: Where—do you know where they were?

TIPPS: Yea. Yea. One of them was right across the road from the old gin up here. And the other one, uh back—you know where Dorothy Powell's place is? You know where the Patrick church is at?

KEELING: Yea.

TIPPS: Back this away, about probably to momma's house over yonder, from the, from the drive end of the church there's an old dipping vat there. It's still there. The Beardens, Hoden Arthur's daddy owned that land then. Mmm  
hmm.

KEELING: What was his name uh?

TIPPS: Bob.

KEELING: Bob.

TIPPS: Yup.

BEISEL: Would there be anything left to see of either one, do you think?

TIPPS: What now?

BEISEL: Do you think there would be anything left to see of them or were they plowed up or....do you think they are still there?

TIPPS: No, they uh—that—this one up here across the road from the gin, it's, it's kinda filled in.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: But I think that one over yonder that I'm telling you about, I don't think it's still open.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: Yea. Yup.

BEISEL: Were there any uh—you mentioned Shiloh, with the, with the cemetery up there. Were there any other cemeteries around here?

TIPPS: Yea. Maple Grove. Pine Hill. There, there was a lot of them. There was a lot of them cemeteries around. Yup. Now I know—don't you tell me no stories. Everyone of y'all is wondering what happened to my fingers. Right?

BEISEL: Sure. [Tipps laughs]

REYNOLDS: Yes.

TIPPS: Huh?

REYNOLDS: Yes, I would like to know.

TIPPS: [unclear] I'm an old cowboy and a lab rope got them. Mmm hmm. Bat of an eye, "Pop!" Yup. Now then, it paid off. Big time. Do you remember ol' Kevin Dorsey?

KEELING: I think so, yes.

TIPPS: You know he and his momma moved in up here. And there were three boys and they were all small. And he was helping Jerry Williams cut firewood.

Threw a tree on him. He was, ten, eleven-year-old? Something like that.

Threw a tree on him.

BEISEL: On a ten or eleven-year-old kid?

TIPPS: Yea.

BEISEL: Oh my.

TIPPS: And they got him to Tyler, and what was it, two or three months before they decided he'd live?

KEELING: Yea.

TIPPS: Every member—bone in his body either broke or bruised. I mean he just, he was just a vegetable, you know. He made it. Little rascal, his momma and them they brought him home, and I didn't even know them folks, and I stopped up there and went in. And she told Kevin who I was, I told her who I was you know. He says uh—he was laying over there in a, in a recliner with a blanket over him. He said uh, "You know who I am now, I'm ready for you to leave." Grouchy little rascal, now. I mean he was tough. And his momma, she'd go apologize and everything. I said, "Don't worry about that, that's fine, you know." And I asked him, I said uh, "Can you shoot a gun?" He said, "If I had something to shoot at, I could." I said—at that time I think I had twenty-two pastures leased. I said, "I'm gonna come get you and make my rounds and we'll see if we can find something for you to shoot at." He said, "I'll be ready." But he said, "Right now I'm ready for you to leave." I said, "Okay, I'm gone." Went on there 'bout probably two weeks. I was coming down the road, and a van, [unclear] was in the van, parked beside the trailer and the



