

**Oral History Interview of
Paul Bush**

**Interviewed by: David Marshall
June 5, 2014
Lubbock, Texas**

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*General Southwest Collection Interviews***

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Transcript Overview:

This interview, a follow-up to the May 12, 2014 interview, features Paul Bush discussing working at Lubbock Electric for the past seventy years. Bush also describes his love of vintage cars and the various social organizations he has belonged to.

Length of Interview: 02:12:58

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David Marshall (DM):

The date is June 5 of 2014. This is David Marshall interviewing Paul Bush at his home in Lubbock, Texas. And Barbara Bush, his daughter-in-law is with us as well, and may be asking some questions also. So, can we start with a little bit about how you began the company, Lubbock Electric, in 1944.

Paul Bush (PB):

Well luckily I had gone to work for Anderson Young Electric as soon as I got out of high school. Well, it wasn't as soon as that, because I didn't have any money to go to school. So when I got out of high school my dad didn't have any money, and I didn't have any money, but I had made a little bit of money when I was in school making furniture and making wooden buttons to sell for girls to put on some of their clothes. And I made a lot of stuff to sell cheap, five or ten cents apiece. And I was about making some little wood initials, and making a pin out of them with a pin and bending it. I can't remember now.

DM:

Well I remember we talked about this some last time. It sounded like you were a very enterprising person in high school.

PB:

Well, I didn't have any choice, but I was always willing to do something for nothing—pennies or nickels, or anything else. And I made my mother a new dining room suite in my woodwork class. So anyway, I had forty dollars that I hadn't given my dad, and most of the time whatever money we made, he didn't ask me to pay rent or anything else, he never said anything about it at all. Here I was out of school and out of a job. Anyway, when I got to where I needed to find something to do, and my Sunday school teacher had given me a Model T, about six or seven years old, that he had driven quite a few years. And I went down to the Ford house, and I told him I wanted to buy a pickup. "How much money do you got?" Well the reason the Sunday school teacher give it to me because the Ford house wouldn't give him nothing for it. So, anyway, I bought a little green pickup, just like that one in that showcase there.

DM:

Right.

PB:

I gave him forty dollars and six hundred seventeen dollars financed and went over to the Citizen's National Bank. Anyhow, they said, "Forty dollars is a good down-payment." So we bought me a new pickup. And I thought, Well my dad had been hurt, had fallen and broke his hip, and when he got well he didn't have any money; so the doctor come to our house and set his

hip and when he got well that leg was about that much shorter. So he couldn't work, so he rented a little joint down on the corner of Avenue G & Broadway, and put him a fruit stand there.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Okay, that give me something to do, and so I went down there with him with my pickup and I'd go buy whatever money I had worth of tomatoes, or little tomatoes, or pears, or anything else that—all the trucks come in down there on the corner of Broadway & Avenue G and guys like me dispersed their assets.

DM:
Nice to have a pickup truck.

PB:
So I had that brand new pickup, and so I didn't try to sell them there or anything in town, but I went to little towns like Slaton and, I can't even think of the towns towards Post. But anyhow, I'd go down to these little grocery stores and they'd buy three or four tomatoes. They wouldn't ever buy a lug; I never sold a whole lug of tomatoes to anybody.

DM:
Oh.

PB:
And you would have thought that they'd buy that. But anyhow, with the pickup I went to El Paso and got a load of bananas, and we sold bananas wherever we could, and I ended up driving to Slaton, to Post, and I still didn't sell out. So I decided to go north up towards Matador.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
And I parked on the courthouse square, and I had a stick or something in the back of my pickup, so I hung the bananas up and peddled them on the courthouse square, and I got sold out.

DM:
Huh.

PB:

That was just one incident; so I did a lot of stuff like that.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And one day, Hall McCrummen was a real good friend of mine.

DM:

Now tell me that name again?

PB:

Hall McCrummen.

DM:

McCrummen.

PB:

McCrummen.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

M-c-C-r-u-m-m-e-n.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And that was home with me all the time. I never did stay at home; I'd go over to his house and was always welcome. And he and our Sunday School class, they'd go to their house for parties, or just gatherings, or anything else, and I went there one—I don't know what day it was, but the next door neighbor was Ed Norman, and he was shop foreman for Anderson Young Electric.

DM:

Okay.

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PB:

He come over there ask Hall if he wanted to go to work at the electric shop, and he said, "No, I'm not interested in going to work, I've got to finish school." So I said, "How about me?" He said, "Well, come down to the shop and we'll interview you and we'll see if we can put you to work." So, I went to work for fifteen cents an hour and boy I was really going good. So I worked for them.

DM:

Now what were you doing exactly? Were you winding electric motors?

PB:

Well yeah just like my shop is today; we wound motors, and we repaired washing machine motors and all that kind of stuff.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

The biggest I ever had working for them—well, let's go back a little bit. Here I was with a new pickup; Anderson Young didn't have anything. John Young had had TB, and he and his dad hired Ed Norman to go to work for them. And so he needed somebody to help; so I went down there and went to work for them, and we got a big motor in there, a hundred horsepower, to wind. So, we needed a little bit more help, and I said my brother needs a job too. They paid him fifteen cents an hour to—he'd come down there and work. We taped coils and that was a pretty good job, but his hands got so sore that day. The next morning he said, "I ain't going to go back to work at that, that's too hard of work." You had to tape coils like this with a roll of tape. So anyway, that's how we got started.

DM:

Okay. Did you use your pickup when you were working with them? Did you go pick up motors?

PB:

No, I did.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I didn't intend to, but he had a Model A coupe, it was the only car they had. He'd been in the hospital a long time, over a year in El Paso.

DM:

Now who is this?

PB:

John Young.

DM:

Young, okay.

PB:

John and Pop Young decided that he'd get back and, let me think a minute. Well there was an electrician that they—he was just a wireman, or electrician, but he went in with John Young and they started back at—

Barbara Bush (BB):

Was that Mr. Anderson? Was that Mr. Anderson?

PB:

Mr. Anderson was dead.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

He was with John Young.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And he died, and they just kept using that name.

DM:

Okay. When you came along Mr. Anderson was already dead.

PB:

Yes.

DM:

I see, okay.

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PB:

Anyway, it involved something that I didn't know anything about, but Ed Norman was our shop foreman. And anyhow, Ed Norman and John Young went to Big Springs and got a job winding a motor on an ice machine, or a compressor for an ice machine. And we went down there and stripped it out.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I didn't know anything about it, but I recognized a hook of connections. So after we went back home and ordered a wire and made new coils and took them back down there, he missed his reading on his [micrometer]—twenty-five thousandths.

DM:

Oh, really, on his micrometer?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

He had a micrometer, and he missed the reading?

PB:

He missed the reading.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And when we got the coils made they were too big to go into the slot.

DM:

Oh, no.

PB:

We went back down there and tried to put them in, and they wouldn't go. So anyway, we brought them home and stripped all the insulation off of them and tried to make them small enough that we could put them in, and did. And when we hooked it up, Ed Norman, he was kind

of a quarter horse for an electrician is all. But I knew that the connection wasn't like we took off, but I didn't know what it was.

DM:
Right.

PB:
And I didn't know the reason for it. But, when we started the motor up, it wouldn't run.

DM:
Oh.

PB:
Well Ed Norman says, "Well it's right; your power company's got a bad power factor." And he said, "That's what's wrong with it. When the power company gets it all fixed, it'll run." Well, the power company said there was nothing wrong with their power. Anyhow, had quite an argument, and it still wouldn't run. So, John Young told Ed Norman to take a vacation, and we'll see what we can do. And he learned about Ralph Mills at Brownwood. He got Ralph to come over there, and he said, "Well it's hooked up wrong." And so they said, "Well, let's hook it right then." So we reconnected it, and I recognized the connection. So I learned my first lesson in connections and so forth in electric motors. Anyway, the ice machine run good and we got by with it, and eventually got paid.

DM:
Okay. Now did you use lots of different gauges of wire when you were winding electric motors, were there a lot of different gauges?

PB:
Oh yeah, every number there is, is used in wires.

DM:
Did y'all keep most of that in stock, or did you have to order it?

PB:
Oh then he didn't have any money to stock anything.

DM:
Sure, right. Where would it come from? Where would you order it?

PB:

Oh there's a lot of copper mills. Back then they was already making lots of copper.

DM:

Right.

PB:

Because the electrical industry was pretty good then.

DM:

Right.

PB:

But that was about thirty-six, thirty-seven. So the copper industry and the electric motor industry was going great really.

DM:

You could get supplies okay?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay, was there a particular warehouse in Dallas or somewhere like that where you got most of your things.

PB:

A warehouse in Dallas, and Oklahoma City.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

Well, I had heard a story about how good you were and fast you were at rewinding these motors. Is it at Anderson Young that you developed that skill?

PB:

Well, yeah. We had a job to do, and we just learned how to do it, so.

DM:

Got faster and faster I guess, huh?

PB:

Yeah, I'll tell you a little story. After I went in business—this is the wrong place, but while I think about it.

DM:

That's okay.

PB:

Harvey Sears was an employee of mine after I went in business.

