

**Oral History Interview of  
Boyd Huff**

**Interviewed by: Andy Wilkinson  
July 26, 2008  
Briscoe, Texas**

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

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### Preferred Citation for this Document:

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### Recording Notes:

*Original Format:* Born Digital Audio

*Digitization Details:* N/A

*Audio Metadata:* 44.1kHz/ 16bit WAV file

*Further Access Restrictions:* N/A

*Related Interviews:*

### Transcription Notes:

*Interviewer:* Andy Wilkinson

*Audio Editor:* N/A

*Transcription:* Natalia Vallejo Montoya

*Editor(s):* Kayci Rush

## Transcript Overview:

This interview features Boyd Huff as he discusses growing up on a ranch and the cow raising operation that he and his family works on.

**Length of Interview:** 01:22:51

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### Keywords

Family life and background, Ranching, Hereford Cows

**Andy Wilkinson (AW):**

We can add them if they come to them. This is Andy Wilkinson interviewing Mr. Boyd Huff. It's the twenty-sixth of July, 2008. Getting on after eight in the evening, and we're at Jim Morrison's home, north of Pampa. We're going to be talking about the Huff family ranching experience. So, start me off by telling me where you grew up.

**Boyd Huff (BH):**

I grew up on the ranch. That's about twenty-eight miles south and east of Canadian, Texas.

AW:

Yeah. Is that—that's the ranch—now, earlier today, I was getting to talk to Fran, and she said it was Washita and the Gageby?

BH:

Um-hm. Run together.

AW:

Run together.

BH:

That's about a mile and a half north and east of the house.

AW:

Yeah. So you're in the—you're ranching today in the place that you grew up—

BH:

Right.

AW:

—on a ranch?

BH:

Right.

AW:

That's—there's not very many of you around who have been able to do that.

BH:

Yeah. Well, my dad and mother were running it, and then I got old enough to go to work. And I started when I was probably six, seven years old riding the horse following the bundle wagon, and then I—

AW:

What's—a lot of people listening to this tape might not know what a bundle wagon is.

BH:

Well, you tuck bundles—feed—you plant feed, it's—we have red top cane. And you cut it with a binder, row binder, and then you'd shock it. You do this in the fall. [People talking in background] And then you'll shock it in the field, and then you had a wagon and team and you loaded bundles on this wagon and hauled them to your cattle out in the pastures.

AW:

Did you leave them in the field until you were ready to feed them?

BH:

Right.

AW:

So you didn't have to have a—

BH:

We didn't stack—

AW:

— barn or stack?

BH:

We didn't stack them.

AW:

So you just move it from where you had them shocked up to—

BH:

Right.

**Fran Morrison (FM):**

And a shock is a teepee.

AW:

Yeah. Yeah.

BH:

But you had about fifty—be about fifty—between thirty and fifty bundles in a shock.

AW:

Oh, okay. So, were the bundles wrapped or anything?

BH:

They were tied with string.

AW:

Uh-huh. Was that done manually? Or did you have machine that—

FM:

No.

BH:

You had a binder. A machine.

AW:

A binder. The binder that did it.

BH:

And you had knotter on it that tied the knot.

AW:

Yeah.

BH:

And had one wrap and [laughter in background] one twine around the bottom of the bundle.

AW:

So you—when you were about six, you were starting to work. What year were you born?

BH:

Twenty-nine.



AW:

Twenty-nine. The beginning of the crash and Great Depression. [Laughs]

BH:

Right. Yeah. Yeah, I grew up during the depression.

AW:

Yeah. Did you know it when you were growing up?

BH:

No, I didn't have any idea. Never wanted for anything. Never was hungry or thirsty.

AW:

And you probably wouldn't have worked any less had it not—

BH:

No. It didn't matter.

FM:

We didn't—I knew when something—

**Unknown Speaker 1 (US1):**

I already told you. [Laughter] I've sobered up, man. [Laughter]

AW:

Somebody get him another bottle [laughter].

FM:

Our granddad had a better car than we did, and he wouldn't—I remember going with him to Allison, and he bought oranges. And that was really something special. I guess we had a Model T or a Model A.

BH:

No, we had that old Oakland.

FM:

I don't know.



BH:

Yeah, it was an old Oakland. Straight eight-cylinder Oakland. The heat indicator was on the—a thermometer on the top of the radiator—radiator cap. It was a big, old car.

AW:

So you had to have good eyes just to see that. [Laughter]

BH:

Yeah. Well it had a—just like a thermometer does, and that was your heat indicator.

AW:

Did you—it sounds like it would have been tough to have had time to go to school.

BH:

Well, I started—we went schooling to Cataline. That was out—just out in the pasture. And I guess the school teacher boarded there at the house a lot of the time, and we'd ride to school with her. She had a car. And then another lady that taught school, she was on a ranch just up the creek from us, and she'd come by and pick us up and we'd ride to school with her. And it was one-room school that went to the

FM:

Twelfth grade.

BH:

Twelfth grade. Had—probably the most kids that was ever there was twenty?

FM:

I'd say that was the most.

BH:

Um-hm. These families that just lived down in there was the kids that went to school there.

FM:

The Helton's were very musically inclined. Those boys could play—

BH:

They all—

FM:

—played something.

BH:

They were all fiddlers.

AW:

Oh, really?

BH:

They jig dancers.

AW:

Yeah.

BH:

I guess that's what you call them.

FM:

Yeah.

BH:

Clogging now. Maybe that's the name. Anyway, they could dance.

AW:

So, this is not quite on the subject of ranches, [BH laughs], but did you—what kind of dances did you have?

BH:

Oh, I don't recall any—

AW:

I mean, the events. Were they ranch dances at the—

BH:

Oh, well, at the school house, you'd have Christmas, and then Christmas play, and you'd have a Christmas tree, and we'd have a Santa Claus. Oh, let's see. I don't remember ever—oh yeah they'd have box suppers and pie suppers to raise money.

AW:

Um-hm. Yeah.

FM:

Well, and we had—for entertainment, people would come to your house. I don't really remember too much about that, but I know that they came when—before we were there, they'd come to granddad's and stay overnight.

BH:

Yeah.

FM:

They'd come in wagons, and bring their bedding and their cooking and they would stay for a day or so with music and food and visiting. But I don't really remember anybody doing that. I mean, actually remember them doing that, but I know that they did, And we had family reunions, big family reunions, because we included—like the Young's here, we included the—my mother's uncles.

AW:

Frye's?

FM:

The Frye's. And they would all come and—I don't know that they spent the night or anything. But we just had—we had big fish fries over where Clint lives in Wheeler County. I remember those. Do you remember going to the coon hunts? Or the coyote hunts?

BH:

Unh-uh. I never did go.

FM:

Well, wasn't it Dewy?

BH:

Um-hm. Yeah, but that was quite a while after all this.

FM:

But—

BH:

That was in the forties.

FM:

Yeah, and everybody would bring their dogs; trail hounds. And they would have a—they would cook, I guess, and have food. They had lots of drinks. But they had—they'd turn their dog's lose. They'd say, "Oh, that's so-and-so, you know. I can hear him. He's on the trail," you know. And I didn't know whether they knew what they were talking about or not.

AW:

Well, so if you—you started that young and you're still at it. Did it ever occur to you to do something different?

BH:

No. [chair squeaks in background] Never did.

FM:

Come sit down.

BH:

It was always—I never did think about doing anything else.

**Patsy Wright (PW):**

Come over this way, David. We've already told our stories. David and Lee and I have told every story we ever heard.

BH:

They're recording these.

PW:

Is it recording now?

AW:

Yeah, we are.

PW:

Sorry.

AW:

So—well, let's add who all else is here. Fran. Fran is also here.

FM:

Lee Young.

AW:  
Lee Young.

FM:  
David Young.

AW:  
David Young.

PW:  
Patsy Wright.

AW:  
Patsy Wright.

BH:  
She's my sister.

AW:  
Who is a sister to Fran—

FM:  
And Boyd.

AW:  
And Boyd.

PW:  
And the baby.

AW:  
The baby, yes. I've actually seen the baby picture of you today. [Laughter] So, I've been at it for a long time. And for the tape, tell us how David and Lee are connected?

FM:  
They are the sons of Henry Young, who was two years younger than our grandmother.

**Lee Young (LY):**  
No, there was seven of us brothers and sisters.

FM:

Our mother.

PW:

Our mother.

BH:

Two years younger than our mother.

LY:

There was two girls and five boys on Henry Young's side

FM:

Two years younger than our mother.

AW:

On the Henry—

LY:

Yeah, on the Henry Young side. There was seven of us.

AW:

Yeah and—

LY:

And I was the best looking of them all.

**David Young (DY):**

And probably the most intelligent, Lee.

LY:

Yes. Yes.

AW:

I'm going to hold the tape recorder up so we can see how handsome— [laughter]

PW:

Wasn't it Henry that—a reason why he was on that place—they moved [inaudible] [00:09:55]

LY:

Do what now?

PW:

Was Henry the original person out there where Boyd is now?

LY:

No, no.

PW:

Okay. I misunderstood it or somebody.