door was open. I turned around and went back. I said, I said, “Mary, you need some help to get him out?” She said, “Nawh.” [She] Said, “When he makes up his mind, he’ll get out.” He said uh, “I thought you was coming to get me.” I said, “Well, you told me to leave and I didn’t know how long you want me to stay gone.” And uh I think—that was on a Thursday. I said, “What are you doing tomorrow?” “Nothing.” I said, “I’ll be after you in the morning.” So I went up there and got him. Had a box of shells and a .22 rifle. We rode, we rode we got one place here. [He said] “I don’t see nothing here, let’s go somewhere else.” [clears throat] We was coming down Shiloh—uh 315 on Shiloh Hill, I had that Mark place leased over there. And we was going down the road and uh I said uh, “Who was your doctor?” I already knew. He said, “Dr. [Cheryl Neal?].” I said, “Man, I don’t like that man.” And that little fellow blowed up, boy. He said, “He saved my life, and you’re gonna tell me why you don’t like him.” I said, “I just got no use for him.” And I picked at him I figure until we got down to the corner at 840, you know. [laughing] He said, “I want you to carry me home, and I can tell you right now, before I get out of this pickup you’re gonna tell me why you don’t like that doctor.” I said, “You see that hand there?” He said, “Yea.” I said, “Well, he did my hand.” And I said, “Them fingernails ain’t growed out yet.” [laughter] That little rascal got tickled, and just cut up big, boy. I carried him on home. That night we’re eating supper. Phone rang. It was his mamma, Mary. “What did you do to Kevin today?” I said oh Lord here’s a lawsuit I guess. [laughter] I said, “Mary, I ain’t done nothing to that boy.” [She said] “Yea, you done

something.” They had carried him to all kind of doctors, psychiatrist type people, trying to get him—he was just withdrawn. She’d have to roll him up to the table, with—had a quilt on him and have to feed him, he wouldn’t. She said that night he come in, got in that chair, scooted right up there and eat with all of us. Said you done something to him. [laughter] That’s the reason I say them fingers are worth something.

BEISEL: Uh huh.

TIPPS: Yup. And the little rascal wanting to go coon hunting. Me and Toby were coon hunting some then. And we carried him coon hunting. We went and bought him a headlight and all. The first night we went, you can shine on the pickup or the coon. Well, he wanted to go again. So, we carried him again. That night we hung one of them old Sand Hill coon. And he went and shined them, boy. We wound up having to tote that little devil out of the woods, boy. Toby, Toby carried him awhile and I carried him awhile. [laughter] He—he was still crippled up. He couldn’t walk all that good, but. Yea. Then he fooled around there and got married. And married a good woman. He didn’t have no place to live, so I—I went to the bank with him and went on a note with him and bought him a trailer house. And put it down here where that disposal well is at. And he didn’t have no land. I said I just give you an acre of land, and I did. And uh he live—what he live down there two or three years or something like that. Anyway, they had a little kid or two. So, he goes to the bank and tells them—he working in Tyler. He wanted to move over right at Chapel Hill, be closer to his work. He went to the bank, ask them did they care for him

moving over there. That's out the county, see. And the bank told him, "We don't care if you go to China, you better make it alright with Wayne Tipps." [laughter] He come to me. I said, "No man, go on." I said, "What are you going to do with that land?" He said, "I'm gonna give it back to you." So he did. [chuckles] Anyway he got three kids now I think. One of them about ready to graduate too. Yea. Yea. They turned out real good.

BEISEL: Uh huh.

TIPPS: Yea. But them fingernails had a lot to do with that, boy. [laughter]

BEISEL: Well, it sounds like. Yea.

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: I mean yea.

TIPPS: Yea.

KEELING: You were roping in the pasture when you lost your—just catching a cow?

TIPPS: Yea, I was out on Longview highway. [dog panting] Y'all better be careful now, my wife—she'll—I'll tell you what she'll do, she'll contradict everything that I've told y'all.

BEISEL: And you know who we're going to believe, right? [laughter] Hi guys [to dogs] Do you smell mine?

TIPPS: Them dogs will wear you to death now.

BEISEL: Uh huh. [giggling] Doesn't look like they're missing a lot of meals. [laughing]

TIPPS: [clears throat]

BEISEL: Hmmm. I gotta say, something about church. [chuckles] Uh the church has—  
how long has that church been going? You mentioned the Patrick Presbyterian  
Church.

TIPPS: You mean the Presbyterian up here?

BEISEL: Oh yes, sorry.

TIPPS: It's an old— There's pond of water there and that's where that church was at.  
And uh—God that church has been gone fifty years. A long time. Yea.

KEELING: The one at Patrick just shut down uh just last year?

TIPPS: Huh?

KEELING: The one at Patrick.

TIPPS: Oh yea, Patrick, yea.

KEELING: It just shut down this year wasn't it?