DM:

That's Harvey Sears.

PB:

Harvey Sears.

DM:

Sears, okay.

PB:

And we got to racing, winding quarter horse barrel washing machine motors. And we could run the motor in fourteen, fifteen minutes. And I bet you know an employee of mine that can run one in an hour. But we could anyway.

DM:

Sounds like you'd really have to develop some arm muscles to do so much of that.

PB:

No it don't take nothing. It's a little bitty job, about that big around.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

You just had to have room enough to get your fingers in there.

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BB:

Tedious.

DM:

But you have to be precise, I guess, you have to wind it properly, you can't overlap.

PB:

Well, you wind the coils on a jig, and then you just put them in.

DM:

Right. Now would you often go over to somewhere in Lubbock to fix a motor and try to fix it there, or would you take it out of, say a washing machine, and bring it back?

PB:

Oh yeah, you'd take it out and take it to the shop.

DM:

Yeah, okay. But now if it was out of town, how far did you roam?

PB:

Well we didn't go out of town then.

DM:

Oh, okay.

PB:

When we first started it.

DM:

Okay. Anyway, you learned this skill at Anderson Young. What else did you learn there?

PB:

Oh, I guess what we learned there lasted the rest of my life. We had our first job with a cotton gin right after I went to work for Anderson Young. Let me gather my thoughts a little bit. Anyhow, we got a hundred horsepower, nine hundred RPM motor that had burned up, and we got it to run, and there wasn't anybody else in Lubbock. So anyhow we—got to think a minute, my memory is getting bad enough that I—

DM:

That's okay.

PB:

Think of something I want to write down and I'll go get me a piece of paper and get ready to write it down and by that time I forgot.

DM:

I do that all the time. And you just take your time, that's perfectly fine. You just think about it and whatever.

BB:

So that first gin that y'all had work with, did they come in and bring the motor in to you, or did y'all go out there.

PB:

No, we didn't have any equipment.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

To begin with. I had a brand new pickup, and they didn't have anything.

DM:

Well how old was this company when you started working for Anderson Young?

PB:

Oh they kind of developed with Anderson and Young, and then John Young had to get out of it because he got TB and he lost a lung.

DM:

Oh, boy.

PB:

And spent a year in El Paso.

BB:

Is that when you went off on your own business, or at what point did you leave there and start your business?

PB:

Well, anyway Bill Clark was a friend of John Young's, Bill, Sr., and he had divorced. And he came by to see John Young one day, and he said, "I've got two boys in El Paso that need a job." And so his son, they brought him to Lubbock and give him a job at Anderson Young. So Bill Clark and I was real good friends. And he didn't have a car or anything else, and I had a pickup, so we double dated in my pickup. Anyway, we wound this hundred horsepower motor for a gin over at Spur. Somehow or other they found another motor just like it; so we didn't have to get in any hurry to wind it. And that was our first big motor anyhow. I'm all mixed up where we are in our conversation.

DM:

That's okay, no that's okay.

PB:

In our conversation.

DM:

That's perfectly fine. So it seems like if it's cotton ginning season and one of these things goes down, there'd be a lot of pressure on you guys to get this work done.

PB:

We worked around the clock to get them repaired and back in.

DM:

Now the one at Spur, did you do the work out there or did you bring the motor back?

PB:

Oh no, you had to bring it in the shop.

DM:

You had to, okay.

PB:

It's a unit about this big.

DM:

Right.

PB:

Weighed about three thousand pounds.

DM:

Is this where your pickup came in to play.

PB:

No I didn't use my pickup for anything.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I made a service call. I was supposed to go in their Model A over to Levelland, to an oil drilling rig, and they had a little steam turbine for the lights, and it had gone out. So we loaded it in a Model A and brought it over there and we re-wound the armature on it and sent it back over to the gin at Levelland.

DM:

Was there always plenty of work for you with Anderson Young, was there plenty of business? Did you stay busy? Did you stay busy when you were at Anderson Young; was there plenty of work coming in?

PB:

Well, yeah.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But anyhow we got to dating, and I was making forty-five cents an hour.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And I was dating Mae. And she was working at the telephone company and making forty cents an hour. Anyhow, I'd gone out with a couple of different girls and so had Bill. And Jay Nunley come into the picture there; he was a friend of mine in this Sunday School class. So I went with his to-be wife and they said, "You want to go with her?" And I said, "Oh, I'll just date anybody." He said, "How about me, mind if I start dating Annabelle?" Annabelle—well I forgot her last name now. Anyway, so they got married and all of a sudden, well here I am. I just as well see if I could get married too, so somehow or other, that's what happened.

DM:

Was this while you were working at Anderson Young?

PB:

Yeah, this was while we were working at Anderson Young, yeah.

DM:

Well that was way back in 1940, right?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Nineteen forty?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay. Well you worked for Anderson Young for a while then I guess?

PB:

Worked five years.

DM:

There you go, okay, okay.

PB:

We got married, and two couples that we knew, and I can't think of their names right now so I'll have to skip that, but anyhow they were at our wedding at our house.

BB:

Now was that Scotty Wright? Was that Jarvis Wright?

PB:

No. It'll come to me directly, but, anyhow, let me see where we are.

DM:

Well, now when you were working at Anderson Young, were there other businesses like it in Lubbock, or was this the only one? Was there any competition?

PB:

There was no competition at that time.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Anyway, to talk about that. Ed Norman had worked for them a while—no, Ed hadn't either. Ralph Mills had worked for them as a shop foreman and so Bill Clark, Ralph Mills' brother, and myself, another extra one or two, began to get a pretty good job, and we thought we were doing alright making forty cents an hour. We was making what we thought was good money, and sure enough it was, really. But anyhow, we got married making forty and forty-five cents an hour. And I worked for Anderson Young for I think four years, or five years.

DM:

Okay. And she worked for the telephone company?

PB:

And she worked for the telephone company.

DM:

Did y'all get you a house? Did you rent a house?

PB:

Well, yeah we did that. We went together about two months, and one of the furniture stores went bankrupt.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But we went over and bought a dining room suite.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But I don't know how, but we did anyway. A refrigerator, everything for a little apartment that we rented on Avenue N. And we had the house furnished before we got married.

DM:

Ah, wow.

PB:

All paid for.

DM:

Pretty good.

PB:

So we moved in and got married and—let me say it different to this, I don't mean it like that. Anyhow, we had a place to get married and Mae's mother had a preacher friend that Mae decided she'd like to have him come have our wedding at our house. So we had two couples that were friends of ours that had gotten married, because we were thinking about it. Ed Norman went over to a friend of his, A. D. Chase, who was a line foreman for Southwestern Public Service, and retired, and he wanted to have something to do, and so he said, "I'd like to go into the motor repair business." And that bulletin right over there is a picture of it. He went out to his house with Ed Norman and had a double garage and he added another little room onto it and so that's where they started the shop. They offered me a job over there; so I quit Anderson Young and went to work with Ed Chase and we got to doing transformer work for Southwest Public Service.

DM:

Oh, okay.

PB:

We had one or two employees, just kids, and that's where we got started. I worked a year with Ed, or with A. D. Chase, and decided I was wasting our money and wasting our time, and I had this pickup, so they were selling some Army surplus stuff, and I bought a red pickup from the government for I don't have any idea how much, two or three hundred dollars. Anyhow, I had learned where the supply houses were, and so a man and I got in that pickup one Sunday night and went to Dallas and rolled into one of the supply houses and—well, didn't either, we went to Wichita Falls and got this pickup that had been wrecked, but it was still towable, and probably runnable. Anyhow, we tied onto it and went to the supply house in Dallas, and I was getting smarter all the time, learning from other people. And I thought heck, I can't find any reason I can't go into business for myself.

DM:

Did you just pick up the supplies you needed then, there in Dallas?

PB:

I picked up what supplies I thought I could afford.

DM:

Yeah, but that's really interesting—you and Mae started the business right then by going to Dallas then, picking up supplies.

BB:

Is this that little business that you had—I remember seeing a picture of one that was in the downtown area before you moved over onto Texas Avenue, is that when you were—

PB:

That was a building we rented right across the street on 13th Street from Western Union.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But that was during the war.

DM:

Nineteen forty-four, does that sound right?

PB:

Well, 1944 is where we moved after I got--

DM:

I mean the year 1944, is that about when?

PB:

Nineteen forty-four, address 1944.

DM:

Oh, no, I was asking about the year.

BB:

It was all in the same year.

DM:

It was the same year; the same address was 1944? What street was that?

PB:

Texas Avenue.

DM:

Texas Avenue, okay, golly. And that's where Lubbock Electric began then?

PB:

That's where Lubbock Electric began.

DM:

Did you call it Lubbock Electric?

PB:

Well, on the way to Wichita Falls I thought, We got to have some kind of a name to put on this stuff. And as we drove along we talked about it, and so on, and we decided Lubbock Electric would be the correct name and everything. So, we named it Lubbock Electric, and consequently it's been adequate for all these years.

DM:

That's an amazing story, really. You take a trip with your wife to Wichita Falls to pick up supplies, you come up with the name of the business, you come back and rent a building, and it's the beginning of a long-term business.

