

**Bishop, Lucille and Zera Denson
2003 Interview by James McClurken
Muscogee Nation of Florida Technical Assistance Response 2012,
Volume 1**

[JMC] Audio interview of Lucille Bishop and Zera Denson by James McClurken, 10 December 2003, JMC.

[transcribed 4/13/04 nb]

JM: Today is December 10, 2003. This is Jim McClurken and I'm in Bruce, Florida with Zera Denson and Lucille Bishop. That's the only thing formal about this interview, people have to know where we are and who we are.

JM: Lucille, I'd like to start off by asking who your parents are.

LB: My parents were (b) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

JM: Who are [REDACTED] parents?

LB: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

JM: And do you know their parents?

LB: No.

JM: No. And on your mom's side?

LB: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was my mother's mother and her dad was [REDACTED] Counter at 09] [REDACTED]

JM: Where did your dad's family come from?

LB: Around Westville, I guess. I really don't know that much about them.

JM: What year were you born?

LB: 1934.

JM: Do you know when your parents were born?

LB: Momma was born June 20th, 1905. And dad was born September 21st, 1905, I think.

JM: And they were born up by Westville.

LB: Momma was born in Defuniak and daddy was born in Westville.

JM: What brought them to Bruce?

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LB: I don't know, I guess work.

JM: What kind of work did your dad do?

LB: The WPA, that was about the only thing there was at the time.

JM: They were here before that because your dad was a member of the Bruce Church earlier than that. Do you recall that?

LB: Let's see . . . I didn't know that he was a member really, so I'm learning something myself.

JM: I see. Where were you born?

LB: In Bruce.

JM: Where were you born, is the house still standing?

LB: No.

JM: What side of the road was it on, school side or the other side?

LB: It was down on the Choctahatchee River.

JM: You were born on the river?

LB: Uh huh. I was born on the . . . it was the left hand side going to the river.

ZD: Can I say something?

JM: Yeah, talk.

ZD: Grandma Bozeman, did you all live with her then?

LB: Yeah. Well, my momma and daddy lived with Grandma Bozeman.

ZD: And didn't she have a homestead down on the river?

LB: Yeah.

ZD: Her husband was dead when I ever knew her.

LB: Right.

ZD: You didn't ever know him either?

LB: I didn't know him either.

ZD: We didn't know Grandma Bozeman's husband because he died before our time. And then, her son [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mother and father lived with Grandma Bozeman, in the big house on the river.

JM: What do you remember about life on the river as a child?

LB: Not a whole lot because we moved from the river out to Bruce when I was about nine years old.

JM: I see.

ZD: I remember the big collard patch. Grandma Bozeman always had a big garden, I remember. Didn't she?

LB: Yeah and then we had cane. Us kids had to help strip the cane to make syrup and we had a kettle, so we made our own syrup. And we had a smokehouse, and we smoked our own meat too.

ZD: Now, I can't remember if you had cows or hogs . . .

LB: Yes, we had cows and hogs. So, momma milked the cows to get milk. Things were very poor at that time.

JM: Sounds like you had plenty to eat.

LB: We had plenty to eat. We had a garden and we had our own beef, or cows, and our own hogs and chickens.

ZD: And didn't you fish a lot too?

LB: No. Momma was scared to death for us to get on the river.

ZD: Oh, she didn't let you. But, did they fish? Your daddy or . . . ?

LB: I guess daddy did but as far as I know, momma didn't because she had to take care of grandma and us kids.

JM: Where did you go to school?

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LB: Out there.

JM: Out there?

LB: Here at Bruce.

ZD: Bruce School.

LB: Bruce School.

JM: What was it called back then?

LB: Bruce School.

JM: Just Bruce School, not Pine Level.

LB: No.

JM: No. Was that a different school?

ZD: Pine Level was my mother's school.

JM: I see. But it was the same place.

LB: I don't think so.

ZD: We don't know, 'cause we weren't here.

JM: I see. So, who was your teacher at Bruce School?

LB: Well, Miss McDonald was one of the teachers, from Red Bay, and Zera was our teacher, and Lamar Ward was the principal. And Miss [REDACTED] . . .

ZD: [REDACTED]

LB: . . . [REDACTED] was a principal.

ZD: From Red Bay and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was from Red Bay, right up the road ten miles.

JM: Did you like school?

LB: Oh yeah, I liked school, to get away from the house.

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JM: Well, you must have liked something else about it too.

LB: Well, I liked the people.

JM: Did you like to learn?

LB: Well, I don't guess I liked to learn too well but that's okay.

ZD: Can you remember who was in your class when you started school?

LB: No, not really.

ZD: Any time can you remember who was in a grade with you?

LB: Oh yeah, some of them.

ZD: How many do you reckon there was?

LB: Oh there wasn't . . . What was it, about twenty-three?

ZD: I don't know, but just in your grade itself.

LB: Oh, just in our grade itself. There wasn't too many.

JM: Who was your best friend?

LB: (b) (6) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I reckon.

ZD: And [REDACTED] [REDACTED] still living. That's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] sister, that has the cafe.

JM: What year did you graduate from school?

LB: Well, I graduated from Bruce School, then I graduated from Freeport School, well then I graduated from Freeport.

ZD: Then you got married, didn't you?

LB: Well, I got married in between that time and had kids.

JM: I see. So, it's quite amazing you graduated?

LB: Right. Well, after my baby was born, and then I went to adult school and finished.

JM: I see. So, what year did you marry in?

LB: '50.

JM: Who did you marry?

LB: (b) (6) [REDACTED]

JM: Did you go to school with [REDACTED] originally?

LB: No. He was from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. He lived at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and then they moved back to Bruce. But he was born at Bruce.

JM: How did you meet?

LB: He had sisters that married my cousins.

JM: Who are your cousins?

LB: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ZD: Let's see, now [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were [REDACTED] sisters?

LB: Uh huh.

ZD: The [REDACTED] lived at Bruce, and the sisters married brothers. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] married [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] then Lucille came along and got [REDACTED]

LB: Yeah.

ZD: A younger one.

LB: Yeah, one of the younger versions of them.

JM: You're a member of the other church in Bruce. I say that because we're sitting in the Methodist parsonage. When did you join the Assembly Church?

LB: I joined back in . . . about '46 probably.

JM: You've been there a long time.

LB: All my life.

JM: All your life. Zera said that I should talk to you because you're one of the few people who knows the history of the church.

LB: Well, I know some.

JM: What do you know?

ZD: Start with building it.

LB: Oh, the church burned. The Assembly Church burned, that Aunt (b) (6) built, and then we had church over at my mother's house, Katherine Bozeman's.

JM: Is that house still standing?

LB: No.

JM: No, that one's gone too?

LB: That's gone.

ZD: But it's down Morrison-Lambert Road isn't it.

LB: Yeah, it's down on Morrison-Lambert Road.

ZD: There's an old house down there that they met at.

LB: Then, we would have some services down here at the Methodist Church and then we'd have them over at our house too.

JM: Who would come to those meetings?

LB: Well . . .

ZD: [redacted]

LB: Yeah, [redacted] and [redacted] children, which were [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]

ZD: What about the Bishops? Did [redacted] Bishop and [redacted] ever go there?

LB: Yeah, Uncle [redacted] and Aunt [redacted] Bishop went over to the house for services.

ZD: What about the [redacted] and [redacted] did they go?

LB: Uh huh, Miss (b) (6) (b) and . . .

ZD: What about [REDACTED]

LB: No, they were done dead.

ZD: They were dead?

LB: I'm trying to think.

ZD: Did the [REDACTED] go?

LB: [REDACTED] went, uh huh.

JM: That's a name I haven't heard.

ZD: Well, that's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] daughter, [REDACTED] and she's sister to [REDACTED] that's up at the little store.

LB: Yeah, the [REDACTED] went.

ZD: 'Cause they live right there by the church.

LB: Sometime we would have fifteen or twenty. Then we decided to build whenever we [inaudible] enough money by the community's help we'd build another little wooden church.

JM: Where is that?

LB: It's gone. Then we built a block building.

JM: Ok, the other little church is the one across the street?

LB: No.

JM: No?

ZD: Well, see where this one is Lucille?

LB: No, it's where it is now. We just built beside it like you all did.