TIPPS: But uh, we used to uh—you know you might hear people say something about  
the good ol' days. Them were the good ol' days. Let me tell you why. We  
have a two weeks revival. That was something. And, and we'd hook a team  
up, mamma and daddy would ride. Sometimes we'd run along beside the  
wagon, you know we was cutt'n up. And uh you could be up there at—maybe  
come up a cloud, somebody have cotton in the field or hay, dismissed church,  
everybody take off. Get everybody's cotton in or corn, whatever was out  
there. Whatever they needed to get it done, you know. You find somebody to  
do that now. It ain't that way no more.

BEISEL: Linda, was there anything else that...

REYNOLDS: When you had talked about hunting. I'm wondering what kind of things did you hunt, and did you use a gun?

TIPPS: Do what now?

REYNOLDS: You went hunting. Did you hunt for deer, coon, possum, what kind of things did you hunt?

TIPPS: Yea. We we carried a gun. We—I never did eat no possum. I was a big quail hunter. Now we'd eat quail and squirrel. We'd raised on quail and squirrel. Yea. Maybe every once and a while a rabbit. Yea. [dog panting]

BEISEL: Have you—now there's not a lot of quail left around here is there?

TIPPS: No. Nmm hmm. I used to be the biggest quail hunter in the country and uh fire-ants got all the quail. Ain't no quail no more.

BEISEL: No.

REYNOLDS: Did you clean it yourself or did you have somebody else clean them?

TIPPS: Do what?

REYNOLDS: That when you hunted quail and coon, did you skin them yourself?

TIPPS: The quail?

REYNOLDS: The quail.

TIPPS: Oh yea. [Aside] No, I'm in good shape.

BEISEL: Was there anybody around here that did trapping for furs that you knew about?

TIPPS: Do what?

BEISEL: Did—was there anybody into the fur trapping around here?

TIPPS: Oh yea! [crosstalk] Yea. Yea they trapped uh—I tell you 'bout—that brings me back ol' memories, man. Uh Ira King, did you ever know him?

KEELING: No.

TIPPS: He had a boy named Ross King.

KEELING: Yup.

TIPPS: Okay, Ira King was a bus driver. And every bridge, he had a trap set out. And when he'd get through with his bus route, he'd go by and stop and trap. That was [clears throat] and back then everybody done anything they could to pick up a few dollars. Well, I was trying to make a little ol' cowboy and Graham Hudman had a cow get out. And across the road in some wooded area, and he told me he'd give me ten dollars to catch that cow. He didn't realize, but I would of give him ten dollars to let me, you know I wanted to so bad. When I was right in the woods hunting that cow, and there was an old drop here. And over there was another drop. And a mink started running across from one of those drops to the other one. And I had my lap rope ready and I got to running, and that horse doing this. And I hit him on the head and killed him. And I got him and tied him on my saddle. Went ahead and caught the cow and [dog bark] the next day, [dog lapping water] Ira King give me forty dollars for that mink.

BEISEL: Wow.

TIPPS: I made me fifty bucks that evening. Boy, that was big money, man.

BEISEL: Oh yea.

TIPPS: Mmm hmm. Yea. You don't forget them days. All you gotta do is find somebody to listen to you to tell.

KEELING: That was the first cow you ever caught?

TIPPS: Yea. Mmm hmm.

KEELING: [unclear]

TIPPS: Yea. Yea. [56:59]

REYNOLDS: Do you remember seeing any bear around here?

TIPPS: I've heard of people seeing one, but they may may have been a big coon. [laughs] And and talking about the good ol' days, I 'member when we were still milking cows, right before quitting the dairy business, Mr. Wendell Crowe, his milk cow died. And he come up there and tell about daddy about it, and me and daddy went out there and got a cow. Led that ol' cow out, said, "Where do you live?" Two and half/three miles down there, something like that.

KEELING: Dale and Doc's daddy or?

TIPPS: Huh?

KEELING: Is that Dale and Doc [unclear] daddy or?

