

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
NOEL GRANT, NEIL GRANT,
& GREG GRANT

JULY 25, 2014

ARCADIA, TEXAS

ORAL HISTORY #1087

INTERVIEWED BY LINDA REYNOLDS, PERKY BEISEL, & KELLEY

SNOWDEN

ORAL HISTORY #140725

EAST TEXAS RESEARCH CENTER

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EDITORIAL NOTICE

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Kurt Terry transcribed this interview in September 2015. Perky Beisel reviewed the draft of this transcript. Kurt Terry incorporated his corrections into this final transcript in April 2016.

RESTRICTION

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ABSTRACT

Noel D. Grant discusses his life in Arcadia, Texas during the 1940s and 1950s. He recollects his time removing ticks from cows with dipping vats during the East Texas tick infestation of the 1940s. In addition, Noel Grant talks about his experience at school in Arcadia and Timpson. Greg Grant takes Dr. Perky Beisel, Dr. Kelley Snowden, Linda Reynolds, and Hope Hallmark on a tour of Arcadia. Greg Grant talks of his life as a child visiting Arcadia and about the stories passed onto him from other citizens of the community. The group also surveys surrounding houses, structures, and other buildings that make up the Arcadia Community.

People Mentioned: Layne Dunn, Evan McWilliams, Troy Franks, Effie McWilliams, Peggy Harden, Jim Crawford, Jess Long, Virgil Emmon, Edith Warren, Albert Lilly, I. Z. Baker, Andrew Mena, Jewel Jones, Olen Oliver, Jack Warren, Van Bishop, Lee Bishop, Dalton Pate, Bob Pate, Flossie Pate, Rachel Pate, Mariah Powdrill, Johnny Jones, Etta Jones, Jewel Jones, Steve Hartz, Gus Block, Dean Lilly, Danny Lilly, Frank Neal, Lizzy Neal, Durwood Neal, Melissa Smith Inman, Joseph Smith, John Inman, Jess Amason, Homer Bryce, Amos Bryce, Emory Bryce, Sidney Johnson, Hoyle Johnson, Doyle Johnson, Alcine Johnson, Alice Johnson, Harris Prince, May Powdrill, Warner Powdrill, Lionel Powdrill, John Powdrill, Will Chapman, Henry Grant, Noel Grant, Neil Grant, Ruth Grant, Jake Smith, Dee Smith, Jim Crawford, Gladys Crawford, James Crawford, Wilda Crawford, Roger Dudley, Norris Dudley, Jack Emanis, Philip House, Carl Peace, Lee Patterson, Annie Patterson, Buford Patterson, Ralph Gillespie, Maggie Gillespie, Mirt

Patterson, Shirley Patterson, Joy Covington, Van Hughes, Elva
Hughes, Joy Livingston, Joe Oliver, Ivis Oliver, Mary Crawford, May
Grant, Rueben Smith, Drew McCauley

Places Mentioned: Arcadia, Texas; Huber, Texas; Stockman, Texas; Center, Texas;
Diboll, Texas; Temple Industries; Walnut Grove Hill; Wheeler
Cemetery; Aiken, Texas; Bishop Hill; Jennyville Community; Myrtle
Springs, Henderson County, Texas; Pleasant Grove Cemetery;
Snowhill Community, Texas;

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NOEL GRANT: [unclear] I don't know that's his real name or not, but that is what he was named down here.

NEIL GRANT: In late thirties, wasn't it?

NOEL GRANT: Have to be.

NEIL GRANT: You were born in thirty-four and said you were a little kid before started school.

NOEL GRANT: Started school. It be the late thirties.

NEIL GRANT: Thirty-eight or nine probably.

NOEL GRANT: Yea...Yea. They'd get their water right here...Has to be a spring water hole. I don't know how long it's been there, but it's been there...

NEIL GRANT: It never goes dry.

NOEL GRANT: It never goes dry. [walking] That's where they got their water.

NEIL GRANT: And the dipping vat was to eliminate tick fever, wasn't it?

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

NEIL GRANT: For cattle?

NOEL GRANT: Had to of been.

NEIL GRANT: Federal mandate, I think. Everybody had to do it?

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

NEIL GRANT: Every community had a dipping vat.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

NEIL GRANT: They build a pen out of poles and wood and uh, force the cattle in it and force them to jump off into that vat and get...swim to the other end and get soaked and kill all the ticks.



NOEL GRANT: When they come out they had them concrete deals up there. And then they came out with that mixture of water and that dip would drain back in that...when they swam across. They didn't have...I don't imagine it was uh...I don't know how deep it was, but they weren't in

twenty...twenty foot of water...And that dip, whatever kind of dip it was.

LINDA REYNOLDS: Like what was in the dip itself?

NOEL GRANT: I don't have no idea.

REYNOLDS: Just chemicals or whatever they've threw in there I'm presuming?

NEIL GRANT: [unclear] soap

NOEL GRANT: I imagine it's just like you buy dip to dip your dogs and stuff in. We used to dip them in fifty-five-gallon barrels. Keep the ticks off. The mange or whatever. Yea.

PERKY BEISEL: All-right, so where was the vat?

NOEL GRANT: Right up there.

[walking up the hill from the car]

BEISEL: Did they just leave the water in there?

NOEL GRANT: Yea. [unclear]

[crosstalk]

NEIL GRANT: [Unclear], when you get through showing them around, lock the gate. I'll see you up there, we'll build that fence.

NOEL GRANT: I'll be up there.

NEIL GRANT: I'll head up that way.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Sounds like fun.

NOEL GRANT: Actually, you didn't have no pens or nothing to work cattle with like you got today. [walking]

BEISEL: Now were these...this was the...

NOEL GRANT: Steps where they walked up on it.

BEISEL: Walked up in.

NOEL GRANT: Mmm hmm. Come out down there and were they'd drain...on the other end...yea, that mess, We'd be involved in this here...I got involved over here back in the...I don't know when I got involved in this. They had to sit these here down in this concrete. [looking at posts]

REYNOLDS: That's what I was looking at.

NOEL GRANT: You know I don't understand that either. I've looked at that a lot.

BEISEL: Was there a wooden railing, perhaps?

NOEL GRANT: Oh yea. [crosstalk] It was wood.

BEISEL: Okay, so...[crosstalk]

NOEL GRANT: Around here...

BEISEL: Uh, huh.

NOEL GRANT: Down there, and then they had pens built back out through here.
[crosstalk] They go back and get their water.

BEISEL: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: But I don't know how they... See those just looks, huh [unclear] That
had to set down on here see?

BEISEL: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: I don't understand why they had that on top.

BEISEL: Right. Now what would the...

HOPE HALLMARK: That's just nails they stuck in the concrete. [crosstalk]

NOEL GRANT: Yea. And unless...I don't know. I've thought a lot about that.

HALLMARK: They probably had a two-by-four they held to it...

NOEL GRANT: Yup. That's what it was.

HALLMARK: ...you know, nailed down to it, and then built like a railing or
something.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, they may have had this here. Two-by-four up here. I don't know,
it just looks backards to me.

REYNOLDS: So, where would they bring the cattle in from here...that. Was that?

NOEL GRANT: Through this end here.

HALLMARK: They came up these steps. Jumped off in there. [crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Oh. So they had to jump? [laughter]

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

HALLMARK: Once you corralled them. [laughter] So this is deep as a cow?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, huh...

REYNOLDS: It's pretty deep.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I don't know how deep it was. [looking down into the vat]



KELLEY SNOWDEN: They run the cattle down a ramp into a vat
[unclear/walking]

[walking]

NOEL GRANT: Well it worked. [walking] And this here, see, where they drained back in there?

BEISEL: Uh, huh.

NOEL GRANT: They'd walk out. It wasn't very deep. But I yea, it had to be deep so it go up on their back.

HALLMARK: It have to... Yea, deep as a cow.

[crosstalk]

SNOWDEN: [unclear] The roots have pushed all together with that aisle-way...it's gotta be three-and-a-half-feet, four-feet wide.

BEISEL: Yea, Yea. It's probably about four-feet.

NOEL GRANT: Now see, right down in here is where it is all broken up...[crosstalk]

BEISEL: Be right in here it is a more upright.

REYNOLDS: Oh, okay.

HALLMARK: It gets deep in the middle probably, and then gets gradually...

NOEL GRANT: But a lot of them went up, I remember when they'd jump up in there...that they...most of them would get enough up there on top of their back [background noise] and then they'd walk out of here. Get right up there. And take them back, yea that's uh...[walking]

HALLMARK: I wonder how deep that is?

BEISEL: Oh, over here.

REYNOLDS: It's like they walk up there that way, huh?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, they walk right out of here.

REYNOLDS: Made a right.

[background crosstalk]

NOEL GRANT: Yea, that's been some armadillars and stuff. It was neat, as far as I was concerned.

BEISEL: Oh, I bet, I bet that that would [crosstalk] have been quite fun.
[crosstalk]

NOEL GRANT: Huh?

BEISEL: I bet that was quite neat to watch.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I tell you what a lot of people... don't know what one is.
[walking][background] All of this had to be poured by hand and mixed up and set in concrete, those old concrete mixers.

BEISEL: Hmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, there is a lot of concrete there.

BEISEL: It's...this was an investment.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

[background crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Yea, I was thinking I walked through poison ivy already. I see some like...

BEISEL: Yea. [chuckles]

REYNOLDS: Yea. [walking] So, when did they stop using this?

NOEL GRANT: You know, I don't know...I'm going to say, huh...I'm going to say they started to stop using this in the '40s. By '50...Yea, they had to stop, stop using it in the '40s.

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: I graduated in '52... In the '40s.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: In the—I don't know when they started using it.

SNOWDEN: They could have been could be using it for a while.

NOEL GRANT: But, huh, I remember when I was just, before I ever started school, ride behind him on that horse. [background]

BEISEL: We need to pull the aerals and see if we can find it.

SNOWDEN: It will be easy to find.

NOEL GRANT: So, and huh, I bet this was built in about 1930. [crosstalk] I'm guessing that. There ought to be a record somewhere. I don't know if they kept records or not.

REYNOLDS: Ah, it is pretty well made.

NOEL GRANT: Huh?

REYNOLDS: It is pretty well made.

NOEL GRANT: It is. You bet.

REYNOLDS: The only reason that moved was because the tree.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

BEISEL & SNOWDEN: [background conversation]

NOEL GRANT: It takes [unclear]...it takes...there is a lot of work put in it.

BEISEL: Oh...A lot of work.

NOEL GRANT: We had a lot of ticks in the '50s. We still had some ticks in the '60s. But that was when getting to where you could spray them, see. With a hand spray or off the tractor. I used to spray a lot of them on the tractor... This here wasn't nothin' but work. [laughter] Had to.

REYNOLDS: Just getting the water in there.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Herding the cows through there.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, and bring your cows for two or three miles. [walking] That's when you didn't have any gentle cows hardly. Unless they were your milk cows. You didn't have no [unclear] My dad and them had some good cow dogs. And huh, wasn't many border collies though. Yea, I ain't never...

