

**Oral History Interview of
Craig McDonald**

**Interviewed by: Andy Wilkinson
July 24, 2017
Lubbock, Texas**

**Part of the:
*Agriculture Interviews***

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Transcript Overview:

This interview features Craig McDonald as he discuss how he met his wife and his family. Craig goes on to describe marrying his wife, traveling with her, his daughter and her marriage, and his grandchildren.

Length of Interview: 01:31:07

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Keywords

Family life and background, Boy Scouts

Andy Wilkinson (AW):

I actually carried in my—you know, a little teabag in my briefcase so that if I'm out someplace, I can get some. So if you ever—I hope you don't have to try it but if you ever get in that spot—

Craig McDonald (CM):

I haven't had any. You remember Millard Connery, the doctor?

AW:

Oh yeah. Well, his son Art and I were in—we went to high school and we were in the band together. Rick and—

CM:

That's crazy.

AW:

Oh yeah, Art is—he still is crazy and so is Rick.

CM:

His dad and I were really good friends. In fact, he bought a forty-foot sailboat from me.

AW:

Really?

CM:

Yeah. We ordered a dealership—my brother and I did just because we could get it wholesale. We had got four guys that wanted a boat and he wanted that forty-foot one and they shipped that thing to Lubbock. He kept it for about a year on—working on the inside, piddling around and was charging it all off like it was a company. He got in big trouble with the IRS [**Internal Revenue Service**]. They finally—but they lost, he took them to court and they lost. The guy told him and he laughed—Millard laughed and told me, he said, “The guy pointed at him like that and said, ‘Now Mr. Connery, you got away with this one time but you're not going to get away with it again.’” He said, “I took him at their word that they—”

AW:

I never got to know him as well as—we were scruffy high school kids so—but I do recall that I celebrated my graduation at a party in the basement of their house.

CM:

They lived over on a park.

AW:

Yeah, on the South side right next to the round house.

CM:

I've been over there quite a few times.

AW:

And if that house came up for sale I'd have bought it but—

CM:

It had a painting in the bathroom like Pompeii, kind of like Pompeii.

AW:

Well, they had a pool in the backyard, as I recall, and a cabana. We used to go over there, play music and have parties. They were pretty tolerant of us. When it came up for sale somebody bought it before it was on the market ten minutes, and turned out to be Caldwell family. It was an uncle of another kid that was a really dear friend of mine in high school, Tommy Caldwell. So, I had—like I said, “Well, if you ever sell that house,” I just loved it, the place it was on the park had that basement.

CM:

Anne had an old property she inherited from her aunt and it was on the underpass going down—what was that—Avenue H in those days. It was right before you went down in there, it was right on the right hand side. It became later on a welding shop and those Buddy Holly glasses were out there for a good while.

AW:

That's—Steve Teeters had that. I've spent many, many hours in that shop.

CM:

Okay. Well, in that building in the South—no, North side of that building was that seed company. The ole gentleman, he used to—it was a seed—you'd take him his seed and he would study it and certify it or something. So, Connery's son, Art, he bought that and he ran that for a while.

AW:

Yeah and then he moved over on 34th street.

CM:

Yeah or some loop or somewhere, I didn't—

AW:

Well, 34th street and just West of Avenue A on the North side, A & L Plains Lab is what it was.

CM:

That was it.

AW:

And he moved to a bigger building and that's when—by the time I moved back from Colorado, and we had a band, and we would rehearse over in his building.

CM:

They had a boxing club in there for a while.

AW:

Yeah. Well, that boxing club and the one on Buddy Holly, I got knocked out one time. I was—

CM:

Thought you was going to be tough.

AW:

I knew I wasn't tough but I was on the police department in a recruit class and one of our guys in the department, John Arnold, had organized the Golden Gloves in Lubbock. He said he didn't have any sparring partners for his kids so he—we didn't have any choice, he trooped us over there. I thought, They'll give you a helmet and gloves. It was like a thirteen year old kid and I was, you know, twenty-one, twenty, something like that. I'll never forget, as I held my gloves up—those practice gloves are kind of heavy and I was holding them up and he was jabbing at and I was doing pretty good, and all of a sudden they just got so hard to hold up and they started drifting down and drifting. As soon as they drifted down I could see him looking and he—[laughs] one off right over the top—and I stood around there for five minutes. That was my boxing career all in one go.

CM:

I did that at the Boys Club when I was little. This little Mexican boy weighed about half as much as me, and skinny as a rail, he just beat the tar out of me. That was the last fight I ever got into. He could hit me twice before I could see what was going on.

AW:

I could tell right away—I mean, I knew I wasn't cut out for it but I really—

CM:

Millard told me one time, he said, “Art—the problem with Art is his pecker is a lot bigger than his brain.” He told me.

AW:

Art has stayed true to that his whole life.

CM:

I guess it still is. I don’t know where he is. He was a really handsome guy.

AW:

He’s in Mobile, Alabama doing that same work. I was traveling through there for the university a few years ago and I stopped by, we had dinner. It was good to see him.

CM:

He was also such a good looking guy. Of course, the girls just flocked around him all the time.

AW:

Well, and he was a musician and he was good. He was a good musician. His brother was a good musician too. His brother was—

CM:

I never did know him.

AW:

Rick.

CM:

I knew his sister.

AW:

He had a younger sister. I’m trying to—Sherry.

CM:

I think that’s right. Sharon, I think.

AW:

Yeah, I think they called her Sherry, maybe.

CM:

She got so big, you know. She was—

AW:

Yeah, I was sad because when she was young she was really a—

CM:

When she was sixteen or seventeen she started gaining weight. Yeah but she was—her mother was the same way. I saw pictures of her mother who was gorgeous. Man, she was a knockout.

AW:

Did you know him when he built that clinic on 19th.

CM:

Well, right after, that's when I met him. He and that—what the other doctor was kind of a—looked like a marine. He had kind of a pockmarked face and he was big and strong. I thought, God that guy looked like a Marine colonel or something.

AW:

I just thought it was such a—an inventive idea, you know, that they built.

CM:

Have it right there.

AW:

Well, and they built it in that architecture and had it right there by the hospital. Anyway, it was quite a deal.

CM:

He was a good doctor, I thought. He was doctoring C.B. Martin, my brother in law. C.B. said, "I was having a lot of trouble with stomach trouble. I was wolfing down those"—what was it—"Gaviscons and I was living on Gaviscons. I was farming, and when you get hailed out once in a while or something. It'd just eating me up, and I went to him." C.B. said, "You got to go see this guy Connery, he's really good." He and I just hit it off for some reason, I think. Because he was older than me just by a little, not a whole lot but by probably seven or eight years, maybe. He checked me out all over, took blood work. I don't know how many vials of blood, all this stuff. He called me in there and he said, "Now Craig, I'm going to tell you something." He said, "There's nothing wrong with you. Absolutely nothing except that you worry too much. You cannot stop a hail by thinking about it or pacing up and down the--" I wasn't getting enough sleep because the weather's bad and the cotton—he said, "What you need to do"—I think he said

something like, "I'm not trying to preach to you but it's biblical. You need to not worry about anything that you can't control. Nothing you can do about it. Anything you can fix, don't worry about it, just do it." And so I said, "Okay," so I went home and I started doing that, and I'm not kidding you, in a week I didn't take another drop of medicine. To this day, which is like sixty years later, I still haven't. I've never had an upset stomach like that. That's crazy. I quit worrying about stuff I couldn't do anything about.

AW:

Well, you were good that you could and better that you did.

CM:

I made up my mind. I said, "He's right, I've got to quit." So, thunder and lightning, I'd just stay in bed asleep. I finally got to where I could sleep through all that stuff, get up in the morning and work—get up in the morning, drive around and see what the damage was.

AW:

That's good advice. My problem is I'll say, "I'm not going to worry about," but then I'll lay awake thinking, Now what am I going to do afterwards? Which is the same thing. [laughs]

CM:

He put me on—well, it probably wouldn't work for everybody—but he put me on—my cholesterol has always been on the high side even when I was thirty-five, thirty. So he had me on a pretty strict cholesterol diet, and it's driving me crazy. I didn't like that.

AW:

The diet?

CM:

Yeah, not any ham and stuff I want. So, I went with him when I sold him that big boat. He got ready to move it to Houston, to Kemah, so we put it—

AW:

Yeah, Kemah.