TIPPS: Oh no. No, he lived on FM1798.

KEELING: Okay.

TIPPS: Where that fella built that big house down there on the left. They got some kind of business there. Anyway, I'll never forget, daddy carried—we—I went with him, carried that milk cow down there. And Wendell was his name he said, "Aubrey, how long can I keep her?" And daddy said, "'Till you get

through with her.” And as far as I know, he kept that cow [laughs] rest of her life, I dunno. But you can’t find that now. Nmm hmm. [door slams]

BEISEL: No. I have something going in and out of my head. [background conversation]  
Ahh. Alright. I had something just go in and out of my head and I have to think of what it was. You, you said something.

REYNOLDS: I was just talking about bear. If you’ve saw—seen any bear, cougars, or anything like that.

TIPPS: I’ve heard of, I’ve heard of people seeing cougars and lions. But uh I have never seen one and I’ve never seen one, and to tell you the truth, I kinda doubted them seeing one, I don’t know whether they did or not, you know.  
But you know could of, yea.

BEISEL: Now did you all raise any hogs for eating?

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: Did you raise any hogs for eating here.

TIPPS: Oh yea. Mmm hmm. Yea.

BEISEL: Now did you butcher them yourself?

TIPPS: Oh yea. Daddy and them—I never did—I could help them, but them people—them old people knew how to do that. We had a smokehouse. How they cleaned and dressed them hogs. Weren’t no refrigerators or deep freezers or nothing. But they could put that meat in them smokehouses now. They knew how to keep it. And keep it, man. You talking about good. Ooo it was good, boy. Yea.

BEISEL: Did your mother have a vegetable garden or kitchen garden?



TIPPS: Oh yea. Daddy—when we were cleaning on out chicken manure—chicken manure is good fertilizer. And back then it was a lot better than it is now. And that was the first thing we done. Go out there—daddy had two big gardens on each side of the road, and put out that chicken manure on them gardens. And he made himself. And never sold a thing. Give everybody—everybody come pick peas and corn, potatoes, and stuff, you know. He grew two big gardens, yea.

BEISEL: Okay, yea. And your water. I knew there was something else. Water, did you all have a well here? Uh...

TIPPS: Yea. Had a little ol' shallow wells. I think we dug about four or five of them over around daddy's house. And when I built this house in '60, '60 I guess, the man uh give me a turnkey job, three-bedroom brick, no air or nothing, uh \$7,500 and he dug me a well, thirty-six inch well. And uh it it holds—you can take a bath if you didn't get too dirty. You know, you had to get the—you had to try take care of that water, you know. [clears throat] And me and daddy were discussing maybe getting halfway between us and digging a deep water well and Mr. uh uh some Moon fella come through; Virgil Moon. And and he was getting up this water system. And me and daddy—it cost \$50 membership. Me and daddy were charter members on that water system. Yea.

KEELING: And that's Minden-Brachfield Water?

TIPPS: Yea. And that was—that was the best move we ever made. It was good water. Real good water. Yup.

BEISEL: Well, we really appreciate you taking the time to...

TIPPS: Yea, anytime.

BEISEL: ...to talk to us. We enjoyed it. Um very interesting. I like that and I'm not kidding, now I know where to go for hay.

TIPPS: Do what?

BEISEL: Now I know where to come for hay.

TIPPS: You need some hay?

BEISEL: Oh yea, yea.

TIPPS: Huh?

BEISEL: Yea!

TIPPS: I got some hay out there in the barn.

BEISEL: There we go. There we go.

REYNOLDS: [unclear]

BEISEL: My last hay I had hauled down from Kansas City 'cause I didn't like the hay around here.

TIPPS: Is that right?

BEISEL: Yea. So...

TIPPS: What do you feed? Horses?

BEISEL: Yes. Too many people make it for cows and it's not good for horses. Yea.

TIPPS: Let me tell you a story about this hay. You know ol' Jay at the John Deere place?

KEELING: Oh, yea.

TIPPS: What's his last name? Harmon, Hammond, or Mormon, or something like that?