PB:

Well, we rented the building ahead of time.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Because we didn't have any supplies.

DM:

Right, right.

PB:

Didn't have anything to work with, we didn't have a winding machine, we didn't have anything. So we had to make some of it.

DM:
Okay.

BB:
To clarify, the one you rented was down across from Western Union. And when you moved over to Texas Avenue, did you own that building?

PB:
Yeah.

BB:
Okay.

DM:
Okay.

BB:
You bought that building.

DM:
That was the 1944 building, I see, okay.

PB:
Telford Lumber Company, Jill Telford, had a lumber yard, and he was doing contracting for small buildings. And so Lindsey Telford, and his son, and my brother, and some more played baseball together in a vacant lot out south of our house. But anyway, Lindsey Telford built us that building, and there was a friend of mine, Bob. Well I'll be darned, I can't think of his name. He was in the refrigeration business, and when I told him I was going to build that building over there, he said, "Well let me see if I can build one next door." So he bought a lot next to us, so he started in business next door to me in two little buildings, thirty by sixty, and we were really fixed up. And we didn't get moved into it until I had to go to the service. We did. We had to. We moved into it and was doing pretty good business we thought. And ordinarily, when they sent you a notice of being drafted, you would go to see if you was approved or not. I didn't get to go and come back.

DM:
Oh.

PB:
They took me on the deliberate list and I left and never come back until I got out of boot camp.

DM:
Golly.

PB:
Yeah until I got out of boot camp.

DM:
This was the Navy, right?

PB:
The Navy.

DM:
Okay, and you were at San Diego?

PB:
Went to San Diego, and I was scared of the Navy because I couldn't swim good enough. In the Navy you're supposed to be able to swim! But anyway, I didn't want in the Navy, I wanted in the Army, but I got drafted in the Navy, and I learned to know a friend of mine, he became a friend of mine, A. W. Lott from over by Lorenzo.

DM:
Yeah, I know A. W. Lott, I interviewed him one time.

PB:
Did you?

DM:
Sure did.

PB:
And, he and I went all the way through boot camp. And he and I, either one, can't remember—I had the top bunk, or the bottom, and he and I had to bunk together anyhow. One of us was on the top, and the other on the bottom. Neither one remembers which were—we talked about it a lot since then. But anyhow, when we got out of the service, we started all over again.

DM:
Now, when you were in the service, did you stay in San Diego until the end of the war?

PB:

I stayed in San Diego.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

The war was over the day in Europe.

DM:

Europe.

PB:

The day I got out of boot camp.

DM:

Okay, well that's pretty good timing. I know it continued in the Pacific for a while.

PB:

Yeah, and then by the time I got back from boot camp, my little brother had—he volunteered when he was sixteen, and he went to Europe and followed the invasion. He didn't go during the invasion, but he followed it, and he became a jeep driver for an officer.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And he hadn't hardly got in Europe, until they run over a mine and he and the officer both in the pickup all got bombed and it busted his head wide open and they didn't think he was going to live, but he did, and the officer did the same way.

DM:

Is that right?

PB:

He got a broken leg, Norman did; he had a broken leg, and a broken arm, and his head was all squished and he didn't know anything, or didn't know anybody. He didn't think he could live, but sure enough he lived through the battlefield, so they sent him back to headquarters or something else, back somewhere out of the activity, and he got well like that, but he didn't remember anything.

BB:

How old was Norman when he died?

PB:

I don't know for sure, I think about sixty-three or four.

DM:

Did he have any problems from that during his life?

PB:

He never had any problems.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Except after that.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And they put him in the veteran's hospital.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

In Waco.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

Then he stayed there until he died.

PB:

Well, he stayed in the veteran's hospital until he died, anyway.

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DM:

Oh, oh, okay.

PB:

I went to visit him usually about once a month after the war was all over with. He recognized me, and recognized everybody else, but he couldn't think about what to say, or what to do, or— and he was just—

DM:

Well, by the time you got out of boot camp in San Diego, the war in the Pacific only had about four or five more months to go, so they—

PB:

It was over while I was going on—

DM:

Oh, while you were going on furlough?

PB:

Furlough.

DM:

Oh, is that right?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay. Well how long was Lubbock Electric in business before you went off to the war? Matter of months?

PB:

Just a matter of months or something like that.

DM:

Did I read correct—

PB:

I just got moved into this building.

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DM:

Wouldn't you know.

PB:

This new building. And then I went to service then.

DM:

What happened to the business during the war, did Mae do anything, or?

PB:

Oh, she tried with Harvey Sears, tried to run it until I got home from Bootloo [boot camp]. Harvey and I, and maybe one kid that wasn't eligible for service, little bitty guy, had wound up all the motors and everything we had.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And we built a little bake oven ourselves.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And we put all those motors in there and went home, and somebody called and said, "Your shop's on fire."

DM:

Uh-oh.

PB:

I went down there and of course that oven contained the fire.

DM:

Right.

PB:

And all that varnish which—it's got explosive—.

DM:
Right.

PB:
Varnish on it. Anyway, I got an extension for five days.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
So we'd rewind all those motors that we had wound, and give them back to somebody.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
I'm sorry I've rambled so much, I don't know where I am.

DM:
Well no, that's okay. We're just picking up some information about when you were on furlough from the Navy. So, I was just wondering, you said it was just a matter of months that the Lubbock Electric was in business before you went off to the Navy, but then you came back. Did you pick up the pace pretty well when you came back?

PB:
Parker Electric decided that they needed a place, and they said let us rent your shop, and they'd been in the electric business which is just wiring and stuff like that, didn't have anything to do with motors.

DM:
Right.

PB:
And when I got home, he moved out.

DM:
Oh, I see.

PB:
Let me have my building back.

DM:

Well that was really nice, because you made a little rent I guess from Parker Electric.

PB:

That's right.

DM:

That worked out real well.

BB:

Now one of those checks that Leslie has was to Mr. Parker. I guess he would do business with you when he—is this the Mr. Parker at Denver City?

PB:

No, no.

BB:

Oh okay.

PB:

It was another Parker.

BB:

Okay.

PB:

Another family altogether. They run a shop right down 34th Street.

BB:

Okay.

PB:

It's been a number of years, and I don't remember what happened to him. He died, and I know his son took it over for a while, but—

DM:

Who were some of your big customers? Did you have some regular customers back in '44 and '45?

PB:

No, I didn't.

DM:

Was there anyone who called and said, "My motor's out on my washing machine," or—?

PB:

Send it over; we'll take care of it.

DM:

It was that kind of thing?

PB:

That's right.

DM:

How about the cotton gins, did you have any cotton gin work at that time?

PB:

Well, there was lots of cotton gins, and—I got to think a little bit there, I don't know.

DM:

Okay. But you might just get a call from anyone then?

PB:

Oh yeah.

DM:

Okay. Were any of these people, any of these customers people you had known from when you worked at Anderson Young?

PB:

No.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Not really—

DM:
Okay.

PB:
But most of the cotton gins were just the rag tail—

DM:
Right.

PB:
One or two stands, or.

DM:
In every little town.

PB:
At every little town.

DM:
Was most of your work right in Lubbock, or did you—

PB:
Oh, no.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Not really, but the oil mill was good enough to me to—

DM:
Okay.

PB:
To let me do all their work out there.

DM:
Okay, that's perfect.

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BB:

Well at what point did you adopt the program where y'all would go out—I know the cotton gins would have cotton on the lots.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

And these trailers would be backed up, and if their motors went down, it was costing them money if they couldn't be ginning cotton.

DM:

Right.

BB:

And so you would have people go out. It might be two o'clock in the morning.

PB:

I'd go out.

DM:

Oh.

BB:

You would go out?

PB:

I did all that.

BB:

Okay.

DM:

They had your home phone number, huh?

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

And there was some story you—

PB:

I put it out everywhere.

DM:

Okay, sure.

BB:

There was some story I remember about you developing some shut-off switch, because these suction hands would have to suction the cotton out of the trailers.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

And it might be very cold at night, and they're out there middle of the night doing this. But if something happened, they could lose an arm up those suction—

PB:

No, no it wasn't that much suction.

BB:

Okay, well you tell the story.

PB:

It just makes it fluff. It sucks it up that suction pipe, but it doesn't have any physical ability. Because you could hold your hand down there, and it just—just wind. But we thought of a lot of things that would make it easier for cotton gins to—

BB:

Well didn't you come up with some shut-off switch or something, so if they had a mechanical problem and—

PB:

Well, it takes a long time for me to tell that story, but you could get too much cotton, just as well as you not having enough to make the gin run. So, we developed an overflow.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And so when the cotton gets in the gin, it comes in all the machinery up above, and gets all cleaned, and gets ready to gin it. There's a screw conveyer on top up above all the machinery that tries to equal it out, or level it out, and when it gets to the end, we got a switch down there says to shove all this stuff back, because we got more cotton we need to. So, we developed some silly things like that that ended up making it more even.

DM:

So you'd mention it to the ginner, and they'd say, "Okay, I think we'll do that."

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

That kind of thing.

PB:

That's right.

DM:

Well good. That's good business, that's good business.