REYNOLDS: Yea, I'm walking through poison ivy again.

[crosstalk]

NOEL GRANT: That's three leaf ain't it.

REYNOLDS: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: I was like, I just walked through a whole bunch of poison ivy... I'm not touching my shoes.

NOEL GRANT: I ain't ever had no trouble with it. I tell you what, we got more dog gone wasp this year out. And uh, yellow jackets.

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: I have been in two yellow jackets mowing. And uh, these little bluebird houses that Greg's got put up. You can just about count on being a wasp nest in one out of every ten.

BEISEL: Really?

NOEL GRANT: I've used uh, two cans of that spray on top of these martin houses, these uh bluebird houses... This here this here is an old landmark as far as I'm concerned.

BEISEL: Oh, ya.

REYNOLDS: I was thinking, if this was still usable I'd fill it with water and swim back and forth.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I tell you what, I wished it was.

HALLMARK: Yea, clean it up a little bit and put a park here.

[laughter]

NOEL GRANT: I was gonna get Greg to check with Layne Dunn, our uh, county extension agent to see if he ever knew what a dipping vat was, but I ain't done it.

SNOWDEN & HALLMARK: [background conversation]

REYNOLDS: Yea, these nails...

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I wondering about that.

REYNOLDS: ...just there...I can see where they need to build up tall fences, but if the cows were all the way down in there, why would you need to have...hmm

NOEL GRANT: You had the pens on the end, and then up here... This here wasn't a pen. Yea, I have been trying to find somebody's initials in it, but I ain't never found nobody's in none of it.

REYNOLDS: Okay, when you pour concrete somebody always writes something in there.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, and I haven't found it down here. I've looked here long, back in the '60s.

REYNOLDS: There I go again walking through the poison ivy. Poison Ivy. Poison Ivy.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I sprayed a lot of that stuff this year...with a hand sprayer on these fence rows.

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: There...here is some more steps over here.

REYNOLDS: I was wondering if that is what this was, looking over here this concrete.

[automobile passes]

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Going down the county.

REYNOLDS: It's kind of cool though...to survive this long.

NOEL GRANT: Yea...shoot eighty years? It's old, I'm fixin' to be eighty in September.

REYNOLDS: Ah, you're still young. [chuckles]

NOEL GRANT: I don't feel it. I've been blessed with good health.

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: [unclear] old pine log parts left under that little old tree...

REYNOLDS: Looks like termites.

NOEL GRANT: I guess. That ain't real, that ain't really, little old knots on the end would be good, rich in pine. [looking at pine log-starter log]

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: You can't hardly split them with an axe though.

REYNOLDS: It's actually a quiet area though.

NOEL GRANT: Huh?

REYNOLDS: It's nice and quiet. Out here.

NOEL GRANT: Oh yea. We've got the best community out here is uh...

REYNOLDS: That's what I like.

NOEL GRANT: ...drug free.

REYNOLDS: That's the big thing, you don't have the meth-heads.

NOEL GRANT: Over here this used to be the Crawford place. We wound up gettn', the house and five acres they inherited. There been a few crackheads over there, but they uh...they didn't last long. They wound up in the penitentiary. Ain't nobody live in the house no more... Yea. We ain't gonna put up with it.

REYNOLDS: Nah huh, Nah huh. You don't need that kind of...

NOEL GRANT: We ain't gonna have it. This community out here is safe for anybody. Handicapped, old people, young kids. [walking] The only thing we

don't like is speeders. They'll/it's 138...they don't need to put yellow stripes in it. It don't mean a damn thing.

REYNOLDS: Nope.

NOEL GRANT: No, it don't. You get more, you get more respect from drivers on 138 out of these uh, gas [car passes by] people trucks...than you do automobiles. The people uses it. Yea, sure do.

REYNOLDS: Well it's uh, I guess a quick way to get from Garrison to Center.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, from Center. Mmm hmm, yea. I remember when they built the road.

REYNOLDS: She's like, nope. [chuckles]

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

HALLMARK: I go through Timpson.

REYNOLDS: Oh, go through Timpson?

HALLMARK: If I go down 138, I invariably get behind somebody hauling a load of hay.

[laughter]

NOEL GRANT: Yea, Yea. Where do you live at?

HALLMARK: I live in Garrison...

NOEL GRANT: You do?

HALLMARK: ...but I have to go to Center at least twice a month.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Yea, I remember when that road was built to Center. We got out of hospital polio, whenever it was... bout uh, '48 or '50. About '50 I guess. They was building that farm road 138 from Center to Arcadia.

REYNOLDS: Was it just a dirt road?

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Before then and then they actually paved it?

NOEL GRANT: Yea. We was go to town in a wagon, once a month. [car passes]
Whatever and uh, yea. Pick your cotton...you'd haul it...had a cotton gin in, uh Arcadia, Effie McWilliams did. Drew McCullough had one in uh, Huber, and they had one in uh, Stockman, Troy Franks owned it, and they had one in Center. Yea. You'd stick your head up in that shoot, it was about the size of a basketball...if you got any ticks in your hair or your head, it just suck them ticks out and put them in that bale of cotton. [laughter] Yea. That's the only way we could get our hair washed is if we went down to the in the cotton gin. [laughter] Yea. Oh, yea. That bale of cotton, good cotton, uh, would average, bale would weigh 500 pounds of cotton. Baled. You would bring the cotton seed home with ya and feed your cattle. Yea, it good. That's what they make cotton seed meal out of. Yea. You see these pine trees?

REYNOLDS: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: I was involved with Temple and them, uh, with a company I was with, a for Temple in Diboll on the right. There's a board and chemical place down there. And back on past it, where that firewood place is, they built uh, syrup mill... it all comes out of this resin out of your trees. Every piece of pipe, cookers all in it, was stainless steel. And this liquid lick you feed your cattle and stuff to... that's where it started at right down there. It's good lick. Yea. You can have it any way you want it. That's where it started. Back about in '70... I don't know when it started. Somewhere in the '70s, middle '70s. [traffic in background] Yea. You bet. That's where... they may have some more somewhere, I don't know. Yea, that's a pine knot there. I guarantee you won't split it with an axe. And if you got a good skill saw, it'll dull that blade nearly to smoke. You can smell that resin.

GREG GRANT: The bigger it is, stronger it smells, better the quality.

BEISEL: Uh huh.

GREG GRANT: A blind man can pick up the good stuff.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. That's what they make turpentine out of too, ain't it? Pine resin.

GREG GRANT: Use pine, my grandma used pine-sol to clean the house. She used turpentine for fire ants and flies. Lighter pine to start the fire and the house is built out of pine [crosstalk].

BEISEL: Yep.

NOEL GRANT: A lot of these old houses out here is got uh, is, got's 1x4 in it that's heart pine, or more or less heart pine. Maybe not as rich as that is.

[background crosstalk]

BEISEL: Well, I am going to be the rude one and say we have to start driving.

REYNOLDS: Okay. We have to start driving.

HALLMARK: We have to start driving.

BEISEL: We can start getting more places. [crosstalk] I'm so glad you were here today...you were able to come out. I appreciate it.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Anytime.

BEISEL: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: I think uh, they uh, I didn't know it, but they sposed to be one of these on top of Walnut Grove Hill.

BEISEL: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: Like you goes, [FM] 1645 it runs out comes in...it's a dirt road. Comes out at Aiken, where the beauty shop on the right. I didn't know it... but I hear there's a one...just, it's a top of Walnut Grove Hill, there's a...Wheeler Cemetery. It's all growed up, I guess.

BEISEL: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: It's before you get to it...on the left. And I'm gonna find it.

BEISEL: Okay. All right. You find it...

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I'll find it.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

BEISEL: Then come see me. Yea, yea.

NOEL GRANT: But that makes sense. It's about three or four miles down there.

BEISEL: See, that'd be...

NOEL GRANT: That'd fit out different communities. Aiken...down in there. Shit yes.

BEISEL: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: I don't know nothing about one nowhere else. Cause [unclear] you'd be lucky to get out of your front yard.

BEISEL: Right. Yea.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

BEISEL: Well, and you know [crosstalk] and you would never know.

NOEL GRANT: No, you never know.

BEISEL: Yea. No, I am so glad that we can have this, cause I...

NOEL GRANT: I tell you what that ought to do good in anybody's school or college of history or something. I don't know...

BEISEL: Yea.

NOEL GRANT: But ticks were ticks then.

BEISEL: Oh yea.

NOEL GRANT: You'd walk around out here like we are doing today and you'd be wrapped up in seed ticks.

BEISEL: Ohhh.

NOEL GRANT: Those little ol' bitty things about the size of the end of a needle.

BEISEL: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: I'd just have those big ones.

REYNOLDS: Yea, they're easy to see.

NOEL GRANT: You'd have to dip your dogs, once, at least twice a month. Ticks all over them. Full of blood. Yea. And if you didn't get that head out...it'd stay in there and be a little growth in it. Yea, bad news.

BEISEL: Really bad news.

NOEL GRANT: A longtime ago, water used to slap across this creek, this bridge here.

BEISEL: Huh.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. All across it.

BEISEL: Wow.

NOEL GRANT: You bet. We used to get some rains.

BEISEL: Mmm hmm.

NOEL GRANT: And all these little springs...and these shallow wells this time of year, say your shallow well is thirty-foot deep, and you'd have but twenty

foot of water in it. I'd check them all the time. Not all the time, but every year, two/three times in the winter. There ain't none of them over five-foot deep now.

BIESEL: Really?

NOEL GRANT: That's how much our water table has sunk. And all these little ol' branches like this where they had holes of water standing, little washed out sloughs, you'd catch little catfish and bring them and haul some fish in them. They never did go dry.

BEISEL: Really?

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

BEISEL: Today...

NOEL GRANT: Ain't none. Ain't none in them. If the water table drops as much in the next seventy, eighty years it has now, this country gonna, Texas is just gonna be in trouble. Everywhere, even Dallas around there anyway.

REYNOLDS: They're in trouble already.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

BEISEL: Yea, that's why they want our water.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, we better keep our water...because there ain't none up there.

REYNOLDS: Na.

BEISEL: Nope.

REYNOLDS: Okay, so what's our next move?

BEISEL: Uh, next move is we just start driving the roads. So...

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: What you looking for?

BEISEL: Uh, we, we have to go down each road.

NOEL GRANT: Do ya?

BEISEL: Just see...and to record...

REYNOLDS: to buildings and...

BEISEL: ...everything on each road. So we have a map and we are just going to cross off the roads.

NOEL GRANT: Ya'll need to go... on old home places.

GREG GRANT: Good lord, we gotta get moving, shut up.

[laughter]

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Hey, take them by ol' Lilly house. Ol' Bryce house.

BEISEL: Oh yea, we are going to hit them all.

GREG GRANT: What am I bringing this for?

NOEL GRANT: Yea. I tell you what, they's a lot of them.

BEISEL: Yea. Yea. That's what we're...

NOEL GRANT: Cause that's actually ain't in this community.

BEISEL: Right. Well, we're just gonna do a five-mile radius. So we hit...

NOEL GRANT: You'll catch that, that'll go to Huber.