JM: I see.

ZD: Do you remember sorta how long you went to that before you built the better church?

LB: Probably about six years.

ZD: 'Cause see, that one's gone and the block one's there now. I guess you all had it torn down like we did ours.

LB: Yeah, we sold it to Miss (b) (6) She bought it.

ZD: Oh that's right, she bought that little church and moved it and lived in it, didn't she?

LB: Right.

ZD: Right there by us. I remember that now.

JM: Who is Miss [REDACTED]

ZD: Mattie Stanley, [REDACTED] great-grandma, that cooked in the lunch room.

JM: Ah-ha. Churches here are small and they come and go quickly, except yours didn't and the Methodist Church didn't. Did church members take care of each other? Is that why people stayed together?

LB: No, everybody's taking care of themselves. If somebody got in need in the families, you know, we've helped out several families, but as far as taking care of them, no.

JM: What's the difference between your church and the Methodist Church?

LB: Really, I don't know.

ZD: They're just a little more charismatic than we are. If I remember right, I went to Aunt [REDACTED] church for years and they're a little more outgoing and they get to say "Praise the Lord" and "Hallelujah" and we just sit there like a dummy. If you know what I mean. I think our beliefs are about the same, don't you. It's just how you worship.

JM: I see. Who were some of the deacons of your church?

LB: Now?

JM: In the old days.

LB: Oh, in the old days. I don't know.

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ZD: Some of the one's that sort of ran the church?

LB: Oh, (b) (6)

ZD: [REDACTED]

LB: Uh huh. She was the secretary of the church.

ZD: And I remember, [REDACTED] played the piano a while. Her husband.

LB: Yeah right, [REDACTED] husband, [REDACTED] So, we had choir singing instead of everybody sitting on a seat and singing.

JM: That means everyone went up to the front of the church and sang together?

LB: Right. We had it altogether.

JM: Who are the deacons now?

LB: Well, my sister and I are the . . . my sister's [REDACTED] . . . We're the advisory. . . we just have an advisory board, so us two are the advisors.

JM: After you go there fifty years it's your responsibility.

LB: That's right.

ZD: [REDACTED] opens the church. I see her out opening the church when I come to ours to Sunday school every Sunday.

LB: Yeah, she's there about thirty minutes before anybody else is. She's like Mr. [REDACTED] used to be about ringing the bell.

ZD: Yep.

JM: You mentioned that your church burned, were you a member when it burned?

LB: No, I was small.

JM: That was before?

LB: Yeah.

JM: Were there any stories told about the church, what it was like, how it burned?

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- LB: I really don't know how it burned. It was an old sawdust floor.
- ZD: The story I heard was that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were in it drunk and trying to keep warm. Is that what you heard too?
- LB: Yeah. I heard that too.
- ZD: She doesn't want to tell it. That was the town story. And Alice said it was so.
- LB: Oh, really.
- ZD: She can verify that. She volunteered who did it, I wasn't gonna tell it in front of her. So, she decided to tell her daddy and Uncle [REDACTED] that it was the two town drunks.
- LB: Well, they were the drunks of the town at that time.
- JM: Did the church have any written records of their members?
- LB: If they did, I guess Zera has them, I don't know.
- ZD: No, over there everything was in the church.
- LB: Everything was in the church when it burned.
- JM: Does the church keep any written records now?
- LB: We keep some records now, yeah.
- JM: I'm interested in learning about the Indian families who were prominent in the Bruce town and some of the families have intermarried across generations and formed the core of community, and I know that families moved back and forth between the churches. Were there any people that identified themselves as Indian in your church?
- LB: No.
- ZD: I told Dr. McClurken, we didn't say Indian back then.
- LB: They said, "Let the dog lie." If you were an Indian or had Indian blood you didn't say it.
- JM: So, they said be quiet about it, but they talked about it.
- LB: I've never heard my parents talk about it. Momma didn't talk about things like that.

JM: No.

ZD: Nobody's momma talked about things like that.

JM: Why not?

LB: Why not? I really don't know.

ZD: You weren't supposed to be an Indian and live in Florida.

LB: This is something new, you know, I say new, in the last few years it's come out.

JM: But people were afraid back in the '30's, '40's.

ZD: You better have been if you wanted to live here.

LB: If you wanted to live and do well.

JM: Who were they afraid of?

LB: I don't know.

ZD: Well, whoever was in charge of government I guess, because you couldn't participate in anything if you had been an Indian. You know, you were just somebody to stay in the woods. So, there wasn't no Indians around here. We were just all white.

LB: We'd just call ourselves white people.

JM: And let the dog sleep?

LB: Right, just let the dog sleep.

JM: But they didn't.

LB: No.

ZD: Well, when it finally got all right to be an Indian, that we could come out and say, "Hey, here we are . . ."

LB: "Let's be counted."

JM: Well, how did you know who the Indians were?

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LB: Well, Ila, first started taking applications didn't she?

ZD: Yeah. [REDACTED] mother.

LB: Five dollars for an application I think is what it was. Some did, some didn't. I know [REDACTED] has just recently gotten his Indian card.

ZD: But he was an Indian back then too, he just. . .

JM: This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

LB: Yeah, my [REDACTED] Of course, [REDACTED] had done a lot of research.

ZD: That's her son.

LB: He went to the library and he just worked hard trying to get to be an Indian.

ZD: 'Cause he knew he was an Indian.

LB: I said to him, I said "Now [REDACTED] I think you've done quite enough now." He'd go to Tallahassee and look through the . . .

ZD: He didn't give up, boy.

LB: No, he did not give up and he got a lot of information on both sides.

JM: Both his family and your . . .

ZD: I don't think we've ever . . .

LB: The [REDACTED] have not been declared as Indians.

ZD: I know they are Indians but I don't think we've ever had any proof of it. Do you?

LB: No, no proof on it.

ZD: 'Cause most of them married into the Indians. Like, Lucille is probably an Indian but [REDACTED] is the one that's proven.

LB: Yeah, I would think that my grandparents on the [REDACTED] side would be Indian because they look more like them.

JM: You didn't know them, as I understand.

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LB: I didn't, my parents . . . my grandparents, I think, would have been on the [REDACTED] side, but I don't know.

ZD: I don't doubt a bit that Grandma [REDACTED] was an Indian.

LB: I don't doubt it either.

ZD: 'Cause she lived like an Indian.

LB: Oh yeah.

JM: How's that? What's living like an Indian?

LB: On the land.

ZD: She survived without any money didn't she?

LB: Right. We had no money back then, you just survived. You had to learn to survive.

ZD: 'Cause you see, there wasn't no welfare, paying you money like now. It was like, you and your land.

LB: Right. If you had land, then you lived on it. And you raised what you ate. If you didn't, you didn't have anything. And you know, there are lazy people in the world and they didn't want to do anything.

JM: But they lived too.

LB: I know, because they borrowed from the others.

ZD: They lived off us didn't they?

LB: Right. They lived off from the other people.

ZD: Yeah, we used to say that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] lived off the fat of the land but it was our fat.

LB: Yeah, it was our fat that caused him to live.

ZD: He killed our hogs and our cows.

JM: Is that one of your uncles?

LB: No, it was a cousin of ours.

JM: A cousin. Did you see your cousins regularly?

LB: [Pete did. That one anyway.]

JM: But did you visit your family on Sundays?

LB: We had to work, we didn't have time to visit.

ZD: When we were little, his children . . .

LB: Well everyone, the children had to work too.

ZD: But, we went to school together, and went to church together. That was about all the entertainment we had.

LB: That was all. I didn't know there were anymore churches beside the Assembly and the Methodist, until I was grown. 'Cause around here, you just didn't go anyplace. We had no car and we didn't go places.

JM: It's a long way from the river to Bruce.

LB: Well, you walked.

JM: And how long did it take you to walk?

LB: Well, it all depends.

ZD: Not too long though did it?

LB: No, it didn't take long.

ZD: I walked to the river many a time. I couldn't walk there today but I have.

LB: Thirty minutes to an hour. I mean, you know how kids play.

JM: Uh huh.

LB: And if you wasn't careful you'd get in a mud hole and get dirty before you got to church.

ZD: There were two branches, wasn't there, we had to cross.