KEELING: Uh... [laughs]

TIPPS: He was wanting some horse hay. I said I got some. He come out here—you done got me started, man. He come out here and and got some. And he carried it in. Two days later he told me, “You messed me up.” [Tipps] “What have I done?” He said, “I went in yesterday and my wife had eight bales of hay stacked outside the barn door.” [Wife said,] “Take this hay and put it in a dump somewhere. Them horses won’t eat it.” He said, “You done messed me up.” I said, “I got some more hay.” Well, he had a friend—this is this last week he called me. He had a horse, he didn’t have a place to keep him or something. Anyway, Jay kept him. Well he wound up—you know how them deals is, wound up keeping him a lot longer than he intended to. The man had come got him. And offered to pay Jay. [Jay] said, “You can’t pay me nothing, you don’t owe me nothing.” He said, “I tell you what, I got fifty bales of good hay, so I’ll bring that hay over to give you.” He said, “Okay.” He brought that hay over and give you. He brought that hay over and give to him. He called me the next morning. He said, “You want that hay?” He said, “Them horses won’t even look at it.” [laughter] But I got some good hay.

BEISEL: Alright. Well...

KEELING: I’m, I’m going to ask you, do you remember the first tractor your daddy ever bought?

TIPPS: Do what?

KEELING: The first tractor that was ever on this place.

TIPPS: Yea, my brother he worked—he left here and went to work Chance Vought Aircraft in Grand Prairie in 19, in 1951. He bought a Super-A, a little ol' Super A Farmall with a plow. And that tractor is over at Gayland Keeling's now. Yup.

KEELING: One more thing, I know there were lots of stories come out of the roping pen and that—Tell them about Mr. Turner [unclear].

TIPPS: Oh. [laughs] He drank quite a bit. And he brought his—I got—I guess that's the only story I know about him. He come over here—he rode that horse over there I guess, didn't he? Anyway he come over, he wanted to rope goats. And he was—he was pretty tight. And uh and he wasn't in no shape to be roping a goat, you know. And he wanted me to try his horse. I said okay. So I got on the horse and he was sitting up on the, on the fence there. And just 'bout the time I called for that goat, he made a dive and jumped on that horse and caught me. [laughter] We didn't catch the goat, but we made a run.

KEELING: He made the run with you.

TIPPS: Yea. [laughing]

KEELING: And he was right on up in years too, wasn't he?

TIPPS: [laughing] Yea. Yup, he was something else. He had uh—he had a good lil' old horse. But, he wasn't in no shape to be riding.

REYNOLDS: Do you know of any moonshining that was done here?

TIPPS: Any what?

REYNOLDS: Anybody that did moonshine here. That made moonshine.

KEELING: Whiskey.

REYNOLDS: Whiskey. Anybody that—Did you know anybody that made whiskey in the area illegally? Like a still in their backyard or anything like that?

TIPPS: That did what now?

KEELING: Made whiskey.

TIPPS: Oh no, no. Nuh uh. I know uh a lot of people that made homebrew. Yea, now boy, homebrew was a—it was pretty popular around here. In fact—well, my daddy's uncle, my great uncle I guess uh he had a system over there, a big hole, it's still over there. A big hole in the ground. You had water run off your house, you know and it gets in that cistern. And uh and I don't know what was wrong with him. He went to the doctor and the doctor put him on homebrew. And he he made his own homebrew. Yea. Yup. There's a lot of people made homebrew.

BEISEL: Did most people just drink it at home? There wasn't a lot of selling of it?

TIPPS: Not much, no. Nmm hmm. No.

BEISEL: Okay.

TIPPS: Uh you 'member Deb Hunt?

KEELING: Mmm hmm.