CM:

And so, they hired this mover, came in, picked the boat up, set it back down on a truck, took it down and put it in the water. I was with him when he did it. He didn't know how to sail worth a darn. He never had done a lot of sailing. I didn't know that and we raced for some years. So, he got me to go with him and help him get the sails adjusted and stuff like that. We went out to eat breakfast one morning and he ordered three eggs, big—whatever—a rasher or bacon is in those

days, all this stuff that I've been dying to have. I said, "Millard, you're not supposed to eat that stuff." He said, "Craig, when you're away from home, you can eat what you want but when you're home working and stuff, you pay attention to your diet." I thought, God, I've missed all this good food. I weighed about a hundred and sixty-five in those days. I was as skinny as a rail.

AW:

Well, you know, that—you can have cholesterol when you—I had uncles who were that same way, just thin and worked all the time. One of them—

CM:

The other had it, yeah.

AW:

One of them died from clogged arteries.

CM:

I've had some pretty serious work on my arteries a time or two.

AW:

Well, I'm hoping I don't have to do that but I'm taking cholesterol medicine, which doesn't seem to bother me. I was a little worried about that but—

CM:

Well, you know what got me was, mine got up to about two hundred and he said, "Now Craig, it needs to be about a hundred and twenty-five. That'd be about right for you." I couldn't get it down. I did that. For a while, I really had a strict diet and it didn't seem to make a dang bit of difference. Later on, many years later when I quit farming and everything, it's gone down some, and I don't take any cholesterol medicine whatsoever.

AW:

That's really interesting. I once, when I was in the investment business, I had a client that was a really well known heart surgeon, and lived in New York, I would go up and see him one day, and I was having questions about it even then. This is in the eighties. I said, "What can I do about my cholesterol?" He said, "Well, there's one sure-fire way to do it." [Laughs] I was ready with my pencil and paper, what he said. [0:11:46] He said, "Pick good parents."

CM:

That's the best thing.

AW:

It sure—he said, “It’s pretty hard to beat that genetic side of it.”

CM:

All my men’s sides in my family: my dad, my grandad—he died, I don’t think they knew what it was in those days, but it was probably that. My brother Fred died of a heart attack. My other brother Mickey had cancer and bad vessels. It’s just in our blood. I’ve had stints and all kinds of stuff.

AW:

It really is interesting though that yours has come down.

CM:

I know it, that’s what I’ve never had been able to figure out. He said, “Well, it’s different than your liver. Your liver’s healthy but there’s something that’s happening because the liver creates most of it. Some people just create a lot. It may be AIDS, it may be what?” But it’s down. It’s like a hundred and thirty, hundred and thirty-five. I don’t mess with it. I eat a lot of salmon and a lot of fish.

AW:

I do too. I think that helps.

CM:

Anne cooks salmon really well so we get that little ole thing about four dollars, like that. Man, that makes a good supper; some black-eyed peas.

AW:

oh, I love—yeah black-eyed peas. You know who—we’re way off the topic but—Triple J Brewery has a salmon Caesar salad and their salmon is top notch.

CM:

I’m trying to—

AW:

I mean, it’s not the thing you would expect to have in a place like that but it’s just excellent.

CM:

Salmon salad.

AW:

I just get a Caesar salad and have the salmon with it just in case.

CM:

Salad, does pretty good. Of course, it's not cheap. You go in there and by the time you get through paying of everything it's pretty strong, I think. We do eat there quite often because they do have really good salmon. But I learned to cook at now. I cook it some too. We cook it in a—we call it—glass oven, Pyrex we used to call it. We put about that much white wine or we'll move either one in the bottom of it, and pull out the stuff over it a little bit. Sometimes we put a piece of butter on each piece or something. I like a little lemon in there and Anne doesn't. She likes to put it on after it's over. You put it in the oven for, I think it's for twenty-five minutes at about four-hundred, three-hundred or four-hundred. It's not very long and it just cooks it like that. What it does, it heats up that wine and it keeps it from getting dry. It comes out of there, it's just as moist and plate perfect.

AW:

That is great. We'll try that. We normally—

CM:

Don't need too much. You want enough in there, about like that, where it won't boil out.

AW:

We normally just do ours in a pan and don't cook it very long but at a high temperature. We found out—we talked to one of the folks at Triple J's, what their seasoning was and they use this all-purpose steak seasoning called Montreal Seasoning and that's what they put on their salmon so that's what we put on.

CM:

I bet that's good.

AW:

It's real good.

CM:

It's good for you.

AW:

Yeah, it is good for you.

CM:

We better get through it.

AW:

Yeah, I haven't said because we've been talking and having a good time but it's the twenty-fourth of July, 2017 in the morning. Andy Wilkinson and Craig McDonald at the Anne McDonald studio, at their home. We're doing—this is our part two, we're finally getting a round to. Is it part two or part three? I think it's part two.

CM:

Two.

AW:

Part two. I looked at my notes from part one and we had kind of stopped with you about to meet Anne. [laughs] Does that give you a good starting off spot?

CM:

Yeah. Well, Anne and I were in the same class at Lubbock High School. She was a year younger than me. She skipped a grade like the people that were smart did, and I never did. We were friends in high school, and junior high, for some of junior high, but I didn't ever have a date with her. We were just, "Hi." She was in the journalism department at Lubbock High and learned a lot from Ms. Lomax, I think her name was, but I'm not sure that's her name. Anyway, she was always fun but we just—I don't know what the deal was. I was scared of girls anyway. I'm still scared of girls.

AW:

It's probably a good policy.

CM:

Been married fifty-seven years, that's how you get scared. But anyway, she was always really sweet, and she ran around with four or five girls that were like that. They were not the popular type that was always dating the football players and all this kind of stuff. Anyway, we—I had a little book when I went off to college, a little red book about this square. I don't know why or where I got the idea of that—but anyway, the girls I kind of liked, I put in there and I kept their mailing address in there. We didn't have any phones and all this kind of stuff. So, Christmas or birthday, I'd send cards. I still do that quite a bit. Not to my girlfriend but to all the people that I'm associated with. It was interesting that she always remembered that. She's told me later that she had appreciated that, no other boys did that. I don't guess she ever got one from anybody else. Anyway, she went to SMU [**Southern Methodist University**] and I went to University of Denver. I was just the opposite in college that I was in high school. In high school, my—I'd

never got in the Honors Society, she was always in the Honors Society, officer or something. I was never in that. They never even asked me to come check it out. [Andy laughs] I made a few C's and I wasn't—I took Ag [agriculture], woodworking, and I took what was easy. My mother had so many kids, I guess, that by the time I came along she was just worn out. She didn't push me, she never said anything about my grades or anything or hoping I'd make a better grade. I loved being just—I had—I was a good typer when I got out of high school. I could keep books really good. In fact, we had a book—a company in that bookkeeping class and we had a company books that we had to work on over the year. It was a year's deal. Ole Wallace Wilson, who later became, I think, President of Texas Tech, as a student president, he and I came to our front room, we set up card tables, and we worked that whole thing that weekend. On Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. When we went back to school Monday, we handed it to her finished, and she freaked out. She got real upset at first and then she thought, "I don't want to discourage these kids." So anyway, that was our deal and I could do it with both eyes shut. We had no errors or anything. I could do that. When I went off to college, I don't know what the difference was but Dad paid for it. In those days it wasn't very expensive although we thought it was. It was eleven dollars a quarter hour at Denver. They had a quarter system. [Phone rings 00:19:50] I'll put that on the vibrator, that's where it's supposed to be. [Phone rings 00:20:03] Well, they'll quit in a minute—once it starts, it's too late. That's an oil guy. We've got a lot of oil properties scattered all over and they're driving me nuts. It's the hottest thing I've seen in I don't when right now.

AW:

Really? [Phone rings 00:20:15] I'll make sure we get back to the University of Denver but, what's happening now? Because the oil prices are down?

CM:

I know it, but they've learned with this—a lot of the new techniques in fracking and stuff.

AW:

About how they can recover more?

CM:

Yeah. They got the equipment that can drill half a mile or a mile sideways and guide that thing. I don't know how it works. But anyway, whatever it is they're making money.

AW:

And so that's what's spurring it—

CM:

And they're leasing all over this—we have like ten acres in the whole section that my dad bought years—back in the thirties. So stuff like that and I look after all my—I got five brothers—well, there's five of us brothers and sisters and I look after all their stuff and their kids—it's all grandkids now. But anyway, back to—

AW:

Denver.

CM:

—Denver.