LB: Yeah. Right. And there were ditches on the side of the road and us kids would just love to wade in the ditches in the summertime. Get to the church barefoot.

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ZD: And you all would come to the post office wouldn't you?

LB: Yeah. We even had to walk to the post office 'cause there was no mail.

ZD: No mail delivery on the river then. And we had a little store in Bruce, anybody that had any money to buy anything, which wasn't too often.

LB: No, you hardly ever got . . .

ZD: Now, I don't know if (b) (6) got a little pension, a little Civil War pension or something, can you remember?

LB: No, not Civil War, but it was some kind of an aid and it helped us.

ZD: 'Cause she had a whole bunch of children then she had Lucille's mom when her dad died. And how many children were you all?

LB: Five. Daddy died in '38.

ZD: And see, there was no male in the house, it was just the women and the children.

LB: And Mama had five children and Lois, my oldest sister, was about eight years old, and I was four, and my brother was just about one year old. So, there was five of us kids all from 1930 to 1937 we were born.

JM: The hardest years of the Depression.

LB: Yeah, right. So, we know what it is to not have gravy, to have some gravy along with meat.

ZD: I was trying to think of what kind of little . . . What did they call it that they give to people like that? Some little pension from the government. Wasn't it the state of something?

LB: I think so, the state.

ZD: But it was small.

LB: Yeah. If you got thirteen dollars you were good.

ZD: But it was enough. We didn't have any light bills to pay you know, 'cause we didn't have any lights.

LB: We had no phone bills. We had no bills at all.

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ZD: Just had to buy a little kerosene for the lamps. We did have lamps, kerosene lamps. But, you had to buy kerosene and matches.

LB: And the flour and meal.

ZD: Yeah, we didn't have any way to make flour or meal. We had to buy that. Well, we didn't buy much cooking oil 'cause we'd render the fat.

LB: Right, mom would dry the fat out and can the meats because we didn't have a freezer.

ZD: Did you all make sausage?

LB: I think they made sausage.

ZD: I remember back in the olden days how you made sausage. I don't know how you made it but you'd take the intestines of the hog and you wash them. We did that one time in my life and that about killed me. You'd cut off a plug and have to get that stuff out and you'd have to wash it forever. And then stuff it with the sausage meat and then smoke it. That was a bad job. We just did it that one time that was enough for me.

LB: No, I didn't like that idea. I don't like chitlins to begin with.

ZD: I can't stand them. You know what chitlins are don't you?

JM: Yeah.

ZD: Mama cooked some one time, daddy said, "Now, don't ever cook anymore of those in this house. This is the most awful smell in the world."

LB: And it is hard to get out of the house. We had a wood stove and that's what we cooked on.

ZD: And we had to cut the wood.

LB: Yeah, cut the wood. We had to go out in the fields and get the wood.

ZD: When a tree fell down.

LB: Either that or saw the pine or something or other. Or in the swamps.

ZD: And you get tired of being bossed to start with. You weren't big enough . . .

LB: No, (b) and [REDACTED] weren't big enough to do nothing.

ZD: I cut wood with an axe with daddy and me we used to cut firewood.

LB: Oh, you did?

ZD: And it would fly right up and hit me in the head. I didn't know how to aim the axe sideways, I hit . . . Here come the wood.

JM: It must have been a hard life, a house full of women and children.

ZD: We didn't even know it was hard.

JM: No?

ZD: We didn't know we were poor. We had the best time at all. I never knew I was poor.

LB: I didn't know we were poor.

ZD: We were happy.

LB: I can look back now and say, I don't know how we survived. But God just helped us, that's all.

ZD: Yeah, and everybody loved each other and had time to visit.

LB: Now you don't have any time to visit.

JM: I'm curious, how did your dad die?

LB: Pneumonia. He had surgery for appendicitis and then he had taken pneumonia and died.

JM: Where did he go to the doctor?

LB: Pensacola.

JM: So, he was sick and you had to drive him all the way to Pensacola.

LB: I don't know . . .

ZD: They probably had to get somebody to take him there 'cause they didn't have anybody to drive.

LB: I think there was a bus or something, wasn't there? It might have been [? Counter at 270] way or something that he caught and went to Pensacola.

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- ZD: You could stand out by the road on 20 and wave it down it would stop and pick you up. We didn't have a bus stop but they'd stop and pick you up and bring you back and put you off. When you got sick like Mr. [REDACTED] it seems to me like Aunt Mazie said to me one time that when he came back home or something that he just died real fast or something. That didn't anybody know he was about to die 'cause they thought he was supposed to be getting better. But you see, he was out here in the country with no medical help.
- LB: You didn't go to the doctor 'cause you couldn't afford it.
- ZD: We had one old doctor . . .
- LB: Stevens.
- ZD: Dr. [REDACTED] at Ponce de Leon and he would come down here and see us sometime. Mama and Aunt Mazie used to get him to come and see somebody if they were really sick, like Meado Roberts. When she got sick to die trying to have a child, she was young and couldn't have it. They got him, well, they called him. Grandpa had a telephone part of my young life. One that you'd ring, you know, reach down and listen to who else was talking. We'd take turns listening. But anyhow, he would come down here and help Mama and Aunt Mazie if they called him.
- JM: Were there any people who were faith healers or that could heal with plants?
- LB: There were plants? I never heard of that.
- ZD: Yeah, what we talked about is, instead of medicine, what did they use.
- LB: Oh. Well, you just believed in God to heal you and that was it. You prayed to God to heal you.
- ZD: But they got some . . . What did they use to cook some stuff, roots and stuff. I know they cooked sassafras.
- LB: Yeah, sassafras tea.
- ZD: Then they had a plant they used.
- LB: [Loofa] grass that Mama used for kidneys, you'd wash it and boil it.
- JM: And what did that do?
- LB: It was supposed to help you kidneys.

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- ZD: Straighten up if they were sick. And then they had something for breaking out. Seems like it was . . . we called it the seven year itch. What was that stuff they made us take a bath in?
- LB: I don't know but Mama used sulfur, cream of tartar and stuff like that.
- ZD: We just made major remedies and used what was out there. There were lots of roots and leaves and stuff that would help you get better. Folks knew what there was. Your Mama knew what . . .
- LB: She would use these red bark trees and things too for the belly ache whenever they would have diarrhea, she would put that in the water and it would cure the diarrhea or the [belly aches?].
- JM: That's a red oak tree?
- LB: Uh huh.
- JM: And she'd take the bark and boil it?
- LB: Yeah.
- ZD: You see, she knew a lot of the Indian ways.
- LB: People could really live off the land if they would try in various herbs and leaves and stuff if we only knew what to use.
- ZD: Grandma used to eat pepper grass. I don't know if she ate it for any reason or just ate it. It was a little funny plant. She'd boil up some of that and eat it. But I wasn't ever sure just what that was for.
- LB: They used a lot of things I didn't understand.
- JM: After you got married, where did you live?
- LB: Where I live now.
- JM: Which is?
- LB: The river. (b) (6) had our house built when we married.
- JM: And that's right down by where you grew up?

LB: Yeah.

JM: How many kids do you have?

LB: Four.

JM: Who are they?

LB: (b) (6) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

JM: Do they all live around here?

LB: They all live around but [REDACTED] he lives in Niceville. He works for the city of Niceville. He's a heavy equipment operator.

ZD: [REDACTED] a teacher at Freeport isn't she?

LB: Yeah.

ZD: Doesn't she live close to you?

LB: Yeah. They bought six acres from us and built a big home down there.

ZD: And [REDACTED] a custodian at Freeport Elementary School. And he has a wife and what . . . Children?

LB: Yeah, he's got two kids, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

ZD: And [REDACTED] I don't know anything about [REDACTED] she was after me. Is she married?

LB: Yeah, [REDACTED] married [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and he's a minister and they minister over at [REDACTED]

JM: So everybody pretty much stayed right around here?

LB: Right. Well, they moved away but they came back.

JM: How did [REDACTED] make his living.

LB: Well, he was a logger to begin with and then he went to work at Four Mile Village as a maintenance man. We worked over there for forty years.