FM:

The stories we were just telling were stories that these boys remember Daddy telling and the stories, remember Uncle Tobin—Uncle Bill telling when we had Thanksgiving together.

AW:

Well, you know, it's nice to have little stories that you've heard, but what I'd really be interested in is hearing the stories that happened to you, what your life was like. So, I think if we just talk a little bit about what it was like growing up in this area—or actually not this area, Pampa, but when you grew up down by South Canadian.

BH:

Okay.

AW:

And then the other thing that is really interesting to me is how things have been changing.

BH:

Oh, I can tell you about—a lot about changes.

AW:

Good.

BH:

It won't be a very long story, but—

AW:

But they'll be a lot in it, right? [Laughter]



BH:

Yeah. The—when we were little, my dad run our outfit. And we kept our bulls with the cows all the time. And we had cows who were calving twelve months out of the year. And the way you sold them—you'd pick up your oldest calves, or probably your biggest, and then you cut them off, ween them—or put them on the truck and somebody would buy them. Had a buyer come by to look at them or you—that's the way we did most of them. And then—and we always run Hereford cattle. We bought our Hereford bulls same place for twenty or thirty years, which that was a mistake. But that's the way we did it. And then—

AW:

Why was that a mistake?

BH:

Because you were keeping your own replacement heifers—

AW:

With the same stock?

BH:

Same stock, and buying the bulls same place and they were the same breeding. You were inbreeding, linebreeding or doing something. It wasn't good.

AW:

Yeah.

BH:

It took about twenty years to get that figured out, and it took about twenty more years to get out of it. You had to breed them out. And then we did that until—sold or handled them like that until, oh, maybe in the fifties, and then we had a big bad drought in the fifties, and then we started buying different bulls from different places. And the feed lots had a big impact on the way you raised your cattle. We started taking the bulls off the cows, and then putting them back on the cows at a certain time, and leave them in there with the cows a certain time. Your calves that were born were even. I mean, there wasn't over two month's difference in any of their ages. And then they went into feed lot. That's what these feeders wanted. They wanted pens that the cattle were even and would gain approximately the same—and when they came out of that feed lot, they'd be even bunch, and they wouldn't be staggering them so bad when they sold them out of the feed lot. We never owned them in the feed lot. We never fed cattle, but the feeders did. That's what—the kind of cattle they wanted. Then, later on after that, we started pregnancy checking all of our cows to make sure they were with calf. Before all that, well, you'd have cows come up that didn't have a calf—might not have had a calf, but maybe one calf every three or

four years. And they were—feed had got high, your pasture got more expensive, and it got more expensive to do business. And to make anything work, every one of those old cows had to have a calf. It'd cost you about two to three hundred dollars a year to keep the cow, and if she didn't have a calf, you would have been—if you wasn't going to sell her within two or three years of her not having a calf, or calf every other year, you'd be hit with a shoot if you wasn't going to sell it. So we started pregnancy checking all of our cows, getting rid of all the dry ones that wasn't going to have a calf that should have been breed that wasn't. Then, we started year branding. If a calf was born in, say, '60, you put "6" on it. And you got rid of—tried to get rid of your—tried not to keep the cow past ten years. She might be having a good calf and raising a good calf one year, and the next year, she'd don't give you calf and the old cow would get poor and she wouldn't be worth a dime and sell it. And so that was the changes we made from the time I started—that's some of the changes—until when were still running with that way now.

AW:

Are you still running Herefords?

BH:

Well, that's another thing. We used to run—you were still running Herefords mainly. We had—we calved our own heifers, kept our own replacements for our herd, and we kept those—bred those heifers to a Hereford bull, big Hereford bull. And we were having an awful, awful hard time calving. We were losing some heifers and losing calves. They couldn't have them and you couldn't—you'd help them birth them but—

AW:

Have to pull them?

BH:

Pull them.

AW:

Yeah.

BH:

And then we—I—in probably '81, I bought Longhorn bulls, and I bred those first calf heifers to longhorn bulls. They'd have their calf—[clears throat] longhorn calf born would weigh from thirty to fifty or sixty pounds, where some of those Hereford calves would weigh from eighty to ninety—seventy, eighty, ninety. And those heifers could have them. You might be getting a hundred-cent calf crop out of those longhorns, but you go to sell those longhorns, it wasn't worth anything. You'd take a big, big, big cut on those. We'd run thataway for about, oh, eight or nine years, and then we went to breeding them to first calf heifers to Angus bulls. And some of those

guys that was in the Angus bull business, they started keeping their bulls. When you bred them, they'd have a smaller calf. And we tried to start trying to buy those bulls that would look like that on those heifers. And that's what we're doing now, and that's working.

AW:

So you're—so your birth rate is up over the Hereford bull?

BH:

Yeah.

AW:

But you're—

BH:

Yeah, but your count's up.

AW:

Yeah, it counts up how many calves you get. But you have a better sale.

BH:

Lot better sale. Matter of fact, those crossers would probably outsell straight Hereford. And then we breed that heifer—first calf—to an Angus, in which—and then we would breed her back to an Angus. We would breed her to an Angus for two breeding seasons, and then we'd breed them back on the Hereford. And we keep some replacement heifer's. We'll keep some cross black baldy cows. You know, black with white—

AW:

White face, yeah.

BH:

—for replacement.

AW:

Before we get any further, who was buying the calf before the feeders? You said the feeders changed the way you were looking at leaving your bulls in the pasture.

BH:

Well, they would buy them. What they'd do then is they'd come out and look at your calves—they'd be on the cows. The buyer would come out and you'd show him your calves. And he would guess about what they'd weigh or you'd tell him what you'd thought they'd weigh, and

he'd buy them at a certain price. And then you'd have a certain delivery date. And you just stripped those calves off those cows and put them on a truck, and they took them to—most of them run them on grass, wintered them here, and then they'd take them to Kansas or somewhere up there on that grass and fatten them up; whatever they weighed coming off there. They'd go from there probably to Chicago or someplace like that to be butchered. That was in the late forties and early fifties.

AW:

So the same people buying them, but they changed the way they wanted to buy them, and that caused you to change—

BH:

Yeah.

AW:

—how you were having to calf.

BH:

Well, the—we'd run our year—we'd run—right now we'll keep our—a big part of our steer calves. We'll winter them and summer them, and then we'll sell them as yearlings in the fall. Coming out weighing between seven and nine hundred pounds, whatever. In there somewhere. And they'll go right into a feed lot, because there's feed lots all around here, as you know. Back then there wasn't no feed lots.

AW:

Ah, so they had—

BH:

They had to go to Kansas or wherever they went.

AW:

To be finished before they—

BH:

Or they'd go to Illinois, up in there.

AW:

So, am I right that you're keeping them a little longer than a lot of people do?

BH:

We're keeping those—well, we raise them and we keep the steers until they're yearlings, or we'll winter them—we'll ween them, winter them and summer them, and sell them in the fall, and they'll go for—that's the way—they'll go between seven and a half, nine, eight, somewhere along there.

AW:

You can do that because you got good grass down there.

BH:

Yeah.

FM:

Well, and you have to have room.

BH:

Yeah, you've got to have room. You know, got to have a place to put them, that's for sure.

AW:

Yeah, yeah.

PW:

But you sell part of your heifers.

BH:

Yeah, we'll sell the—we'll keep replacement heifers. We try to cut those heifers—the best, or what we think are the best, for our replacements. And the rest of them we just—we'll sell them as stock or \_\_\_\_\_ [0:21:05]. We don't keep any heifer yearlings other than what we're going to keep for replacement.

PW:

Boyd, when do you take the bulls out and when do you puts them back in?

BH:

We take the bulls out in—

PW:

Or when you put them in—

BH:

We've got them out right now. We have had them out about [chair squeaks in background] probably a month. And we'll put them back in in—I believe it's March or April, somewhere along there.

FM:

You were leasing those bulls.

BH:

We don't do that now. They were longhorns.

AW:

So you're calving February and March?

BH:

Yeah. We'll calf probably ninety days. We put them in there and they'll start probably in February, along in there. Last January to the first of February.

AW:

Before we started the tape, you also were mentioning about something you're doing now that's interesting: replacing your windmills with solar.

BH:

Oh yeah. Yeah, we're doing that.

AW:

Would you talk about that a little bit? Because you said something that—I've heard a lot of arguments for solar, and they mainly have to do with it works when the wind doesn't, but—in the summertime. But you mentioned something I thought was real interesting about the solar not pumping at night.

BH:

Yeah. I think that's easier on the wells, if you haven't got a real, real strong well. The sun goes down, that thing shuts off, and it won't start till the sun gets up and gets that—whatever that thing is—starts it. So—and it'll pump like the Dickens as long as that sun's hitting it. But at night it shuts off, and I think it's easier on your water. We had one running for three years, and we hadn't touched. And we've never, ever, ever done that with a windmill.

AW:

[laughs] I'll bet that's right.



BH:

But you never did anything.

DY:

What's it do when it's cloudy?

BH:

It quits.

DY:

It just quits? You ever run short on water when it—

BH:

No.