AW:

Eleven dollars a quarter hour.

CM:

Eleven dollars a quarter hour. So, I got with it and I didn't make—I made one C the whole time I was in college. It was all B's or A's and my mother was astounded. [Andy laughs] My dad never did care about that. He got out of school in the eighth grade and he never paid any attention to that kind of—he didn't think that was important—very important. I was the only that graduated of my five kids from school. Anyway, I kept her in my little red book, and so when I went—then I went—when I got out, I got out at three and a half years, or three years and a third actually in that quarter system. So, I graduated a semester before she did at SMU so I went off to the Army. I had volunteered for the draft so I wasn't hanging out, wondering what I was going to do. I really was trained to be a banker or broker, stuff in finance, but I had an awful lot of law in there. Denver had a different kind of a—you got a BSBA [**Bachelor of Science in Business Administration**] and the BA had to do—I know the BS had to do with law so I had a lot of hours of law. They said, "You can go to school one more year up here Craig and you'll have your law degree and you'll have the best hireability of anybody. Right then it was corporate lawyers, you know. I said, "I'm so ready to get out of school." I was working—I didn't get that by doing nothing, I had to work for it. Anyway, typewriter. We didn't have computers, didn't have adding machines. We had those kinds that you'll put your numbers in there and [imitates sound]. So, my grandkids, they don't even believe there was a time when it was like that. Anyway, when I got ready to go overseas—I was in the Army a year in Tacoma, Washington. I didn't contact her except Christmas, just wrote her a note or something. Anyway, when I got ready to go overseas for a year—actually, it's a long story but I sent myself overseas because I was a clerk typist. The orders came through and one of them was my MOS [**Military Occupational Specialty Code**]. Everything going to—one of them was Germany and one of them was France. They just wanted one person in each job and so a buddy of mine, who was Henry Mar from Los Angeles, we decided, "We got about a year left, we better do this." So, we

sent ourselves—this captain who loved us because we—he got all these big awards because we had everything in order. We just signed—we put ourselves down but we didn't tell him. Of course, when it came across his desk he signed it and got fifty deals. We were in the Signal Corps then. So, they sent us off. We flipped, and I lost, so I had to go to Bordeaux which turned out to be much better than where he went in Germany.

AW:

I'd say you won.

CM:

Yeah. I didn't know it at the time. I hardly knew what Bordeaux was and what it stood for. When I got ready to go, I had to stop in Dallas then go to New Jersey and we went off on a troop ship. So I called Anne—I had about two and a half hours layover in Dallas—I called her—had her phone in the little book. I think I carried that book more than my billfold. [Andy laughs] If I'd lost that book, no telling what—we might not even have been married. I talked to her—she talked with me a long time on the phone. We had more fun talking about old stuff. Here we were twenty-two years old, twenty-three. So anyway, I went over there and spent that time, came back and I—in the meantime in the Army, I called my dad. I said, "You know the Army and banking is about the same kind of operation. If you got a good idea, you can't—even if they do it, you're not going to get credit for it. The guys above you are going to get the credit for it. I think I can do better than that. I want to be in business for myself." Well, all of my family—nearly all of them are like that. It's just in the blood, I guess, the McDonalds or something. Anyway, so he said, "Oh yeah." I said, "I think I want to farm. I don't know how to farm but I want to." He owned some farms out there by Ralls that he bought in the Depression. My grandmother and grandfather on my mother's side, they were Alpha Craig and Fred Craig were their names and that's how I got my Craig McDonald deal. Anyway, he died about—well, it was Christmas day. I was getting out of the Army on the eighth of January. It was just almost fortuitous to have that kind of thing happen, and they lived on a farm. Dad had—they'd gone broke in Nebraska and he'd put them on his farm. Of course, they just—like they owned it. When he died, my grandmother moved to Lubbock, and so that just left it perfect. So I started farming—"I think I want to farm. I can get outside. I love it outside. I love to get cold, hot, and sweaty." He thought that was the greatest thing that ever was. He was just dying for one of his kids to farm. So, I moved out there and he made a deal with a name Uel Arthur who was a veteran of a prison camp in Germany. He was in Patton's troops, one of these deals where they got—the tanks ran past them and they got captured. He spent about a year in a German prison camp. Fortunately, it wasn't a S.S. camp, he said. It was rough but he said the guys in it were rougher than the guys that were running it. They had Balkans and guys that speak Slavic languages and all this kind of stuff. He said, "Man, those guys are crazy. They just fought all the time, fought you." Anyway, but he taught—I went to work, really, for him with no salary. I farmed with him, and he farmed about four or five times more than I was. They'd farm—when we'd move we just moved over to my place and that's—

everything he did, I did and he was with me all the time. I ate lunch with him every day but I cooked my breakfast and my supper. My dad was one of those kinds, he didn't fool around. If something was not right he'd tell you. He had a key to my house out there. [Andy laughs] I'd sometimes—like on Monday morning if you'd been up late Sunday fooling around, boy, he'd know it. He had an intuition I think. He had a pipeline to the police station or something. [Andy laughs] So, he would be out there about six cooking breakfast pitch dark. He'd be cooking—I could hear him rattling those pans and I'd get up—have to get up. He'd get—I don't know how many times he'd get out there at six, six-fifteen at my house to be sure that I got started right. It got to be a habit and so after I had married, we were—for years we got up at six, six-thirty. She'd have my breakfast ready after I got back from checking the wells and stuff. Anyway, she was working as the editor of the *First National Bank Dallas Magazine* and it was a really good magazine. It was about like—in those days, like *Lions Club* magazine or *Rotary Club* magazine. It was about, I don't know, sixty, seventy pages, had photographs. She did all the photographic work, she did all of the writing of the stories. Of course, she knew everybody in that bank and it was like number six in America, I think, in size. Really good people, good ole Texans running everything. One of them's named Stewart and she used to love that guy. So anyway, I called her up and I said—this is like December twenty-seventh or something, after Christmas—I said, “Anne, I've been—

AW:

After you've been in on the farm a year?

CM:

Yeah, I farmed a year by myself—with this guy. I was taking piano lessons on top of that. I always wanted to learn how to play the piano. So, I was driving to Lubbock to Dorothy Dawkins who lived right down there by Millard. It's on that same block. She was one of Connie's friends. They'd run around together, I guess, in high school or something. Dorothy had a hard time, she was divorced I think. Anyway, I started taking—I'd drive over there twice a week late in the evenings and she'd teach me from like seven to ten or something, I don't know what. I never did get very good but I had fun. Anyway, I told Anne I was going to come down there. I said, “I don't have hardly any money but I'm going to blow all of it like a sailor. When we get there, I'm going to spend whatever it takes. I want you to be my partner when we do that.” She said, “Okay, that'll be good. I hadn't heard from you for a while.” [Andy laughs] She hadn't got—all her friends were married and most of them got married right out of high school. There she was, twenty-five, coming up on twenty-five.

AW:

So you hadn't even dated yet?

CM:

Unh-uh. I just called her on the phone and said—I had a buddy, Alan Ross who's now deceased, he had a girlfriend from San Angelo College that he knew. I know her daddy was a Baptist preacher, I remember that. He always told me, said, "I'd really be good around that girl." Anyway, she was wilder than a march hare. She'd gotten a job working as a clerk for Neiman Marcus and she thought that was the epitome of—coming from San Angelo, you can imagine. So we went out—and ole Billy Sims also was a real close friend of ours. He was working as a used car—head of the used car department for Fenner Tubbs. One of the cars that he had was one that Mr. Furr was trading in. It was a big, black 19—probably '57 or eight—Chrysler. It had those taillights way up high on the back.

AW:

With the big fins.

CM:

Yeah. So he said, "Craig, we can use that," at the last minute. He couldn't go until the next day, so Allen and I, we took that car and we drove down there. I'm telling you, we'd stop in the filling station and those guys would come running out, taking care of it like we were big—we were like twenty-something. They knew we had to be either mafia or something. Nobody our young can have money enough to—anyway, Mr. Furr was wonderful about that kind of stuff. Anyway, we had a great time. We went out—you remember senior wenches that you used to have to open the box and you'd say something—I forgot what it was—he said it and it'd shut the box back on it. He's a comedian guy.

AW:

Yeah, they have the paintings.

