

Dan and Inez Lee(1)

This interview was conducted by Dr. Alvin Jackson on October 14, 1996, at the home of Dan and Inez Lee in Portal, GA. Topic discussed in this interview include family genealogy, the Tornado of 1929, and the time spent by both subjects at the Bennett Grove and Willow Hill schools.

ALVIN: I'm going to make a little recording here. This is October 14, 1996. We are in Bulloch County, Portal, Georgia area, and I came over to see my cousin Dan Lee and his wife, Cousin Inez Lee, longstanding citizens in the community here, members of the Banks Creek Primitive Baptist Church for years. Their parents, at least Uncle Wallace Hodge, was a member over there who was the brother of Washington Hodge, and this is a lot of where his ancestry came through. And so I came today to talk to them to see how far back they can take me, and all the memories they can do. Now, Cousin Dan, do you mind telling me when you were born? Is that a problem for you to tell me that? How old are you?

DAN: Nineteen nine.

ALVIN: Nineteen-oh-nine.

DAN: November 20.

ALVIN: Whoa, I didn't know you was that old! Nineteen-oh-nine. Ooh, you're up there! Pretty good. And what about you, Cuz?

INEZ: Oh, I was born -- mine is in May, 23rd of -- 23rd -- in 1920.

ALVIN: Lord has blessed y'all. There are not too many couples.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: (inaudible) (laughter)

ALVIN: Well, y'all have been richly blessed. Now, Cousin Inez, what was your maiden name?

INEZ: Mense.

ALVIN: You were Mense.

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: OK. Now, were you originally from Bulloch County?

INEZ: Never been away.

ALVIN: OK. Who was your mother and father?

INEZ: They called him Babe. Some called him Babe, some called him Russell.

ALVIN: Russell Mense.

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: And who was your mother?

INEZ: Audela. She was a Woodbarrow.

ALVIN: Audela Woodbarrow. Are you related to Ms. Nolie Deacle?

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: Because she was a Woodbarrow.

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: Now, how were you related to Ms. Nolie Deacle?

INEZ: My mom and her... My mom was her sister, they were sisters.

ALVIN: Your mother and Ms. Nolie Deacle were sisters?

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Now this is the first I knew of that. And Ms. Nolie Deacle, I didn't realize how old she was. She lived to be... You got some good genes there, huh? She lived to be a hundred-and-something, I heard.

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: So... Oh, I see. Now, Cousin Dan, you were born in Bulloch County?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: And where were you living when you were born?

DAN: Let's see, on out there, about five miles down the road, right down that dirt road, down there on the Womach place.

ALVIN: On the Womach place.

DAN: Five miles.

ALVIN: And that's where you were born. Now, your mother was...? Who was your mother?

DAN: Melindie Hodge.

ALVIN: Melindie Hodge Lee, who married...?

DAN: Jack Lee.

ALVIN: Jack Lee. OK, now, I'm going to take on each side, but I'm going to come back now. This Jack Lee, he was the son of...? Who was his dad?

DAN: George.

ALVIN: George Lee. Now, do you know who George Lee's daddy was?

DAN: No, I can't remember.

ALVIN: OK. Now, was George Lee born during slavery times?

DAN: Yeah, but...

ALVIN: OK. Now, who did George Lee marry?

DAN: I know the wife, I know her, but I don't know what she was before she married.

ALVIN: OK, what was her name?

DAN: I don't know.

ALVIN: Now, George Lee would be who, your granddaddy?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: OK. And... But do you know how many children George Lee had? These would be your daddy's brothers and... How many brothers and sisters did your daddy have?

DAN: He didn't have no brothers.

ALVIN: He was the only boy. Now, who were his sisters?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK, Aunt... What was the first name?

DAN: Ansie.

ALVIN: Aunt Ansie.

DAN: Ansie Hodge.

ALVIN: Ansie Hodge.

DAN: She married Mama's brother.

ALVIN: Married your mother's brother. OK, so Ansie Lee married -- she was a Lee at first -- married a Hodge. Now, what was her husband's name? Well, we can come back to that later if you don't...

DAN: I can't remember.

ALVIN: OK, so Ansie, and then who was -- you said [Sug?] was another one? What's Sug's real name?

DAN: You know Aunt Sug's name?

INEZ: Who?

ALVIN: Aunt Sug.

INEZ: She was a -- she was a Lester.

DAN: She was a Lester.

ALVIN: She was a Lester? Is she related to Cousin Celie Lester and all them? I mean, let's see... Lester. [00:05:00] Was she related to them Lesters over by St. Mary?

DAN: You know Rufus Lester?