BEISEL: Mmm Hmm. Yup, it goes up to Huber. Yea, pretty much everybody who would have been coming to Arcadia.

NOEL GRANT: [crosstalk] No other.

GREG GRANT: I gotta leave at noon, so then you're in charge of them.

REYNOLDS: Uh oh.

BEISEL: Uh oh.

GREG GRANT: I'm doing the city limits and you're doing the suburbs.

[laughter]

NOEL GRANT: That'll be alright.

[laughter]

[walking] [crosstalk]

[END CLIP 23:48]

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BEISEL: E-F-F-I-E as opposed to initials.

REYNOLDS: Effie McWilliams?

GREG GRANT: I think my grandparents leased some of the land sometime and farmed some of it between here and there. I told him to come down here, but he didn't listen to me.

REYNOLDS: Well, he said he was...

GREG GRANT: But anyway, it was the prettiest. I mean, all the other barns were neat looking and utilitarian and this was like a showy thing. And it was big, and it had like stuff on top and it was a beautiful thing.

REYNOLDS: [chuckles] I am in charge of recording.

GREG GRANT: Somewhere as a child I have a snapshot of it. [unclear]

[walking]

HALLMARK: Was there a house here to?

GREG GRANT: Not, I am sure at some point there was, but not me in my life time. And I don't remember anything about any McWilliams or any of that.

REYNOLDS: So you actually seen it as a whole structure?

GREG GRANT: Mmm hmm. As a kid. It's been falling apart for twenty years now. [walking] It was cool looking and it didn't have the timber thing [unclear]. [walking] Anyway. The school is just up at the next road,

but I thought while we were swinging by it. I say the school, where the school used to be. [unclear] [walking] [unclear]

SNOWDEN: Okay, walk me through this Dr. Beisel so...

BEISEL: Just put...it's uh, uh, agricultural use and... uh, let's call it, and it should be...

[Recording stops and restarts at old school site]

NOEL GRANT: [unclear]

REYNOLDS: A cookhouse?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, for the school kids. I remember when that old tree was nearby that big in the '50s. The '40s.

REYNOLDS: Uh, the hardwood.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: That little house sat right there.

[automobile]

GREG GRANT: Arcadia and Cooper consolidated.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. They was a concrete uh, tough about ten foot long and had about, I don't know, some little faucet you would mash to get your drinking water out of and set it right here on this side of that tree.

G. GRANT: Building was on the other side of the road, right?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, the school...

REYNOLDS: The school's there or the, the kitchen or cookhouse was over here on this side.

NOEL GRANT: Yea and then when we, had a tornado come through and tore it down.
GET IN! [directed at dog] And uh, and some of that tin came all the way, Greg over there mamma's bottom.

GREG GRANT: Wow.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Yup. That's when we went to Timpson's school.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: That's when we started riding the school bus.

REYNOLDS: The tornado tore down the schoolhouse, so they started bussing you in.



NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Did the cookhouse survive the tornado at all?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, it didn't even touch it. Yea, I don't know whatever what happened to it.

REYNOLDS: Was it, was it a wood structure?

NOEL GRANT: Huh?

REYNOLDS: Was it a wood structure?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, it was wood.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: It was about a twenty, it was about a twenty-by-twenty.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: Like that, right out there.

REYNOLDS: It was a...but what the kitchen look like when you walked in? It was just, did it have, huh...

NOEL GRANT: It. Kitchen was in the back. Had two tables on the sides, four chairs to sit at. [background clashing]

REYNOLDS: Gas stove? Wood Stove?

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Gas stove?

NOEL GRANT: Gas, yea. Mmm hmm

REYNOLDS: Icebox?

NOEL GRANT: Yea...Yea.

REYNOLDS: How many students would be able to eat in the building?

NOEL GRANT: You know, I may...oh, they could have been probably twenty.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. I don't remember how many we had in school. We had about, I'm gonna say around twenty kids in this school. Might have been more than that. Had them big potbellied wood heaters. In the community, we cut the wood, and we'd get over here and uh, have uh, fire built. Some us boys. I don't know if we was, if was our project or what, but that was what we would do before the teachers would get there we get there before school. We walked two miles. Well, it's over two miles from here to where we lived up there. Everyday. Yea.

REYNOLDS: Who would do the cooking? Would you guys just bring your lunch? Or would you have hot meals?

NOEL GRANT: No, they'd have...my grandma cooked in it. And I believe, and uh, I forget, I don't remember who else cooked helped her. I think our lunches...I don't know...a dollar a week. I don't member. Yea.

REYNOLDS: I figure if grandma cooked it, she'd give you a free meal. [chuckles]

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Uh, I don't know where they got their food at.

REYNOLDS: What kind, what kind of meals would she cook for ya? In general.

NOEL GRANT: They'd just uh, bout what you'd eat at home.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. It was the best food. It wasn't potpies. Yea.

REYNOLDS: Better school lunches than some kids get now.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, I tell you what, yea, you could eat on them. This school was the best school. I imagine this school was uh, it was uh. probably two hundred, it was probably a hundred feet or better. It had a stage in there. People come up there have singings. Different people had their little country bands and come over here and play. Yea.

REYNOLDS: So, it was, it was uh, more than just a school. Like on nights and weekends it would serve...

NOEL GRANT: It would serve a lot of community get-togethers. I guess you'd call it.

REYNOLDS: A community hall where you would just have gatherings, and?

NOEL GRANT: Yea, it was. Sure was.

REYNOLDS: I'm just thinking about the hot lunches, like wow. [chuckles]

NOEL GRANT: Yea, we didn't understand all that.

REYNOLDS: Did you have that same kind of thing when you went to Timpson.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Yea. At Timpson they was, had a lot of students up there. I remember when we rode the bus up there... this boy that got off from

wherever and when school starting they had a sidewalk out front and it is still up there. You got off that bus, and boys on, and boys on both sides of that sidewalk with a belt and you got off that bus you went down that sidewalk and got your ass whooped. I'm serious. I'm serious. I'd imagine they'd be...they might be seventy-five kids on each side. [unclear] hell, well anyway, I'm gonna say six, fifty; sixty-yards long. Yea, that's what [unclear].

REYNOLDS: Any particular reason why they'd do this?

NOEL GRANT: Na, that's just initiation. Hell, that was fun. Then we'd got to be involved in the next year, see? Yea.

GREG GRANT: Was that the end of the school when the tornado tore it up, or did it...

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

GREG GRANT: ...basically...outgrow it's use?

NOEL GRANT: I'd believe it, I'd believe that ended it. You know I can't answer that for sure.

GREG GRANT: Cause it seems like I have a picture from Reginald of some building, I have to show it to you. Looked like then maybe repairing it.

NOEL GRANT: Well they might have [automobile passes] I don't remember.

GREG GRANT: At some point you probably didn't have enough people out here too.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

GREG GRANT: [unclear due background noises]

NOEL GRANT: Yea, we need, we need this belt line in these schools today when you get off the bus like we got at Timpson.

GREG GRANT: Now's it true that...that you and your, you'd get off the bus when you'd get to Timpson and spend the day in town having a good time?

NOEL GRANT: Well, hell we'd, they'd stop pick kids up, we'd get out the backdoor.

GREG GRANT: And that the principal came and told your momma you weren't going to graduate...

NOEL GRANT: Yea, Yea. [crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: And he said you didn't come to school. And she said you go to school every day.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Did. Then get your ass whooped for lying.

GREG GRANT: So you actually made it to Timpson every day, but didn't actually make it to the school.

NOEL GRANT: Yea. Na, hey, and then get off and then when you get off...going to school...

GREG GRANT: Catch the bus back home like mass transit.

NOEL GRANT: And go to hitchhiking and then go to Center or wherever. And then the damn teacher Mr. Starky was start hunting us and we'd watch them

and they little hay barns going to Timpson on the right. We'd set up in them watch them drive up and down the highway.

GREG GRANT: [laughing]

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

GREG GRANT: [still laughing] But you managed to go to enough that they gave you a diploma and gotcha out of there. [laughing]

REYNOLDS: They didn't want him coming back.

NOEL GRANT: Yea, it was enough.

G. GRANT: Might your momma threatened to beat you to death?

NOEL GRANT: Well, I don't member. We didn't...I don't remember all that. I member...But anyway...

GREG GRANT: Do you remember ever going to school?

NOEL GRANT: ... my sub... my favorite subject was typing...

GREG GRANT: Typing?

NOEL GRANT: ... and uh, yea, I got up to eighty-six words...

GREG GRANT: In a day?

NOEL GRANT: ...I think it was eighty-six. What was, what do you gotta have to type to pass? Sixty-eight?

GREG GRANT: I don't know, I never took one.

NOEL GRANT: Anyway, I got to where I could do that. I gave Peggy Harden a dollar a week to type my budgets.

GREG GRANT: [laughter] All right.

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

GREG GRANT: We'll keep going down this road here.

NOEL GRANT: Type our budgets.

REYNOLDS: [unclear]

NOEL GRANT: Then we'd get outta school we'd steal Jim Crawford's...steal um, these eggs up here from...sell'em at the store in the evening and buy cigarettes with...Long. Jess Long I believe was his name. And then we got stopped doing that. We didn't have enough sense to bring them the next morning, see.

GREG GRANT: Illegal commerce.

NOEL GRANT: I dunno. Then we'd run his milk cows in the creek.

GREG GRANT: [laughter]

NOEL GRANT: Cause he turned us in.

GREG GRANT: Just cause you are mean and nasty?

NOEL GRANT: Oh, we were just having fun. [laughter] Jess Long.

GREG GRANT: All they got was watered downed milk. [laughter]

NOEL GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Okay, we're going to continue up this road?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

G. GRANT: Might as well stay on this road up here.

RYNOLDS: Let's keep going.

NOEL GRANT: Hey that ole Virgil Emmons' house you know...

[END CLIP 9:16]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: I'm not exactly sure where the exact Bishop Hill is.

REYNOLDS: Bishop Hill.

[walking up a gravel driveway]

GREG GRANT: I think my dad refers to it on this side of the road, but the peak of the hill is over on that side where the trailer house is. [walking]

GREG GRANT: And huh, I suspect I think the Bishops lived on the...If I ever knew these people. I think they lived on this side over here. This is where the uh, killing took place that our mom will have the gun up there that uh...

[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: The two boys?

GREG GRANT: Nope, nope. That was different killing. There's multiple killings.

SNOWDEN: It's Arcadia, I get confused. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: And I have it on tape, with my uh, step-granddaddy telling uh, the details...Let's see... [walking] And I interviewed a lady one time, which I didn't know it was her brother that did the killing. Edith Warren. She married Frank who owned a cotton gin. So, it was her brother. Had something to do with a woman and a dead horse in the pond.