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- JM: That's Four Mile Village?
- LB: Uh huh, at Santa Rosa Beach.
- ZD: Lucille, is that a resort or do people own houses or what?
- LB: People own houses there but they rent them out in the summertime.
- ZD: And the lady that owned it?
- LB: That was Mrs. [REDACTED] and she gave two hundred and some odd acres to the Sierra Club Foundation from California.
- ZD: And you and [REDACTED] sort of
- LB: We worked there until she died, then twenty years after they died.
- JM: Wow. So, you worked there in one place for forty years?
- LB: Yeah, from '62 to 2002.
- JM: So you just stopped working?
- LB: Yeah. We just quit working the first of this year.
- JM: What's it like to be a retired person?
- LB: I don't like it.
- JM: Tell me why.
- LB: Why? Because I like people and there's so much to do around the house you never get through to see anybody.
- ZD: You just change jobs, you don't retire.
- JM: If you're lucky. Thank you for spending time with me this morning. I know that you're real busy and that you put somebody else off to see me so thank you.
- ZD: Do you have any list of any members of your church now?
- LB: Uh huh.

ZD: Let me see if I recognize anybody.

LB: Oh, I'm sure you know them all.

JM: These are the current members of your church?

LB: Well, no, not really.

JM: Just people you . . .

LB: We have had.

JM: You have had. I'm going to let you two read them and discuss them.

ZD: Well, we know every one of them. George and Susie Bishop, now what kin were they to your husband?

LB: They were a cousin but I don't know them.

ZD: Uh huh. They're both dead. [? Counter at 355] and Billy Bishop, they were . . .

LB: Uncle George's brothers.

ZD: Bill was George's brother. They're both dead. They lived out here on this road. Who is this one? (b) (6) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Now, these were all Travis Bishop's children. He lived right down the road here but he's dead now too. And I think Verlin still lives right down the road. Is she still a member of the church? She probably just doesn't go much.

LB: She just doesn't go but her name is still on the book.

ZD: [REDACTED] was married to the brother of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] her daddy. And [REDACTED] that was her husband, he was [REDACTED] brother. Tell me if I get anything wrong.

LB: That's right.

ZD: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] grandchildren, 'cause their daddy was Curtis. And [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that's the old lady that came here and married [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And she came from Mississippi.

JM: [REDACTED] grandma.

ZD: [REDACTED] grandma. Alma Bozeman's her daughter and she lived right there across from [REDACTED]

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Church. Jeff Bozeman's her husband and he's also daddy's brother, the brother to (b)

JM: Is he still with us?

LB: No.

ZD: And [redacted] [redacted] . . . now [redacted]'s mother married Jeff Bozeman but she's not his daddy, and then she married into the [redacted] who were Indians, [redacted] [redacted]. She married [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] that's Lucille's mother. [redacted] [redacted] her grandmother, the old lady they lived with. And [redacted] and [redacted] her sisters. [redacted] Ward is [redacted] Ward's wife. I don't know if [redacted] ever joined our church or not, I think [redacted] did. And [redacted] [redacted] Melissa Wright is the old lady Wright that had the children. [redacted] is one and she married Ollie Ward, our cousin. They lived up the way. That's Lillie [redacted] grandma, great-grandma or something.

LB: [redacted] [redacted] grandma, Melissa was.

ZD: And [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] Now, [redacted] [redacted] was [redacted] [redacted]'s daughter and supposedly my grandpa was her daddy.

LB: Somewhere along the line.

ZD: Yeah, that's what they said. I don't know . . . who is this? [redacted]

LB: [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

ZD: I don't know them. Were they from here or somewhere else?

LB: They were from Ponce de Leon.

ZD: [redacted] [redacted] that was [redacted] [redacted] daughter.

JM: [redacted] [redacted] is [redacted] . . .?

ZD: [redacted] aunt. And I don't know who [redacted] [redacted] is.

LB: That was [redacted] that lived up the road here, the [redacted] bunch.

ZD: Oh, ok. They just sort of moved into Bruce later. And [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Who is that, is that [redacted]

LB: Yeah, that's [redacted]

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ZD: [redacted] Ward is [redacted] [redacted] half-brother. He's an Indian and his daddy was [redacted] Ward and his wife's [redacted] I don't know this one.

LB: Oh, the [redacted]

ZD: Ok, I don't know them. [redacted] [redacted] that's [redacted] [redacted] daughter that's her husband's brother, [redacted] is. I don't know who Pat Hess is.

LB: That was Miss [redacted] daughter.

ZD: And I don't know who [redacted] [redacted] is.

LB: You know [redacted] from Freeport. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

ZD: I don't think I know them. Then they've got [redacted] [redacted] which is her son and his wife [redacted] and their children, [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] is [redacted] husband, her daughter's husband. [redacted] [redacted] her daughter. [redacted] [redacted] married your Mama didn't he?

LB: Oh yeah.

ZD: And he was from Port Washington, I think.

LB: Uh huh.

ZD: [redacted] [redacted] married her sister, [redacted] And [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] are [redacted] children and their wives are [redacted] and [redacted]

LB: They were, they all divorced now.

ZD: But that was the [redacted] they live right down here the Lambert, Morrison-Lambert Lane. Is this something he can make a copy of?

LB: Oh sure, he can make a copy of it.

JM: I will make a copy of it before we leave today.

ZD: So, I sort of know who we need to know since you've helped me.

JM: When did you make this list?

LB: Gladys made it.

ZD: I asked them if they'd try to write me down some things for you.

JM: So, you just made this recently?

LB: Yeah.

JM: These are the people that have made up your church congregation over the last twenty years?

ZD: Yeah, who they could remember.

LB: Yeah.

JM: None of your family's on there.

ZD: No because when Aunt (b) (6) church burned and we went to the Methodist.

JM: What year did that church burn?

LB: I really don't know, I was very small.

ZD: Alice may know. I will ask her today when she comes to lunch.

JM: Is it the 1930's or the 1940's?

LB: Oh, it had to be in the '40's, the early '40's.

ZD: I just can't remember, you see, grandpa and all of us then were Methodist, but Aunt [REDACTED] told Mama she had to go to that church. She didn't give us any choice. Mama and me played the piano at that church. I'm sorry it ever burnt but we made our get-away. 'Cause Aunt Laura just wanted to preach to you every breath. She was a walking preacher.

LB: She really was a good lady.

ZD: Yeah.

JM: She was the preacher at the church when you went there?

ZD: No, she wasn't the preacher she just would preach to you personally.

LB: We had other preachers to come in once a month, because people lived so far away.

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ZD: But she would bring them from town to preach a week or two at the time. And one of them married [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] one of our locals.

LB: She lives at Panama now.

JM: That's always a good way to get a permanent preacher, bring them in and marry them up.

ZD: Yeah, probably. But now does [REDACTED] teach, preach somewhere?

LB: Yeah, he preaches over at Bonifay.

ZD: That's her son-in-law.

LB: Him and Virginia goes over there Sunday and Sunday night . . .

ZD: Do they live here?

LB: Yeah, they live next door to [REDACTED]

ZD: Oh, they live here and commute over there to preach. We don't hardly leave Bruce unless we have to.

JM: Well it sounds like two-thirds of the members of the church are your family.

LB: Right. We're kinfolk. It's all family affairs. We don't usually get too many offsprings but they live in the area. So they come and go like people do.

ZD: Now I don't know why you all left the river, do you?

LB: Well, grandma sold the land.

ZD: Who did she sell it to?

LB: Mr. [REDACTED] and then she bought Uncle [REDACTED] [REDACTED] place.

ZD: See, she probably tried to get closer in to where something was 'cause they couldn't walk.

LB: Grandma had gotten to the point where she could not walk and nobody was there to bring her to church and she wanted to be to church.

ZD: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he's the man . . . Do you know anything about [REDACTED] [REDACTED] coming here?

LB: No, I don't.

ZD: You know, Aunt Mazie told me that he was in the prison here at Bruce and grandpa got him out of prison. Him and (b) (6) [REDACTED] I never heard that story. Then he married a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] your daddy's sister. And they built a little house down here on Morrison-Lambert Lane. When did they leave or when did you all buy that?

LB: Back in the '40's.

ZD: But I mean, where did he go?

LB: Well, at that time, they moved to Winter Haven and then they moved back.

ZD: They went away a while and so they sold their house to

LB: Grandma [REDACTED]

ZD: This would have been his mother-in-law wouldn't it?