ALVIN: Rufus Lester, yeah.

DAN: That was her son.

ALVIN: Oh, OK. OK. I got the family now. OK. So that's two of them. We got Cousin Ansie, Cousin Sug, who married a Lester. Now, who was the other one?

DAN: Aunt Sug and Aunt Mosell.

ALVIN: Aunt Mosell Lee. Who did she marry?

DAN: She married a Burns.

ALVIN: Burns. OK. Is this related to the same Burns that --

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Uncle Abram's... Uncle Abram Lee's daughter married a George Burns.

DAN: Yeah, (inaudible).

ALVIN: That's the same? OK. So did they have any other sisters other than them you named already?

DAN: Yeah, Maggie, Maggie Lee.

ALVIN: Maggie Lee. Who did she marry?

DAN: She married... Lee. She married George. Married Uncle George.

ALVIN: Maggie Lee married George Lee? OK. And then did -- were there any other sisters?

DAN: Rosemary, Maggie, (inaudible)...

INEZ: And Rose.

DAN: Rose.

ALVIN: Aunt Rosie? Aunt Rosie Lee. Who did she marry?

DAN: She married... I knew him (inaudible). I knew who she married.

ALVIN: OK, well, we can come back to that later. How many brothers and your sisters did your dad...? How many sisters did your dad have?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK. And now -- so that was your dad's people, the Lees. Your dad was Jack Lee, and his dad's name was George Lee. Now, was George Lee, was he the one who was a brother of Jesse Lee and Abram Lee and Ebb Lee and all those?

DAN: Surely they must have been. Yeah, I don't remember. I don't remember all them.

ALVIN: OK, they were brothers, probably. OK. All right. Now, on your mother's side -- now, your mother's name was Melindie Hodges. OK. Now, Melindie Hodges' mother's name was who?

DAN: Lucindie.

ALVIN: Lucindie. What was she before she married?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK, so Lucindie was the mother of Melindie. Now, who was her daddy? Wallace. Was that Wallace Hodge?

DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: OK, now Wall--
 INEZ: (inaudible) your mom's dad.
 ALVIN: Yeah, your mother's daddy.
 DAN: Yeah.
 ALVIN: OK.
 DAN: Wallace.
 ALVIN: Wallace Hodge and Lucindie married each other, Lucindie Hodge. OK. Now, do you know who Wallace Hodge father and mother was?
 DAN: I sure don't know (inaudible). Wash Hodge.
 ALVIN: Right.
 DAN: All them grew up without never knowing their daddy.
 ALVIN: You didn't know their daddy. Did you know any brothers and sisters of Wash Hodge, other than -- of Wallace Hodge, other than Wash Hodge? Did you know any of the other brothers?
 DAN: (inaudible) Wash Hodge... Wesley Hodge. Him and Ma were first cousins.
 ALVIN: Cousin Wesley Hodge and your mother were first cousins, so that means that his dad...
 DAN: Mm-hmm.
 ALVIN: His dad's name was Tom Hodges. So that was a brother, too. So Cousin Wesley Hodge and Cousin... Your mother's name was... Tell me your mother's name again?
 DAN: Melindie.
 ALVIN: Melindie. So Melindie Hodge Lee and Cousin Wesley Hodge are first cousins. So that means that they was brother and sister. So did you know any other Hodges, other than those brothers?
 DAN: I know (inaudible).
 ALVIN: Well, who was...? Do you know any more of your mother's first cousins other than that? Because if they're first cousins, that means that the dads were brothers --
 DAN: [00:10:00] Johnny Hodge.
 ALVIN: Johnny Hodge? I don't know him. He was your mom's first cousin?
 DAN: Uh-huh.
 ALVIN: So we don't know who his mother and father was, though.
 DAN: Cousin Wesley's was.
 ALVIN: Cousin Wesley. Oh, so they all... Yeah, because Johnny Hodge and Cousin Wesley, they were... I see. Those are Cousin Wesley Hodge's children, aren't they?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: OK. OK. Now, do you remember what year Uncle Wallace Hodge died?
 DAN: I'm sure it was in the '30s.
 ALVIN: I was in the '30s.
 DAN: Yeah.
 ALVIN: Now, who died first, him or his wife? You said his wife's name was Lucindie?
 DAN: Mm-hmm.
 ALVIN: She died before he did. Did he ever marry again?
 DAN: Yeah. Yeah.
 ALVIN: Who was his second wife?
 DAN: She was a Perkins.