PB:

Well that's what business was.

DM:

Now, were you dealing with A. W. Lott during this time, because he was out at Lorenzo. Seems like he was out there with the gin out there, wasn't he?

PB:

No, a little textile mill they had out there.

DM:

Oh, that's right, that's right. Did you ever do any work out there?

PB:

Well, we did a little bit of work for them.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But not very much.

DM:

You'd see him every now and then, then?

PB:

Yeah, we'd see him once in a while.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I didn't know—didn't A. W. died recently?

DM:

I think he did. You know I talked to him several years ago, maybe even eight years ago, and he was over at Carillon I believe?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

At that time, and I think he died after that.

PB:

I think so.

DM:

Yeah. He wrote a little book; he had a little book, and I have a copy of that still. But yeah, it's been a long time since I've seen him. But he told me about the textile mill and all. But it's interesting work that you guys were doing, especially when you're doing business with someone and you're able to say, "Hey, you can improve this." I think that's really interesting, that you were kind of helping each other out with these ideas.

PB:

Well, we didn't do any wiring, but Andy Anderson was the son of Anderson Young.

DM:

Right.

PB:

He and I got to be real good friends, and he was in the wiring business.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And I was in the motor business.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And we went over to Petersburg. And they was having some problem with their press, or something else, I don't remember what.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

The machinery, and I can't explain how right now, but when you got a full press, you had to shift some belts and so on to where you could stop it. And I said, "Can't we electrify that?" Andy went over there with me, because we had some other electrical problems, and I didn't know what they were. And he kind of explained it, and they said, "Well, let's just do it." So Andy and I took all that belt rigging off and everything. And seems to me like they had a little electric motor there themselves. So anyhow, we put an electric motor on that tramper, and it would stop and start.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

So we would make it where it would read on a nanometer how much load there is.

DM:

I see.

PB:

Would quit every time the tramper would go down and mash the cotton in the press. He and I fixed that up that night, and boy it just tickled them to death.

DM:

I imagine.

PB:

They didn't have to wait on that belt to be able to make bale the right size. You could get a bale the same size every time. So anyhow we rigged the presses. We eventually, and I think I could take the responsibility of making a press automatic, that we got into it real quick like. And so—

DM:

I hope they compensated you well for that.

PB:

Oh, no. You got paid by the hour, that's all.

DM:

But you know what, it would be an interesting learning experience. You go to this gin, you go to that gin, you see how they do things different. You'd get a lot of ideas in your head.

PB:

Well, I came up with lots of ideas. Just like the hydraulic press pump. Loomis had got hold of a little three cylinder, big three cylinder, hydraulic pump. It took fifty horsepower to run it. And I had the guy working for me that had worked in hydraulic business somewhere else, and he said, "Let's just build a centrifugal pump there." A hydraulic pump. We'll put a fifteen horsepower motor on it, and we can press it up in about less than thirty seconds. And boy, we did. And that pump that Loomis had used was awful expensive. I've forgotten how much, but it was awful expensive. And we put that little fifteen power motor and a hydraulic centrifugal pump on it, and boy we were going great. And then next thing you know, that wasn't fast enough. We put a forty horsepower on it, then a fifty horsepower, and now we got two hundred horsepowers on hydraulic systems.

DM:

Oh yeah. Back in the forties, what were some of the biggest motors you were working with?

PB:

We didn't get any oilfield business back—well, let me see when. The biggest motors in the cotton gin most of the time was two hundred horsepower.

DM:

Pretty big.

PB:

Two hundred horsepower had a slow speed, which made them real big. And I decided that we could save this deal of having to work twenty-four hours a day. To get them back in business, we'd have a spare motor, so—

DM:

Yes.

PB:

I bought a brand new Century motor that we could sell them, or, in fact, they could very easily pay for one, a new one, while they was waiting on somebody to rebuild it.

DM:

Yeah.

PB:

So anyhow, we eventually got a couple of—in fact, I expect we had three or four, two hundred horsepower motors that we could exchange. And we didn't have to work around the clock, and they didn't lose any time.

DM:

Exactly. Well, now the business was taking a different turn here. Now you're talking about providing new motors.

PB:

Well—

DM:

Taking the old one as a core—

PB:

New or used ones, either one.

DM:

Right, right, instead of just repair?

PB:

That's right.

DM:

Well that's a big change, about when did that happen?

PB:

Well, oh I don't know when it began to happen, in the forties.

DM:

Was there a particular brand of motor that you purchased?

PB:

Well, we represented Century Electric.

DM:

Century, okay.

BB:

And you were still on Texas Avenue at that time.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

What year did you move over to 34th?

PB:

In fifty—honey I don't know, did I tell you sometime?

DM:

Nineteen fifties I have as when you started acquiring new motor and power transmission distributorships. And it says in my notes here, that that grew to fifty distributorships eventually.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

So you really started cranking out the business it sounds like, maybe by the late forties or early fifties?

PB:

Well, I had to add it on over there on Texas Avenue, and next thing I knew we had a motor that weighed six thousand pounds. They brought it over in their truck, and we fixed it we thought. I didn't know enough about looking for some of the failures other than what you could see. It was a two hundred horse, seven-twenty RPM Crocker-Wheeler motor. And we backed it in that Texas Avenue alley back there, and unloaded it. I was scared to death our hoisting equipment was not anywhere as near big enough. But we had to do it anyway; so we tried it. And we unloaded it, wound the starter on the outside, and took it back over there and put it in and it blew it all to heck. The rotor had a band to hold the wire down, to hold the coils in place, and you couldn't see it, and it had burned the rotor up also. So they brought it back over to the shop, and says, "Do you know anybody that's got a motor?" Industrial Electric in Dallas I knew pretty well, he was a great big, heavy guy. And he said, "Yeah, I've got a three hundred horsepower, six hundred RPM, three bearing great big thing. But that's all I got." They said, "Well, can you put it in over here in place of this one." And I said, "Well, yeah." So he loads it in his truck, which was too little for the big motor. Anyhow, we got it down there and we put it in, and got ready to start it, and it had a little loose connection in it, and we spent another day repairing his motor. Anyhow, we got them running and they used that motor, they bought it. They used that motor I don't know how many years, it was a big awkward motor, but it did the job.

DM:

Okay. That's a big motor, how much would it have cost back in the early fifties, or whenever that was.

PB:

I was thinking of that a while ago, I don't remember what that new motor costs. Seems to me like it cost thirty-five hundred dollars.

DM:

Yeah.

BB:

Who was the customer? Who was the customer?

PB:

I can't think of their name.

DM:

Well it was a while back.

PB:

Yeah, but it's not long enough that—I should be able to remember it.

DM:

Now at this same time, well in the forties and early fifties, we're y'all doing any work on transformers?

PB:

No.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

We didn't ever did get into the transformer business.

DM:

Okay. Did you add some new inventory? Besides electric motors, what else did you have by the early fifties?

PB:

Oh, we were beginning to sell belts, and sheaves, and sprockets, and chain, and a lot of other stuff that fit the cotton gins.

DM:

Did you pretty quickly fill up that store on Texas Avenue.

PB:

Yeah, we filled it up and—when did we build—

BB:

34th Street?

PB:

34th Street.

DM:

Somewhere I picked up 1954, does that sound—

PB:

No, it was later than that.

DM:

Later than that? Okay.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

Did you acquire the property in '54 and build it later?

PB:

I think I wrote on that—

DM:

It's written somewhere.

PB:

Picture over there or something. I wrote on it.

DM:

Well we can find that. 1108 34th Street. Was it sometime in the fifties?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay. Was there anyone else doing the same kind of business in Lubbock, did have any competition?

PB:

Oh yeah.

DM:

Okay. Who were some of the competitors?

PB:

Brandon & Clark. The Clark brothers, they worked for me after they come back from the service, and then Mr. Brandon, who married Bill and Bob's mother, he was in the beauty supply

business, and he said, "Let's sell that business that I'm making up there, and me finance you kids and you go in business."

DM:

Oh, I see.

PB:

So they quit.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Working for me, and went into business themselves.

DM:

And it was called Brian & Clark?

PB:

Brandon & Clark, and it still is now.

DM:

Brandon & Clark?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Over on Avenue H.

DM:

Okay. Was there plenty of work for everybody?

PB:

Oh, yeah.

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DM:

So it didn't matter if you had competition, it was still—

PB:

It didn't matter if you had competition, because if you would do the work, they didn't have to send it to Dallas, or somewhere else to get it done.

DM:

Well, and Lubbock was really growing at that time.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

So that's, that's a good thing. But when there's a slowdown in the economy, like in the early fifties there was a bad drought here, and I don't know if that really affected—

PB:

Well, the cotton gin business didn't ever dry up much.

DM:

Right, okay.

PB:

We stayed pretty busy.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Enough to justify continuously, soon as we built one building, we'd already filled it up, we built another one. We built, on 34th Street, we built the original building that's still—I think it's in there, right there—(looking at a photograph)

DM:

There it is right there.

PB:

Yeah, we built this building and while they were building, we decided we could stand to build this one; so we added it on.

DM:

Oh, okay.