CM:

That's where we went for, I think it was, New Year's Eve or—I can't remember now but it was—we went dancing and dinner. The whole thing cost fifty dollars a person. I was so green about a big city and it was so funny. Even after being the Army, I wasn't—but I'll never forget: we went in, and we pulled up in the front of the Sheraton or whatever it was down on Commerce down there. I've never been in a big hotel like it. My dad stayed in the cheapest motels you could find. That's how he got his money together. Anyway, we pulled up there, got out of that thing and boy, these guys were impressed so we just went walking on in there. I never got a ticket or anything. I didn't know about—they'll go take it and park it but they park it about two blocks away in this big ole building about ten stories. We got ready to come out of there and the guy says, "Where's your ticket?" I said, "I don't have a ticket. I don't think you gave me a ticket." I looked in all my pockets. That was—they had to go back inside, sit around a while and I went with that guy. We walked down to this two blocks to the parking lot, I guess they had it leased or

something, and we started going floor to floor. I had no idea where it was because they—I wasn't with them. We went to about the third floor, we had look at all the cars and finally we found it, and then he didn't have the keys so now he had to go back and get the keys, leave me up there. It was dark and scary up in that. I thought, You've got to ignorant to get in a shape like that—but I was. We had a lot a fun. We drank, I think, three bottles of wine. There was four of us, three guys and Anne. She was my date and they were with me like [Inaudible 0:34:13]. The second day that girl—Neiman Marcus—she didn't want to go, she didn't like Allen or something. She was too big a shot for that. She was a pretty nice looking gal. Anyway, we went to a Mexican food place that was really famous in those days in Dallas. The three boys and her, we had—I think we stayed in that place about two or three hours eating and having fun drinking, telling stories and all this kind of stuff. Well, Anne was just so much fun, she was just like we were. I mean, she really was just like another boy. I just fell in love with her that day. I was twenty-five. It wasn't but about three weeks till I told her, I said, "Anne, I want to—we're going to get married. We need to get married." She was ready.

AW:

Really?

CM:

Yeah. She kind of liked me too. I was young and good looking in those days. Thin, strong, all that kind of stuff. Anyway, we just matched up. It was just one of those things that happened. May twenty-eighth we got married. We had been into the first of the year to May twenty-eighth. It was about five months. Her dad was not happy because he wanted—he liked our family. He didn't know us. He was more of a—he was lawyer. He wasn't even—he was a book lawyer, he liked to do cases and stuff but he didn't like to go to court. I don't think he ever went to court in his life. He wanted her to marry somebody that was a professional: doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, somebody, but not a farmer surely.

AW:

It's one thing for y'all to fall in love, it's another thing for her to change that career and come out to the farm.

CM:

I think it was a God thing because there's not five women in a million that would do that, and now there's none that'll do it. Almost none of these kids can—they all move to town, live in town and drive forty miles back to the farm. Anyway, she was all for it. It didn't bother her. I took her out and showed her the house. The house was built in 1914, one of the first houses in the county. Not older than Hank Smith but it was pretty old. It was made out of blocks that had been poured on the sides so it was solid cement blocks. There was no insulation because of that, there's no air in that. It'd sweat water, it'd ice the windows on the inside of the front room. It'd

build up a little ice and—but she just went through that like nothing; had the first two children there. Of course, we had them in town but they were raised out there in that, and they didn't know any difference. We were pretty poor because—one of the funniest things that happened when we got ready to get married, I told her—she denies this happened. She had a dog—she didn't have it with her, her mother was raising it—but she always had a little Dachshund, cute dog. I told her, I said, “Now, hun, we can't have a dog in the house. If you want that Dachshund, you've got to keep him outside.” Well, she just couldn't abide by that. She said, “No, he'll freeze to death out there,” so we didn't have a dog, her mother kept it. She'd play with it when we went to town once in a while. I said, “There's one other thing the McDonald's are famous for. We don't borrow money.” She'd been borrowing—she owed about a hundred dollars on one of those fancy Nikon cameras. I said, “We'll pay that off as soon as we can, and we won't ever buy anything that's not something that will make us money.” Of course, in that times, she wasn't going to even sell any of the photographs, she was just taking pictures and having fun with the kids. I said, “If it'll make money, we'll talk about it and we'll borrow money for that from maybe a bank and set it up to where we can get it paid off. Other than that, we don't borrow money.” We never have borrowed money. Of course, we were lucky when they moved on that farm, the house was rent free because it was—my dad owned the house. I just lived—so we didn't have any payments like that. We had water, our butane, electricity and that was it.

AW:

What about equipment? I know one of the things in today's world for farming is equipment.

CM:

Exactly, we sell that stuff. It's astounding sometimes. Well, you just had to know my dad. He said, “Craig, lets go look,” so we went down to Seminole and there was a couple ole boys that went broke and they were selling their stuff. They had everything in the world out there. Mr. Bosman—do you remember—was a real contemporary of my dad's. They used to be auctioneers down at the Cattle Barn there on East Broadway. He was—Bosman was holding an auction all over like they did, that's what they did in those days. We went down there in that ole sandy land and there was a Farmall M for sale. It was—I think it was like three-hundred—it ended up—we bought it at three-hundred and fifty dollars, and he loaned me that to start with. I had twenty-five thousand dollars in my own possession that was—my dad had bought bond during the war, a little bit. Twenty-five dollars, you pay eighteen seventy-five or something. I'd never had them, spent them or anything, and they had a lot of accumulated interest on them. It ended up I could cash out and I'd have that—and that was my nest egg, so to speak. He was helping me on this other stuff, and it's like today, you don't have a daddy or somebody helping, you can't get in that implement business. You just can't buy it. We sell stuff for five-hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars or more, some of them depending on the finest steerage and all that kind of stuff.

AW:

Yeah, the GPS and—

CM:

[clears throat] But, I ended up—before long, I had two tractors. I overhauled one of them. I had less than a thousand dollars in both of them. This was 1959. They didn't cost near as much. Sparkplugs and all that kind of stuff is pretty simple. I learned to be a mechanic because we had irrigation wells between him and me. I had two on my place and he had—I don't know how—sixteen or something that went.

AW:

You were probably pumping with gas motors.

CM:

Yeah, natural gas motors. Actually, butane on some of them to start with the first year or two, and then we all got together and put in a gas line that we owned. The farmers in that area owned that line for a long time. That was kind of the invention really of time when the plastic pipe that would handle gas pressures came into being. We all put those in. It was over I don't know how many miles. I ended up being president. It drove me crazy because then people were beginning to put their houses on it so you couldn't shut it off and fix it.

AW:

Did you establish yourselves as a regular utility or was this—

CM:

No, it was just a bunch of guys. Just like you and I and a bunch of others put in a line out here. Things were easy in those days. We never made any money, didn't pay any taxes, didn't file anything on that stuff. I don't know what they do now or not but it's still out there. Anyway, we just kind of learned by doing it. When it came time to cut the maize, it would be getting close—I went to a couple of places and by that time [clears throat] those Allis-Chalmers two-row combines—I had that big ole belt that came around, you know, like this. You could buy those for nothing because people were buying better combines and stuff. I bought one of those for [phone rings 00:42:17] two-hundred and fifty dollars and another for three hundred. I had to put tires on them because they rotted off. I started fixing those things and they ended up with three of them. Most of the time, you would spend—there would always be one down because they were shaking all the time, stuff like that. I got to where they'd find me inside there—I'd be back inside of it working on something. When I was cutting grain, my dad would come out there and—he was born '85—'95 so he was in sixty years or sixty-two, something like that. He was seventy, nearly seventy years old. In the time in those days, I never thought about that, but he was an old man in those days. Died when he was seventy-eight. He was out there working until nearly the

week he died. But he helped me quite a bit, some of it I didn't like. He'd tell the hired hand—when I got bigger and stuff, he'd tell the hired hand, “Now, you need to go do such, and such, and such.” I said, “Dad, you can't have two bosses. I've already told that guy what to do.” So, we had it about that. “You're right. Okay.” Anyway, we had a great time. But Anne was a big helper. When we had those kids, boy, she—I told her, I said—she stayed home because she was pregnant and barefoot all the time. She didn't—we just didn't spend any money and we didn't borrow any money. After about two years, we didn't owe anybody anything, and to this day we don't. She just got a wonderful matchup with me, for some reason. I don't know how because we were not—we were alike but her parents were really not alike. Her dad was kind of sophisticated. He was one of only, I think, one or two families in Lubbock in 1910 when he was growing up. In the twenties and twenty-fives, he had a real fancy sports car or some type.

AW:
What was his name?

CM:
AV Weaver.