PW:

We're not cloudy that often. [Laughs]

BH:

You know how cloudy it gets in this country. [Laughter] You've witnessed a few sunny days.

FM:

But you do have the whole water irrigation—

PW:

But what does the windmill—what is the—what does this look like? I've never seen one of your windmills.

BH:

We've got one over there in your pasture.

LY:

It's just got a solar panel—

PW:

I haven't been in my pasture. [Laughter]

LY:

It's got a solar panel.



PW:  
Okay.

FM:  
There's out here on the gate.

PW:  
Huh?

FM:  
There's over out here on the gate.

BH:  
Patsy, it's—for an ordinary well, it's about that long and about that deep. And you point it towards the—where the sun'll hit it most all day long. When it comes up it'll hit it. It works good.

DY:  
They're doing that a lot now in different places. A lot of people are doing that.

BH:  
Well, I think they're—I think over the long haul, they're less expensive.

DY:  
Yeah.

FM:  
Well, if you don't have deep water.

BH:  
Well, they'll—they could pull them deep now.

AW:  
How deep can they—

BH:  
Well, I don't know. Somebody told me they can pull them three hundred feet. Now, I don't—I heard that. We don't have any that deep.

DY:

What horsepower engine does it have?

BH:

I don't know that, Dave. I don't have any idea. We've got one over there—we got down in Oklahoma. An old boy said they used that on sugar cane syrup. And it pumps a heck of \_\_\_\_\_ [?] [0:24:40]. That's the one you—ain't you fortunate.

FM:

I guess I am. I know so much about it I'm never down there. [Laughter]

PW:

Do the boys know?

BH:

Huh?

PW:

Do the boys know more about what the pump—

BH:

The solar?

PW:

Um-hm.

BH:

Yeah, they probably do.

PW:

Let me go get Dan and Brent.

BH:

Yeah, they could—[chair squeaks]

AW:

Well, while we're waiting on that—Lee, would you say for the tape recorder where it is you live and where you grew up.

LY:

We was born and raised down on the Washita, about halfway between Canadian and Wheeler. Born in Canadian but grew up all our lives down on the Washita there. My dad passed away when he was fifty-eight years old, and I was twenty-one. We used to run a cow-calf operation. And then—how many years was it later, Dave, we went to the yearling?

DY:

About four or five.

LY:

Four or five. We sold all the Herefords. And buy our cattle—small calves weighed around three hundred pounds or so out of the southeast. We was getting quite a few of them out of Mississippi to start with, and different places. Now most of them come out of South Texas weighing about three hundred pounds. We'll keep those things and run them a year. Last year—if it's a real good year—last year those things put on about 550 pounds, which is really a good gain, you know. You can run more of those yearlings than you can cow operation. That's one of the reasons we've done that, because you can run twice as many of those yearlings as you could cow, because they don't eat near as much grass. So that's kind of what we've done.

FM:

Almost three-to-one.

LY:

Yeah, you can run about three-to-one.

PW:

Did y'all bred [clears throat] cow and calves for ten years?

LY:

Yeah, we—

PW:

After your dad died.

LY:

Yeah, yeah. But we'd done that and then sold all the cows and went yearling business. Had a little feed lot up there where we fed little heifers. Back then they had a big market for—we'd buy these little old heifers that weighed 250-300 pounds, feed them whole corn with a supplement, and get them up about 650, 700, 750 pounds. We'd buy them out of Mississippi, send them back to Mississippi. They had a packing plant back then. We sold a lot of them like that back then.

Just get them and then ship them back to Mississippi to a packing plant back there. Worked pretty good, then they got where they didn't like that small beef. They want the big beef. So that kind of put us out of business on that one.

DY:

Boxed beef. They went to boxed beef.

LY:

Went to boxed beef.

AW:

And what does boxed beef mean? For the tape.

LY:

Well, that's the bigger beef. Bigger beef. You know, they butcher—all these feed lots now, they get them up weighing twelve, thirteen hundred pounds now. So that kind of eliminated the seven-weight cattle that we were raising there. But with these cattle that we now [clears throat], yearlings, we'll get them in weighing three hundred or so, and they'll come out weighing anywhere from eight to maybe nine hundred pounds. And they go—feed lot. They go straight to the feed lots when we do that.

AW:

And you're—one of the things that makes that work for is that you have grass.

LY:

Yes, sir.

AW:

Because if you were feeding them the whole time, you—

LY:

No, that would—you've got to have cheaper feed to make that work. You've got to have grass.

FM:

You've got to own your own land.

LY:

You've got to own your own land, and raise—

FM:

You can't make a living without owning your own land.

LY:

We rent some land—lease some land. It's worked pretty good, you know. That's kind of what we—what we've done. And we farm some. Used to raise quite a bit of alfalfa, bale it, and do all of that ourselves. We gave out on that. We'll farm some wheat land, but we always graze it out. We never harvest anything. We just run these yearlings on the pasture land.

AW:

Yeah. Why did you give up on the alfalfa?

LY:

Got old and tired. [Laughter] Yeah. A lot of work. David used to—hailed him and preacher we had up there, I'd bale it and we'd sell a lot of it. Back then it was in the sixties, wasn't it, Dave? Early seventies? We'd sell that for twenty-five dollars a ton. It'd make as much money then—I guess—as it would where they get a hundred or so now. We'd done that for twelve years. Irrigated it and raised a lot of alfalfa.

DY:

Then Lee would bale it. He'd have to wait till after midnight, when there was a dew, so that the dew would cause the leaves to stick to the stem. Otherwise, if you didn't have that dew, why, the leaves would shatter to the ground. So he had to do that at midnight.

AW:

That's about, like, having to go out and calf [laughs] heifers.

LY:

Yeah. And then we had two irrigation roll system at that time.

AW:

Side rolls?

LY:

Yeah, side rolls. We'd have—we'd change them in the morning daylight and just before you go to bed at night. It's like running a dairy. Finally we decided, "Well, maybe there's something else we could do."

FM:

Something easier.

LY:

Yeah. Yeah. But that worked real well while we was doing it. I loved that alfalfa. I'd smell that alfalfa. We'd raise eight-nine-ton acres per season. We'd fertilize it and—

AW:

How many cuttings would you get?

LY:

Get five.

AW:

Five?

LY:

Yeah. Yeah. Unless we had a little weather interruption. But usually every twenty-eight days—we'd cut that and bale it every twenty-eight days. We raised a lot of alfalfa.

AW:

What's the biggest thing that's changing now for an operation like what you're doing with the—

LY:

Oh, David, he got into—he straightened out a lot of cattle out of the southeast—little cattle—for different people, you know, and had quite an operation up there. He's kind of retired a little bit off of that. But he straightened out many'a head up there for different farmers and ranchers and different places. He'd done a lot of that.

FM:

You've etired now.

LY:

Yeah .

DY:

Well, sort of.

LY:

I'll tell you what—



DY:

I drewed [sic] my first social security check last December, [laughter] so I'm not too industrious now. [laughter]

AW:

Well, explain what—

LY:

But he'd done—he'd done a great job of straightening those cattle out.

AW:

Explain what that means.

LY:

A lot of people wanted—that means that you get them in, they go through a stress. A lot of times pneumonia. They get sick. He knows how to doctor them, what to give them. Start them on a whole corn supplement with the medication. And he'd done a good a job as any—everybody wanted Dave to straighten out their cattle. He'd done a great job.

DY:

That's not to say none of them died, now. [Laughter]

LY:

Yeah, yeah. But had quite an operation.

DY:

I did it for customers. There's this fellow that called me from down in Oklahoma, and he says, "I hear you pray for your cattle." I said, "I sure do. I figure if I didn't pray—instead of losing three, I'd lose five." [Laughter] If I told him I didn't lose any because I prayed, I'd just be lying. [Laughter]

LY:

But that's kind of what we've done all our life. My dad died when I was twenty-one. And I have an older brother who was in college, or maybe was in Tennessee at that time, working for Union Carbide. Had another brother and sister that was both going to college. So Dave and I kind of hung around the place and tried to hold it together. So anyway, it all worked out. It all worked out.

AW:

What's the biggest change coming on now for what you're—



LY:

Oh, we still do this yearling operation. It still works.

AW:

Even with—so, price of corn and those kinds of things—

LY:

Well, that affects the market. But still, as long as you're going to have beef, somebody's got to do it. And it may be higher price or less price or whatever, you know. But I think there will always be a market for good beef, you know.

AW:

Well, if tonight's dinner was any indication, I think that's true. [Laughs]

LY:

Yeah. That was really good.

FM:

That worked, didn't it?

AW:

Yeah.

LY:

Yeah, that was good. It's going to—you know, it's going to be hard to ween people off of good beef.

**Unknown Speaker 2 (US2):**

[in background] Yeah. And the restaurants are just full. I mean—

LY:

Oh yeah, all the steakhouses, you know.

PW:

It amazes me.

FM:

I don't know how they all pay for it. We couldn't eat out when our boys were little.

LY:

Where did he get that meat, Fran? Do you know where he bought that meat? Did he—

PW:

Fran bought it.

LY:

Did you buy it?