ALVIN: A Perkins. And was she from around Statesboro way?
 DAN: Surely, she was.
 ALVIN: OK. Now, when did she die?
 DAN: When did she die? Did she before grandpa did? I believe she did.
 ALVIN: Do you remember --
 INEZ: I don't know.
 ALVIN: You remember, Mr. Wallace?
 INEZ: Now, I remember Granddaddy.
 ALVIN: You remember him pretty good?
 INEZ: I remember when me and him hadn't been long married.
 ALVIN: Uh-huh. What year did y'all marry?
 INEZ: In May, 1930.
 ALVIN: Nineteen thirty. And he was still living when y'all married?
 DAN: Yeah.
 INEZ: Yeah, he 'd come down to the house.
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, where was he living when y'all married? Did he have his own place, or was he living on somebody else's place?
 DAN: He was living on somebody else's.
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. He used to be a beacon up at Banks Creek, didn't he?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. OK. So he died sometime in the '30s. Now, where is he buried?
 INEZ: Out here, ain't he?
 ALVIN: He's buried out here, the Banks Creek. OK. All-righty. So then we got Wallace Hodge, Melindie Hodge. How many children did Wallace Hodge have? Was that the ones we were naming? No. How many children did Wallace Hodge have?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: Yeah.
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: Yeah. Wallace Hodge and Lucindie, how many children did they have?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: That would be your mother's brothers and sisters.
 DAN: Marikie.
 ALVIN: Aunt Marikie... OK now, so that would be Marikie Hodge.
 DAN: Lusia, I think was one.
 ALVIN: Lusia Hodge.
 DAN: And Ma, now.
 ALVIN: Your mother was named --
 DAN: Melindie.
 ALVIN: -- Melindie Hodge.
 DAN: Now, his brother, I can't think of his... He had a brother.
 ALVIN: One brother.
 INEZ: (inaudible)
 DAN: Huh?
 INEZ: Half-brother?
 ALVIN: Was it a half-brother? Did he have a half-brother, too?
 DAN: Sure.

ALVIN: There was a half-brother? Now, who was the half-brother?

INEZ: I forget his name. He didn't stay right round here. He stayed at Cobbtown, I believe.

ALVIN: He lived in Cobbtown?

INEZ: I think that's (inaudible), 'cause he was coming (inaudible). He had a little boy here.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: He come to our house and stay overnight with us, when we was first married.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. OK. Ms. Lindie, OK. So, now, the half-brother, was that a child of Wallace Hodge he had on the side or something? He had -- you said there was a half-brother to your...?

DAN: Yeah, I forgot what he is. (inaudible) on Mama's mama's side.

ALVIN: On your mama's mama's side.

DAN: (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. But you don't remember the name?

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: It'll take him to think of it. (laughter) He about forgot.

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: OK. Well, we're doing all right.

INEZ: (inaudible) think about it.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. What year --

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Remember, mm-hmm. When did you join Banks Creek Church?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Yeah, can I just turn that down [00:15:00] just a little bit?

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: I just want to... Are you listening to it? I don't want to...?

INEZ: No --

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Oh, I did the wrong one.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: There it is. I got it. I just wanted to turn it down a little bit. I got the wrong channel, but I think I made a mistake. OK. All right. So do you remember when you joined Banks Creek Church?

DAN: Let me see, now.

INEZ: It was in the '40s, wasn't it?

DAN: In the 40s.

ALVIN: OK.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK.

INEZ: I said we stayed down this side of the road.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. How long have y'all been living here? Since...?

DAN: Fifty-two.

ALVIN: In 1952. So you've been staying right here since 1952. OK. Is this your place?

DAN: Surely is. As if I bought it (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK, but it's -- it belongs to y'all.

DAN: We got home loan (inaudible).

ALVIN: Good. OK. Is this part of the Wallace-Hodge place?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: He used to have some land, didn't he? Over by --

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: -- the cemetery?

DAN: (inaudible)... You know where you come up on the cemetery (inaudible)?

ALVIN: On Moore Road?

DAN: Yeah, but there used to be a road (inaudible) --

ALVIN: Oh, I remember that.

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: Yes.

DAN: With John Robbins. And he (inaudible).

ALVIN: What happened to it?

DAN: Well, you go back in then, back in then, (inaudible) he'd loan you some money, (inaudible) 50 -- he might've paid \$100 for the whole thing. You know, they would loan you money (inaudible).

ALVIN: And then they'd take your place.

DAN: (inaudible) paying for it (inaudible).

ALVIN: They did a lot of dirt on us, didn't they?