REYNOLDS: Oh, that's the uh, uh, at the cemetery they're buried next to each other?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

G. GRANT: So the Bishop brothers both got um, shot and killed. And I believe one of them was married to I. Z., The I. Z., she is in that same cemetery; I. Z. Baker. Then I. Z. went on to marry Albert Lilly who lived on top that hill there, where that trailer is now. House burned down, which Noel probably had something to do with. That was his, his people's specialty. And huh, so I bet, I just suspect that's how he got that land was by marrying one of the, uh, the Bishop boys. And the only reason I knew him, he was, so that gets him into my lifetime. He played dominos with my granddad Eloy. They did a weekly domino game. So you'd have my Papaw, Albert Lilly, my step-granddad on the other side, Andrew Mena, who my Papaw said, "He's a good ol' boy. What he's good for though, I dunno," and then uh, Jewel Jones, which would be my great uncle on my dad's side. And so they'd rotate from house-to-house each week playing dominos and so that's how I knew him. Then everybody always talked about this Bishop Hill killing. And not more than a few weeks after I decided that get Olen on tape telling me the story. Cause I'd hear all these stories, I just member sketchy details and he was kind in bad shape, but he, he did a pretty good job telling...he starts, he tells about the gun, the guy drives to town, turns himself in. He spent the rest of his life in Rusk. He throws the gun out

in somebody's yard. And then um, didn't think anything about it, but a couple of weeks later, my uh, one of my great uncles gives the gun that did the killing to my mom. She's like, "Do you know anything about this gun?" I'm like, "Olen just told the story and mentioned the very gun." And so it went from um uh, whoever's yard and somehow it ended up with a great uncle on my mom's side. Actually it was um I um, my mom's father's brother, so it was her paternal uncle, and somehow it ends up with her maternal uncle. And then, before he dies, he gives it to another maternal uncle, and then he decides that my mom needs it. So all that took place in weeks of me hearing the story. And so it's, it's a big ol' double barrel shotgun, so. Anyway.

SNOWDEN: The two brothers were killed at the same time?

GREG GRANT: Yup. And uh, I think it was over here in the yard. In other words, they came in the guy's house, it just almost sounds like sorta an ambush setup sort of thing. And so he had the guns ready to go and, and uh, I think there were three people, but two of them got killed and one of them got away and I think it shot holes through his pants, or his shirt, or hat or something, so.

SNOWDEN: So they came to the...came to the... Bishop brothers came here to do what?

GREG GRANT: Came to the uh, uh, uh the Warren house, I...I've got the story, it's best to listen to uh, somebody that knows more about it. I believe uh, I

can't remember her name, the guy that, I mean, Jack Warren, he's the one that did the killing. I believe his wife, maybe his fairly new wife had slept with everybody in Arcadia.

SNOWDEN: Including the Bishop brothers.

GREG GRANT: Yea, and he was like...oh [unclear], cause' Olen's brother was one of them she'd slept with, so that's how Olen knew all this. And so, apparently that all didn't sit well with him and so. But I think something else sorta pushed it to a head. Somebody, I don't know if he killed the horse, somehow the dead horse ended up in the pond. So it's like this brewing sorta stuff, and it all came to a head.

SNOWDEN: So there's a dead horse that somehow in this?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

SNOWDEN: And they come to the house probably to complain about the dead horse and they're ambushed?

GREG GRANT: And it was his house, so they're in his yard, so he just blasts away.

SNOWDEN: Stand your ground. Uh, okay. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: I think he was, I think he was mad, all of them. Who knows.

REYNOLDS: Well, they slept with his wife.

SNOWDEN: So he ended up...

GREG GRANT: And maybe she had just spilled the beans, or maybe they were fighting, and...

SNOWDEN: And the man who did killing ended up in Rusk hospital?

GREG GRANT: That's, I'm pretty sure.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: Cause I think Doctor uh... Dr. Carr, who lived at my house at one point in time. And according to Reginald, like when he died was laid out there where my dining table is, that he declared him insane. I'd assume around here you'd just hang somebody immediately for killing folks in the yard. But hey, you wouldn't think an insanity plea back then would have gone very far, but.

SNOWDEN: And somehow that gun never made it into an evidence locker. What year was this?

GREG GRANT: We could look in the cemetery its right there on their tombstones. Side by side. Van...

SNOWDEN: It's fairly recent history.

GREG GRANT:Van and Lee Bishop. That's the two that got killed.

SNOWDEN: Wow.

GREG GRANT: But uh...

SNOWDEN: Wow.

GREG GRANT: I'm thinking...

BEISEL: Horses.

GREG GRANT: '30s or so. Speaking her language...And... [walking]

SNOWDEN: No structure, but a hell of a story. [laughing]

REYNOLDS: That's one of those uh, structures not there.

SNOWDEN: What?

[BACKGROUND TALK]: Yea. [walking]

SNOWDEN: She'd been killed so. [walking]

REYNOLDS: I guess I'll walk. [walking] [laughter] Okay. So now it's cattle and gas.

SNOWDEN: And gasoline.

GREG GRANT: I think that Jennyville over there, that hill.

REYNOLDS: That hill is Jennyville? Where would of the house have been here?

GREG GRANT: I honestly don't know. I'm assuming right in here. Maybe there's somebody that has it, still knows it. But I never saw it.

REYNOLDS: That barn wasn't there our anything?

GREG GRANT: That's a good question. We, the uh, man that owns this, who's my brother's wife's father is also my first cousin twice removed, which makes his children double cousins and my niece and nephew.

SNOWDEN: Holy moly.

GREG GRANT: Yea, I'm related to them one way on their mother's side and another on their dad's side. In addition to being my niece and nephew. Anywho. Uh, he owns it, so he might know more about it. And the guy we just interviewed in the nursing home, Dalton Pate, it's Bob Pate that owns this land. So they...and my great grandma is Flossie Pate, so we might can find some more...

REYNOLDS: So how is Dalton and Bob related?

GREG GRANT: Well let's see.

REYNOLDS: They're obviously some kind of kin to each other.

GREG GRANT: Well, absolutely. I have to draw it out on paper.

REYNOLDS: That already sounds too complicated. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: They're cousins, but it's uh, tricky, cause uh, they had children at a different rate on...on uh, my brother's side and his wife's side. And so, there in the cemetery is Rachel Pate who my niece is named after on her father's side...it's her great-great-great-great-grandmother. And on here mother's side it's great-great-great-grandmother, and it's the same woman. And I thought that's kinda cool. [imitating voice] "Here's your great-great-great-grandmother and your great-great-great- great-grandmother." [chuckles][imitating voice] "It's the same person." "What!?"

[GROUP]: Yea. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: And then Dalton, because his dad died, and he moved in with his...

REYNOLDS: Grandparents...

GREG GRANT: ...grandparents, it throws another kink in there, so I'd have to draw it all out to see.

SNOWDEN: You need to make up a big community kinship chart. [walking]

GREG GRANT: The uh, Jennyville is where the black Powdrills lived, so. And so, and so, that's mostly what I heard growing up about Jennyville. From my great-great-great-grandfather Powdrill who's down there in the Powdrill cemetery. Came here from England, had a bunch of kids with his first wife, which is where my great-great-grandfather came in then after she died, he married supposedly a black lady, some said an Indian lady, but they all considered her black around here. And uh, Mariah...

REYNOLDS: And that's Jenny Hill?

GREG GRANT: Jennyville.

REYNOLDS: Jennyville?

GREG GRANT: There's a hill... Jennyville Mountains, momma said. And uh...when you look in the census there in, there's uh...she's listed as black, and there's, he looked like he...I mean he had more money than most people, he probably didn't care if he was from England, probably wasn't a big deal to him as it was to the locals. Huge deal with the locals, so they didn't stop until everybody was eventually run out of

there. And looking at the census you got, black and white, and the next one you got mulatto, and eventually it seems like they split up some marry black end up black and get run off, some marry whites maybe fade back into the communities, so it's uh, it's one of those oddball stories... And uh...

REYNOLDS: Is she buried in the cemetery too?

GREG GRANT: No. Matter of fact, it's a sad story um, take a uh...the next dirt road. There's a little cemetery there, I've never seen. I've just been showed where it was. And Olen, because he lived down that road, and uh, went to school at Cooper school, which was uh, by he had to walk by it every day. And on the way home they'd stop and she had a...headstone there, and he remembered her name...cause uh, I looked it up...and I think they called her Marie or Mariah. And they would stop every day and say, "How's it going Mariah?" And uh, I don't know if they're other stones around there, but they knew other people were buried around here. Probably some of her kids or something. And the guy that uh...that owns it now, or did own it, somebody I don't even know, either he or the man that son owns it, he owned it or leased it, somebody dozed it all off and destroyed it. And, I've hunted, to find her stone. Even if I can't find it, I am gonna put her a stone in the cemetery with her husband, just make a little note of it, so she doesn't disappear from the Earth, and um Mariah Powdrill. That's funny cause her, I have actually tracked down some black relatives...and uh, I

think they claimed she was Indian, and then of course around here, they all claimed she was black. And, my neighbor Ruben, when uh, my grandmother first told me that his wife Evelyn, who I knew all my life, was a Powdrill I went down there to see her one day, cause Ruben was my grandmother Ruth's first cousin. And uh, so I knew he was a cousin, and then I said, "Evelyn you're a Powdrill!" I said, "You're now our cousin!" She said, "Yea my momma was a Powdrill and my daddy was a Powdrill too." She said, "But they weren't no kin." Said uh, "My momma was from Arcadia," from group. She said, "My daddy was from Jennyville." I'm like, "Uh oh!" [laughter] And, I was convinced that she was actually the product of both of those two tied back together. And, my cousin Pam...she did some research and said they weren't the black and white Powdrill that her parents were first cousin Powdrill. So, either way it's a good story. Because their offspring which are spread all around here are my triple cousins. And uh, with uh, Ruben being a cousin and his wife being a double cousin. And then one of those, whose granddaughter married another cousin, luckily later in life cause if they had had kids they would have had quadruple cousins running around here, so nope. [laughter] Nope. Crazy I can't imagine what that would be like.

SNOWDEN: Family trees!

[End 12:32]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: That was just a homeplace.

BEISEL: Great, but the building itself...

GREG GRANT: The building was built is a home.

BEISEL: What it was built as.

SNOWDEN: Okay. Which would be social?

GREG GRANT: It was a school and uh, Woodman of the World lodge.

BEISEL: And uh...

GREG GRANT: I think I've got the documents when they hired the guy that built it.

BEISEL: So, it was built for both purposes.

GREG GRANT: Yup. Upstairs was the...

BEISEL: Okay.

[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: And it was built when?

GREG GRANT: Well, it wasn't the original Arcadia school. Cause uh, I think I've got the letter when they hired the guy who built it. A Crawford.

SNOWDEN: What is the roof like?

BEISEL: It is hipped.

REYNOLDS: What does that mean?

BEISEL: Umm, it's got four sides.

REYNOLDS: Okay, four sides.

BEISEL: Yea. It's got hips.

GREG GRANT: Yea.

SNOWDEN: You're gonna have to explain all this to me as we go on.

[crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: It's got a gable end.

BEISEL: And good condition. [crosstalk] It's actually, it's uh um...

REYNOLDS: Who owns it?

BEISEL: Wood siding.

[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Are they just gonna let it sit here and not do anything to it? Cause it looks like it's in pretty good shape.