FM:

Yeah, at White Deer. At Clinton.

LY:

Okay. Was those just little—what kind of steaks?

FM:

He cut the tenderloins.

LY:

Just the tenderloins?

PW:

He just sliced them.

FM:

That was tenderloin. And he sliced it.

LY:

Oh, that's really good.

AW:

It was good.

US2:

[in background] Was it that good?

LY:

Yeah. Did he marinate that?

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FM:

He put Wish-Bone dressing on it, he said, right after he cut them.

LY:

Oh yeah, Wish-Bone dressing.

FM:

And then he seasoned them when he was cooking it.

PW:

Fran used to put Wish-Bone dressing on everything.

FM:

Don said I could not cook if I didn't have Wish-Bone dressing. [AW laughs]

LY:

Well, that was really good, I know that. I think there will always be a place for me.

PW:

Everybody'd like to eat her mountain oysters because of that. [LY laughs]

FM:

And then Jim went to putting the band around the sack.

LY:

Oh yeah. Yeah.

FM:

And so no mountain oysters. And that almost killed the help, too, the ones that would volunteer to come and help.

LY:

I'll tell you a story about that. I'll tell a story about that. That preacher had come up—Frank brought his preacher home with him from Tennessee. We was branding cattle.

DY:

Don't tell on me. Don't tell that.

LY:

[laughs] Oh, that won't hurt anything.

DY:

No, I don't—please don't tell on me. [Laughter] Don't tell that.

LY:

I'll tell that story. That's a good story.

DY:

No, no.

LY:

Yeah, I'm going to tell that story. So we was branding—

DY:

Hey! [laughs]

LY:

We was branding cattle up there, and we was—David, he was doing the castrating, you know, and everything. That preacher's out there. And they had a movie camera out there, you know. David was going to impress him, so he took a couple of those mountain oysters that he just cut and just stuck them in his mouth. The chords was hanging out his mouth. [Laughter] That impressed the preacher; he thought we was a bunch of heathens. [Laughter]

FM:

I would've thought so, too. [Laughter]

PW:

Well, you know—

LY:

Well, you know, it's just beef. [Laughter]

PW:

Well—

FM:

Uncooked.

PW:

At the brandings, you know, they put the mountain oysters on the branding fire. And everybody would have their snacks, you know, come ten o'clock of whatever.

FM:

It's all right, David.

US2:

You can come back now.

LY:

You can come back.

FM:

But when Jim changed from the way of doing, then there was no mountain oysters.

LY:

Yeah. I remember one time our neighbor down there, Fred Holbird—we were down there years ago when we still had the cow-calf operation. He was down there, and he was drunk and he was on his horse, and he's trying to rope and he couldn't do that. But anyway, we—he was roping and he was dragging the calves, you know, to brand them. And they put some of those oysters on the fire over there. You know, and they'd pop open and you're cook them. And he was out there staggering around. And there's one out there and it never had popped over and cooked and everything. He just picked it up off the fire, and when he bit down it had popped open then, you know. He said, "Boys, that was a little rare." [Laughter]

FM:

Oh, my.

LY:

Yeah. We had a lot of good times. [Laughter]

FM:

That reminds me of a story my mother used to tell when they were living over on the Eller Flat over that way that she was frying sweet potatoes. She'd slice them long ways and fry sweet potatoes. And Hiram Park came out. He was single, and he came out and he was going to eat supper with them, and he just reached over off the platter and picked up one of those sweet potatoes and put it in his mouth. Of course, it was hotter than a pistol. Said he went running to the back door and spit it out and said, "Now, damn you, Frye." [laughter]

PW:

They also came home one day, mother and dad. He bought dried apples by the big bushel or sack full or something. And they came home one day and he had been cooking dried apples. And

mother said he had every pan she had full and running over, and was looking for something else. He said, "These things just keep growing and growing and growing." [Laughter]

LY:

I remember I worked down there for Fred Holbird for a year. And he had me over for breakfast one morning. Minerva fixed us a really wonderful meal. And one thing about Fred—he'd always say the blessing over the food. So she prepared it and had it there. So he said the blessing, and in the blessing he said, "Lord, just thank you for you bountiful blessing, for this food. Bless it and let it nourish our bodies, and most of all, I pray you'll give me patience and tolerance to put up with the people that work for me." [Laughter]

FM:

And there you were.

LY:

There I was. [Laughter]

AW:

Well, did it work?

LY:

No.

FM:

As a matter of fact.

PW:

Well, he was on my mother's "no" list.

LY:

"No" list?

PW:

Yeah. She didn't want him coming around, because when he came around he had his liquor and he had his pistol, and she didn't want him anywhere close.

LY:

He wasn't going to shoot nobody. [Laughter]

FM:

No, but he's going to shoot anything outside the window that ran.

DY:

I'll tell you, he could shoot. He could flip a penny up and hit the penny.

FM:

Could he really?

DY:

Yeah. He was an Army veteran.

FM:

I didn't realize that.

DY:

Yeah, he was an expert.

LY:

He was a good man. He had his problems. Somebody asked me one time—said, “Well, was you perfect when you was growing up?” And I said, “Well, I'm just thankful the Lord's in the forgiveness business.” [Laughter] And then he could rope. He threw that Julian [?] [00:39:14], whatever you call it.

DY:

Yeah, he could rope.

LY:

We'd brand and he would just put that out there and catch them calves and drag them—

DY:

He was out there—we was penning some cattle. He'd been drinking and he was out there riding around, and his saddle was loose. It just turned over on him and dumped him on his head out there. I remember Elvis, one of the guys that worked for him, he said, “Just leave him out there a while. He'll be all right.” [Laughter]

PW:

Thinking about roping. I always remember Fran's boys. What was the fellow who worked—helped you all that had the explosion up here—or out here?



FM:

Oh, Hal Brown.

PW:

Hal Brown. Jim was in the pickup with Hal, and Dusty and Frank got to rope and drag the calves up to be branded. And Jim was mad because he didn't get to. And he said, "Hal, I never get to brand. They won't ever let me rope those calves," and going on and on. And Hal said, "You know, Jim, that's because you're so good and they need the experience." [Laughter] I love that story. Thought how neat.

FM:

He was—and the thing about it—and I think we talked about this this afternoon. The young ones that didn't know how to rope well were always the last ones allowed in to rope at the end of the roping, when you only had two or three head in the whole bunch. Well, that two or three head were the ones that had escaped all day long. They were the worst. They were the very worst ones in the world. So you send these young people out there to rope, and they've got the worst job there is.

PW:

We never did do that when Boyd and I were little. One of us got the head and one of us got the foot. And you sat there and held it while they branded. And we never roped calves like that. We always had them in a pen and you'd just run and grab it by the leg.

BH:

And you didn't want to turn loose that hind leg either.

FM:

No.

PW:

I guess the one at the front wouldn't have liked it either, would they? [Laughs] I was thinking about the hay when you were telling that. When I was little, our job was with the old stationary hay baler. Boyd sat on one side and I punched the wires through those blocks and he tied them on the other side. And I hated—they were putting the hay—that end up above me. And I hated that itchy and that—so I had my mother—and then she'd take a scarf and tie it around real tight so I wouldn't get that hay down my neck. I didn't mind sitting there and doing it. I just didn't how it made you feel by having that hay down your neck. But that was our job when we were baling hay. That old stationary hay baler.

BH:

I don't remember that stationary baler.

PW:

The men got two dollars a day, and Boyd and I got a dollar each a day.

BH:

Is that right? [Laughter]

FM:

I don't remember getting paid.

PW:

But you didn't bale hay. You stayed in the house. [Laughter]

FM:

I baled hay. I punched the wires. Boyd tied and I punched the wires.

BH:

That was years before.

AW:

For free?

FM:

Yeah, for nothing.

PW:

She's a lot older, Frank. I keep reminding her of that. [Laughter]

FM:

He wanted to know who was the oldest.

PW:

And what did you tell him? The truth or otherwise?

FM:

I told him I was. I told him. I told him the truth.

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US2:

[in background] Now, Patsy, where was y'all's house before you built the house?

PW:

Right where that one is.

US2:

[in background] Right—did they tear it down?

PW:

Yes. And we had a little—two little houses. One two rooms and one one room. And we lived in those two little bunkhouse-like things until they built that house.

US2:

[in background] How old were y'all then?

PW:

I was about nine. Eight or nine.

BH:

Do you remember when Dad and Mom lived down below the hill down in the bottom [0:43:39]? Do you remember that house where they moved up on top? Do you, Fran?

FM:

Uhn-uh.

PW:

Oh yeah. I remember because I was telling them your mother used to scare me because her hair was down to the—she'd put—

BH:

Had long hair.

PW:

Had long hair because of the religion, wasn't it?

BH:

Yeah.

PW:

And she—yeah. I lived right down on the creek. I remember being in that house.

BH:

In that house?

PW:

Yeah.

BH:

I don't remember that house. I guess I'd come along later or something.

US2:

Are you talking about out where y'all live?

PW:

No. Where Aunt Larue and Uncle Henry live.