LB: Yeah.

ZD: And they moved to Bruce. And then, Grandma Bozeman, we all called her Grandma Bozeman, don't you all have Grandma Bozeman Day at the church?

LB: Yeah, it's the first day of August, we have a meeting there.

ZD: Like we honor our Grandpa Diamond, they honor Grandma [REDACTED] at their little church. And they have an annual day for her once a year. Well, they moved down Morrison Lane, there's that little house there, that would have been Miss [REDACTED] Grandma [REDACTED] and your mother and the children. And the children grew up playing with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] my brothers. They're her brothers. They were friends. They lived right close to me, see, and they played together, went to school together. It just made it convenient to be out here. Didn't your mother's brother, [REDACTED] move down here?

LB: Yeah. Where [REDACTED] trailer is on the hill.

ZD: Were they from . . . ?

LB: They're from Red Bay.

ZD: Red Bay. They moved down here by Miss [REDACTED]

JM: Down on Morrison

ZD: Uh huh. And then Miss [REDACTED] decided in their relation to marry two or three times,

didn't she?

LB: Yeah. Well, we moved to Ocala and so that's where Mama met Mr. Kirby and she married him.

ZD: And then they moved back to Bruce.

LB: No. Well they came down here and stayed and then Mr. Kirby died down here.

ZD: They went to that church though.

LB: Uh huh.

ZD: They came back to Bruce even though they'd moved off. They had a little house Didn't they have a little house right there?

LB: Well, Mama bought the house from (b) (6) Ward and moved again, then [REDACTED], he helped her.

ZD: And then they'd come stay there and stay in Bruce. Then Mr. Kirby got sick and died. Didn't she keep living here?

LB: Oh yeah.

ZD: With Mr. Haney?

LB: Yeah. Later she married Mr. Haney.

ZD: But she came back to Bruce instead [inaudible counter at 501].

JM: All those houses are gone now, right?

LB: Mama's house is still there.

ZD: That's what I was getting ready to tell you. Then she married Mr. Haney and he died. Did he die before her?

LB: No, he was in a nursing home though.

ZD: She died before him?

LB: Uh huh. Just a few months.

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- ZD: So, Lucille's family kept the little house, some of you all . . .
- LB: We bought the house from the other children.
- ZD: So they could come . . . some of them told me, I think, so they'd have a place to come to come back to Bruce all along.
- LB: Uh huh.
- ZD: It's that little well-kept little house that you walked by.
- JM: Right across from the church?
- ZD: No, the next one. The one that looks better.
- LB: Well, it doesn't look so well now because we haven't mowed the grass.
- ZD: But it looks better and they keep it so they'll have a place to stay here. She's got how many brothers that live off?
- LB: Well, I have two brothers that live off in Ocala.
- ZD: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- LB: Uh huh. And whenever their family comes, they stay in the little house. Which, we keep it up for them. It's a family house.
- JM: That's a nice thing.
- LB: Uh huh. Mama's furniture and everything is just right there you know. It's just like coming home. [REDACTED] says, "I can't hardly walk in the house without thinking." Mama always said, "[REDACTED] would you like a glass of tea?" He said it is so hard when he walked in that house.
- ZD: Well, then next door to that house is another house that a family keeps, Bill Bishop and Billie. They died and left it to their niece, I think.
- LB: Uh huh, they left it to [REDACTED]
- ZD: So, her children have been there and I went and talked to them. They started cleaning it all up, got the yards all cleaned around it and redoing the whole house so they'll have a place to go. Everybody wants to come back home. Even though this is grandchildren.

LB: You know, you've got roots. If you don't put roots down somewhere, where do you go. Just like Zera, you know, I think you and your husband left for a while didn't you?

ZD: We were off schooling.

LB: Indian School wasn't it?

ZD: Yeah, but we didn't stay long. He was in the service. But I was anxious to get back to Bruce.

LB: Yeah, you had the sand in your shoes.

JM: That's what they called it?

LB: Yeah.

ZD: But anyhow, Bruce has been real good to the ones that have lived here, comes back here and wants to be here. Even right up here at this little house up the road, my Uncle Warren's daughter bought it, the one that Grandpa Joe's, J. J. Ward's brother, his daughter. Now, she had been gone three years and why she came back to Bruce, I don't know.

JM: When did she come back?

ZD: I can't think.

LB: Who, (b) (6) [REDACTED]

ZD: No, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

LB: Oh, I didn't know that was your family.

ZD: That was Uncle [REDACTED] daughter.

LB: Oh, I didn't know that.

JM: And she lives . . . [inaudible counter at 550]

ZD: They built that house. Uh huh and lived there until they died and they sold it when they got sick and had to leave, you know. And then, but before they did that, her son came and lived in it with his children. Now it's in the hands of strangers, we don't know who they are.

LB: That's the (b) (6) I think have it now.

ZD: [REDACTED]

LB: [REDACTED] Well anyway, their mother was a [REDACTED] They married into the [REDACTED] family.

ZD: Well, I don't know them and I've never seen them. Do they go to your church?

LB: They used to but they don't anymore. I think they go to Mossyhead or somewhere up in there.

ZD: Then the house next to them was my Grandpa Pate's house and store. It ended up with Miss [REDACTED] husband's daughter.

LB: Aunt [REDACTED]

ZD: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] And they come part-time and stay.

LB: I haven't seen them since Mr. Haney died.

ZD: Well, I saw them not long back 'cause we were trying to get them to sell us a piece of that land but they wouldn't do it.

LB: I don't know. As I say, I haven't seen them since Mr. Haney died.

ZD: Her husband's had heart surgery. He looked like he was a little better the last time I saw him. But they live in Pensacola, but they come to Bruce. So, it's just sort of a come and go come and go.

LB: Until they're able to retire, they can't afford to come back. I know we couldn't.

JM: Did you live down on the beach the whole time you worked there?

LB: Not all the time. The last twenty years we did.

JM: When did you come back here?

LB: Well, we kept our home here. We'd come in on the weekends.

ZD: They'd commute. They quit commuting. You all lived there for twenty years didn't you?

LB: Yeah, right. So, a lot of things happened that I don't remember.

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ZD: Was that when the lady died when you all started staying there?

LB: Yeah, we started staying there then.

ZD: Now who's doing something? They all started or . . . ?

LB: No, it wasn't ours, we didn't own nothin' over there we just worked there.

ZD: Oh, ok. You all just retired from working down there.

LB: Yeah. Mr. (b) (6) nephew from California, he bought a house there. So whenever we left, we turned it over to him. Then he said, "I don't want to run this."

ZD: Because you all had run it twenty years.

LB: Yeah, he said, "I don't know anything about this." He said, "I've retired," and he said, "I don't want this problem." So anyway, he quit and another couple had taken over. I don't know their last name. All I know is Susan, so I don't know.

ZD: So, the man in California still owns it?

LB: He don't own it, no. He owns his own home there but he doesn't own that. The Sierra Club Foundation owns that house, the guest house across the street from there. And those two hundred and some odd acres. A lot of money given away there.

ZD: OK, but it provided Lucille and [REDACTED] a place to stay and work to do until they could get to retire.

LB: Yeah.

JM: And now where do you live?

LB: I live down on the river, where I lived when we first got married.

JM: Same place.

LB: Same place, we just built more rooms to it.

JM: I see.

ZD: They did what we did, just start building up.

LB: [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] he said, "[REDACTED] I'm going to meet you and [REDACTED] We just kept

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building on and they kept building on. Said, "We're going to meet you right quick."

JM: Just put a causeway between the two and you can share your meals.

LB: Right.

ZD: Did (b) (6) fish and hunt?

LB: He did some but now he doesn't fish or he doesn't hunt.

ZD: Well heavens sake, what does he do?

LB: We bought some land and he's clearing that. We bought nine lots down on that Jim Roberts Road.

ZD: Jim Roberts?

LB: You know where [REDACTED] lived?

ZD: Yeah.

LB: Well, we bought nine lots down in that area.

ZD: Are you all gonna sell them?

LB: Yeah.

ZD: You plan on making some money?

LB: I hope, if [REDACTED] ever gets it clear.

ZD: If he ever gets it clear?

LB: Yeah, [REDACTED] has eight lots down there and we have nine, and [REDACTED] has two.