GREG GRANT: It's going down pretty quick. It's got broken windows. Some of them are broken.

SNOWDEN: Overall conclusion, fair?

BEISEL: Good. Windows are intact. Some of them are broken, but they're sealed.

SNOWDEN: Do any of these apply?

BEISEL: It's gonna be vernacular, so it's going to be two-story.

SNOWDEN: Two-story.

BEISEL: Yup, two-story. And um, um it is box...you can put box house. Yea.

SNOWDEN: Box house-two-story.

BEISEL: Cause, cause uh, umm hold on [unclear]. Actually, do...it's not actually a four square. But that would be better. Cross off that one because of the shape. This is rectangular. That's more square. This is, this is not a big long rectangle. It is closer to a square than a rectangle.

GREG GRANT: And it opens up on the inside, so it was like a big old box in there.



BEISEL: Right, right.

SNOWDEN: Foursquare.

GREG GRANT: It was.

BEISEL: So, yea. Cause that gives it that that goes better. And that's that's...

HALLMARK: Who owns it now?

BEISEL: Yea.

SNOWDEN: So social education?

BEISEL: Yes, a school.

SNOWDEN: Yea, I put that there.

GREG GRANT: His name is Parker. He's a relative mine. A cousin on my dad's side. He's in the nursing home. It originally sat in front of my house, where that brick masonic lodge and it was the new brick masonic lodge, so this was their building till they built that new brick one.

HALLMARK: They moved it?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

REYNOLDS: To what site? It's original...

GREG GRANT: No, this is the, this was my uh... great-great-grandparents' home place, Johnny and Edda Jones. And so it's their descendants and then um, when they uh, they were all... both sides of my family were all lodge members, so when they built that new building, they basically gave it to one of the members and they were gonna fix it up as a weekend home or something. They basically never used it.

SNOWDEN: Hey Perky, do we get the little well house or whatever that is?

BEISEL: Yes, we can add it to the little thing for out building. [walking]

[Vehicle beeping/Car door opening]

GREG GRANT: I'll ask my dad which Jones lived in it. Etta Jones. It's either Huey or Louie or Dewey, no.

[laughter]

SNOWDEN: Oh geeze.

GREG GRANT: Anyways, it was Jones. I'll—we'll ask and see. Some of these things they will mention in their little oral histories. This wasn't one of them, so I don't know why I stopped.

REYNOLDS: So um, I mean what was here?

GREG GRANT: Our house, our homeplace.

REYNOLDS: This side? Where all the gas wells?

GREG GRANT: Right here...

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: ...where these trees are. And so, all of this belonged to...

BEISEL: That same family?

GREG GRANT: Yea, think it was the uh, uhhhhhh, the mother-in-law Block. My great-great-great grandmother, Block I think it was all Block land.

GREG GRANT: Anywho. There were some Germans in the family. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: One of two Dumps that lived in Arcadia at the same time.

[laughter] [car door slams]

[END CLIP 4:17]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 New Clip

[Car beeping]

REYNOLDS: Okay, so what was here?

GREG GRANT: This is the Jewel Jones.

REYNOLD: Jewel Jones.

GREG GRANT: My great uncle.

SNOWDEN: Okay, repeat that.

GREG GRANT: Jewel, J-E-W-E-L. Um, Big Momma's dogtrot it was her brother.
Uncle Jewel.

REYNOLDS: This was Big Momma's dogtrot?

GREG GRANT: No. The other dogtrot house so we had it...

SNOWDEN: And what road is this?

GREG GRANT: We'll have to look, no county road number on it.

REYNOLDS: So this house, is not the house them, there is a different house here?

GREG GRANT: Nope. This is the Jewel Jones house.

REYNOLDS: This is the actual house?

GREG GRANT: Mmm hmm

SNOWDEN: When was it built?

GREG GRANT: I honestly don't know. It's been here my whole life it looks like it's teens, twenties or something to me, not sure.

REYNOLDS: It's probably your cousins. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: I played dominos in it with my Papaw as a kid I remember that.

REYNOLDS: Okay, I gotta get up [unclear].

SNOWDEN: I'm trying to learn the site form. [background talking][foreground mumbling]

GREG GRANT: ...if the house goes back that far or not. The barn and the lightning rods I've been told were hers.

REYNOLDS: Okay. I guess they aren't home.

HALLMARK: Where are we?

REYNOLDS: For that we're going to have to...

HALLMARK: Are we over here?

GREG GRANT: Yea. Yea, we are right there. [looking at map]

HALLMARK: Fifteen-fifteen [FM 1515] Okay.

REYNOLDS: [laughing]

HALLMARK: My husband used to run a trash well. [laughter]

G. GRANT: Back when people used real maps I had one stuck in the door of the truck. It connects up the road and goes to Waterman over there. So, we'll actually go back...

REYNOLDS: Go back that way? Okay. [walking]

GREG GRANT: The guy that owns the old uh, string shop downtown Nacogdoches.

REYNOLDS: Oh, yea. Uh huh.

GREG GRANT: Steve Hartz. He has written a song about the Waterman Train wreck, and so, I brought in some chapters and books about it. And my great-great uncle had written about it. A little family history, and so I brought him all that.

REYNOLDS: When was the train wreck?

G. GRANT: Early 1900s.

REYNOLDS: Oh, okay.



[END CLIP 2:44]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

[car door closes] [ruffling noises]

REYNOLDS: Okay. All right. Tell us about this house.

GREG GRANT: I don't know much about it. I heard it was the Gus Block house, which would be...

SNOWDEN: The Gus Block?

GREG GRANT: B-L-O-C-K. My uh...let me see...my great-great-great-grandmother was a Block and I think it was either her brother or son, I think her son. The Lillys own it now. And I think Mrs. Lilly just died recently, but did live in the house. I'm sure some of the Lillys have it. I've never been in it. I've just always seen it and thought it looked cool. It would date, date back from Arcadia's heyday.



REYNOLDS: Oh, she's getting a telephoto lens I think. She gotta telephoto lens.

GREG GRANT: Yea.

REYNOLDS: Cause she, we were just talking you stay on the road when you do this.

GREG GRANT: Specially with the Lillys.

REYNOLDS: Yea, so that's why we are staying on the road. If you need stand on top of the car. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: The Lillys are most known for Stockman killings at the Stockman [unclear] and all my kinfolks were there. My granddad and his sisters were playing in the band, and one of the Lillys had a gun in there and he wasn't supposed to, so two law officers, one was a constable I think and the other one was something else, one was my great-grandmother's brother, my mom said they brought him outside with the gun, and something happened and they got in a fight, and so all three of them got shot and killed right there at the, at the dance. And so that's, and I've got newspaper clippings on it.

REYNOLDS: This is like the murder capital of the county.

GREG GRANT: Absolutely. And it's kinda funny cause one of Noel's daughters married one of the Lilly boys, and the Lillys have a different version of the story than what the newspapers and everybody else had. But the...anyways, I wouldn't trespass on the Lillys' property if I didn't...the little house we passed on the right on one-thirty [CR 138]

was Danny Lilly. [unclear] [background laughter & conversation] Yes,
same Lillys. They used to haul hay for my dad. Yea, I think he is one
generation down from...one of them died. There is Dean, Danny, I
don't remember the other one.

[background talking]

[END CLIP 2:45]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

[car door opens/beeping noise]

REYNOLDS: Okay. What's it again?

GREG GRANT: Frank and Lizzy Neal. N-E-A-L. And uh...

BEISEL: Hold up I got my big lens back. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: Nope. Most of my life it was a trailer house, I don't even remember the house. I remember it always had a pretty baldcypress. And when I was a kid, my grandmother had a basket of these spiny looking nuts and uh, in a container in the house, and I always admired them, they looked like sea urchins. And they were Chinese chestnuts. And uh, so she always told me she got them from Lizzy Neal, so one day she took me down here, and her husband had long since been dead. I don't even remember what the original house looked like. I remember we went out past some barns and stuff, she had a Chinese chestnut tree with all those spiny burrs laying on the ground, and little tiny humpback woman that uh, had a bad curved spine, but she was sweet as could be, about that tall. And their son, Durwood, uh lived across from where my dad first had cows. And, in what we called the chicken house, so I always knew him. And, I have a good friend in Louisiana that's grandmother owned a bulb farm and she eventually opened it back up called Sister's Bulb Farm, and uh we collect heirloom, narcissus, jonquils, and things. And, one time I brought her one and uh, before I

even got to her she said, “You got that from me,” and I said, “No I didn’t,” she said, “You had to have, my grandmother is the only person that ever sold it.” I said, “No, I got it from the Neal homeplace in Arcadia.” And low and behold, it turns out this woman and I who...we’re good friends and had no idea that we’re actually related, distantly on both sides on the family. Um, her grandmother was a Neal on her dad’s...on her mother’s side. And on her dad’s side, was her grandmother who had the bulb from the...so this was her uh...her grandmother’s brother, and so that daffodil had come from her other grandmother to her. And uh, the other dogtrot what we called Big Momma’s dogtrot, her great grandfather owned it before my great grandfather owned it, so you know it’s always been cousin Celia ever since, but this was uh, at one-point mom, and her, and her mom was still alive, came in here and we visited the old homeplace and all that sort of thing, so.

REYNOLDS: So is the only thing ever on here was a trailer house?

GREG GRANT: No, I’m pretty sure there was a house of some sort, but I don’t remember as a kid, so um.

REYNOLDS: So like Noel or Neil or someone like that might remember?

G. GRANT: Uh maybe, cause we’re fixing to go up this dirt road where my uh...my grandmother Ruth’s great-grandmother Smith lived, Ma Smith. And it was uh, my dad can definitely tell about it cause uh, I

don't know how close we can get to it cause he may have it blocked off for chicken house purposes. But it was uh...she descended from...I think the guy that had the second land grant in, in Shelby County, and was in the Texas Revolutionary army and all that. So the little history gene came down through them, and apparently there was a, a spring out back, and according to my dad's grandfather, that all the settlers would come through here, and his great-grandfather called it the Old Spanish Trail coming from Louisiana to Nacogdoches, and they'd all stop and used that spring right there. And granddad always talked about all the people coming through and spending the night and watering the horses and everything. And then Uncle Noel at some point, I think even uh, yea, Uncle Noel ended up, like everything else, owning it at some point in his life. And he even curbed up the spring, and like everything else he owned, he lost it. And so, it got out of the family. He'd buy things he could never pay for them. And so it was a biggest regret that we have is losing the Ma Smith homeplace cause Grandmother Ruth they lived...next road, dirt road over and they'd...she raised eight kids, her husband died early, so she raised eight kids by herself, and she had strawberries she'd send home with them, and had honeybees and had it was a log dogtrot. Got some pictures. Crude pictures of it. And so we'll see how close we can get, the structure's gone . Can at least show you the...Ma Smith homeplace.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

BEISEL: Good.

[END CLIP 4:17]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

REYNOLDS: What are we talking about now?

GREG GRANT: This probably right here.

REYNOLDS: So over here?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

REYNOLDS: Is um?