BH:

Yeah. Right below Frank now, at that house below it. It got flooded down there.

PW:

Well, it would. It was right on that creek bank.

BH:

I think it did get flooded.

US2:

[In background] Well, wasn't there Indians that came around then?

BH:

That was way back before then.

US2:

[In background] Or was it before—who lived in that house before they did?

BH:

I don't know.

US2:

[In background] But they said there were Indians.

LY:

Didn't Mrs. Frye?

BH:

Mrs. Frye. Ma Frye.

LY:

Didn't she live—didn't they live there?

BH:

Where'd they live? They wasn't there.

PW:

No, they lived in the half dug-out on the other side of Uncle Johnny's, between Uncle Johnny and Uncle—and Fred Holbird.

BH:

Oh, is that what—

FM:

That was—

LY:

It was Mrs. Frye that told the Indian stories.

FM:

Oh yeah. And couldn't depend on any of them being true. [Laughter]

LY:

She said—I remember—the story was you had to feed them before they would leave.

FM:

Well, you couldn't depend on anything she said. [Laughter]

PW:

But, you know, in that half dug-out that was up there—

LY:

She's just like her descendants. [Laughter]

FM:

I know.

PW:

That half dug-out that was up there—our grandmother was a baby then. She was the first white baby born there. And they lived in that half dug-out. And finally Paul Frye went to Canadian and got a—this was the story they told—Ma told, I guess. They got a glass for this one little window they had, and hadn't had it there any time, and this deer jumped through and broke it. But she used to say that she would carry our grandmother out to milk because she was afraid the Indians would steal her. And she was just a baby then.

LY:

Is that right?

US2:

[In background] Yeah. I remember Mom talking about something. I didn't know who it was.

PW:

Yeah.

US2:

[In background] Now, did the Frye's live there before the Young's did?

PW:

Well, it wasn't in that exact place, but yeah, they settled there in that half dug-out. Then they moved onto—

FM:

In 1877, they moved—they married in Dodge City.

US2:

[In background] Who did?

FM:

Ma and Pa Frye.

US2:

[in background] Okay.

FM:

Our great-great—

PW:

Great-grandparents.

US2:

[In background] Your grandmother's—

FM:

Great parents.

US2:

—[In background] parents.

PW:

The Frye's.

FM:

Then they settled in Wheeler County.

PW:

And they came to just north of the Washita, and had a half dug-out. And she saved the gunny sacks for a long time until she had enough. She washed them in starch. Now, what she used for starch, I have no idea.

AW:

And why did she starch the gunny sacks?

PW:

Yeah, starched the gunny sacks and stretched them out and used pegs that she made from a cottonwood tree and pegged them down so that our grandmother would not get dirty crawling on the dirt floor. So she had this gunny sack rug that she had.

US2:

[in background] So, that was—but that was four section on the Washita.



FM:

No.

US2:

Is that what you were talking about?

FM:

No.

PW:

That came a lot later. That was our grandfather who bought those.

US2:

[in background] I thought it was. I thought you said Washita?

FM:

Well, it is on the Washita. There's a—

LY:

It's down—the Huff's on the Washita, too.

FM:

Yeah, but this is—but this side of Holbird's. And this is where they have the historical marker on the highway.

PW:

That they've torn down, Lee told me.

LY:

No, that was on the—General Miles used to camp up there.

US2:

[in background] That's on Frank.

LY:

Yeah, that was on Frank.

FM:

No, this was supposed to be for their half dug-out.

LY:

Oh really? I don't ever remember that.

FM:

Well, it was supposed to be on the highway there.

PW:

And then for some reason he decided—they decided to move because he—I remember him saying that he said when he got—went over that hill or down where that old house is in Wheeler County that they had never—it was overlooking the Sweetwater Creek—that he'd never seen prettier country in his—and it must've been a green—good year because that's where he settled.

US2:

[In background] So your grandparents—is it your great-grandparents—Frye—or is that your grandparents?

FM:

Great.

PW:

The Frye's are the great-grandparents.

US2:

[In background] Great-grandparents. He's the one that had the land where y'all are at?

FM:

No. Well, he has the one where Tommy Prayer [?] [0:48:35] lives. There's a cement rock house—two-story—there. And there's an old two-room, red stone—red rock that came out—the rock came out of Sweetwater Creek. And they built this two-room house that had a double fireplace in it. Has a fireplace in each room.

LY:

Is it still there?

FM:

Yeah.

PW:

Yes, it's still there.

FM:

And it has a historical marker, and so does the cement house. And supposedly this cousin of my mother's paid to have the two-room house restored and the stone house restored. I don't know that.

US2:

[In background] Where is it? Where's that at right now?

PW:

It's on the Sweetwater, right across from Britts [?] [0:49:32], down there as you go to Wheeler from Allison.

LY:

On the east side of the road?

PW:

West side of the road. Well, if I'm going south it'd be on the west side.

FM:

There's a county road that goes by your property.

DY:

Harry Frye's place down there.

FM:

Yeah.

PW:

Well, this is right across the road from Harry's.

FM:

This is right across the road from his.

DY:

Yeah, be on Tom Prayer [?][0:49:56] there.

PW:

Yeah.

DY:

That was at Frye's on time?

PW:

That was the old homeplace.

DY:

That was the old homeplace? How did Prayers [0:50:03] end up at that?

FM:

Because—

PW:

My grandmother's sister married a Prayer [0:50:10].

DY:

Okay. So we're kin to the Prayer [0:50:13] in that way?

FM:

Oh yes.

PW:

Well, we've got all these relatives, yeah. We've got kinfolk. [Laughter in background]

DY:

Now, to change the subject a little bit. I used to feed out small these beef this whole corn and supplement, and I advertised around the community. I put commercials on the radio. I put them on Friday night during the football game Canadian was playing. And I did my own commercials. And I'll run one by you. It went like this. "Hello out there, everybody. I'm D.H. Young. I don't sell fat \_\_\_\_\_ [0:50:50] [makes clucking noise] chickens. I sell all natural corn-fed beef. Beef with flavor, tender, juicy, and a great taste. For the best beef. It's not just beef, it's D.H. Young beef all the way. In Canadian call 323-6172." [Laughter]

LY:

Did you get that on your recorder?

AW:

Yes. [Laughter]

DY:

And I had another, and it went like this: [singing] "Poor old Clyde Chuck [0:51:15], he'd never had a T-bone. Poor old Clyde Chuck [0:51:19], he'd never had a ribeye. Is it any wonder he died of malnutrition? [Normal voice] Hello out there, everybody. I'm D.H. Young. I sell all-natural corn-fed beef. Beef with flavor, tender, juicy, and a great taste. In Canadian call 323-6172. [singing and chanting] \_\_\_\_\_ [0:51:37]. He don't know what he missed." [Laughter]

LY:

Did you get that on the recorder?

AW:

It's on there. [Laughter]

PW:

That's what he'll blank off or whatever you do.

BH:

And did that make you a millionaire?

DY:

Not necessarily. [Laughter]

FM:

I want to know why you're D.H.—I mean, why you decided on initials. Should we be called you D.H. instead of David?

DY:

Well, it's just your pleasure. Whatever you want to do.

FM:

Are you David Henry?

DY:

I'm either one.

FM:

But, I mean, are you David Henry?

DY:

David Henry. Yes, I am David Henry.

FM:

And what was Uncle Henry's other name?

US2:

[In background] Frye.

DY:

Frye. Henry Frye.

FM:

Henry Frye? Okay. I thought that was right, and then I decided—

LY:

Well, we were trying to get middle names. He didn't have a middle?

DY:

It was just Henry Frye. That's all I know.

FM:

He was Henry Frye Young.

PW:

Henry Frye Young.

DY:

Henry Frye Young?

LY:

Oh, okay.

US2:

[In background] His family just keeps going in circles. Frank's—

DY:

Well, what was Uncle Johnny? What was his—

FM:

Calvin.

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PW:  
Calvin.

DY:  
Yeah, that's right. [Loud bang] I remember that.

PW:  
Mother was Sally Elizabeth.

DY:  
Sally Elizabeth?

PW:  
I always thought that was such a pretty name.

DY:  
Yeah, it is a pretty name.

FM:  
I saw in the DAR [Daughters of the American Revolution] magazine this Francis Marion Young that was buried in Nebraska. So Don and I went up to one of his cousin's birthdays, [laughter in background] her seventy-fifth birthday in South Dakota. And we came back through Nebraska, and I stopped there. And everyone in that family has the same names as our family.

DY:  
Really?

PW:  
They're David's and Lee's. [Laughs]

DY:  
Is that right?

FM:  
Yes.

DY:  
Isn't that something?



PW:

Frank's.

FM:

William. There's all the same names. They have a cemetery that's Young Cemetery. They have a Young Lane. They have a Young Road getting to the cemetery. And everything's the same. I did not talk to anyone that was a member of the family. But they came from Illinois and Kentucky, but they also came from North Carolina. Now, the Young's in our family came from South Carolina; Spartanburg. But Spartanburg is very close to North Carolina.

AW:

So what you need to do—what town was this?

FM:

Spartanburg.