PB:

And then by the time we got that finished, we added a little warehouse back here behind it.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

On this side.

DM:

And for the recorder here, I'm going to mention this is heading west. You built this big two-story—

PB:

Heading south.

DM:

Oh heading south?

PB:

Yeah, south on 34th Street. 1108 34th.

DM:

But I mean the direction you were building your buildings—oh I see, yeah.

PB:

Well, we ended up buying a house down there and moving it off of it.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

In fact we made a lake house out of it. And then, anyhow we built a fifty-foot building here, and then we turned around and built another fifty-foot building here. And so by that time we'd got all the business we could do, and so I bought, across the alley, I bought a piece of property that a lady owned, and I can't think of her name now. And we bought all those lots, I'm trying to think,

five lots, and we built a concrete tilt-up building over there. And it's still our biggest building, and it's big enough to do whatever we need to do yet today.

DM:

Okay. Well that was a real time of expansion then. Was this in the fifties and sixties mostly?

PB:

Fifties and sixties, and seventies.

DM:

Okay. Well that's the way you want to see a business go, isn't it?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Just growing like crazy.

PB:

And of course Brandon & Clark did the same thing.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

They built a building over on 4th Street, and every time they turned around they had to build another one. Then they built one over where it is now.

DM:

Right.

PB:

And by the time they got that finished, they had to build another one.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And now they went all out they're looking for wind charger business.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
And they built it tall enough to put a lot of big—of course, wind chargers are pretty heavy, so.

DM:
Yeah.

BB:
Did it affect your business much when these cotton gins started consolidating to make the co-ops?

PB:
Well, there was a lot of independent gins back then. And every time you turned around, the co-op was running, and they helped finance, or promote, a co-op gin. "Let's build another co-op gin, and y'all can participate in the profit it makes." And so for many years every time somebody finished a season, they made enough money that they could justify building a co-op gin.

DM:
Yeah.

BB:
And when that happened the little smaller gins kind of went away?

PB:
Oh yeah. Every year they'd put a bigger gin stand, and they'd put a bigger motor, and build a building a little bigger just like we did.

DM:
Were you providing these new motors for new gins.

PB:
Yes, we sure did.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
We provided, oh I expect fifty percent of the motors.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
The gin companies themselves—let's see, there was Hardwood Cutter Gin Manufacturer, and they went out of business. There's Continental, and they eventually went out of business.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
And Murray Company, and they went out of business. I don't know whether people died, or what. But anyhow, those all went out of business.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
And then Horn & Gladden, two guys that was servicemen—they decided they could make some money, so they went in business.

DM:
Right.

PB:
And they eventually went out of business. And Horn & Gladden—I went blank.

DM:
Well did you get to where you were selling more new products than repairing old products?

PB:
No.

DM:
You always had a lot of old motors?

PB:
We had lots of both of it.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
It was pretty well filled there.

DM:
Okay. And in later years, did you still have people calling and saying, “My washer motor went out.” Or I mean small--

PB:
Well, yeah, but a fifteen dollar job—we couldn’t take it.

DM:
Right, right.

PB:
Because of the five thousand dollar job.

DM:
Exactly, of course.

BB:
And you had servicemen going pretty—

PB:
Had lots of servicemen.

DM:
Okay.

BB:
Widespread area that they were covering.

DM:
Were they repairing small motors like at a person’s home, or were they mostly doing bigger things?

PB:
No home work.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Speaking of, we tried it.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
[We tried to] get some of the independent service guys to take care of their own stuff.

DM:
Right, okay.

PB:
We wouldn't make a service call on one of them we told them.

DM:
Right, okay.

PB:
Because they couldn't afford us.

DM:
Right, right. Well that makes sense if you're doing big business somewhere else.

PB:
That's right.

DM:
Well how many people did you employ? When would you say was the peak of business for Lubbock Electric?

PB:
Oh, I'd say ten years ago.

DM:
Ten years ago, okay.

PB:

We got up to about a hundred employees.

DM:

Is that right?

PB:

We still got about forty-five or fifty right now. Course this drouth has dropped our employment.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And the oil business is taking every electrician they can find.

DM:

Right.

PB:

And so we lost a lot of good help because they got a better job.

DM:

Right, right, okay.

PB:

And our service, and our wiring, and our construction part is down to about eleven guys right now.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

Was it during the time that you had this business that you did the little racecar business, or the little track that you had? Or when did that—

PB:

Honey, that was right after the war.

BB:

Oh.

PB:

When the war was over, we were living in San Diego. I was still in the service, but I'd come home at nights. And of course Mae and Paula was out there. I'd come home at night, and one night a week I had to spend on base, otherwise I'd stay at home. And as soon as the war was over with, all the race cars—we lived about almost as far from here to this railroad track from the Balboa Stadium. So, the race cars got to showing up, and we'd go over there and me and some of the other kids at the base would swipe enough ham or something else out of the kitchen, because we had it all available to us, and the guys would come home with us and go up to the racetrack and Mae would get supper fixed. When the race was over we'd feed all the kids and us.

DM:

Is that when you first started getting interested in cars? Back then, or was that before?

PB:

No, I was already kind of bit by that on the sideline anyhow.

DM:

Well let's see, you were pretty young when you already had a Model T and a pickup truck. But what about vintage cars, when did you develop an interest in—well I guess, did you own racecars, too?

PB:

No, we owned a junk car one time.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Bill Clark and I, when we were working at Anderson Young, we bought a little four-cylinder Chevrolet with an engine and a frame, and that's all that was on it.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I didn't have guts enough to drive a racecar, but Bill did, so he drove the race car and the junk car in races.

DM:

Okay, around Lubbock?

PB:
Yeah.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Out on East Broadway, just as you would drop off of in the canyon, they had a race track up there on top of the hill.

DM:
Oh, okay.

PB:
And just a dirt track. I have got the picture of it; I've got it at the shop I guess. But anyhow, we got to messing with races.

DM:
How many people would show up for those races up there?

PB:
Oh, sometimes none.

DM:
Oh.

PB:
I thought, Boy we could make some money when we were in San Diego. Surely we could make a lot of money, because Balboa Stadium was full. Every night they had races out there. When I got home, they had a horse race track on the Fairgrounds, and they wasn't racing anymore. So we rented that—I have a whole story on it, but I rented that race track from the Chamber of Commerce, a hundred dollars a night. And boy, we were going to really make some money. And I had a pickup, and we had a big old motor frame that we used for a grader. We'd grade the track down and I avoided working on Lubbock Electric and we got invested in that race track. And we like to have broke Lubbock Electric, what little we did have.

DM:
Couldn't get anyone to come out there, huh?

PB:

And the Hubbers were starting.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

In business the same—and they were having a baseball game the same night we were having the races.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And neither one of us got a crowd.

DM:

Wow, huh.

PB:

We offered the guys to show up, the racecar drivers, and I think about seventy-five racecars showed up.

DM:

Is that right?

PB:

And we told them we'd pay. I think we paid ten dollars apiece for fifty cars.

BB:

And where did they come from?

PB:

Oh they come from all over the country.

DM:

Huh.

PB:

We had guys from Wichita Falls, and Houston, Dallas. They ended up making the track, making a circuit. Dallas, Fort Worth, Abilene, Lubbock, Amarillo, and Wichita Falls. Every week.

DM:

Wow.

PB:

They'd make the circuit. Well the first night, we offered a hundred dollar pot; the winner got a hundred dollars. Then I think the next one was fifty dollars, and twenty-five or something else. But, anyhow, those guys were ready to race for any price. I raced four nights, and lost five thousand dollars. And that's all the money I had.

DM:

Yeah. It was a good idea though.

PB:

Yeah, but--

DM:

Well what was their entry fee, do you remember?

PB:

A dollar.

DM:

A dollar, okay, yeah.

PB:

So about the second night we run I thought, Well, we can't get any white people to come to the race track. We went over to East Lubbock to see if we could pass out—we passed out extra tickets around here and there. We gave the preacher a ticket or so, and boy, we would get some black people in here. If they got one ticket, maybe they could raise another one, so they'd have two.

DM:

Right.

PB:

The first night after that, we got the preacher's little boy, preacher brought his little boy, and that was the only black person we got.

DM:

Oh, no! Golly.

BB:

So who won your races?

PB:

Oh, I can't think of their names, not a darn one of them.

BB:

I know A.J. Foyt was.

PB:

A.J. Foyt.

DM:

Golly.

PB:

And come on, some more!

BB:

Well I was thinking that the Unsers were.

PB:

Unsers were.

BB:

Bobby and Al.

PB:

Yeah, Bobby Unser. Eventually went to Indianapolis and won Indianapolis about four times.

DM:

Wow, pretty good.

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BB:

Al.

DM:

So they raced at Lubbock, on that track.

PB:

Oh, yeah.

DM:

Was there a name for that track, did y'all have a name for it?

PB:

I don't think so.

DM:

Okay, just Lubbock, huh?

PB:

Just Lubbock.

BB:

So was that the end of your racing business after that?

PB:

That ended my racing business, right then. I had to go back to Lubbock Electric and see if we could still exist on it.