AW:
AV?

CM:
His name was—I want to say Alice and that's not right—but it's **Vielus** [0:44:33], the 'V' was **Vielus**. Now, how'd he get that name, I don't know. Anderson **Vielus**, that's what it was. But he hated that name, of course and so he actually went to the courthouse and changed his name to AV with no dots and he was real hot about that. We were married—I bet we were married fifteen years before he was really warmed to me.

AW:
Really? Wow.

CM:
Yeah. We just kind of talked and that's it, just make up. I made him a heck of an oil deal when I'd learned a lot about that because I'd gone to school down in Midland on that at night. About three of us—ole Jean McLaughlin and had the bank there in Ralls—we went down there, I think it was twice a week. We'd get back home about twelve o'clock and go and get up at six. We learned a lot about the oil business so we started—so I made him a really good deal that he'd never seen before. After that, he was—he like me from then on. [Andy laughs]

AW:

Well, it's real interesting that each of you—you and Anne, grew up in town and you didn't have farming families.

CM:

That's true.

AW:

There you are not only choosing that but making a go of it.

CM:

I wouldn't have made it if I hadn't have that guy that could teach me and I could just live with him. His sons now, his two sons, run all our farms out there. My sister's families all grandkids on them now, except the one that we do. We've given all our stuff to our kids. We call CALIG [?] [0:46:06], that's the one letter out of all of us names. It's been a good life with her. We lived in that house for, I want to say eight or nine years. It was a mile and a half down a dirt road to get to it. There's some funny stories about that. Then we built a house. I'd worked with C.B. Martin and Martin's son, his brother Byron is—the school's named after out there. They were old—there dad was in Lubbock in the teens, I think, or no later than '15. He built a lot of houses in that area: 9th Street, 8th Street, 7th, 6th, all the way to 4th street across there. That was kind of how they built in those days. When those boys got out home from the war—the younger one, Byron, didn't go. He didn't have to. He was a little bit too young, I think. C.B. was on the invasion of Guam. He was in the Sea Beas, S-e-a B-e-a-s. That's always been a little confusing to some people. He was on the second day he went in the—the Sea Beas went in the second day, the Marines went in the first day. They pushed them Japanese back far enough that they could put a pup tent, something. He could tell you a lot of funny stories about that. It's all funny now, it wasn't funny then. Anne and I have been on those beaches where he was. That's what that picture over there with—that's Iwo Jima and Suribachi in the background. I love that picture. The guy that's walking with me there—I'm the one with the satchel and that's [inaudible] [0:47:48], Anne's camera stuff. The guy walking beside me is the guy's son-in-law that wrote *Band of Brothers*, Ambrose. Mr. Ambrose's daughter married this guy who was a Israeli pilot. He now runs that company and they still do tours. If I was going to go on a tour, I'd go with him. But anyway, it was amazing. Later on, we got to travel a lot. I quit farming in '85, was my last year. It was a bad—nobody was making money and there was farm sales everywhere. I told Anne, "We don't need to do this anymore. I'm getting to where it's kind of hard for me." I guess I was sixty, fifty-eight or something. But in the meantime, in '70 I bought two-thirds of the John Deere store, Hurst Farm Supply, in Lorenzo. We built another store that became a part store only in Crosbyton. Then since then we've bought—we got seven now scattered all around. So, I had enough to do there. Then the dad died—we called Red Hurst, L.J. was his name. He was one from a big family, five, six, seven kids, I think. They were all down from Spur in that area, down

Southwest of Spur. Grew up on a little ranch, farming ranch. He was a great guy, he was a big Democrat. A lot of people were in those days. Anne and I came over there and we were both Republicans. We never voted Democrat. Our first vote was for Eisenhower. We worked at it, we became county chairman when that was an easy to get because nobody wanted to own up to it. We had a lot of support but they would give you cash, they wouldn't even give you a check. They were praying somebody—

AW:

Somebody would know.

CM:

Before it was over by taking abuse and arguing with them in a nice way, we ended up Reagan carried Crosby County, first time anybody had ever carried it, Republican. They were amazed and we were amazed. We got to go to his inauguration and that was so fun. So, we went on that 747. I'll tell you what, if that thing had crashed, there wouldn't be a Republican party.

Everybody that was anybody in the Republican party leadership was on that airplane. Boy, they was dressed—those women had fur coats, and Anne and I, she wasn't dressed up very much.

They had—the whole bar part—you know how it in those 47s upstairs—you couldn't go up there because it was solid fur coats and stuff like that. [Andy laughs] Up in there—whiskey cases and all that stuff. That was quite an experience to do that. We were with some friends of ours that we knew from Midland. That was quite a deal. What was the ole boy that was—Clements? Yeah I think.

AW:

Bill Clements?

CM:

Yeah. He was the one that got in all the trouble with SMU. I think they was paying those black guys to play football. But they called it 'construction work' but they never showed up. But anyway, those were some good days. We had some great times there. My kids have all been—she was a great mother. She's getting old like the rest of us, she's eighty-one. She's had a lot of surgery: back, hips, knees. It's like a fire alarm going off if you try to get on an airplane. [Andy laughs] She hates that. Boy, she hates them wandering her and pushing around on her. For quite a long time—when we were—she was always at [inaudible] [0:52:09] courage and she was not athletic. She'd never done anything but I think she tried to play tennis. Bowling was her elective that she had to have at SMU and she nearly failed it. She said—the guy said, "I don't think you're going to be playing this when you grow older." We went—I used to talk about, "I'd love to be a scuba diver and do some stuff like that." I'd read the magazines about it and so she just signed me up. She and I both took scuba diving lessons and she got better than I did. She could go down—

AW:

Where did you take the lessons?

CM:

There was a filling—a swimming pool, which is now on Marsha Sharp Freeway. It was about where Grace Clinic is, I think. There was a small swimming pool there and you could rent it or hire it. They wasn't open all the time, you had to make a deal with them or something. This guy that was teaching—a strange kid, big kid—was teaching scuba diving. We rounded up with him and we took that. We did pretty good once we got teamed up. It took a while to get over that psychological thing of sharing that thing, when you start getting low on air and panicky. But after you get past that you think, "Why couldn't I do that?" We'd swim about three times down the pool and back with no air, never take a breath. We did that and I taught her how to ski. She never was very good.

AW:

Water skiing?

CM:

No, snow skiing. Of course, I was a really good skier. I used to teach skiing.

AW:

Oh really?

CM:

Yeah.

AW:

Well, you went to—

CM:

Denver. That's why I went. That was one of the reasons I went.

AW:

We talked last time about how I could—when I was teaching there in graduate school I never had kids in my classes on Monday or Friday because they were skiing.

CM:

They were going to Santa Fe or somewhere, yeah. I wasn't an official teacher but I taught a lot of people. Boy Scout troops, we used to take them after I was—Anne and I were married a long time. I was kind of the assistant Scout Master of the Ralls troop. Ole Bill Mays, who had a

butane and fertilizer company over there, and I got to be really close. He was in World War II so he was older. He and I were just the best buddies you ever saw. We'd take those Scouts somewhere every year. We had a deal with—what was that, Texas International Airplane and they'd—you could fly to Denver for like, I think a round trip was ninety dollars.

AW:

I used to fly with them a lot because we lived up there and you could get right back to Lubbock.

CM:

We'd go on buses sometimes. We'd get sleepy. We'd start after school, right out of school and drive all night. He'd pull up in front of the ski run about six o'clock, we'd have breakfast and we'd ski all that day.

AW:

I bet you were tired that night.

CM:

Oh I was. Those kids, it didn't matter to them. We'd take a bus load. We had like—that Scout troop had like fifty kids in it. It was great. It was one of the best ones around. Bill won all kinds of awards for the Boy Scouts. We had explorer posts there and we went to—

AW:

That's pretty unusual for a small town to have that kind of presence.

CM:

Yeah, it really was. But the rotary club was real high there because we had over fifty members in the rotary club. We had to stretch—that was one of those deals when they used to—you had to have a different occupation than everybody in there. We had—I was a conservation farmer.

[Andy laughs] Another guy was a grain car, another was a grain merchant. We had—half of them in there were farmers. It was that kind of deal. Bill, he'd get the—Miss Lubbock to come over, meet with them and tell them what—these kids were like fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen maybe—and she would just be real blunt and tell them what women expected from men and stuff like that. Man, that was powerful. Let's see, where—oh yeah, we went to NASA. They put them all up down there. They took bed rows and we slept in a big ole warehouse kind of thing, and went all through stuff. I guess you couldn't even see, probably, most of it.