AW:

No, in Nebraska.

FM:

Plattsburg.

AW:

You need to go there on Friday night and see what kind of commercials are on the radio.

[Laughter]

PW:

During the football game. [Laughter]

AW:

You'll know how close of kin they are.

DY:

If I ever do any more, I'm going to include Frank. I got one already made up. It goes like this: "Hello out there, everybody. I'm D.H. Young, along with my good friend Frank. Frank, what can you say about D.H. all-natural corn-fed beef? 'Well, I'll tell you, folks. D.H. Young all-natural corn-fed beef is so tender I don't even need Poligrip for my dentures.' Thank you, Frank. What Frank says you can take to the bank." [Laughter]

FM:

Oh, Franko.

DY:

You want to hook up with him on a business deal? [Laughter]

PW:

I'm wondering how you put up with him all the time.

DY:

Listen. Whenever I do that commercial, I'm not going to tell him because he'll want 20 percent of the profit. [Laughter]

FM:

That's probably true, too.

BH:

But see, I was telling you a while ago that you've got to watch out because they'll sneak up behind you and just backhand you. [Laughter]

LY:

Well, you probably need it.

US2:

[In background] Okay, back to the house.

PW:

Okay.

US2:

[In background] Uncle Johnny built his house first, right?

PW:

Before our house?

US2:

[In background] Yeah.

PW:

Yes.

US2:

[In background] He built his first?

PW:

Ours was built in—I think—'39.

US2:

[In background] Okay.

PW:

And so it would've been just a few years before that that Uncle Johnny and Aunt Pearl built that house. So I would say, you know, '35-6, somewhere, if you're wondering how old that house is. Because we used—Mother and Daddy used the same plans, they just added a third bedroom.

US2:

[In background] Who built that house?

PW:

I don't remember. Oh, Mr. Sipes.

US2:

[In background] Mr. Sipes?

PW:

Oh yes. Mr. Sipes and his son Ernest had a trailer house out there. And Mr. Snipes dipped snuff. And Boyd and I poured out all his snuff one time and put cinnamon and sugar we'd mixed up, because that's what we used for snuff, [laughter] to play like we were dipping. So we—he never said a word. Never heard a word. That was worse than getting onto us. Every day we thought we'd hear about it, but we never did.

DY:

He made violins, too, didn't he? Didn't he make violins?

US2:

[In background] Yeah. Yes.

DY:

Very talented.

US2:

[in background] Yeah, and he played.

PW:

And Mrs. Snipes dipped snuff. I remember she had a coffee can.

DY:

Who?

PW:

Mrs. Sipes.

DY:

Oh yeah?

PW:

Um-hm.

US2:

[In background] But when did Henry build his house? Y'all probably knew her better than Lee does. He can't seem to remember.

LY:

Well, I wasn't born until '36. [Child cries in background]

FM:

He was just a child.

FM:

Oh, I didn't know that. [FM laughs] I didn't know I was that much older than you were. But that's right.

LY:

That's the reason I was asking y'all questions.

PW:

I know it. Because we're old-timers, right?

LY:

Yeah.

PW:

There's four years difference in our ages or something.

LY:

Four years makes a lot of difference.

PW:

I guess it does. Especially when you can't remember anything. I don't know.

LY:

I told Fran than if we'd had this five years ago, I might've been able to remember something.

PW:

[laughs] Did this—that house came after the one down on the creek?

LY:

Yeah, yeah.

PW:

I would say along—about that same time; middle thirties or so.

LY:

Yeah, about the same time.

BH:

Patsy, were you the one that told the story that I remember when granddad was little and over in Cheyenne? He was in the race and he was racing an Indian and he was afraid—

PW:

Yes. He used to tell to tell that story that he would—

AW:

Let's hear it.

PW:

Well, he was—there were a lot of Indians. He came to Oklahoma—in Oklahoma territory. This is our daddy. And his mother and seven children and the father who was sick—

FM:

And died.

PW:

And died. And my daddy was the baby. He was two or three. And I believe there was an aunt and uncle that came. Anyway, they dug a—had a half dug-out, so they were to be around—there were a lot of Indians. But anyway, yeah, he said he was on his horse and this Indian boy wanted to race. And he said, “We started out and I couldn’t decide whether I needed to beat him or let him win. I didn’t know how it would come out, because I didn’t know how he would treat me if I beat him.” But he won the race, as it happened. Yeah, he had a lot—Daddy had a lot of Indian stories, because they were all over that part—

FM:

They all surrounded the area when Dad’s brother was dying of a ruptured appendix. And his father had died of a ruptured appendix. They had ruptured on the Red River when they were moving to Cheyenne. And he died after they got to Cheyenne. And Uncle Walker, at some point in his adult life, also had a ruptured appendix. And the Indians did all their dancing—

PW:

Well, also our daddy was a roper. And we used to have rodeos at Allison. That’s the only place I remember him roping. And he used to rope in those rodeos, and many times those Indians would come to the rodeo and come and visit. I remember as a little child they would gather around to visit with Daddy because they had known him in Oklahoma.

LY:

Uncle Pat was a good roper.

AW:

Now, can you describe those ropings a little bit? Because I thought it was interesting when I listening this afternoon. Roping outside the corral outside of an arena.

FM:

That was in Oklahoma.

AW:

Just out in the prairie?

FM:

They just roped on the prairie.

LY:

Just bale [?] [1:00:33] two of that calf.

AW:

Well, it makes that first throw a whole lot more important, doesn't it?

LY:

Yes.

PW:

Yeah, you don't want to miss the first one, that's right.

AW:

You might be riding a long way.

FM:

Or you're going to hunt all day for that calf.

PW:

I don't remember that in that—I mean, we always pens in my growing up.

FM:

I just remember him talking about it, that's all.

AW:

When y'all were growing up, did you do roping as a recreation?

LY:

I never—we never did do—I never did do it as a recreation. We'd just done it—if we did it, it was working, because we had to.

PW:

That's what I always said about horseback riding. These people that love to ride horses. I said it was always work. You know, we always had to help with the cattle or something. It was never—well, Boyd and I both had a horse, and we had a—

FM:

Our mother would let us early in the morning with a sandwich or with something, and we'd be gone all day long.

PW:

Down on the creek.



FM:

Down on the creek. And she never knew where we were, and never cared. [Laughter]

PW:

And then those grandkids came along and, boy, she wanted to know every second where they were. [Laughter] But the only thing I remember her ever telling us was to pick up a stick, and before you get into a hole of water to swim, be sure you see how deep it is. Really going to protect us.

DY:

She was trustworthy, wasn't she?

FM:

Dad raised hogs, and he had sows that had little ones. They were mean. And he planted rye grass—rye—out for them. And they had their little houses, which were sloped; tin. And we played Cowboys and Indians with those hogs. [Laughter]

PW:

They were the Indians.

LY:

They were the Indians?

PW:

We always made us a bow and arrow, you know, out of the tree limbs.

FM:

And we played with them. And they were mean.

AW:

Yes.

FM:

I mean, terribly mean.

US2:

[In background] If they had babies, they really were.

FM:

Oh yes. And Boyd and I had run through the rye, and our toes were bleeding. And we looked

around and Patsy was sitting there sawing on her toe with a piece of rye, trying to make hers bleed. [Laughter]

PW:

And I'm not dumb.

LY:

Yeah, you didn't want to risk your life.

PW:

And I also remember the time Boyd and I'd been down there and I said—we were about a quarter of a mile from the house—from the creek. We had gotten this coon, and we'd just—no. What is it that—

FM:

Possum.

PW:

Possum. Possum. And we'd just beat the tar out of it. [Laughter] And I guess I always did everything he said. He said, "Why don't you carry this to the house and we'll show Mother," and I said all right. So I got a hold of its tail. I got about halfway and that old tail began to curl around. You know, that possum wasn't anymore dead than—oh, I just slung it as far as I could sling it, and off it went. [Laughter]

BH:

So you're saying we weren't the first ones to play Cowboys and Indians on the Gageby?

PW:

Oh no. We played a lot of Cowboys—hogs were always the enemy.

FM:

That was—

BH:

I'm not sure I'd have been man enough to play Cowboys and Indians with a mean hog.  
[Laughter]

PW:

Well, we weren't in the—right in with them.

FM:

Well, we ran the same pasture.

PW:

We could shoot at them. [Laughter]

FM:

I think, really, we were being very dangerous for ourselves.

PW:

Nobody ever seemed to worry about us.

FM:

No. Didn't care a bit.

US2:

[In background] Now, did y'all know this Jenny real well?

PW:

Oh yes.

FM:

Oh yes. She used to try to get me out from under the bed with a broom. [Laughter]

FM:

My mother used to tell the saddest story, because she said that, you know—our grandmother died when they were, like, two, four and six, so granddaddy Young raised them. And he came in and he told her one day—he said he was going to get married again. And she said, “We were so ugly and so selfish that we'd been by ourselves all of those years that I just said, ‘You just can't do that.’” And she would tell that story with—crying. And he said, “Well, I'll wait till you marry and then I'll marry. And Mother and Daddy married, and then he married.