ZD: Does [REDACTED] have a bulldozer or something?

LB: No, he's got tractors.

ZD: The reason I was asking, we was trying to get some clearing done out here.

LB: No, we had to hire somebody from DeFuniak. Danny somebody. We got him to come from DeFuniak. I think it's forty-five dollars an hour.

ZD: Yeah, they don't come cheap.

LB: No, they don't. Now, (b) (6) used to be. Her husband does a lot of clearing.

JM: You're gonna tell me about box-suppers next. You're gonna tell me about a box-supper right now.

LB: I remember, we were going to school out here at the Bruce School, we would have these carnivals, Halloween carnivals, and the girls would decorate a box, a shoebox, or some kind of box, then we would fill it with food and the guys would come and buy the box to make money for the school.

ZD: We'd decorate the box with all sorts of colored paper and flowers and cut out things to put on them and put enough food for two to eat. So, they would buy the box maybe . . .

LB : Five dollars.

ZD: Uh huh, and then whoever's box it was, they didn't know, then they'd eat supper with you. Then one time, they had it by the hand, I don't know if you were there that time, you'd stick your arm, they'd just get to see that much of you, and they'd buy that, trying to buy their girlfriend's box. But they might not know the hand.

LB: Anything to raise money.

ZD: And then she was telling me, Aunt Mazie was a fortune-teller one time. Tell him what she told you.

LB: She told me that I was going to have five children. She had this little booth, you know, for the witch to sit in. She was the witch and she was telling all these kids about their hands. She'd say, "Show me your hand," and she'd read the palm of your hand.

JM: This was over here at the school?

ZD: Bruce School. She didn't know how to read a palm, she was making all this up.

LB: But we were enjoying it.

ZD: Then we'd have the fishpond.

LB: And the ghost run.

ZD: You'd have a curtain up and somebody would be behind it with prizes. You'd pay so much money and you had a fishing pole with . . .

LB: A string on it.

ZD: A string? What was on it to hold the prize?

LB: Some kind of . . .

ZD: A clothespin or something. Anyhow, you'd throw it over and they'd put the prize on it from where you couldn't see it, then you'd pull it back. That what you fished and caught.

LB: Ten cents, I think, was the big prize.

ZD: Let's see, we'd have the fishpond then we'd have a room with all the Halloween boogers and ghosts. You'd pay so much to go in there and somebody would be in there and try to scare you while you were in there. You know, it didn't take too much to scare us.

JM: Yeah, it was kind of dark.

LB: Oh yeah, it was very dark.

ZD: So, we'd have the ghost run, we'd have the fishing booth, the fortune-teller, the box supper. I can't remember what else can you?

LB: The cake walk.

ZD: Oh, you ever heard of a cake walk?

JM: Yeah.

ZD: We'd draw a circle and put numbers on it and, I don't know if we sang or played music . . .

LB: I think they played music.

ZD: And they'd march and when they stopped, whichever number you were on, they'd draw a number, and whoever was on that number got the cake. We'd have several cakes.

LB: The community would bake a cake and bring it out.

ZD: We'd have the cake sitting there and so you'd win the cake for a dime. What else did we have Lucille?

LB: That was like a dream.

ZD: That was like, that was our big once a year thing. That was our entertainment.

- LB: Yeah, that was our Halloween for us.
- JM: And everyone loved it. What was it like for you to walk into that building over there?
- LB: Well, I visualize the rooms that we were in. The big room, the election room, I guess is where the younger children were.
- JM: That's the room in the back?
- ZD: Uh huh.
- LB: Yeah. And then we had the lunch room.
- ZD: Where the big stove is.
- LB: Yeah. So we would eat in the lunch room and sat on the benches back there. I don't know what's still back there.
- ZD: It's still got the old benches.
- LB: So, we enjoyed it. We enjoyed it.
- ZD: And the way, I remember the way you started school. They'd ring a bell.
- LB: Lamar would beat on this bell.
- ZD: Then you'd come out and line up in a row outside, in whichever room you were going in. We had three rooms. Whichever room you belonged to, you got in that line. Everybody got quiet. I can't remember if we sat out there if we just walked in. Do you remember?
- LB: I think we just walked in. We had prayer and . . .
- ZD: Read the Bible and said the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. That was the starting of the day.
- LB: Then he would read, Lamar would read the Bible, or Miss [REDACTED] or whoever was the principal would read the Bible. We had Bible reading every day I believe.
- ZD: Yeah, before you started school.
- LB: Before you started, you'd say the Lord's Prayer. We'd pray.
- ZD: And salute the flag. And I won't tell you when I started teaching. We have a alphabet. I

had a the A, B, C's above the board. So, I'd point to it for the first graders, saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-M- N-O-P-Q-R-S-T-U-V-W-X-Y-Z, then I'd go backwards and it got in my head Z-Y-X-V-U-T-S-R-Q-P-O-N-M-L-K-J-I-H-G-F-E-D-C-B-A. I thought one day, well, I can say the alphabet backwards. I didn't learn it, it just got in my head. I said, well that's a fine bit of information to have logged up here. Who would want the alphabet backwards in your head? But I'd write that down every writing [inaudible counter at 747]. Back and forth back and forth and it just stayed in my head.

JM: What did you do for Christmas?

LB: We always had a Christmas tree out here too.

JM: In front of the school?

ZD: No, inside. We'd bring a little present and draw names.

LB: We would draw names at school. And everybody had to bring a present.

ZD: And whoever's name you got, got the present.

JM: What was the funniest present you ever got?

ZD: I can't even remember what I ever got.

LB: I don't know.

ZD: But, I remember when we'd exchange Valentines too and I remember some people didn't have enough money to buy Valentines and they'd bring the one from last year and cross out the name on it and put their name on it.

LB: Either that or take some rough paper and cut them out, a heart, and write in there.

ZD: Yeah and we had Easter egg hunts. We always had to bring eggs to school and hide them. We had Valentine's Day, Halloween, Christmas and Easter. That was four big holidays for us.

LB: That was a big time. We looked forward to it.

JM: Yeah.

ZD: And then we had recess, which they don't have now, but I think about ten o'clock they'd give us thirty minutes to go outside and play.

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JM: That was the boys' smoking period.

ZD: I can't remember.

LB: I don't think they could afford it.

ZD: I can't remember them smoking. But anyhow, we'd go out and play then they'd march us back in and start again.

LB: Ring the bell again.

JM: How long was the school day?

ZD: From eight to three, I believe. But see, you'd have lunch hour and you'd have recess.

JM: And you had to walk a half hour to an hour to get here.

LB: No, not at that time.

ZD: They had moved to Bruce by then.

LB: We had moved to Bruce by that time.

ZD: And we actually had grandpa go, he was a bus driver, he would go pick up the ones way off in his car.

LB: There wasn't no bus. Then her dad, Mr. ■ he started driving the bus on the river. I guess he was the first one to drive a real bus.

ZD: Do you remember the Orange Blossom?

LB: No.

ZD: It went to Freeport. He had a little old built on body, on a pick-up I reckon, he had about five kids after they graduated here, they'd have to go to school at Freeport. This was before the big bus came, and he'd get them on that little [beginning of side two of tape, rest of sentence cut off.] Take ruffley crepe paper sometime and make a ruffle around that. You know you don't have nothing to work with. I don't have a good doll unless we sewed it. We might have had a little glue . . .

LB: Take flour dough.

ZD: See, we didn't have nothing like supplies. And then we cut things out. I remember . . .

LB: Imagination.

ZD: The way I played paper dolls we'd take a Sears Roebuck catalog, we'd cut out the men, women and the children. Then we'd cut out the furniture and try to fold it and make a chair and a bed and take the papers and we would play with each other and go to see each other and set them in the chair and go to bed. Did you all do that?

LB: Oh yeah.

ZD: We called it playing paper dolls.

LB: And then a playhouse you built out in the woods and you'd put everything out there. We'd take our pens or build a stomp doll and make couches and

ZD: It was a lot of imagination at work. And our old house was big, our house was off the ground. We'd go under that and make our secrets is what we called it. We'd dig a hole, slip out there and pick all the pretty flowers when they weren't looking and make the prettiest arrangement all down under and then put an old piece of glass that somebody had thrown away, put that over it, put dirt around the edge and you could look down and see your secret. Then Aunt Mazie was about to whip us for picking the flowers and we'd say, "We didn't pick no flowers." We would never admit we picked the flowers.