TIPPS: His wife's daddy lived down the road across the road from—in there behind that Wiley meadow. [clears throat] And I was baling that hay up—we was gonna play Forty-Two that night. And um I was over there baling hay with a coat on, it was cold, boy in the fall. And I come out and Mr. Jameson flagged me down, "Come here boy." And I went down there and he had uh uh a big refrigerator laying down. And he reached up and pulled the lid up and you

couldn't stack another bottle of homebrew in that refrigerator. I mean, it fit in there perfect. "Get you one of them, boy. Get you two of them, boy." So I put one in each coat pocket. Over where my pick up was at. Loaded up my tractor and come home. Couldn't wait to treat my friends with a little homebrew that night. Fellow, that was—the worst mess you ever put in your mouth, boy! [laughter] Ain't nobody want that now. I throwed it away. But he thought he'd give me something now. Yup.

BEISEL: Well.

TIPPS: Now then, I'm gonna tell y'all a cowboy story. And you know, I'm kinda telling you what kind of a cowboy I was. I helped a lot of people. Still do. This old lady—I had a tranquilizer gun, they called me Doc Tarly. [laughter] I wore that gun out shooting cows. And that old lady yelled at the Summerfield Sale Barn. Ms. Paxton, she called me. She went and got a cow, calf's hung up, and the vet won't come until she got her up, and said I got no place to get her up. Her husband had been dead about twenty years. And they had them old longhorns [unclear] cow. She didn't have no pen. I went over with the tranquilizer gun and shot that cow. That was about a \$125 job. Far as I had to go. And she asked me what it was gonna cost her. And I could tell when I got over there that I wasn't in no money situation. I said, "Oh about \$50." She said, "Well, I ain't got the \$50. It's gonna take every dime I got to pay that vet." And I thought to myself I am more important than that vet is, you know. If it wasn't for me that vet wouldn't be here, you know. I was just thinking that. He got Dr. Rumbo.

KEELING: Yea.

TIPPS: He come out there. Charged \$103. Well, she had—her husband used to spray pipelines. And he had uh a water pump, had Rex wrote on it, on little iron wheels, had a tongue on it he could let down in a creek and, to get it to spray, you know to spray pipeline right-of-ways and stuff. And she said, “I’ve been trying to sell that old pump for years.” (she) said, “Won’t nobody offer to take it.” Went out there about two months and she called me again, “Wayne, I got another one.” This one was coming backwards. And uh I went over there and I shot her. And I said, “Ms. Paxton, what do you want for that pump?” She said, “I want \$50 for it.” I said uh, “I’m gonna take that pump.” She said, “Now Wayne, I need my \$50. I got to have it to pay this vet.” Here again! Well, I’m [unclear]. She called Dr. Corley. She said, “I’m gonna try Dr. Corley, maybe he’ll be a little cheaper.” And he was a dollar cheaper. He charged her \$102. Anyway we got through, and the cow was a little paralyzed. This was Christmas week. And uh and I said, “Dr. Corley, why don’t you help me load that old pump.” I gave her a check for \$50. We got it in there and I come in, ol’ Lee Ables up here, you know. They fool that stuff at [unclear] junk, and stuff [unclear] and stuff. I pulled in there, he’s come out there talking. He says, “What you got there?” I said, “That’s an old Rex water pump.” That’s his brother’s name, see. And I say, “I was just wondering maybe Rex lost that thing somewhere.” He said uh, “What do you want for that thing?” I said, “\$150.” [laughing] He jerked out that billfold and gave me three fifties, you know. I come on home, called Ms. Paxton. I said, “Ms.

Paxton, do you believe in Santa Claus?" She said, "I wish I could." I told her what happened. I said I got my \$50 back and I got the two fifties you owed me. I said we even. And I said that ought to be Santa Claus. She went to crying. I mean squalling pretty good, you know. Went on there two or three days and I tried to call that woman to see how her cow was doing 'cause she was a little bit paralyzed, you know. Her phone was busy busy busy. And after awhile, I got her. I said, "Ms. Paxton, I've been trying to call you to check on that cow and your phone's been busy." She said, "Wayne, I've been on that phone telling everybody about Santa Claus." [laughter] I'm through!

BEISEL: Well, we appreciate it very much.

TIPPS: Yea, man.

BEISEL: Thank you. [1:11:48]