LY:

Is that right?

FM:

I don't know what the difference in time was.

PW:

Not long. But he wasn't going to do what he wanted to do.

PW:

Yeah, we liked her real well.

LY:

I remember her.

DY:

Was she a schoolteacher?

FM:

Yeah, old maid schoolteacher.

DY:

Where at?

FM:

I don't know where she taught.

PW:

I don't know. The Thompson's, though, lived in that old house across from us.

FM:

Yeah, but that was—they lived on the creek before that.

PW:

Her mother and daddy—and they're buried out there at Zybach Cemetery.

FM:

And Dad would go over there. Mrs. Thompson had—I guess she had cancer. But he—I would go with him some evenings, and he would give her shots. And she was in terrible, terrible pain. She'd just cry. It was pitiful. The two rooms in the hall on that house were from Fort Elliot. And the doors were that thick. And the walls were—

PW:

Boyd has kind of fixed up that house again. That one across the road.

LY:

Oh yeah? Yeah, I noticed that it looked like they re-roofed it.

PW:

Well, I think he kind of thought maybe Matthew and his wife would live there when Matthew got back from Iraq. But they—

LY:

I noticed it was fixed. Is anyone living in it?

PW:

No. But they live down in the Phil and Jim house down there.

LY:

Yeah, he told me they did.

US2:

[In background] What house is that originally?

PW:

What house what?

US2:

That's fixed up. What was that originally?

FM:

That's where we lived before we moved over to granddad's house.

AW:

Now, are those—[person talking in background] are those doors and all that stuff from Fort Elliot still part of it?

FM:

Yeah.

PW:

Um-hm.

AW:

That's real interesting.

LY:

They'd come out of the fort? Is that what you're saying?

FM:

Um-hm.

PW:

Yeah.

DY:

Well, they moved something to old Mobeetie from over there; the old schoolhouse.

PW:

Oh, that's the one we went to—

FM:

That was at Cataline.

DY:

At Cataline?

FM:

Yeah, that was a Cataline school.

PW:

We went—I went to the first three grades in that one-room schoolhouse. Fran was in middle school—junior high when we moved to—went to Allison. We had one teacher for twelve grades. Katie George was our teacher one year.

**Unknown Speaker 3 (US3):**

Sarah gave tours in that schoolhouse today.

PW:

Huh?

US3:

Sarah gave tours in that schoolhouse today.

PW:

Oh did you really? Well, think about me sitting there as a first, second and third grader.  
[Laughter] I knew they'd moved it over there.

DY:

Whatever schooling y'all had and how you were raised, it didn't keep you from being successful ladies, mothers and wives.

PW:

Well, I'll tell you—

FM:

I wouldn't say that. [Laughter]

DY:

Well, highly respected in the community.

PW:

I wouldn't say all of that, but I'll tell you what. Back then nobody taught us phonics or anything that I'm telling you.

LY:

Y'all leaving? Good to see you, Dan.

PW:

Reading was a little more difficult.

LY:

We'll see y'all. [people talking in the background] You bet.

DY:

Who's going? Dan, it was good to see your smiling face once again. [PW laughs]

US1:

Well, still breathing. Good to see you, Frank.

PW:

Hey, Dan. Take care. Good to see you. [Everyone says "bye"] Bye, Candy.

**Unknown Speaker 4 (US4):**

Nice to seeing y'all all. Bye.

US1:

Bye, Patsy.



PW:

See you, honey. I've got to have—

US1:

Good to see you.

PW:

I've got to have one more hug.

US1:

Yes. Good to see you.

PW:

Good to see you too.

FM:

Bye.

US1:

Good to see you, Fran.

FM:

You, too.

US4:

Hey, nice meeting you.

US1:

Enjoyed this very much.

FM:

Well, I'm glad to see you.

PW:

We're glad you all came. Hope the kids had a good time.

US2:

[In background] I want your recipe.

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US4:

Which one? Mushrooms?

US2:

Mushrooms.

US4:

Simple and easy. I'll give it to you. Easy.

PW:

That's what we like: simple and easy.

US4:

Hey, it makes life a lot easier.

BH:

You bet.

US4:

Bye, y'all. [Everyone says "bye"] Nice to meet you.

US1:

See y'all. Good to see you.

PW:

Buh-bye.

US2:

What happened to y'all's grandmother? [Laughter in background]

PW:

She died of a blood clot.

US2:

Oh really?

FM:

I don't know what she died of.

PW:

That's what Daddy told me. She was twenty-two?

FM:

I don't know. Young.

PW:

Mother was six. I think she was twenty-two. You know, he was way off out in the country with those three babies.

US2:

[In background] How did he do that?

FM:

He sent them—he took them to Georgia. And they spent—

PW:

Well, and at one time—I think—they lived down with Pa and Ma Frye because mother went to that little schoolhouse down there on Britts [1:09:58], down there on the—

FM:

That may have been after they came back.

PW:

Yeah. [Chair squeaks in background]

FM:

They were probably in Georgia for a year.

US2:

[In background] Well, what was in Georgia?

FM:

His family.

PW:

That's where he came from originally.

FM:

His parents.

US2:

[In background] His parents were there? Was he older than your grandmother?

FM:

Yes.

PW:

A lot older.

FM:

A lot.

US2:

[In background] A lot older?

PW:

Back then, that was pretty true.

FM:

He was forty-some-odd years old and she was—

PW:

Eighteen or seventeen or whatever she was.

US2:

[In background] When she got married?

FM:

Um-hm. And her wedding dress is in the—

PW:

I guess she was twenty-four when she died.

FM:

—Miami Museum. And there's also a writing habbit.

US2:

[in background] Now, what'd you say?

FM:

Her wedding dress is in the Miami Museum.

US2:

[In background] Really?

PW:

It was in a trunk that we had.

US2:

[In background] Is that right?

PW:

Um-hm. And they're buried down at Cataline where that one-room schoolhouse was.

LY:

I told them that's where I want to be buried.

PW:

At Cataline?

LY:

Cataline, yeah. I don't know why we all wouldn't. Dad and all of them wasn't buried there.

US2:

[In background] He's not going to be. [Laughter]

PW:

Well, we got that right quick, didn't we, Janise?

US2:

[In background] I'll have the last say on that. [Laughter]

PW:

You will, depending on who goes first.

LY:

I'll put it in my will. I'm going to be buried by Granddad Young.

US2:

[In background] I've got more tracks down there every year to put a wreath in that grave.

[Laughter]

PW:

My mother and daddy—

LY:

[crosstalk] [1:11:26]. [Laughter]

PW:

My mother was so crazy about her brothers that she wanted to be up there across the road from them. That's exactly where she wanted to be.

US2:

[In background] They should've bought one great big block there for all of us.

LY:

But, you know, they didn't keep that graveyard up at Cataline for years. It just grew up weeds and everything else.

PW:

Yeah, but now the county does that.

LY:

So if it would've been fixed way back there—Uncle Pat and everybody—it'd been nice if they'd all been buried down there, I think. Now, that's just my opinion.

PW:

Yeah, it would've.

LY:

Yeah. If it was nice and kept up, you know, weeds and all that.

PW:

There's lot of graves down there that you don't even know about.

US2:

[In background] Yeah, they aren't [inaudible].

PW:

Some of the Steele's are buried down there.

LY:

Janise and I have gone down there several times.

PW:

Phillip and I used to come by there and put flowers on their grave down there. I told somebody on Memorial Day—my mother always gathered us up with her hoe and her rake, and these little old flowers that probably didn't last overnight—

LY:

Just like Janise.

PW:

—and we'd go to the cemeteries. We'd go down there and out to the ones out at Zybach—

LY:

Janise does that every year. We go to Wheeler.

PW:

and hoe the weeds and plant those little old flowers that—like I said—probably wilted and died the next day. But that's what we did on Memorial Day.

LY:

Janise's folks are buried at Wheeler, so every year we go to Wheeler and then Canadian, and we have gone down to Cataline down there.

PW:

Yeah, but you don't have to take the rake and the hoe anymore.

LY:

No. [PW laughs] Well, we do, because they don't keep it up very good sometimes.

US2:

[in background] They don't do the edging. [Laughter]

LY:

Oh yeah, we get serious. [Laughter]



PW:

Real serious.

LY:

It's like, you know, real fresh. Buried them yesterday. [Laughter]

PW:

Phillip and I used to go to Borger, to his folks, and then we'd go to Canadian, and then we'd go down to Oklahoma. Our grandparents are buried at Cheyenne; my daddy's family. And then—and Phillip was from Sayers, so we'd go to Sayers. We'd make it in one day and we'd come back—

AW:

In one day?

PW:

In one day. We'd come back by Cataline and sometimes stop and visit with Boyd, and then go home. We'd make the whole day.

LY:

Whole day, yeah. I think it—

PW:

I don't do that by myself anymore.

US2:

[in background] But after your—after your grandmother died, then there was Henry and Johnny and Sally—what—six, four, two?

PW:

Six, four and two.

US2:

[in background] Six, four and two. And they lived with kinfolks off and on till they got older?