Consequently, all the parents wanted their kids in that. Then when the women got to come in—they finally changed the law—it ruined it. I was afraid it would because the boys stepped back and next thing you know, the girls were president, vice president, secretary. So, you didn't get the men leadership that you did. It good for the girls but then you had to do—how're going to take care of them when you take twenty-five of them skiing? Because you always got a couple of

rows in there, that's just the way it happens. So, we had started taking wives with us to keep an eye on those girls. They'd sleep in there with them, see if they didn't sneak in and out, and stuff. Anne got to do that quite a bit. It's been a—we had rabbits. I mean, we were always trying something new. I had a hundred doe's one time.

AW:

You raised rabbits?

CM:

Yeah. You'd have, you know, a hundred doe's and if you didn't watch out, you'd have eight hundred babies.

AW:

Yeah, good lord. So what was the market for those?

CM:

We were shipping them to Pel-Freez plant in Roger, Arkansas.

AW:

For the pelts or for the meat?

CM:

For everything. They said, "We do everything but the squeal." They even said—the little hands—they had the little things—

AW:

The keychains.

CM:

Yeah. The keychains, sell it in New York. We tried and that worked for a while then the plant went broke. Boy, that was the end of the rabbit—we went to eating a lot of rabbits after that.

[Andy laughs] We had chickens. We raised a lot of exotic chickens, those Polish top-notch that have those funny hairs.

AW:

Were they for show or breeding?

CM:

It was—we ate them and got the eggs. They had good eggs, big ole eggs. Ancona's was a breed that became, kind of, our favorite because it—

AW:

How do you spell that?

CM:

A-n-c-o-n-a, I think. It's a town in Italy on the East coast. I've been there, went by there because they had those chickens. I just—one time we were there and I said, "We got to go see where these chickens come from." But they were a black chicken that had, once in a while, a little white specks on them a little bit. They laid the biggest, prettiest white egg you ever saw but they roosted in trees and the coyotes couldn't get them.

AW:

Like peacocks.

CM:

Yes. At night they'd get up high enough the coyotes couldn't get them.

AW:

Well that's interesting.

CM:

That got to be—I said, "Look, you guys got to get these chickens because the coyotes don't eat them."

AW:

That's pretty amazing.

CM:

Those Rhode Island reds, they puff up, they get down in the dust and everything. The coyotes are just waiting for that.

AW:

That's pretty interesting.

CM:

We always had all our own eggs. In fact, the kids—they had chores just like I had chores when I was little. None of the rest of the kids had chores. They all want to know, "How come we have to do this?" I said, "Because my daddy taught me to do it, and I'm teaching you to do it, and you're going to do it." It's kind of like, that's because I say so. Anyway, Anne would have to go sell the eggs. That always aggravated her, go around with all her girlfriends and stuff. That's not supposed to be ringing, I don't know why it is. That's—my granddaughters was over here. She's

got my number now. Anyhow, Eric was a—he loved to farm and he was good. When he was twelve years old he was driving one of those tractors. Of course, we didn't have all that guidance on him, didn't even have a Cab—I was so tired, I didn't even buy a Cab tractor till seven or eight years after they came out. He was always on me about it. I didn't—my pickup—I always had a GMC pickup, bought it from Logan's over there. When we moved to Ralls, there was four car dealerships in Ralls, Texas.

AW:

Isn't that amazing.

CM:

And two big grocery stores, two department stores, full stuff. Boy, there's nothing over there now. It's just dead. If we weren't in Lorenzo, there wouldn't be anything sold in Lorenzo hardly, our big store there. It's been a—I'd like to live over there now. They have really good people over there in those little towns. I mean, I'm glad I'm here because we—but still. Same thing, I'm missing—

AW:

It's convenient. You were talking about the people living in town and driving forty miles to farm. I think I'd rather live out on the farm and drive forty miles coming to work in town. Because they're living out there instead of—

CM:

We quit farming in '85 but we lived there until '94.

AW:

[speaking at once] But you didn't move to town—yeah because when I first met y'all, I went out to your home for some meeting or something.

CM:

I can't remember when that was.

AW:

It was in the early nineties or late eighties.

CM:

We moved over here and we bought this house in March of '94.

AW:

So why didn't you move into town then?

CM:

Well, I didn't—I wasn't very active in the store anymore, they didn't need me. They got this boy, Hurst Boy, Red Son. He's probably the best manager in the country.

AW:

Yeah, I got to know him because we have a mutual friend in Rex Ison.

CM:

That Ison bunch, most of the guys are good guys. I knew their ole daddy too. I no longer went to the store and—

[pause in recording]

CM:

And they would haul water to these towns like that. Of course, later on they put in a—a German came over and put in a pipeline all the way to Perth, there. You go—the hotels are all whore houses and bars. That's all they are. Well, we had—Anne, she looks up old folder or something. She always planning something. She'll call from Lubbock to Africa or somewhere and make a deal. We had this hotel deal so we landed at the airport. It was a nice airport and had—and so, the rental car—but we decided we weren't going to stay long there so we called the taxi. Thank goodness, this taxi came and picked up. Real nice guy. A lot of those guys are Rotarians that are retired and they take up driving taxis or guys that worked with the Australian Telecom. They get to sixty-five, they'll make them retire. Probably now, they're doing Ubers or whatever they are because they usually own a car anyway. He started taking us to town and Anne said, "We're going to such and such, such." He says—he stopped and got real quiet. He says, "Ma'am, there's a nice little motel in town that's about what you're used to having in Texas, back in the ole days. But it's as clean as a whistle and it's safe." She said, "You don't want to go to the hotel? well, why not?" He said, "Because it's a whore house. Women don't—nobody, even in Australia, wouldn't take his wife in there. If they want to go to a restaurant there, there's always a back door that you can go back around by the alley and come in there and there's one little room that might be as big as this." We went in a couple in those and there'd be four, five families in there and all the rowdy business was going on. I walked into one of them just to see it. Of course, girls didn't have on a stitch. I mean nothing, not even socks and panties. They're in the bar playing with these guys. It was weird. They were pretty good looking too. I guess they was making a thousand and five-hundred dollars a day, probably, because money didn't mean much those days. I mean, it was crazy. So, we went to those mining—I loved gold mining and stuff, I've always read about it and study it. I've had some and lost money and it paid some money. But anyway, down in that area, that's what that really is. The whole country's a mining country. We were going to fly across—I wanted to go by that big coal mine. There's a coal mine out there that—

AW:

Open-pit?

CM:

It's one of the—I don't know, I can't think of the name of it now.

AW:

Yeah, but it's an open-pit mine right?

CM:

Yeah, open-pit mine out here in the oldest part of the country.

AW:

That's where they first developed those huge—

CM:

Well, they've got those gigantic things that could—running—

AW:

[speaking at once] Yeah and then they carried were just—

CM:

And then they have trains now. They have a train that's like—oh man, it's like five miles long but it's downhill. It's made in such a way that from there to the Northern coast, it's downhill the whole way, just a little, so it just slowly—

AW:

So it can—

CM:

—worked its way down there.

AW:

—pull that big a train.

CM:

But really, I guess, it just kind of breaks it or something. Of course, it's all diesel—it's like us, it's modern thing. Then when it gets down there they've got a deal that'll pick those rail cars up and turn them over and it runs it up in these ships with big, rubber—you know how they do—those big wide things and it has a little narrow deal that's shooting coal up in there. When it gets

all through, it doesn't take too much to get that back up the hill. It's a fantastic kind of—Rio Tinto, Glenco and a couple of the big ones are all kind of in it. But we decided not to go that way because he said, "After you do it, there's nothing else there." He said, "You're going to have a lot prettier route if you go up this coast and end in the ocean." So, we actually flew with our wing sometimes right on the water all the way up. We had a place in there called Carnarvon. It has—it's the biggest—what do you call it—what are the—man, I blew it. But the bugs you eat here in New England have the big claws—lobster. They have what they call the Indian lobster—African Lobster but it doesn't have the claws.

AW:
Really?

CM:
It's like the ones in Florida, they don't have claws either. They have them by the millions and they ship them. That's what you get a lot of times here if you go to like Long John Silvers you're not going to get—

AW:
Oh man, I love lobster.

CM:
And they taste just as good, they just don't have the big claws.