LB: Well, we dug holes in the ground, at the river, and then we'd dig another hole underneath there for a tunnel and dig another hole over there so we could go under the tunnel. We built up a little fire one time, and the neighbor saw the smoke. She went down there and she told Mama, she said, "██████████ those kids are gonna get burned up." She said, "They've got a fire in that hole." We were so mad at the neighbor we could have died. But she was right.

ZD: She was ██████ [██████████] daughter.

LB: But they lived next door to us. So, us kids would get together with Lloyd really. Miss ██████ lived next door to us and Lloyd lived with her, I think, most of the time. So, us kids would get together and play. But you know, three kids cannot get along, four can, but three cannot. Two can do it, but not three, or five can.

ZD: 'Cause they got the buddy.

LB: Yeah, they got a buddy.

ZD: That's the buddy system, one gets left out.

LB: Well, we had the buddy system.

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ZD: I think we played with a jump rope. We'd take a big ole rope, I don't know why it didn't kill us when it was so big it be as far across as this room, and one would get on each end and throw it, like that. You know what I'm talking about?

JM: Oh yeah.

ZD: And we'd run in then and jump 'til we gave out.

JM: Did you do it out in front of the school here?

LB: Yeah, and then we had swings. The reason we had the carnivals, I guess, was to raise money to buy the equipment to put up swings and stuff here at the school.

ZD: And we had an old dirt basketball court. We didn't have basketballs but we had goals and dirt.

LB: And I guess you and (b) and all played basketball. I remember you three playing basketball and you all had white uniforms, I remember.

ZD: Yeah, and before then was who Anderson and and J., the older bunch, Ward. We all played basketball. And then where we played softball, we just made us some bases out there in the woods, cleared it off. I don't know, we had a bat and a ball of some kind. I can't remember what it was but we had one.

LB: I remember one time, was playing basketball and he hit the pole and just gashed his face bad.

ZD: What happened to me when I was teaching was, I think it was Calvin Clark, ran together and broke his leg. Broke his leg and I had to try to get daddy to come with his ole car and how I ever got him to DeFuniak with nothing under that leg but a pillow, to the hospital. Couldn't find his Mama, left him up there, finally found her and she finally got him to Pensacola to get some better attention for him. But his bone just popped out. That was the awfulest [sic] looking thing. I'm glad my family didn't ever break bones. But broke his leg out there and it was awful bad, of course I was the one out there with him. I never seen two people run and both try to catch the ball. But you wouldn't think you'd run together so hard. And how do you think that bone popped in two there in his leg? I don't know, it was something.

LB: Do you remember you asking one time who was the president? And he said, "J. J. Ward's president." That's how much influence J. J. had on our people.

ZD: He thought he was the president?

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- LB: Yeah, he thought he was the president. And I thought, "Oh no, he's not talking to Zera that way, is he." 'Cause that was her grandpa. But that [REDACTED] was so mean.
- ZD: Well now, they were, the [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] the school at Freeport burned, so they sent the Black Creek children to Bruce and they about wrecked our school. Didn't they?
- LB: Yeah.
- ZD: That was a mean bunch. We had good children at Bruce. They came down here, Lord, that was a pure nightmare. We couldn't get rid of them they had to come to school here. They sent some here, some to Port Washington, some to DeFuniak, until they could get the school rebuilt. And our little ole Bruce School had always been . . .
- LB: Easy-going.
- ZD: Good little children that nobody had any problem. They came down here and about wrecked us.
- JM: How did they about wreck you?
- ZD: Just like she said, they were so mean. They talked ugly, started fights.
- LB: At the Halloween carnival they, Lamar Ward was our principal, they would push his car into the bathroom, the toilets that were down there and knock the toilet over.
- ZD: Do you really think they could do that?
- LB: We didn't know anything about being mean like that. We were really sheltered.
- ZD: If you didn't behave, your Mama would come out here, or daddy and threaten you yourself, you know.
- LB: The teachers really didn't have to do a whole lot 'cause all they had to do was let Mama know that we were mean.
- ZD: If you didn't behave just tell your parents and the parents would take care of it. But when that Black Creek bunch got out here . . . I remember them because I had the fourth and fifth grade that year and I had those [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Leslie.
- LB: Uh huh and [REDACTED]
- ZD: Yeah, that's who I had, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they were mean.

- LB: And (b) (6) [REDACTED]
- ZD: Yeah, I had [REDACTED] he wasn't mean I don't think. I can't remember him being so mean.
- JM: Lamar didn't put up with that very well did he?
- ZD: No he beat the [word inaudible counter at 072] out of them.
- LB: You know what, he had merry-go-rounds and he put everybody in that room.
- ZD: He'd beat them.
- LB: Oh, he had a paddle you wouldn't believe.
- ZD: They had whippin's like you wouldn't believe. He got their attention. He settled them down finally, but it took some beatings. They were bad. The people in Bruce were never, generally speaking, they weren't mean, they weren't disobedient. Do you remember any?
- LB: No, I don't remember them, no.
- ZD: There was a few bad things happened around but it wasn't the norm. 'Cause the parents expected the children to do what they should do and that helped the whole community.
- LB: Virginia says now, you can call for parents to come and they don't come.
- ZD: And they don't do anything if they went. We lost that but that was a fine thing to have, was parent cooperation like that.
- LB: Made it easier on teachers too, and the community.
- ZD: Did that pond ever flood when you can remember wading?
- LB: Mr. [REDACTED] pond?
- ZD: Uh huh.
- LB: Oh yeah. And we'd catch fish out of that little pond, from the church.
- JM: The ditch on the other side of the church used to be a pond?
- ZD: Well, there's a pond, yeah, but it wasn't the one that flooded. The one that flooded is the one we got now, [inaudible counter at 085]. And it would come out to the road.

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- LB: Yeah, in the girls' bathroom, it would go clear to the bathroom over there. Life wasn't all that easy but it didn't seem like it was hard at all 'cause we didn't know any different.
- ZD: Like I was saying, we didn't know we were poor, we didn't know we were missing out on all these wonderful things people in the city were doing.
- LB: We didn't have no refrigerator at our house so Zera went to Freeport with her daddy's little car and brought us ice over to my mother's house. She would bring a hundred pounds or fifty pound block of ice. To everybody around here, didn't you?
- ZD: Yeah, we didn't have . . . it was just bad. You didn't have a refrigerator, you got a wood stove, you had a wood heater, we didn't have gas, we didn't have lights. We didn't get them until the '40's. And everybody didn't get them then. It took a while.
- LB: I remember, Mama didn't have a refrigerator when I got married, back in the '50's.
- ZD: And didn't her brothers, did they have a saw mill?
- LB: Yeah. The saw mill, they're between Bruce and the river, that mile branch.
- ZD: Now, that was . . .
- LB: That was (b) (6)
- ZD: her Mama's brother.
- LB: [sentence inaudible counter at 101].
- ZD: Is . . .
- LB: Daddy.
- ZD: Yeah, went to school here. He was the best little ole sweet boy.
- LB: I don't know how good he is now, I haven't seen him in years either. Not since [inaudible counter at 104].
- JM: Another one moved away.
- ZD: Yeah but they came from Red Bay to Bruce when Lucille's . . .
- LB: Grandma had a stroke, Mama's Mama, and so they moved to Bruce and Mama had to take care of grandma until she died. And of course, Mama, had taken care of daddy's

Mama too until she died.

JM: That was a hard job.

LB: Oh yeah, she did what she'd never want to do.

ZD: Anyhow, that's when her brother, the Johnson's, moved to Bruce, wasn't it?

LB: Uh huh. Uncle [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED]

ZD: To try to help with that. And he opened a saw mill down on the river, put a saw mill down there. We've had two or three saw mills in Bruce but I couldn't remember the tale of them. Now I remember, was that the one they cut the man's arm off?

LB: Yeah. No, wait a minute. No, that one was Smoke House Lake.

ZD: Well, what happened to that? Do you remember that? Did a man push another one into it?