FM:

Well, they lived in Georgia—I'm thinking—about a year.

PW:

No, I think they lived right out there where we grew up all that time, because Mother used to say

they'd go to—you know, twice a year to take the wagon, go to Canadian and get their sacks of flower and all this stuff that they needed. Said the only thing they ever thought about that scared them was what if a coyote looked in the window? I've heard her say that. Never thought about people. There were no people around. Just if a coyote got—

US2:

[In background] But where did they go to school then?

FM:

Cataline.

US2:

[In background] Cataline?

PW:

They—Cataline was—

FM:

They walked. That was on granddad's place.

PW:

Cataline was down there then.

FM:

I have pictures of Cataline.

LY:

Now Cataline's over at Mobeetie.

FM:

Yeah.

PW:

But now—then it was down in the creek, and they would walk from that house down—

FM:

And it was a town. There were several buildings.

LY:

Is that right?

US2:

[In background] How far was it, Patsy?

LY:

What were the buildings? Do you know what they were?

PW:

Well, it was—

FM:

I don't know.

LY:

They didn't have a cotton gin or anything like that?

FM:

No.

PW:

Oh, a couple of miles, about all, down there.

FM:

I think no more than that.

PW:

And mother used to say that Granddaddy Young would say, "The only thing he ever cautioned them about was if you ever saw anything coming—animal coming straight towards you, you needed to get out of the way." It might be a rabid skunk or a rabid something. And he always warned them about that, because they would go in a straight line. I didn't know all of that.

US2:

[In background] Where did they, like, go to high school or finish school? Or what was the deal there?

PW:

[Sighs] I don't know.

LY:

Dad went to Fort Worth to some of business college down there.

PW:

Well, Mother went to what's TWU [**Texas Women's University**] now one year in Denton.

FM:

CIA [**College of Industrial Arts**].

PW:

Yeah, it was something else then.

US2:

[In background] Did they go to—like, did Henry go to Canadian?

FM:

No.

US2:

[In background] He never went to Canadian? Allison?

PW:

I don't know where they finished high school.

FM:

No, Allison wasn't there.

PW:

Do you know where they finished high school?

LY:

I don't know where they finished high school.

FM:

Probably at Cataline. It was twelve grades.

LY:

Was it twelve grades?

PW:

It was when we were—it was when we were there.

LY:

I'm sure that's what they would have done.

PW:

I'll bet they did, too. And Daddy went to a business school at Sherman, wasn't it?

FM:

Yeah. Austin. Business school.

PW:

One year. So they did get a little bit of different education.

US2:

[In background] They got out of town.

PW:

Huh?

US2:

[In background] They got out of town. In town.

PW:

Out of whatever. [laughs]

FM:

Dad fed hogs for his brother. His brother had a meat market in Cheyenne, and Dad fed hogs behind the meat market.

LY:

Oh yeah?

FM:

For the—his money to go to school.

PW:

Well, and his mother ran a boarding house.

FM:

Yeah.

PW:

In Cheyenne.

FM:

And his sister cooked for the Hex's. Then Grandmother Huff sent her—sent him—talked Mr. Hex into hiring my dad.

PW:

That's what I was telling Lee and David. He said he worked for thirty-five dollars a year—a month for nine years for Mr. Hex. But Mr. Hex did give him some cattle along the way. But he never did—that's all he ever paid him was thirty-five dollars a month.

FM:

I didn't know how much he was paid. But he was the only one that Mr. Hex would let the girls go to the dances or the parties with.

LY:

Oh, is that right?

PW:

You know, Mr. Hex had—"your children, my children and our children." And there were twenty-one of them. She had children, he had children and then they had—and Stella McQuiddy—

FM:

Was "our children".

PW:

—and Hub, they were the younger ones. They were "our children".

FM:

[Talking in background] And Aunt Annie was the cook, and she married Uncle Pat, who was Mrs. Hex's son. And—

US2:

[In background] What Hex are we talking about?

FM:

Well, the only one would've been Stella McQuiddy and Hub Hex.

LY:

Hub. You know, Mrs. Hex's husband. Schoolteacher.

US2:

[in background] Really?

PW:

Yeah. She was theirs. They were the younger Hex's.

LY:

Yeah.

FM:

And then there were the Hex—like Bill.

LY:

Bill Hex, yeah.

FM:

And they are the descendants from our children. No, from—

PW:

From Mr. Hex.

FM:

His children. His children.

LY:

How big was the Hex Ranch?

FM:

Nine sections.

LY:

Okay. So I remember Hub Hex talking about—you know, they sold that ranch.

US2:

[In background] Who bought it?



PW:

Bowers'.

LY:

Bowers' bought it?

FM:

Um-hm.

PW:

They were our neighbors a long time. I remember my mother saying when Aubrey Bowers died one evening, the next morning we were standing outside the house and she said—then there was a maybe one or two oil wells around, but you could hear them. And she said, “You know, Aubrey died last night, and those wells are still pumping this morning. It doesn’t make a bit of difference, does it?” [Laughter] I thought that’s exactly right. Life goes on. It doesn’t make any difference.

**Frank Morrison (FRM):**

It’s nine-thirty.

LY:

Are you heading?

FRM:

No, I’m not. [laughter] I’m trying to be—

PW:

All my boys have already missed Batman. They were going to go to the movie Batman at nine-thirty.

FRM:

I’m trying to be considerate of some of these older folks who have a bedtime.

**Unknown Speaker 5 (US5):**

It was good to see y’all.

FM:

Good to see you.

LY:

Yeah, we need to go.

US5:

Bye, Granddad.

FM:

She heard you.

LY:

Are y'all leaving, Megan? See you. Love y'all. Y'all be careful.

FRM:

We can sit here and tell these stories all night long.

PW:

Oh, but we've got a lot more, Frank.

FRM:

I know. you should've started earlier.

FM:

Are you going back to Lubbock?

FRM

No, ma'am.

LY:

You leaving?

US1:

I just wanted to be considerate of you.

PW:

Lee and Lynn and Madison Scott looked in the newspaper and the Batman movie started at nine-forty-five in Amarillo, and they were all going to the Batman movie. We far missed it, didn't we? [Laughter]

US5:

It was good to meet you.

LY:

I noticed Batman's in jail, isn't he?

PW:

I don't know. Is he?

LY:

Did he get out?

PW:

Oh, hi, darling.

US5:

It was good to see.

FM:

Good to see y'all.

PW:

Good to see you, too. [US5 laughs]

FM:

Bea and Florence Steele [1:20:37]—

AW:

I need to get some signatures.

FM:

—she was Dawson [1:20:42].

BH:

David. We need to get authorization to use that ad on the radio. [Laughter]

AW:

Actually, we're going to enter it in the ADDY Awards. [Laughter]

FM:

She was—

PW:

I don't think anybody can say it like David does.

BH:

Did you get signatures for everybody so we can archive this recording?

FM:

I don't know.

AW:

And would you put your mailing address down here for me, too.

[Multiple people talking at once]

LY:

Oh, we wanted to come.

US2:

We just missed seeing you all.

FM:

There's no place there now.

US2:

I just really missed you.

LY:

We're just too busy.

DY:

I just know that we had that one section. Is it still Young?

FM:

Yeah.

DY:

I never knew how that happened.

FM:

Well, they had a daughter, Barbara, and she married Harvey Truett, who was a teacher in—

LY:

He was a principal at Canadian High School.

FM:

At Canadian. And she'd developed. She had melanoma on her ankle, and developed cancer and died. And he is—I think he is still living.

LY:

Harvey?

DY:

No, he passed away just about two or three months ago.

FM:

Okay.

PW:

[In background] I went to see the play you did. Are you still finishing school?

DY:

He's like a hundred.

FM:

I know.

LY:

Did you know how they got that land, half section, there at the Steel's [1:21:53]?

AW:

Thank you so much.

DY:

Yeah, Andy. I'll be expecting a phone call [inaudible].

FM:

Well, I guess it was part of the Donaldson's.

LY:

They're part of the what?

FM:

Donaldson's.

LY:

Oh, are they kin to the Donaldson's? I didn't know that.

AW:

I will. Thanks a lot.

FM:

She was—

DY:

We'll have a coffee and [inaudible].

AW:

I appreciate it. Thanks.

LY:

She was a Donaldson? I didn't know that.

FM:

Yeah.

DY:

Do you know where—

LY:

What are you doing here? Do you want me to sign that?

AW:

Yes. And would you put your mailing address?

DY:

Are you familiar with Hub City Body Works?

AW:

Oh yeah.

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DY:

My brother Bob owns that.

AW:

In Lubbock or Amarillo?

DY:

Amarillo—Lubbock.

AW:

Oh yeah.

DY:

Hub City Body Works.

AW:

Yeah.

DY:

Yeah, my brother Bob owns that.

AW:

Really?

DY:

If you ever have something that needs something fixed, tell him that you're a friend of mine and I said give you a 10 percent discount.

AW:

Could I have your address? Okay. I hope I don't have to visit. [Laughs] Thanks. Yeah, we like to send out a letter saying thanks to everybody. I'm going to stop the tape now.

***End of Recording***