AW:
Well, the claws are overrated. That's a lot of work to get a very little amount of—

CM:
So we had turned around—the taxi was then too close to the deal and had to turn around real tight so I was really standing on the brake on that side to help me and pushing on the throttle and the break line broke because I was over-pressuring it. The shock shot oil all down in the floor so we had to get that fixed there so we spent a couple days there while those guys we were working on it. The ole boy that fixed it was about thirty-five years old and he said—he had pretty faulty language—he said, "By God, I'll tell you what. I learned about that weather in Texas." He said, "We bought this. I went over there to represent a buddy of mine and he was a buying a Cessna." He bought it in, I think, Fort Worth and he was flying down by Sweetwater, he said, and he got too close to one of those thunderheads and he said, "That thing grabbed my airplane and took it up about fifteen thousand feet just like that. I mean, no time." I said, "That's right. They tell you, 'Don't get close.'" He said, "I learned. I finally got out of it once I got a chance. I just went on." He was headed to west coast and they'd take the wings off and ship them in those big cartons over there. There was a lot of planes over there. I mean, they use them everywhere. So anyway,

he was laughing about that. He was a good guy. We had a good time. We saw the—something Box, Bots—what are those, I can't—Hale-Bots. wasn't it?

AW:

Oh, the comet.

CM:

Comet, yeah. It was real prominent then when we were up on that North coast.

AW:

Hale-Bopp. B-o-p-p.

CM:

Yeah. We were pretty close to the equator then. Darwin's pretty close. Before we got to Darwin we went to another beach, it had those— you look out toward Indonesia, and you can really see that thing. It was incredible to the naked eye.

AW:

Was it—the sightings around in the U.S. I think, it was not what was—didn't live up to it's expectations.

CM:

I think but, you know, there's more lighting—we have a lot of lighting pollution.

AW:

Right, you can't see anything here. It was pretty spectacular, wasn't it?

CM:

There was nothing there. People were flying in from other countries to see it there. Little kids—the little kids—four, five, six, seven, eight, up to about ten years old, they go swimming out there and nothing—they just take all their clothes off. Mom would have a bikini on or something. They didn't pay any attention to that kind of stuff. It's like—I guess it was like that here twenty-five—forty years ago when I was little. Anybody that was a little kid, you know, they never put any bathing suits on. But that was a great trip. Of course, we've been to Europe a number of times. We've been to England. My daughter was married—Karen, was here. She was married in London, so we've got an international family. She met an East-Indian by birth but he was born in Malaysia, John Louis. L-o-u-i-s, it's like Lewis but they pronounce it Louis. He's a great guy.

AW:

Do they live in England?

CM:

They live in Singapore and have since '89, or '88 actually. They have two children. The oldest one, in a sense they're hybrids, they're mixed between this kind—white-skin Scottish girl and a dark, real dark-skinned Indian young man, boy. His mother and dad were born in Kerala, which is a southern part—Portuguese part of India, and so they're all Christian, mostly Catholic. They were all Christian and they all spoke English, or pretty much did. Either that or Portuguese. His family were hired—as a young married couple, poor as could be, because everybody was—by the Malaysian government to teach English in the public school. So they went to Kuala Lumpur and then they went up to a little town, about halfway up the coast, to Ipoh. I-p-o-h, I think the way it is. Anyway, it was a nice school system. For quite a few years they taught English as a primary language so certain age groups like us, they all speak English. They speak Bahasa, which is Indonesian but they also speak English and a lot of them really well. I mean, really beautifully. Better annunciations and stuff than probably me. So, we got to meet all those people. Some of them are Chinese, couples, some of them are mixed and all of this. But anyway, they met my daughter and he met—he was like a lot of those Indian kids: if their family could afford it, they would send them to London to school rather than—and they'd send them when they was like nine years old.

AW:

That's why, to me when I go to London, the best food is Indian.

CM:

I love Indian food. And there's a new Indian restaurant here in town.

AW:

Is it any good?

CM:

It's on—well, I haven't been there yet but I'm going. It's on 50th—yeah—and it's—

AW:

I've been to that one. Right there just past Memphis.

CM:

Yeah, I think that's right.

AW:

On the North side of the—yeah. I went there. In fact, I went with my friend Bob.

CM:

Is it good?

AW:

I thought it was good. I'm not an expert but my friend Bob Livingston, a musician from here who went to Lubbock High, but Bob has spent a lot of time in India and he's really well-versed on Indian food and he liked it a lot. I enjoyed it.

CM:

Boy, Singapore, you got to go to Singapore, let my daughter show you around and you can go some great Indian restaurants there.

AW:

Well, I just learned when I was traveling to London that—two things: you can be safe—well, three things: you can be safe ordering fish and chips pretty much anywhere, the Ploughman's lunch at a pub or go to an Indian restaurant and they'll cook you—

CM:

I think the spices kill all the—anything that's in there.

AW:

It was tasty, you know, coming from the U.S.—

CM:

They know what curry is, how to do curry. Here, you get a curry dish and it doesn't taste like curry enough.

AW:

Well, yeah.

CM:

I ate one the other day at Stella's, it wasn't—I mean, I liked Stella's but that—

AW:

You should try that place on 50th. I thought it was good.

CM:

We're going to, we just—I didn't know it was open. It's right there by Armadillo or somewhere right in there.

AW:

Yeah, it's right there. In fact, that's where Manara used to be, the Lebanese restaurant that I go to so much. When they closed, that was who moved into that space. For lunch, they have a buffet that was, I thought was really good.

CM:

We'll have to try that. That's pretty cool.

AW:

You would have a better sense of whether it's done—

CM:

Well, I don't know. Boy, I mean, John's mother could—she's still living but she's not able to cook or anything anymore. She's two years older than we are and she's a big, fat woman, pretty heavy. She's sweet but she's demanding like—you know, when you get eighty-four you can afford to be a little demanding. She's still living, she lives with them. He has four—five brother's, and all of them have some type of degree. One of them teaches school, the youngest one. John had an older brother that was sent to England like that, and he became a lawyer. He's the only one in the family that's questionable. They really have trouble with him. He's kind of on the shady side. John, he got an engineering degree in London. He said growing up as a little black kid that was small for his age in a boarding school, he said, was not easy. He was almost a senior and his grades were so high they finally got him to help him—for him to help them or something, and that's kind of how he earned his way. He said, "Boy, I don't know how many fist fights I got into. If I hadn't had some buddies there to help me I would've been beat to death in those days." But anyway, they met in London and got married in London, had a big wedding. God, we went over there and we—I think they started off, you know, there's going to five or six of their closest friends at the reception. She called me back, she said, "Dad, we can't have more than that." So there was going to be fifteen, there's going to be twenty. They ended up with about a hundred and forty. [Andy laughs] They had a band that was like Lionel Richie in London. All black group, women singer and sounded kind of like Lionel Richie's stuff, played everything. They played free. They knew Karen and them. They had church there, that's what they went for was the church. So, they had—it was quite a deal. In London, you can't get married without going through either the Civil Service or an Anglican Service, you got to have one of the two. So, what they ended up doing—we went to the Civil Service first and then they went to the wedding at the Anglican church but it had to be a church that wasn't used. So, the church was still there, is empty, but it had a rector or whatever you call them that looked after it. Because of that, then you had to go to him and apply and he would rent it to you. It was like fifty bucks, it wasn't all that—but anyway, it was way out in the South part of London, some kind of bad-looking—I mean, you rode the tubes out there and you kind of worried about your group at

night because there'd be a lot of those Jamaicans and stuff that moved up there. London's about covered up in foreigners now.

AW:

Oh yeah, it is—as international places I've ever been.

CM:

But anyway, she had two children. The daughter got married the other day. She graduated from Kings College in London while they were living in Singapore. Anyway, and she's—I don't have a picture of her in here but she's gorgeous.

AW:

I was just going to ask, I bet those kids are just beautiful.

CM:

Yeah, they both are handsome and she is just literally a knockout. Anyway, she met this guy—now, she's fifty-fifty Anglo-Indian. Much more Indian looking than that, but light skin, light-brown skin. Anyway, real gorgeous girl. Eyes'll just grab you. The boy is going to A&M and he's got a 3.976 average in two years. That's all he does is study but he's really bright. He's had two years in the Army like they make them do and that matured him a lot. But he's an athlete, he plays a lot of football. They call it 'soccer type'. Man, he got his eye cut the other day, something terrible. But he fits in down in A&M, he likes it down there, and he's got a girlfriend that's Anglo. I don't know whether that'll amount to anything. At first, he was going to go to school there and go back to Singapore, but I think he's got some offers already from—what is it—Zachary and some of those big engineering outfits that said, "You got to come and work for us all summer as an intern. Then we'll be waiting for you when you graduate," because of his grades, his attitude, and his stuff like that.