GREG GRANT: It was uh, Melissa Ann Inman Smith's old homeplace. The house is gone, it was a log dogtrot. And so my uh, great-grandfather, Big Dad Jake Smith, was born here. And it's where the uh, there was a famous spring that, according to my dad's granddad, all the settlers coming through would stop on the way in from Louisiana and water their horses on toward San Antonio. And she raised, I don't remember what happened to her husband, Joseph Council Smith died early, and she had to raise eight kids by herself. I've got pictures of her. I've got a few pictures of the dogtrot house, and uh...

REYNOLDS: Did it just come into disrepair...

G. GRANT: Yea it was, it was...

REYNOLDS: fall. Okay.

G. GRANT: ...It looked like yea, at some point when they were older people, it was disrepair. So, it probably disappeared in the '30s, '40s, '50s, something like that. But her...it was her grandfather, John Inman, who

was one of the first settlers in Shelby County, came in 1832 I believe, and so the two original land grants there right where downtown is I think is Jess Amason, and then right next to that is John Inman, and I believe this Amason's daughter married John Inman's daughter cause my Grandmother Ruth always talked about Jess Amason and so it was uh, an old old family, not just here, but in Shelby County. Now when she died, the obituary called this Rainsville. And so, there was another forgotten little community that you rarely hear mentioned.

REYNOLDS: So is this still considered a part of Arcadia? Or?

GREG GRANT: I uh, according to the little city limits, not really. Um, although it's uh, it's Arcadia family and they all talk like it's Arcadia, but at the time, when there is communities and schools everywhere, uh it listed her as being from Rainsville. And I've got her obituary. And so, somewhere between here and... in the other we're fixing to pop-out where the Myrtle Springs school was, which would have been Myrtle Springs, but that was the city limits of Arcadia too, so there literally so many people that every little junction was a different little community. And so, it's hardly anybody that you hear mention Rainsville. But uh, I never really knew where it was. But then I run across her obituary and it said of Rainsville, and so I knew it was somewhere between here and Myrtle Springs on the edge of Arcadia. And I think it's those real early places that disappeared and just merged into Arcadia. But it was uh...uh, one of the oldest families in Arcadia. Now they didn't

originally settle here, but I mean she'd been here a long time. And then uh, bunch of my offspring. But that's the Ma Smith homeplace. And my Grandmother Ruth always talked fondly about it cause Grandmother Ruth was born across there, so they'd walk over here and come see Ma Smith. And even though they were poor as can be, and raising all those kids, she managed to always have stuff to send home with them. So, she thought it was a cool place. All right, we'll head back out of here before we end up hearing...

[END CLIP 3:11]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

REYNOLDS: Okay, okay, so what do we got?

G. GRANT: This is the Bryce homeplace and we'll have to get my dad to tell which Bryce, but it's Homer Bryce's family.

REYNOLDS: Henderson. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: He moved to Henderson.

REYNOLDS: Yea. So he was from here?

GREG GRANT: Yep.

REYNOLDS: Oh, okay.

GREG GRANT: I'll get my dad to fill it in.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: I'm pretty sure...the uh, it's falling down. [walking] Thanks to an anonymous donor, my kitchen sink came from this house.

BEISEL: Oh really? Oh!

GREG GRANT: Mmm hmm.

BEISEL: Oh. That's a wonderful thing.

REYNOLDS: So who owns this now? You don't know?

GREG GRANT: No, actually my dad can, cause my dad owns the land all around it. So it would...I believe it's...hmm.

REYNOLDS: This is the Bryce home?

GREG GRANT: Yea. [walking] I can get my dad to fill you in on...

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: ...cause the bus driver was a Bryce. I think it was, the bus driver, think it was Homer Bryce's brother. It's Homer Bryce's family, but not Homer Bryce's homeplace. So, my dad will fill you in on the details, and which Bryce owned it, and who owns it now, and...

BEISEL: I'm gonna trespass.

REYNOLDS: Trespass. I'll help you trespass.

GREG GRANT: I've been in there [unclear].

REYNOLDS: Okay. It's like, "I'll trespass."

GREG GRANT: It's just a simple, simple thing.

[clip stops/starts again]

GREG GRANT: Their brother Emory was the bus driver that allowed Noel to hop on and off at will, and...

REYNOLDS: So, Amos Price, Bryce?

GREG GRANT: Bryce

REYNOLDS: Bri...

GREG GRANT: And I'll have to find out [crosstalk] [unclear]

SNOWDEN: Bryce.

REYNOLDS: I keep saying Price [unclear]

SNOWDEN: Bryce, like in Homer Bryce.

REYNOLDS: Bryce, yea, Homer Bryce, yea. I got the Homer Bryce Collection so...

GREG GRANT: So, now he didn't remember a Bryce homeplace to know where they all came from. But we'll see if my dad knows.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

SNOWDEN: Starting to think you fell down that well.



[END CLIP 2:02]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: Watch your feet here.

REYNOLDS: Okay, so what do we got?

GREG GRANT: This was the...one...the city limits corner of Arcadia, the corner, so this was the other. Um, I'll have to...remember. Myrtle Springs School was right there at that next road intersection to the right.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: And Sidney Johnson homeplace was out here. He had two twin sons Hoyle and Doyle Johnson who married Alcine and Alice Johnson, so they lived across the street. So, they were the ones that I knew. And so, I can't remember which one was specifically mentioned as the, the corner of Arcadia, but it's a...

REYNOLDS: Okay, yea.

GREG GRANT: There was a, there was a Myrtle Springs School right there at that next intersection to the right...as far as I understood in the pasture just to the right of the intersection. And this is one of the four corners of the quote city limits was the...I can't remember if it was the Johnson house or the Myrtle Springs School. But the old Johnson homeplace was on the right Sidney Johnson and two twin sons. Doyle Johnson lived on this side, and Hoyle Johnson lived on this side. So you had Doyle and Alcine over here, and Hoyle and Alice over here. And when

uh...and Hoyle died, they had it specifically written into the deed that if you weren't a Johnson, you weren't to stay on the property, so Alice got kicked off. And uh, the...I always wanted to go interview her. She died a few years back. Lived on the way to Center to the right.

BEISEL: Oh.

GREG GRANT: Bunch of bulbs in the front yard. My grandmother Ruth said she gave them. So my parents own the land on both sides. But it was the other city limits, so we are gonna try to knock out all four corners of Arcadia today.

BEISEL & REYNOLDS: Okay.

[END CLIP 1:47]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: This is the old Prince homeplace. P-R-I-N-C-E. I think it was Harris Prince, but we'll have to ask my dad. The main reason I got to hear about it was because my great-grandmother, May Powdrill, was married to Will Chapman. And they lived, we'll go down where my grandmother Ruth's house was, they lived down that road, and there was some kind of disturbance going on over...do you have bugs in your hair?

REYNOLDS: No, I had a tree leaf, I mean a tree branch...

GREG GRANT: Oh, if it's ticks, Noel told you how to take care of that right.

REYNOLDS: Nuh huh.

GREG GRANT: Wasn't it...

HALLMARK: That dip.

GREG GRANT: I couldn't, I couldn't tell if it was stick your head in the dipping vat or if it was...[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Oh...the gin...the cotton gin.

GREG GRANT: Going to the cotton gin and sucking it out of your hair.

REYNOLDS: Yeah.

GREG GRANT: Either way it would work. One is probably less toxic.

REYNOLDS: That would have been fun. [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: Anyway, so there was some sort of disturbance involving a woman of course. My great-grandmother's husband rode his horse over here and got shot door knob dead in the front yard here. And because of the shooting here at this house, she married my great-grandfather Henry Grant, so if it hadn't been for this killing of her husband, she'd never become my dad's grandmother or my great-grandmother. Thank you Mr. Prince. [laughter] And the Will Chapman that got shot here was a relative of the Chapman man who got shot and killed at Stockman when it was a uh, the officer over there that the Lilly guy killed, so a dangerous community. It's a cool little old house. I've never been in it. I was told it had some sort of arched vaulted looking ceiling in the internal hallway.



REYNOLDS: Who owns it, do you know?

G. GRANT: I think some Franks.

REYNOLDS: Okay. So we're not gonna get shot? [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: No, they are not here locally.

REYNOLDS: Okay. We're good.

GREG GRANT: The neighbors are good friends.

REYNOLDS: Okay, cause I'm getting ready to venture back here cause I like to explore.

[END CLIP 1:40]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

[car beeping]

REYNOLDS: Okay. [car door shuts] [walking] [laughter]

GREG GRANT: Doyle and Alcine Johnson's house. Who was Hoyle Johnson's twin brother who lived across the street. And their parents' old homeplace was directly across the street. Sidney and somebody. They're all buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. My parents own it now. It's interesting that they are poor folks, they had two children, one was mentally ill, one was blind, and yet they had the only central air in Arcadia and a concrete slab in their garage. And so, interesting.

REYNOLDS: You guys can wander about, it's safe.

GREG GRANT: Oh yea, my parents own this one, so it's...

BEISEL: Oh, oh.

REYNOLDS: [chuckles] [walking]

GREG GRANT: Oh, it's gotta a little corncrib.

REYNOLDS: That's cool.

[crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: Somebody argued with me one time that it wasn't a corn crib. I said, "Well, I had to shovel out a foot of corn cobs to do it." so I said, "So I can assure you it was used as a corn crib."

SNOWDEN: And who's property is this?

GREG GRANT: My parents own it, but it was Doyle and Alcine Johnson's.

REYNOLDS: Doyle?

GREG GRANT: D-O-Y-L-E.

REYNOLDS: Uh huh.

GREG GRANT: And crazy Alcine. A-L-C-I-N-E.

REYNOLDS: Johnson?

GREG GRANT: Yea. [unclear]

REYNOLDS: Was a part of that Johnson where the brothers got married to the sisters?

GREG GRANT: Yup, yup. So this is one brother, other brother lived over there in the [unclear].

[crosstalk]

BEISEL: And that brother's wife is the one that got kicked off the land?

GREG GRANT: Yea. They were right there behind that...there's three gates there, so the third gate down was the uh, the other twin brother's [unclear].

BEISEL: [unclear] well house and corn crib. Single.

[crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: It was unusual. They were poor people, but it was the only house in Arcadia that had central air, and uh, a concrete slab in their little ol' garage over there, which seemed odd. I mean it's not older [walking] [crows cawing] The granddaughter and the crazy son who was always trying to drown himself.

REYNOLDS: So, the corn crib has been here the whole time?

GREG GRANT: Yup, that's where it was.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

SNOWDEN: Who lives there now?



GREG GRANT: Nobody, it's my parents little guest house, so. [unclear]

REYNOLDS: They got folks come visit they don't want to stay at their house, come so they can stay down here.

GREG GRANT: How many are you gonna fit? So.

REYNOLDS: Yea. [crows cawing]

GREG GRANT: Just quoting my grandmother, she said that uh, cause they had syphilis and that's why the blind girl and the crazy kid and...

BEISEL: Ahhh.