LB: Yeah, I don't remember what his name was now, but he pushed him in, they got into an argument, and they pushed him into the saw mill and cut his arm off here. George was working down at the saw mill and he said that was the worst looking thing he'd ever seen in his life. For a long time he wouldn't eat a piece of meat at all.

ZD: I remember them bringing him to Bruce and then somebody getting him off to the hospital.

LB: Mr. [REDACTED] was his name, that got cut. He stayed over at Travis and Nancy's house.

ZD: I remember, that was a bad happening, but it wasn't people we knew. We don't push each other in a saw mill.

LB: No way.

JM: Work crews coming down following the lumber, migrants?

LB: No. Well, this old man that pushed him into that, didn't he run a fish camp or something?

ZD: What was his name?

LB: Mr. [REDACTED] is the man that got cut but then, I don't know what that guy's name was that pushed him into it. But he ran a fish camp.

ZD: I don't remember if they did anything to him or not. Did they?

LB: I don't think they did.

ZD: You know, they didn't used to do anything, you just used to settled it the community. We didn't have any law down here. Unless somebody went to DeFuniak and hunted up the sheriff to report something, it didn't get reported. You just take care of it yourself.

LB: Yeah, you just took care of it yourself.

JM: J. J. was the law.

ZD: Yeah, J. J. was president. I had forgotten that tale.

LB: Your grandpa was the president.

ZD: And he was a notary public. He married me. He could marry people.

LB: He married Mama and daddy.

ZD: And he married H.E. and Naomi. He married three of us. Well, he didn't marry us, he conducted the marriage ceremonies as a notary public. I think he did Aunt Mazie.

LB: When she married Mr. Russell?

ZD: Yeah, I believe so. I don't know if it was . . . I don't know, I think he married somebody.

LB: He probably married both of them.

ZD: No, Mama went to Bonifay 'cause grandpa didn't want her to marry so they just had to drive to Bonifay and get married. I have the marriage license.

LB: Oh, was he. That's why I knew Mr. J. J. married Mama and daddy 'cause I have a copy of their marriage license.

ZD: Yeah. He married the people and he just did a lot for them.

LB: He signed deeds.

ZD: Did you find anything on the homesteads?

JM: Yeah, I brought a lot of homestead books with us.

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ZD: Ok. Well, I feel [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will be on of them down at the river.

JM: I only did the Wards this week. The internet connection was down.

ZD: Ok, but you did find what you needed there.

JM: Parts of it, yeah.

ZD: Did you find [REDACTED]

JM: [REDACTED]

ZD: [REDACTED]

JM: I didn't look for that one.

ZD: No, I mean, when you went to the . . . Did you go to the property appraiser's office?

JM: Oh, [REDACTED] He's out for the whole week.

ZD: Oh, he was out. Well, somebody helped you though didn't they?

JM: Well, no, they gave me a map and sent me packing.

ZD: Let you help yourself huh.

JM: The first family in here were the [REDACTED]

LB: Oh, really.

JM: And they were here in 1829. The Wards came here in 1859. David Ward was the first one to buy land in this area. David Ward also owned land at Santa Rosa and that's probably the link between the two communities. As far as I can see, Diamond Joe started buying land here in the 1880's.

ZD: Yeah, that would been about right.

JM: Your grandpa bought his first land here, homesteaded in 1906 or 1907. So, that's what I've learned. Just little pieces but I'm just getting started because I'm just learning the people sitting here listening to you talk. I'm just starting to learn who people are.

LB: Well, I remember whenever J. J. and them's house burned, and you all were living . . .

ZD: In the big house down there.

LB: . . . big house then you all had to move over here.

ZD: I cried when Mama said, "Now we're gonna give back this house." I cried, I said, "I don't want to give up my house. I've lived here all my life."

JM: That's the big house on the circle drive?

ZD: That's the one in the woods that you can't even see.

LB: It's probably growed up.

ZD: It is, he went through it 'cause he crawled through the woods, but I wouldn't go, 'cause he wanted to see it.

LB: I remember, there was a fish pond, I mean, just a little fishing thing, out here in front of this house.

ZD: And there's one down there too. He built it upright. He built stones and he made it, it was way bigger than that table and it was about that high. Mama had big goldfish in it.

LB: Oh yeah, go to the post office . . .

ZD: And look at the fish pond. And then [Ila] had one put in up at here and it was built in the ground and she had fish too, little goldfish in that. It was all as it was.

JM: So, J. J. had another house besides the big house here. Where was the house that burned, by the store?

ZD: You know that place of trees when you're coming in to my house?

JM: Yes.

ZD: It was right there.

JM: It was right on the corner?

ZD: Uh huh.

JM: And that's where Mano Tuggle died?

ZD: Yeah. Tuggie, Aunt Mazie's little boy that burnt up.

JM: He was in that house?

ZD: Aunt Mazie was living in that house then. It was a big ole house with a big ole porch around it. That's where Mama and Aunt Mazie saw the ghost at that house.

LB: Oh, really?

ZD: Yeah, they were sitting there. They had this lady that came and did housekeeping for Aunt Mazie and she got real sick and about to die, they thought. So, Mama and Aunt Mazie said they went out and sat on the swing on the porch, this big ole porch, you know, with a swing, and there's a little ole shed out where our house is now, they said, and they said they looked out and here came a big tall man and a little short man. And said, they walked right by them and walked out and walked right in the shed. They said the tall man was way taller than the shed and said they just walked right out of sight, right in it. They said they got up and ran like a turkey that it scared them to death. They said that was a sign the lady was going to die, but she didn't die. But anyway, they didn't ever forget that. She said, that was the scariest thing to see those two men just walk by and materialize right into a house. The door wasn't even open.

JM: You have a lot of spirits around this place and I've been trying to deal with that because there are a lot of people who live here and don't even know this and I don't know why. It's pretty prominent.

LB: I've never seen any for myself. And if I hear anything I think it's a bug on the wall or . . .

ZD: Or it's the cats or something.

LB: Right, I say it's something else.

ZD: But you know the piece I gave where Granny Carol got killed?

JM: Yeah.

ZD: Now, daddy would always tell Mama there's no such thing as ghosts but after she got killed, well, now he said, he heard her calling Mama. He said she called her three or four times. 'Cause it was such a strange thing, before they went to Tallahassee, she cried and cried and said, "Now, if something happens to me, I want you to take over my job and do what I do." So, when they got to Tallahassee and started home, Mama said while she was in Tallahassee she and Granny Carol would always go to a movie and you know, enjoy being in town while grandpa was with the legislature. But she said Granny Carol, wouldn't do nothing. She said she was just the saddest thing. And then when they started home they had the rain and she got killed. So, Mama always thought it was a premonition to her that she was going to die there and she always thought that she was

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going to come back and tell her something but she didn't. She didn't ever see her but daddy's heard her calling her.

LB: Oh no.

ZD: It was reversed, and he's the one that didn't even believe in hearing somebody calling, but he said he knew her voice. So, it was always sort of weird. And I remember Tuggie, he wasn't dead then, he always stayed with them a lot, and he was my little playmate, and they had her in the livingroom at the old house in the casket. So I went and found Tuggie and he'd crawled under the house right under the casket. I went there and found him and said, "What are you doing?" He says, "Well, Granny Carol's calling me." But he didn't ever say nothing but that in his life. A little thing like that but I always remembered him telling me that, him being under the house and looking up at where that casket was sitting above his head. And then I remember him being in the house that burnt in a little white casket, at eight years old or something, he was a pretty little boy. And that was a sad time.

LB: Oh, you know it was.

ZD: I don't guess there's anything worse than losing a child, you know, a child dying, that's hard to deal with.

LB: I know it must be. (b) (6) the other night said, "You know, I hope that I don't ever see one of our kids die." He said to me, "that would be the worst thing."

ZD: You know they say children are supposed to bury their parents but a lot of times the parents bury their children, and it's a hard thing to do. Well, do you have enough tales now? We just keep adding to it Lucille.

JM: It's been wonderful sitting here and listening to you talk.

LB: The first time we've talked.

JM: Let's not make it the last.

ZD: Well, if you don't have enough tales when you come back we'll be thought of something.

LB: We'll think of something.

JM: Alright.

ZD: We'll think of something else, how about that.

JM: Thanks.