BB:

One thing I had thought was interesting was when you could tell what they did to those motors to make them perform at that level.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

No, I really didn't have any ability to do it. Eight thousand RPM was awful fast for an engine. And we could get about five or six thousand RPM out of that little four-cylinder Chevrolet engine. So we put a pipe out of the exhaust. It sounded pretty good.

BB:

I have seen pictures of that race track, and those cars don't look anything like the cars that they're racing today, I'll say that.

PB:

No, they don't.

DM:

I'd sure like to take a picture of that photograph sometime. I've never seen that, and I don't know if we have that at the Southwest Collection. That would be an interesting thing to see. Now can you tell me again where it is, you said, it was Broadway and the canyon. Was it on the east side, or the west side?

PB:

Well, the junk cars was up on the hill.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Across from the park entrance up there going into the Fairgrounds.

DM:

I see, okay.

PB:

But the racetrack was on the Fairgrounds.

DM:

Oh it was, okay.

PB:

And it was originally for horseracing.

DM:

I see. But you graded it, and got it all ready?

PB:

It was a fifth of a mile.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
And now we get a mile and a half. About a fifth of a mile. And it's all dirt track. Of course, for horses, it would all be dirt track anyhow.

DM:
Right.

PB:
And besides that, we couldn't afford to make it paved track.

DM:
Fifth of a mile's a pretty tight track for a car, isn't it?

PB:
Yeah.

BB:
When they had that circuit that they were racing on, were all the tracks dirt at that time?

PB:
Yeah, yeah.

DM:
Were there any kind of specifications on the kind of car you could use, or did you just show up with anything.

PB:
Yeah, so many cubic inches.

DM:
I see, okay.

PB:
And the Unsters had a tractor engine, four-cylinder tractor engine. And most of them were little sixty horsepower Fords. But the Unsters drove that, and it was a good race engine. And of course it began to get a little better, a little better. And they built nice little midget racers. Of course I liked some of those little midget race cars. And I don't think I got anything anymore.

BB:

Jerry has the old program or something, and I think it's you in the little picture on the cover.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

It looked like. In the little midget car.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Really.

BB:

What were they like, the Unsers or A.J. Foyt? Do you remember them?

PB:

Oh yeah, very well. They were just a bunch of roughneck kids. Jerry was a couple of years old I guess.

BB:

But was A.J. just a common, down-to-earth.

PB:

Oh yeah, A.J. Foyt run a little garage and maybe a motor machine shop. A.J. was in Houston, wasn't he? I've forgotten the guy's name in Wichita Falls.

DM:

I think I know who you're talking about, and I've talked to him before, but I just can't quite get his name. But when I think of it, I'll ask you sometime. I'll call you and say, "Is this who you're talking about?" I've got his book at the office, but I just cannot think of his name.

PB:

Well, A.B. Davis was Chamber of Commerce.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

But we run that first race, let's go back to that a minute. We run that first race, and we didn't have enough money to pay all we'd promised the drivers even. But I raised enough money to pay what they won. And I went down back to Mr. Davis and I said, "I haven't got any money left." He said, "Oh forget about it. Let's just forget about it." And I'd bought insurance, and talked to them, and they said, "Well, just forget about it. If you would, try to run it again? You got enough money to run again, one more time?" He talked me into doing that four times.

DM:

Huh, golly.

PB:

And all we'd do is just raise a little bit more money at Lubbock Electric Company.

DM:

Well that was an interesting venture anyhow. Well how did you get interested in vintage cars, classic cars? When did all that come about?

PB:

Oh, I've always enjoyed—

DM:

What's the first one you ever bought?

PB:

That little green Chevy.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

And would you restore them, or did you have somebody else?

PB:

Well, I helped restore them, but I didn't do much.

BB:

But you always preferred to go with the unusual cars, didn't you?

PB:

Well, anything that was good to restore, I liked it.

DM:

Well tell me about that green Chevy—what year it was, and—

PB:

Well, it had two hundred and fifty miles or something like that on it.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

The guy that bought it had lived at Vernon—no, he lived at Quanah, and he went over to the—he didn't do any such thing. Anyhow, he went over to Quanah and bought that Buick, and came home. Drove it less than two hundred miles, and died.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

Well, they parked it in the garage at their house, and his wife didn't drive, and the kids wasn't old enough to drive, so it sat there. I think I put on a—how many years it sat there in that bulletin. Didn't we have—

BB:

That's sounding a lot like that movie star's car to me.

PB:

Anyhow, I told a guy that had run one of the warehouses over on 50th Street, how come me to tell him, I don't know, that they were going to have a sale, and I was going to be gone. And he said, "I'd like to go over there and take a look at it, I might buy it." And so we were going to a convention, and when I got home, sure enough he bought it. And he said, "Well, I think I'll keep it." Anyway, he kept it a little while, and filled it with gasoline and it had a cracked block in it, or it froze and busted the head. But they welded it up a little bit, and it held water enough to drive it. But anyhow, he said, "Oh, I'll let you have it. So I guess I'll take seventeen hundred dollars for it." So I said, "Then I'll just buy it for that." And then we pulled the engine out of it and the head was busted, and it was still brand stinking new.

DM:

So mint condition sitting up that many—how many years did it sit there before you owned it?

PB:

I think I said in that write-up we got over there, I think I said eight years.

DM:

Yeah. Pretty good to have an eight year-old mint condition car, isn't it? Well that was the start of it then? You've collected other cars?

PB:

Oh yeah.

DM:

Since then. How many have you collected?

PB:

Well, we have eleven I think we got in there.

DM:

Is that right?

PB:

I think that's also in that picture.

BB:

I thought it was more than that, actually.

DM:

Is that how many you have out there at Lubbock Electric now?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Yeah. I had two or three other ones that I had bought and sold, and I made some money on, so I sold them.

DM:
Okay.

BB:
Well what about these shows that you would take them around to and enter—I don't know what these competitions were, the "Best of Show" or—where did you take them for those kind of—

PB:
Oh, we'd begun to make clubs everywhere.

BB:
And what did they judge on—how you restored it?

PB:
How they restored it, what kind of shape it was in—all that kind of stuff. Three or four points—the engine compartment and the inside, the paint job, the tires and the roof on the top of it. A few things like that, I think they had ten points that we had to fill out, that we were graded one to ten, on each one of these ten points.

DM:
Now, but you couldn't make any innovations or anything, it needed to be like the original, is that right? Kept it like the original?

PB:
Right.

DM:
Now is this the Crank and Push Auto Club.

PB:
That's correct.

DM:
Did you start that?

PB:
That was our first name.

DM:
You started that?

PB:
Yeah.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Crank and Push.

DM:
Okay. You know what year that was, that came in?

PB:
No, I don't.

DM:
Maybe the fifties, or sixties?

PB:
Yeah, it was in the fifties.

DM:
In the fifties, okay.

PB:
After the war was over—when was the war over, now?

DM:
'45.

PB:
'45.

DM:
Yes sir.

PB:
Well, it was in the fifties then.

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DM:

Okay. And then did it become different club names over the years.

PB:

Oh, yeah.

DM:

Or was it Crank and Push? Who did the Nifty Fifties Car Club?

PB:

We did.

DM:

You did that too?

PB:

I think Don Ellis had probably come up with that.

DM:

Okay. Well you know it was fun to go to Lubbock Parades, even back in the seventies when I first moved out here, because of the car clubs in the parades. It was a highlight of the parade.

PB:

Well, we quit going to it.

DM:

Oh you did?

PB:

They required us to have insurance.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

They required us to have, oh one or two other things besides insurance.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And then they wanted us to pay an entry fee.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And we told them we wasn't going to do it.

DM:

Right.

BB:

You had that one parade car that you used to always drive in the parades. I know that blue convertible, and you'd put the flags up on the front.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

Is that a Cadillac?

PB:

Yeah, let's see—

BB:

It was patriotic.

DM:

I remember seeing some really nice cars in those parades in the seventies.

PB:

Well, all our bunch here, we had about twenty five guys here in town that's members of our club.

DM:

But they made you pay an entry fee? Seems like you could just have a parade anytime you wanted to, just line up and drive down the Lubbock streets.

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PB:

Well, there wasn't very many other cars in town for a long time. And they got to having the Model A club.

BB:

What is the club that you joined that y'all would take the little trips maybe from Lubbock to Abilene or something, but you had to have a Model T, or a Model A?

PB:

Well, there's a Model A club which would have Model A's in it. Model T's, they wasn't dependable enough to go any distance other than in a parade or something.

BB:

But it was the Model A club that you bought the Model As, just so you could drive in the—

PB:

Well, yeah, more or less.

DM:

Did you have a time period of car that you preferred? Did you mostly collect from a certain era?

PB:

Well I'll tell you, my Cadillac when I got it finished was a delight to drive, and it looked beautiful. And then I bought that Packard.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And it looks great, those two cars right there.

DM:

Okay, oh yeah, they're beautiful cars alright.

PB:

And then I bought that Detroit Electric and restored it, and it was a parade car. I liked it very much, I liked to—what's the name over—

BB:

Christy, are you talking about Miss Christy?

PB:

That wasn't her name was it?

BB:

The actress?