AW:

That summer internship is a good way for them to learn about you and for you to learn about them.

CM:

So anyway—but the girl got married on—she was here Christmas and she brought her boyfriend here at Christmas. He met us and he was a great guy. His name was T.J.—they called him T.J. and I can't even think of his last name. But, his mother is three-fourths—no, she's half Indian, I think, and half Irish. She's red-headed. Attractive women, not a stunning women but attractive. Her husband is all Indian, hundred percent, and he's an orthopedic surgeon in London. He's very wealthy. This boy, is tall, good looking—I mean, he looked like a movie star—and so together, the two of them, they just look like the Kardashians or somebody. But anyway, he had worked—

he was two years ahead of her and he had worked—he had a great job with a big bank in London and working his way up. He fell in love with her and the rest of it, the rest of the life, didn't make any difference to him. He moved to Singapore to be where she was and to get married to her. So, they've been courting for a year—well, more than that because he was here Christmas last year and all that family was here, but not the mother and dad of his. Anyway, they had the wedding—it was amazing. They put it on Skype or whatever, some type of deal, and we got up at midnight and watched it, watched the wedding. It was fantastic. Anyway, her wedding dress was given to her by a young women who loved her. Said she thought so much of her because of her Christian background, everything. They're about like we would be at, maybe, First Christian Church. They have a lot more music than we do—Broadway, we sing mostly—it's not that we don't have it, but we have a little. But they have a lot of music, they get with it. After the wedding was over, they had a dance and it was like Bollywood, you know, the movies, because most of those kids are Chinese. They're either Chinese or Indian because the Muslims—there's not too many Muslims because their daddy'll come kill them if they go for Christianity. I guess in their law they can get away with it. You can't in Singapore, but you can in Malaysia. Anyway, it's really interesting to see them because it is so different than our lifestyle. But they've got more luxury than we do, and they lay us in the shade. But this kid—call him a kid—he gave it all up for her. It's just unreal. I mean, at that age they're already in their job, had this good salary and all this stuff and now he's preaching.

AW:
Really?

CM:
Yeah. They said they was going to start a business in Jakarta. They went to Jakarta because that church needed some help down there. They've grown like mad since they've been down there.

AW:
Well, when things are seeming as dreary around the world as they are right now, it's stories like this that are really encouraging.

CM:
Well, these kids, they're not—they're just so different than what we would think of Singapore. We just don't have any idea unless you've been there. Not long ago, probably two and a half months ago, Steve Hurt, and his wife and Robert Taylor, president—

AW:
Yeah. Robert and I graduated together.

CM:

He and his wife, they went over there. They flew to Singapore, was going to take a cruise so they went a couple days early and John and Karen took them all over to everything. Showed them the whole thing and so they loved that. Took them to great restaurants and places to go. She loves to show people all over that, take them around. But she travels so much that you never know where she's going to be next. She lectures—she's written two books, mostly her with her husband's work, on—one of them's called *Good Enough Parenting*. "You don't have to be perfect, you just have to be good enough. That's the way it goes." He has one version that's version that's Christian and it quotes a lot of Bible stuff like that. They have another version that they started doing about a year ago called *Secular Good Enough*. The reason is it is because China wouldn't accept if it had the word 'Christian' in it. If you take out the word 'Christian' and don't put—you put the Bible verse in there, you just can't put—Deuteronomy, whatever. So, now they send—they make about forty-thousand a year on their book sale but they lecture all over the world: Ukraine. She'll call me or something—she'll be in Russia. They'll be over in Moscow, they go to England, but they've lectured—we've had them come over there to the LCU [**Lubbock Christian University**] and lecture. When they were at LCU, they had a hundred and fifty people registered for it. They were people that were in various types of consulting, and family living, and stuff like that. Some from churches but a lot of them not. That's an eight day—I think seven or eight day deal. They were there for the whole time. So, it's got a big following. It's amazing. I mean, I've been real surprised. I thought, "They're never going to make a living. I'm going to have to support them." [Andy laughs] I told Anne, "I think I'm going to have to support them," and we did for a while because they're not going to make a lot of money as a preacher, but this thing-- they went to Melbourne—between computers and being there in person, they got their master's degree. Of course, she got her degree from the University of Massachusetts and his was—I forgot what college in London, it wasn't Kings College but it was one of them. Now, he's almost finished his doctorate, and he's getting it in Edinburgh, Scotland. The guys thinks so much of him—what's strange is he got—he'd go to these conferences about children, how to raise children, the problems with doing it and all this kind of stuff. And so they had used a couple of movies to counsel families about—and so, there's a lot of movies—some of them R rated almost, a few of them. But they have now—there's a guy in New York, a doctor—he's a doctor in some big university there, I don't know what it is—but he has an agreement with Hollywood, various firms that own the films—a lot of them are films that are ten years old, twenty years old, some of them last week nearly. They have the authority now at no cost to use clips out of those films and that's what they do. So they'll teach you, you'll have a deal and then they'll say—this is what's happened and this is why these families are in this deal. They walk them through that stuff with them, and back it up and stuff. It's a heck of a deal. It really works. So, John's on first name basis with a bunch of those New York psychologists and stuff like that. It's amazes me because he's not—he's a year younger than Karen and about two inches shorter. [Andy laughs] I mean, I never thought that when they—there's a funny story when Karen wanted me to visit with John before they married. So, they came to the United States and we were living

out in the country. She kept trying to figure out a way to get John and me off by ourselves so we could really talk man to man. I was kind of like, "Guess who's coming to dinner?" I wasn't real sure that this thing was going to work. At first, I just thought, Oh no we can't have this. So anyway, finally it happened. She was back in the kitchen doing something with Anne, and they had already planned to try to get me off with him. So we was off and we [inaudible] [1:27:33]. Now John—I said, "I've known quite a few Indian men, doctors mostly, but I've read a lot about India. I've been there, and Indian men have a bad reputation as a general rule of taking care of their wives." They usually have one or more ladies that they sleep with and that they treat their wives bad. They'll walk twenty feet behind them kind of so they don't—and of course, a lot of them have more than one." I said—he stopped me, he said, "Mr. McDonald"—he said, "That's not ever going to happen. Number one is, I agree with you that the Indian men are bad about treating their wives bad," but I said—he said, "That's not the Christian Indians, that's Hindu Indians." He said, "Hinduism allows that, Christian Indian doesn't allow you to do that. Down in southern India where some of my cousins and stuff live, they don't have that problem. They don't do it. Most of them are married forever and ever, happy and have good families." Well, I said, "I'm glad to know that." I said, "I want to tell you something"—and this is what Karen got—she couldn't believe I said this—I said, "I'm going to trust what you tell me. Over the period of time, we'll know whether it's true or not. Because I don't know you really." I'd met him once in London for like twenty minutes and that was about it. They weren't really thinking about marriage at that time. But I said—just that afternoon we'd been out in the backyard shooting rifles and pistols in the country. Shooting tin cans and everything. He liked that because they don't ever get a chance to do that. I said, "But I want you to know something. If I ever hear of you abusing her, either words or physical, I'm coming after you." [Andy laughs] That's what I told him. "Just remember, I can go anywhere in the world, I'll be after you, and they will stop that." He said, "You don't have to worry about that," but I think his eyes got a little bigger dilated, maybe a little bit. And I meant it. I mean, I really did. I wouldn't put up with that. But he's been—they've been married for—she's fifty-four and she got married when she was about twenty-two, something like that. They've had a great marriage and their kids are the best kids I ever saw. They were pretty—John's pretty strict and what he told them, they did. They got—the private school in Singapore, which is—you get a better rounded education, Karen said. She said, "The problem with ole Singapore, you're going to great in math, and great in English but you're not going to know anything about history or world governments, all this kind of stuff. They want you to be computers." Of course, they dominate that kind of stuff. It's been an interesting deal. Quite frankly, their children those two grandchildren of mine, are way much better disciplined than the ones here. They're no comparison. Here, our guys struggle to make the grades and they got a lot of interests besides school.

AW:

Well, let's stop here for a minute.

CM:
Okay

[End of Recording]