GREG GRANT: Cause my grandmother was a nurse, but I don't know if she knew that for a fact, but that was her story. And we would bring out some fruit and stuff for Christmas time, I remember that. And I think cousin Pam, said one of my granddad's uncles lived next door and there's some story that uh, uh...he was sleeping going back and forth between the neighbors, and I can't remember what the story is there but Pam can provide details, who fathered who. I want to say one of the Johnsons' people was the father of one of the Emanis children or something.

SNOWDEN: Swingers.

REYNOLDS: Hey it was a murder capital of the county. [crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: Nothing you can do about it. Just turn out the lights, slip next door and...

SNOWDEN: Alcine had syphilis?

GREG GRANT: No uh, Doyle.

SNOWDEN: Doyle.

GREG GRANT: That's according to my grandmother.

SNOWDEN: So, I think we can assume that Alcine did too.

GREG GRANT: And probably...

SNOWDEN: The neighbor.

GREG GRANT: ...neighbors.

SNOWDEN: And the children. [laughing]

GREG GRANT: The blind daughter went on to teach at university and lived all over the country and she, she was smart. [walking] The boy, he was just sorta missing a link. [laughter] He's the one when they would hire him to help harvest the corn, see you would drive the wagon down...you'd pick three rows of corn, so my dad and Noel would pick the standing row, and uh, John Paul, he got the row that got smashed on the ground. That was uh, he didn't want the, the middle row. John Paul. You would always ask him how he was doing. He'd say, "I'm dying!" I'm dying cause he outlived them all. He was dying.

HALLMARK: Dying. [laughter]

REYNOLDS: That's too funny.

GREG GRANT: All right, moving on. So, we've done...

[END CLIP 4:33]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: Let's see...originally I think Henry Grant place which was my great-granddad. In my life it was my Grandmother Ruth Grant. Or Ruth and Hoya...

SNOWDEN: I'm just gonna put Henry Grant. Is that okay?

GREG GRANT: That'll work.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: Although...Ruth and Hoya probably lived here...

SNOWDEN: But the Grant, Henry Grant built it.

GREG GRANT: I think. I'm not one-hundred percent sure of that.

SNOWDEN: And when was this?

GREG GRANT: I want to say...1900, 1910. Somewhere in there. It's the identical house to the next dogtrot. We'll see, or it was before it was [unclear].

[walking]

SNOWDEN: So is the one your gonna restore for me?

GREG GRANT: Well, I wish.

REYNOLDS: Your parents own this land?

GREG GRANT: Yup.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: We can go in there and putter around.

BEISEL: Is there a way to get through old fence on that?

GREG GRANT: [unclear]

REYNOLDS: I'm just gonna let Greg go first.

SNOWDEN: There was a [unclear].

REYNOLDS: I'll call for help. [chuckle]

BEISEL: Yea. Yea, we'll...



[END CLIP 1:13]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: [unclear] the little pieces left over there that have the wood [unclear]
[walking] [unclear]

REYNOLDS: Uh huh.

GREG GRANT: This little piece right there, otherwise, it's the same, same house.

BEISEL: Now, did you do the work on this one?

GREG GRANT: I, I emptied it. It was closed in like that one. Front and back. Bathroom
and all that. But I had Larry Shelton from Nacogdoches did all the
work. I'm a gardener not a carpenter.

REYNOLDS: And we're at Big Momma's house.

GREG GRANT: Yea, Jake and Dee Smith.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

SNOWDEN: Jake?

GREG GRANT: Jake and Dee Smith. It was his uh, he was raised at the... over there at
Rainsville [unclear] where I said Ma Smith's house where I was at,
was where he was born.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: That was his momma. [walking] But it's the uh... If you had all the
junk and ripped off the enclosure and stuff Noel added to that one this
is what. [walking]

SNOWDEN: So it looked like this. [going inside] it looked like...

GREG GRANT: And, it never had the ceilings lowered. It's closed in, but it didn't get the ceilings lowered so it was always kind of neat.

REYNOLDS: Now you, you had the quilting frame back here.

GREG GRANT: Yup, it's been hanging there my whole life. When my great aunt died, I stole it. Put it back here. This...

REYNOLDS: Now you have, you have a couple frames I believe you said.

GREG GRANT: Yea, [unclear] Grandmother Emanis's and Alcine Johnson's from down the road, I have hers. But everybody had them.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: And these benches came outta the old uh, community center masonic lodge school.

REYNOLDS: They're nice benches. I like they're comfortable.

GREG GRANT: Lots of benches, so that whole place was just, fill up like a church. An aisle down the middle and rows of benches on each side. And I guess they used them in school cause unless most people did it in the evening or something. But you can see where they carved into them.

[background talking Beisel and Snowden]



HALLMARK: Do you use this house?

GREG GRANT: This is my laundry house and my Bar-B-Q house, so. I don't have, I don't have a washing machine and dryer at my house, so I do the laundry there every week. My smoker is out with the shed. So when uh, I smoke stuff back in here. And I play the piano.

HALLMARK: Uh huh.

GREG GRANT: While I'm doing my laundry. Anywho. Yea, I do. Uncle Noel's ticks in my hair. [laughter] I need dippin'. [chuckles]

[Unknown]: You need to find that cotton gin.

GREG GRANT: No, no, sucking, right.

[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Go to the cotton gin.

GREG GRANT: That whole experience sucked.

HALLMARK They have a working cotton gin in Henderson.

GREG GRANT: Cool. Yea, I can show you where it was down.

HALLMARK The one that was here?

GREG GRANT: Yea.

HALLMARK In Henderson, they have the one [unclear]. [background crosstalk]
They have the one in Henderson that used to be in Mt. Enterprise.

GREG GRANT: Cool. There was a great big cedar tree where that pear was. The last hurricane blew it onto my car shed.

SNOWDEN: This pew from the community center?

GREG GRANT: Yup. I think every family got one, and so [unclear].

SNOWDEN: Now, there was, at that house that we went out to... okay, it was where you and Perky got behind it and came in from the bushes, and there was, you said people stored furniture and stuff like that in there.

GREG GRANT: Yea. Prince House.

SNOWDEN: There's a bench or something in front of that.

HALLMARK: On the front.

GREG GRANT: Yea, I saw that on the front porch and it wasn't, it wasn't really...it was more modern.

SNOWDEN: It wasn't a part of that?

G. GRANT: Cause I know these benches. I have one on my porch, well, I have one-and-a-half. Some people cut them in half cause, that one came from an anonymous donor. It was whittled down from a, trailer house that was, it was about to weather away. And one of them got painted, so...I wish I had them all, but I don't know where the rest of them is. There was one in Noel's barn, but then it disappeared... All right, can't stay long. More stuff to see.

SNOWDEN: Oh, shit.

REYNOLDS: [laughter]

[END CLIP 4:49]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

SNOWDEN: [unclear] [car door closes] In Arcadia.

GREG GRANT: Hey, good memories.

SNOWDEN: Yea, uh huh, over a hundred years old.

REYNOLDS: That's what they say. We're house at?

GREG GRANT: Lou Wheeler.

REYNOLDS: Lou Wheeler.

SNOWDEN: So when was it built?

GREG GRANT: Well, there is an original house in there that I have a picture of somewhere it was a little saddlebag house. So that chimney was the top of the roofline. And that uh, so somewhere I want to say... '30s or so she encased it in this hipped-roof Creole style looking thing, which is atypical around here. And, I dunno. I think she is from Mississippi, but I don't know. I've got the picture of the original thing. And it's not... [crosstalk]

SNOWDEN: So the original...

GREG GRANT: Was a simple little, and of course, none of them have, it's is atypical to have a central fireplace um saddlebag theme without a central hallway but this one was like that. And so literally, the evolution of Louisiana style houses went from a saddlebag theme to a Creole style, but neither

one of those are common around here, so I don't know why it was here
or...[crosstalk]

SNOWDEN: So what should I put on here?

BEISEL: Put what we see today.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: I'll dredge up the picture of the original thing [crosstalk] of wood
shingles.

BEISEL: Okay, so this would be 1929, 1945 when they did
[unclear][crosstalk][walking] and...

SNOWDEN: So it's a hipped roof.

BEISEL: Actually, do we have pyramidal?



SNOWDEN: No.

BEISEL: No, put other.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: That front porch and backroom were...

BEISEL: Put other.

GREG GRANT: ...more modern additions it looks...

BEISEL: And put pyramidal.

SNOWDEN: Okay. [unclear]

G. GRANT: ...like, Perky. It will be my final restoration after I win the lottery.

REYNOLDS: Ha ha! You gotta play to win. [Crosstalk]

GREG GRANT: Yea, I never play but.

HALLMARK: So you're going to take off the front porch?

GREG GRANT: Yea it's uh, I'll probably do a wraparound porch [crosstalk] you've got things too low and it hangs down it's like a little, it looks like this.
[crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: Yea.

BEISEL: Yea.

GREG GRANT: And that back lean to—thing is wrong and I think that was actually a back porch to begin with.

SNOWDEN: A back porch, okay.

BEISEL: And then we'll put...

REYNOLDS: So basically get rid of that and just make it a back door?

GREG GRANT: A typical Creole theme. I'm gonna raise it up, wrap it around the porch, and it's gonna have a two rooms on the back, and a screened in porch back there. This will be my retirement home. [unclear] A ramp, central air, all of that.

BEISEL: [unclear] from circa 1890.

[END CLIP 1:59]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: The thing you have is Mrs. Lou Wheeler's store, which was uh basically the center of the community. And probably more so then uh the church and the community center. Cause it was a daily thing.

BEISEL: Right, right.

GREG GRANT: And so everything you got, and every egg to trade in for his candy every day.

REYNOLDS: And it was between these two...

GREG GRANT: Yea. Right where we're parked it's kinda raised up behind there. It was between these two.

SNOWDEN: And who's house was this?

GREG GRANT: Jim Crawford and Miss Lou's daughter. So they eventually ran the store.

BEISEL: Ahhhhh

GREG GRANT: It was all on the same property.

BEISEL: Okay, he came up in, in one of those interviews that I did.

GREG GRANT: Absolutely. But this is the Jim Crawford house.

REYNOLDS: You sound like you want to spit when you say that name. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: I don't have any...

SNOWDEN: [mimicking G. GRANT] “Jim Crawford house ehhhhhh” [laughter]
[background laughter] I put my curse upon them. [car doors close]
[walking]

BEISEL: Kelley, do you mind grabbing the door? I was [unclear]

REYNOLDS: You got excited and jumped out.

BEISEL: Yea. [background conversation] [walking]

SNOWDEN: Porch.

GREG GRANT: I’ve got some pictures of it from way back somewhere. [background conversation] [wind blowing]

HALLMARK: That’s a strange roof.

REYNOLDS: Ummm.

BEISEL: Overall conditions poor.

SNOWDEN: Oh, okay. I’m sorry.

BEISEL: Yea.

SNOWDEN: 1910 to ’29?

BEISEL: Yea, 19...yea, uh huh.

SNOWDEN: What are we calling it?

BEISEL: A...

GREG GRANT: When you are inside it, you can see what that this was tacked on. Jim and Gladys Crawford and [unclear] [wind blowing]

REYNOLDS: Here you go. I'll go with her.