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

Wasn't it Miss Christy?

PB:

It don't sound right.

BB:

She bought a car and had gotten into the river and stranded in the river once.

PB:

No, out in the sand pile in Vernon.

DM:

Now was this someone that you bought a car from?

PB:

No.

DM:

Well, maybe—

BB:

I think, if I'm not mistaken, what I recall you saying was she was driving it going to get married or something, and she was stranded.

PB:

She married. Ann Christy.

BB:

Ann Christy.

DM:

Ann Christy.

PB:

Ann Christy married one of the—

BB:

Wagners?

PB:

Wagners.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

Come on, help me a little! And she had that—

BB:

She had driven out here and she was in a riverbed or something, and got it stranded, and then—

DM:

Oh.

PB:

Well she went out on a ranch, and she got it stuck, and burned the clutch out of it.

DM:

Oh, okay.

BB:

And it sat at the service station.

PB:

And that caused an explosion there. So, anyhow, they got a divorce and—well, they got a mechanic there in Wichita Falls to come out and get this car out of the sand pile out on the ranch. And he brought it in and fixed it and the war came along and her husband wouldn't pay for it. So this mechanic kept it all during the war, then Oliver found out about it and so we went over and I met with him. Mae and I went with he and Christine, and we bought that—

BB:

That car.

PB:

'23 model Cadillac.

DM:

Oh, wow.

BB:

It's still there.

DM:

Golly.

BB:

But you didn't buy it from Mr. Wagner, you brought it from the service station?

PB:

No, I bought it from the mechanic.

DM:

The mechanic, okay.

PB:

When the war was over with, the guy said, "How about paying for this repair work I did on that?" Had to put a clutch in it, and I don't know what all, but he drove it all during the war. And then, so I think Wagner had his name on it, or Ann Christy—no, Ann of course didn't have anything to do with it anymore. Anyhow, Wagner told—McKinley? What the heck was his name, I got it on that little card on the front of it. Anyway, told him, "Well, would you be satisfied if you just let me send you the title to it." He said, "Well, yeah." And so he had it there over at—and I don't remember the town, I didn't know I was forgetting so much stuff.

DM:

Was it Vernon did you say, Vernon?

BB:

I think Quanah.

DM:
Or Quanah?

PB:
Vernon's where they lived.

DM:
Oh, okay.

PB:
The Wagners.

DM:
Okay.

PB:
Owned lots of land over in the Vernon area.

BB:
I think Quanah is where I remember—Quanah, wasn't it just outside of Quanah where that car was?

PB:
No honey it was down below Wichita Falls. Anyhow—

DM:
But anyway, you have it, and it's sitting nice and neat over in your shop. Now what is your favorite of all of those cars? When you look back over the years—

PB:
Oh I think it's according to what I'm going to do.

DM:
I see.

PB:
Course that Packard, we drove it about thirty thousand miles.

DM:
Oh, wow.

PB:

And that Cadillac, I expect we've driven it about—I zeroed the speedometer on it when I finished restoring it. Donnie Watson is the kid's name that did all the work.

DM:

How about just driving it for—in a parade or something like that, the Cadillac?

PB:

Oh yeah.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

The Cadillac, or that Packard, or that Detroit Electric, that was the one I enjoyed driving because you could run it any speed. You'd have to push the clutch in and it idled too fast for the parade, so you had to—

BB:

So the Detroit Electric, is that the one that's the little Cinderella-looking coach?

PB:

Yeah, that tall one.

BB:

Isn't that the one that Henry Ford bought for his wife, one like that?

PB:

Henry Ford and Mrs. Edison.

BB:

Both had cars.

PB:

They had both cars that—this Detroit Electric is exactly like those two are.

DM:

I'll be. Well it's always been fun to just drive by on 34th Street and look in and see the cars. I've never really seen them up close, but you can see them through the windows. It's really nice, it's a

good display. Have you ever had any trouble with vandalism? Anyone breaking in, messing with them?

PB:

Well I've had people come in to visit.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And they stole a—we had a real nice gear shift knob. Somebody stole it off of the Cadillac. And I've had two or three little things stolen off of them. They didn't take the radiator caps thank goodness.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

Because they're too scarce.

DM:

Oh some of those things would be almost impossible to find it seems like. Did you do this restoration work yourself, and the mechanical work on them?

PB:

Well some of it, yes.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Some of it I did, and some of it—

BB:

I can remember the swap meets you used to go to too. And I guess they'd have swap meets for these old cars.

PB:

Yeah, once a year we went to Dallas. I'd take some of my junk down there to sell it and go look around see if I could find something to buy.

BB:

And the men would walk around and look at these booths.

PB:

We got—

DM:

At the booths?

BB:

Yeah, they'd have like—

DM:

A booth of things, of parts.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

And they'd walk all over this dirty, nasty, you know like a swap meet. But the women did not like that too much. And then he had a motor home, and they'd stay in the motor home where it was air conditioned.

DM:

Oh, well that's nice.

BB:

Play cards, or whatever.

PB:

One year it rained. We got down there, and it started raining, and the next morning—it rained all the four or five days that we were there, and, well, what's the kid's name in Dallas that works for Century Electric, Jerry's friend?

BB:

Oh, Ron Jordan.

PB:

Ron Jordan came out there and it was raining, so he sat in our motor home all day. It rained so much we couldn't get out and look at anything.

DM:

Oh, too bad.

PB:

So we had dinner and—

BB:

Ate in the motor home?

PB:

In the motor home, and sat and talked, looked at each other.

BB:

But they'd play dominoes in that motor home.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

I'm just glad you had that motor home, if it was going to rain for five days.

PB:

Oh yeah.

DM:

Where all would you go for these meets? You went to Dallas, how far would you go?

PB:

No, it wasn't anywhere other than Dallas each year.

DM:

Okay, okay.

BB:

At Pate?

PB:

They had some swap meets individually around the whole country, but it didn't amount to anything.

DM:

Okay, Lubbock didn't have anything like that?

PB:

Nope, unh-uh.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

But I expect we'd have fifty thousand people come.

BB:

How successful were you? Did you usually have a list that you'd take of things you were looking for?

PB:

Oh, yeah, you'd just see something that you—I just got to have that. The first one we went to, I needed a trunk to go on that Packard, and at first—Anyhow, the first one we went to. There was a guy that had a real nice trunk, and he wanted four hundred dollars for it, and I said "I'm not going to pay that much for it." And we walked away, and they said "Well, why don't you just go ahead and buy it. You won't have a chance to buy it again as nice as that one was anyway." Went back over there and he had loaded up and gone home.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

And I never could find out who it was.

DM:

Oh.

PB:

We eventually bought a couple more trunks, and there wasn't any of them as good as that one was, I wish I'd—

BB:

Well Paul if you were doing that today, they'd do it all online.

DM:

This is an interesting thing, I guess did you say “Hey, does anyone know where I can find a radiator cap for a such and such.” Or would you ask around, word of mouth?

PB:

Oh yeah, yeah.

DM:

Lot of times. It would be a different world, wouldn't it?

PB:

That's the reason you want to stay for four days.

DM:

That's right. By the way, I think I thought of the name of the guy in Wichita Falls, was it Lloyd Ruby, or something like that?

PB:

Lloyd Ruby.

DM:

Was that it?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay. Yeah I went up there and talked to him maybe ten years ago or so. And he died a little bit after that.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

But you knew Lloyd was—

PB:

Well eventually was running in Indianapolis.

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DM:

He did, he sure did. There's a nice little book about him and it's got some of his old cars. You see him on some of those dirt tracks, and now I'm going to go back and see if any of those pictures were of Lubbock.

BB:

Yeah, but he raced here, Lloyd Ruby?

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Yep.

BB:

I can't remember, Jerry's got about three or four of those pictures, and he's got some names on the back. A.J. Foyt was one.

DM:

That's something.

BB:

And I can't remember, I'll go back and look at Lloyd Ruby. I didn't recognize the other guys.

PB:

I can't remember the guy's name in Houston, now. What was his name? But he's still hanging around the Indianapolis races today. I think he's either got two or three cars. What the Sam Hill is his name?

DM:

Well we'll think of that in about ten minutes or so. I'm going to need to wrap it up here in a little bit, but I wanted to ask you too about some of the service organizations you've been involved in, because you did a lot of community work. I know you were with American Business Club for a long time.

PB:

Yeah, we did fifty-five years in the American Business Club.

DM:

You started a chapter down in Irving or something?

PB:
Oh, yeah.

DM:
You drove down there and started a chapter?

PB
That's right.

DM:
Is that right?

PB:
Yeah. Well they had a chapter down there, and it got to being a social club instead.

DM:
Oh I see, yeah.

PB:
And everybody would go there and drink all evening.

DM:
Right.

PB:
So, when we started it, Delvin, and myself, and a bunch of other guys [in the] downtown club as well.

DM:
Right.

BB:
Was Mr. Calvin Campbell in that group?

PB:
Well Calvin was not really.

DM:
Oh.

PB:

Calvin was just Asbury [Asbury United Methodist Church] and—

BB:

I thought he was in that group with you.

PB:

Unh-uh.

BB:

I'm sorry.

PB:

And he worked for another electric—

DM:

Well I know you were involved with these business organizations, Electric Apparatus Service Organization, or something like that.

PB:

It was EASA, Electrical Apparatus Service Association.

DM:

Association.

PB:

And then we changed it to—

DM:

But you were a president for something. Seems like you got pretty high in that organization.

PB:

Well I served on that board longer than anybody else did.

DM:

Is that right, okay.

PB:

I served twenty-one years.

BB:

Was international president.

PB:

International Service Association. And I learned a lot of things that you don't learn by doing.

DM:

Right, right.

PB:

I mean that's the only way you learn, but I got to be friends with everybody from Wichita Falls to Florida. In fact, the guy in Florida tried to get me to get Jerry to come down there—"I'll teach him all you need to know, and you can have him back when I learn how to run a motor shop or anything else." And Jerry wouldn't go, and he had a chance to go with Allis Chalmers in Milwaukee.

DM:

Well you were really making some business connections then through these organizations, all across the U.S. it sounds like.

PB:

Yeah, everywhere.

DM:

But then there were other organizations though, besides the Business—well, let's see, you were with Rotary—

PB:

American Business Club.

DM:

Okay I know about American Business Club.

PB:

And that's the only civic club I belonged to.

DM:

Okay. Well I had somewhere that you were on the board of MHMR.

PB:

Mental Health and Mental Retardation. I was on Texas Boys Ranch board for about eight or ten years.

DM:

Right.

PB:

And I was the manager of it—I don't mean manager, I was president of it.

DM:

Okay. Well how'd you find time to do all of this? You're running a business, you had your cars, now you're involved in business associations.

PB:

Cook Hammond and my brother did a good job of taking care of it.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And since then, Steve— Jerry had it—

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Since mother [Mae] and Talton had both died.

DM:

Well it's nice to have capable hands to leave it in, if you're going to go off to a business club meeting or something.

PB:

Well I cheated on them really, I let them run it, let them do what they needed to do.

DM:

Yep.

PB:

And I'd come back and take the responsibility, or take the praise of what we were doing or what we were accomplishing.

DM:

Well that's a good thing for them too though, because it helped them to grow in the business.

PB:

Well, yeah.

DM:

They learned a lot more that way.

PB:

Well everything we got was paid for. We paid for all our homes, we paid for all our business, and I didn't have to worry about borrowing money or anything else. I never borrowed any money until the last four or five years, ten years. We got where every customer wouldn't pay.

DM:

Oh, yeah.

PB:

Until the rest of the electric ginning season was over with, and we'd end up having to borrow money.

DM:

Right, just to hold off until they could pay.

PB:

Or ride our suppliers, one or the other.

DM:

Right.

PB:

But we didn't do much riding, I rode the suppliers a lot before we moved over on 34th Street, but they knew I was riding it and I let them know what kind of business we were doing. And everybody else did credit, we didn't have any choice.

DM:
Right, right.

PB:
You had to wait until they got a gin season before they could pay.

DM:
Right.

PB:
Or if they could pay even. And the independents ordinarily could pay. I got a list of four hundred people that owed us, and went broke.

DM:
Golly. That's a tough aspect of business right there, isn't it?

PB:
That's the trouble with credit business.

DM:
That's right.

BB:
Well are you looking forward to the seventieth anniversary that they're going to have?

PB:
Yeah I am, but I don't know what to do.

DM:
It's going to be the seventieth of Lubbock Electric?

PB:
Yeah.

DM:
When are they going to hold that?

BB:
I think there's a little confusion about when to do it, because no one really knows exactly when in that year that it began.

DM:

Right, right.

PB:

And I think we've already passed that year, but I'm not sure.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I think we've already—

BB:

Sometime this summer.

PB:

I think we considered it in March.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

I don't remember.

BB:

They're planning on doing it this summer.

DM:

Okay. Maybe some people will bring some old photographs and materials like that, I mean people who've been associated with the business for a long time.

BB:

Well Leslie said that when Paul was looking at some of the pictures they have of that, and old receipts and so forth, most of these people are not in business anymore.

DM:

Okay, right.

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PB:

Well in that picture of Lubbock Electric—it was seventeen people, nineteen people in it, all of them are gone.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

So the old checks that they found copies of—

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

Most of them—Cole and Callen, are they still around?

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

Cole and Callen is?

DM:

Has Monte [Monroe] talked to either of you about maybe preserving some of these items?

BB:

Yes.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

And I have a stack of some things.

DM:

Okay, alright.

BB:

That I need to talk to him about.

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DM:

Right, right.

BB:

He said somebody there has got some techniques that—

DM:

Right, okay.

BB:

All of those things that were put on a board or whatever and taken in, a lot of them the sun has got to.

PB:

Yeah Jerry took them down, I didn't—

BB:

Leslie has been trying to preserve those.

PB:

Yeah.

BB:

And trying to salvage what she could out of it. It's a little difficult. Monte said he had some resources.

DM:

Right, right. Well, anyway, congratulations for seventy years of business.

PB:

Yeah, well—

DM:

That's incredible.

PB:

I would never thought I'd made it.

DM:

I mean that's incredible.

PB:

I didn't expect to. And as time went along I lost all the family.

DM:

Yeah. But it was an amazing growth in those early years, and then peaking at a hundred employees and all of that. That's amazing business.

PB:

You know, you don't ever think about it, but my dad died at fifty-five, and my mother didn't die until she was—how old was she?

BB:

I don't know, I didn't know her, she was deceased when I married.

PB:

Well, my mother was seventy-five.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

And of course, my brother was about seventy-five, he'd run the shop all his life. He retired and didn't get to use his money.

BB:

And then your sister was how old? How old was your sister when she passed away?

PB:

My sister just passed away the other day, two years ago.

BB:

Yeah, so she was the oldest of everyone.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

BB:

I mean, you were older than her,

PB:

Yeah, that's right.

BB:

But, I mean, she lived longer than the others.

PB:

Right. Me and, well, my brother, my little brother worked for me until he went in the service.

BB:

Yeah, there they are. (looking at photographs)

PB:

Sure enough—see I graduated from high school.

BB:

But I think that was you and your two brothers.

PB:

Yeah, and my sister.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Me and my sister, and my little brother, and my brother just next to me.

DM:

I'll tell you what, y'all look quite a bit alike there.

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

You two brothers.

PB:

There we are right there.

DM:

Look a lot alike.

PB:

That's our little Detroit Electric down here.

DM:

Oh, there it is, okay yeah. I've either seen your car around, or I've seen—

PB:

That's the only one here.

DM:

Yeah, I've either seen a picture of one—

PB:

Yeah.

DM:

Or I've seen your—I've probably seen your car around town at some point, at a parade or something.

PB:

Yeah, we've had it quite a bit.

DM:

Well I don't have any more questions for you today.

PB:

Well—

DM:

Do you have anything you want to add? Barbara?

PB:

Well, I've done a real bad job of doing it—

DM:

No—

PB:

Because I can't think, I can't—

DM:

No, you've given us plenty of information.

PB:

Unless y'all have something to start me, I can't even get started on any of these things.

DM:

Well I think we've gathered quite a bit of good information today.

BB:

Yep.

PB:

Well, may have, but it's all mixed up.

DM:

No, that's alright.

PB:

I know it's mixed up quite a bit.

DM:

Well it made sense to me! Made sense to me.

BB:

I think you did a good job.

DM:

I think so too.

PB:

Well, I'd like to tell things as they exist.

DM:

Well we don't always do that, even in any conversation, we jump around from one thing to the other. It doesn't always follow year by year, and that's perfectly fine.

PB:

This book that I had, I took it back to her. I can't ever think—her name—her two sons is out at Lubbock General Hospital—no the, well the—

BB:

Lubbock General Hospital.

PB:

That's not the—

DM:

Is it Covenant now?

PB:

Tech Cov—

DM:

Oh, UMC, the Texas Tech—

PB:

UMC.

DM:

Yeah, okay.

PB:

He's the president of that.

DM:

Okay.

PB:

Her son, and he wrote a book, and I got it. I didn't ever finish it, I gave it back to her the other day. But, he jumped everywhere, one chapter was when he was working in the Navy. Another chapter—well, it wasn't his life as it happened.

DM:
Right.

PB:
Sections of it—

DM:
Right.

PB:
See, he was captured.

DM:
Oh was he?

PB:
At his home. His wife and daughter went to church, and left him there, and this guy come in the back door and captured him, and took him for a ride. He was wanting money, and he couldn't find any money in the house, and they didn't have any money there.

DM:
He took him a hostage.

PB:
Took him hostage, and he took him out in the country and turned him loose.

DM:
Golly.

PB:
Stole his car, and luckily enough he didn't get hurt. The guy was kind of nice to him, he said "Well, I've got to have some money."

DM:
Glad he didn't hurt him.

PB:
"I'll take your car, or whatever."

DM:

But anyway, the book jumped around everywhere.

PB:

The book jumped around everywhere—he was working in the Navy yards, and, I don't know—

DM:

Well, see you made a lot more sense than that today telling your story, so. I'm going to go ahead and turn this off.

End of interview



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