SNOWDEN: No.

REYNOLDS: I said I'll go with her. You hang onto that.

SNOWDEN: I don't know what I'm doing.

GREG GRANT: Be careful, the front porch is falling through. We don't want to have to drag your carcass out of...is this thing live. Can we talk about them?

SNOWDEN: [laughter]

GREG GRANT: They ever gonna hear it?

SNOWDEN: Uh, probably. Yea.

GREG GRANT: Should of told them there is a den of snakes and a hornets' nest in there.

SNOWDEN: Oh, no...let's see how fast they can run. [laughter]

GREG GRANT: There's not. That I know of. It was Jim and Gladys Crawford. Gladys was Miss Lou Wheeler's daughter. Then after she died, they ran the store along with their son and daughter, James Reginald Crawford and Wilda Crawford. Later married a Mr. Dudley. And they all moved away.

SNOWDEN: And who owns the property right now?

GREG GRANT: Roger and Norris Dudley.

SNOWDEN: Are they related to anybody in Arcadia? Or?

GREG GRANT: That was their grandparents that lived here.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: And their great...Miss Lou was a great-grandmother [truck drives by].
And I bought Miss Lou's house from their uncle, Reginald Crawford.
[truck drives by].

HALLMARK: And that annoyed them? [laughter]

SNOWDEN: Why they just wanted the property or something? They wanted to keep the property I guess?

GREG GRANT: It's a long story.

SNOWDEN: Okay.

GREG GRANT: Some of it my fault, some of it not. They thought I sorta swindled him out it or something. He'd been trying to sell it to me my entire life. Of course, I couldn't afford it as a kid, couldn't afford it in college, and then twenty years ago, so came to an end. He owned that house and one acre from his grandmother outright and the rest of it he inherited half interest with his sister. And so I bought the one acre and the house and half interest in the, like seventy acres. And, I didn't know this, but according to them he, all he was supposed to have gotten was that one

acre. He wasn't supposed to have that half interest in the rest of the property. Well, that all took place a generation ago...

SNOWDEN: Well sure, yea.

GREG GRANT: I just legally bought it. I got tangled up...

SNOWDEN: Oh.

GREG GRANT: ...an old family thing. And then they thought I badgered him into selling it to me, which he's the one that... And when they told my parents, and my dad said, "I'm the one that answered the call and Reginald called us to sell it to him. So Reginald approached him." I was living off in another town. But anyway.

SNOWDEN: Yea.

GREG GRANT: And actually, all I really wanted was this strip of property that goes from the Masonic Lodge down to the creek. And my grandmother always said get it if you could. And that was part of it. And so that's my main interest. It was luck I ended up with that. And then another twenty acres over here and nine acres over here.

SNOWDEN: Wow.

GREG GRANT: But all I wanted was...

SNOWDEN: Wow. You're a landed fellow.

GREG GRANT: Yea. But it was a long ordeal.

SNOWDEN: Mmm hmm. [background conversation]

GREG GRANT: Mediation, petitions, suits, all sorts of stuff.

SNOWDEN: Oh gosh.

GREG GRANT: Three lawyers.

SNOWDEN: Oh my goodness.

GREG GRANT: Yea. Okay, moving on down the road.

BEISEL: All right.

SNOWDEN: We talked about you. [5:10]

[clip ends/new clip begins]

REYNOLDS: I'm like okay, where we at? [chuckles]

GREG GRANT: There's nothing to see but, my mom told about the uh, her grandparents the Jack Emanis old homeplace is back down in here, and her having to run across the pasture with the bull in it when the house caught on fire. And so, that house is back down in here. It's Emanis Lake back there now. Flooded where they grew crops and sugar cane and stuff. And so, it was from here to the, to the uh, Miss Lou's store that she ran to get, to get help, and they threw her on a wagon, and came back and put out the fire. So that's the Emanis homeplace. And then across the way, here, the man that wrote the letter uh...what was his name?

SNOWDEN: Philip House.

GREG GRANT: There ya go. The uh, Carl Peace homeplace it's a giant red oak back there. It's gone now. It's right there. Just a point of reference, so.

REYNOLDS: So this is the edge of Arcadia?

GREG GRANT: Nope. That's it. Sorry.

REYNOLDS: Oh, okay.



[END CLIP 6:05]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: Let's see but this is the uh, Lee, Lee and Annie Patterson homeplace. It was old, old dogtrot house. And they were half cousins of mine. So this was one of three of the four Arcadia city limit corners started right here. So the next stop, up the top of the hill is Snowhill, which is it's own community had a school. So this was the end of Arcadia and start of Snowhill. You headed up there, then we'll uh, quickly stop at a few homeplaces on the way back down I'll point out who was whose. Another person we used to bring fruit to. It's a shriveled little old lady, big wide hall, old dogtrot, it had a giant post oak out back, and she had a big old, old rifle lying on the bed. Living there by herself.

HALLMARK: The rifle on the bed.

GREG GRANT: And they had a crazy son. Buford Patterson.

[END CLIP 00:55]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

[rustling noises] [crosstalk]

REYNOLDS: I did.

GREG GRANT: The Felicia man that wrote the letter, this was uh, his parents, or mother's place. I don't know if there's a dad. And, Juana Powdrill, local punctuation, "Wonner" Powdrill. And then this was the John Powdrill house, which was his grandparents across the road here.

SNOWDEN: So his parents lived here? The house is...

GREG GRANT: Yup. It was a little ratty looking house and wisteria eventually ate it, but this house still exist over here. So, which is an older house, but just a simple little frame house. Anywho.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

[END CLIP 00:37]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: Nothing left, but I got some pretty good pictures of it. Cause I tore it down to redo mine. It was a uh, half cousin owns it, or did own it, owns the property. It was a dogtrot house that was identical to mine over there, one that my mom was born in. And.

REYNOYLDs: It was over here in the trees or over here with the trailer?

GREG GRANT: Between my truck and that van right there.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: There used to be a pile of rubble and ash still there. And it was... probably goes back older, but most people, the older people remembered it as the... Ralph Gillespie, Ralph and Maggie Lee Gillespie house. When I was a kid, it was Mirt Patterson's house. Now it belongs to Shirley Patterson, which is a man Shirley.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: And there was a pond right there. My grandparents lived here for a while, and I have a uh two-and-a-half dollar piece that came out of that pond right there that came off a horse's hoof when they pulled the wagon out of the...Yea, I'll show it to you sometime.

BEISEL: That's awesome.

[END CLIP 1:09]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

REYNOLDS: Okay. Can't you tell we are getting tired, lazy? [Laughs]

GREG GRANT: That's good we're fixing to run out of time anyway.

REYNOLDS: [laughs] Okay.

G. GRANT: Of course, we, we're a little over half way. Yea. We've covered half the territory and starting on the third quadrant here. And so, remember Joy Covington was a little irritated when she saw that uh Miss Lou's was referred to as the, the prettiest house in Arcadia because she said, "No their house was the prettiest house in Arcadia."

REYNOLDS: This was Joy's?

GREG GRANT: Yea, so this was uh, like all of them it's been sorta covered up, adulterated some. It was, her parents were, Van and Elvie Hughes. And so, Elva. So um.

REYNOLDS: So, Joy Covington Livingston?

GREG GRANT: Yup. Joy Hughes [Reynolds in unison] Covington Livingston. And uh, it was always nice and pretty and had pretty roses and stuff. And I was always... It's old because uh, she searched all the deeds and it goes back to the Carr's and then uh, before that it was Dr. Carrs and before that it was um, Oliver's, so it's a I think there's an old house... [speaking to someone else] and it had a real cool barn. It's falling down to the right there. [rustling noises] [car door closes]

REYNOLDS: Okay. So, who lives here now?

G. GRANT: Nobody. She's, it's a rent house, and my uh...

REYNOLDS: Okay.

G. GRANT: ...distant... Well there's somebody over there now. Maybe he does live here.

REYNOLDS: Yea he's, yea he's staring at us staring at him. [chuckles]

G. GRANT: Anywho.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

G. GRANT: Joy, Joy rents it.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

G. GRANT: So my distant cousin just moved out. So. [unclear]

[car door closes]

SNOWDEN: So, 1900 to 1929? Thereabouts?

G. GRANT: What we're looking at probably I wouldn't be surprised, if there's like uh 1890s thing in the inside of it, like Miss Lou's.

REYNOLDS: Yea.

SNOWDEN: Like, what we are seeing.

REYNOLDS: What we're seeing. Yea.

GREG GRANT: Yea. In fact, it's probably even '20s or so when they tampered with it.
I think we've got a coyote down the road there. It is.

SNOWDEN: Yea, it was. I think except it had a whitish looking head.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

SNOWDEN: Skinny looking thing.

REYNOLDS: Okay.

[END CLIP 2:20]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

REYNOLDS: Just laughing cause we keep stopping. [laughs] We're looking at more pastures and... [laughs]

GREG GRANT: No, Henry Grant, this is his old homeplace.

BEISEL: Okay.

GREG GRANT: There's nothing left of it, and I got cool pictures and...

BEISEL: Oh neat.

GREG GRANT: The bell in my yard came from here, and there's nothing left. But we'll have to bailout at this point and do a U-turn and I'll show you a few things on the way back to my parents. But it, it goes on down to the next dirt road, and lots more relatives, and cause there's gillions of homeplaces that we've past that I honestly don't know anything about. I'm just know the ones that were left from when I was...

BEISEL: Right.

GREG GRANT: ...after I came along, but anyway. This was the majority of Henry Grant's life. Henry and May Grant.

REYNOLDS: And so it's basically it's right here next door to Joy's house?

GREG GRANT: It's back in here. Yup.

REYNOLDS: Okay, so...

GREG GRANT: It's another thing Noel squandered and lost and... [chuckles] We do a
 "U-y" don't get run over.

[END CLIP 00:45]

ORAL INTERVIEW #1087 NEW CLIP

GREG GRANT: Oliver's home-place was right...

REYNOLDS: Joe, Joe and Ivis.

GREG GRANT: I-V-I-S. She was a Burgay. It was a saw...I mean a syrup mill here. So, lot of them talking about hauling their sugar-cane here to the syrup mill.

REYNOLDS: So, I'm trying to get a reference point here.

GREG GRANT: It's uh, my property starts right there...

REYNOLDS: Right there. Okay.

GREG GRANT: ...and ends there. And then uh, the next thing were gonna come to is uh, uh, simple little frame house on the corner, which was Mary Crawford's house. Which was probably built in the '50s or so, something like that.

REYNOLDS: Oh, the one that's just right across from your place?

GREG GRANT: Yea. It was Ruben Smith's....

REYNOLDS: Okay.

GREG GRANT: ...for most of my life. But between here and there, you can see a metal garage looking thing, that's where the cotton gin was. And so, it was uh, that's where Noel was probably talking where he had his hair sucked up. And so starting over here, cotton gin next, then uh store,

and then the church, and so we're kinda hittin' downtown Arcadia
right here, so.

REYNOLDS: All right, okay. We're going, we're headed...

[CLIP ENDS 00:53]