DAN: (laughter)

INEZ: Sure did. So you (inaudible). He was a West. And (inaudible). And he come around. He come here and he stayed about two weeks, going every morning the sun was up, he'd be bound for Georgia Southern.. He tried to get in and talk to these people. I mean, (inaudible) come in to I don't know how they do it but anyway. (inaudible) colored had their own homes, (inaudible) took the white folks took the Mills and their homes and they been given nothing, and (inaudible) now he said it's the time now t, colored people to turn back on it, and then have to give us our \$50 back, or you could get a place, or get (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm, that's right. They promised us that and they never got it. (laughter) OK.

DAN: His name was Sam, Mama's brother.

ALVIN: Her brother's name was what?

DAN: Sam.

ALVIN: Was that the whole-brother or the half-brother?

DAN: Half.

ALVIN: OK, his name was Sam. Now, his last name was Hodges? Did he go under Hodges, or...? But you don't remember what name he went into?

DAN: I don't know. I can't think of that.

ALVIN: But that was your... Now, that was Uncle -- that was Uncle Wallace Hodges's son, Sam, right? Or was that Aunt Lucindie's son?

DAN: Lucindie.

ALVIN: That was her son. OK. So she had him before she married Uncle Wallace. OK. And he lived in Cobbtown. Was he from around here? Where's Lucindie from?

DAN: (inaudible) I know (inaudible) I know (inaudible). My memory -- they had -- they were the only one (inaudible). I would go to see them (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, what kind of looking person was Uncle Wallace? Did he look like Uncle -- Grandpa Wash? Did they look similar, or what?

DAN: No, he was brown-skinned.

ALVIN: He was light-skinned? And what about Lucindie? Was she a light woman?

DAN: She was (inaudible).

ALVIN: She was a dark woman. OK. And let me see... Where did you go to school, Cousin? You. Where did you go to school?

DAN: I went to Pettigrew. Pettigrew, [00:20:00] (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Who was the teachers when you were there?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. How far did you go in school?

DAN: Second.

ALVIN: Went to the second grade. OK. Cousin Inez, where did you go to school?

INEZ: Scarborough Grove and Willow Hill.

ALVIN: You went to Willow Hill? OK. Now, what did you go to first, Willow Hill or Scarborough Grove.

INEZ: Scarborough Grove was first.

ALVIN: Now, who was the teachers when you were at Scarborough Grove?

INEZ: Mr. -- his name was -- he was a Brenson.

ALVIN: A Brenson, mm-hmm. How many teachers was up at Scarborough Grove, one or two?

INEZ: It wasn't but one then.

ALVIN: OK. Now, was the church and school on the same ground?

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: OK.

INEZ: The church was sitting right where it is now.

ALVIN: And where was the school set?

INEZ: You know where that -- the gate with the -- not the big gate, that little gate that you go right off to where they got water, to get the water? The school was sitting there.

ALVIN: Was sitting right there.

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: Uh-huh. Now, how many students were going up there when you went there?

INEZ: I don't know how many, but there was a bunch of 'em. (laughter)

ALVIN: Bunch of 'em?

INEZ: Yeah. There was a bunch of 'em.

ALVIN: Did you know any other Brenson, other than...?

INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible).

ALVIN: Or any other teacher, other than Brenson?

INEZ: There wasn't no -- there wasn't no teachers, but there was the family. And Bethy Hodge, Henry Prince, and (inaudible) going to school (inaudible) with any kind of ring, any kind of pin, any kind of watches.

ALVIN: Had a talent.

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Now, he was a student or a teacher?

INEZ: Teacher.

ALVIN: So this was that same Brenson that...?

INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: OK.
INEZ: Anything -- he make anything.
ALVIN: Where was he originally from?
INEZ: All I know, he was (inaudible) stand cross the creek. He was married, and his wife was named Cora.
ALVIN: Cora Brenson.
INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: Now --
INEZ: And they lived in Ohio.
ALVIN: They were from Ohio?
INEZ: No, they left here and went to Ohio.
ALVIN: Went to Ohio. Do you know what part of Ohio they went to?
INEZ: No, I don't. I can't tell you. My sister, Melissie, she was there (inaudible).
ALVIN: Well, if he come I'll get him next time. Went back under the bed. OK, so...
INEZ: My sister Melissie, and my sister Corine, and Ruby, (inaudible) -- and my brother, (inaudible) -- that's four -- lived here. But Melissie, she been there longer than anybody. She have seen him, talked to him, everything.
ALVIN: Talked to him up in Ohio?
INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: He's still living?
INEZ: I don't know whether -- I haven't talked about it in, you know, lately.
ALVIN: Mm-hmm. You have some sisters living?
INEZ: Yeah, all of 'em are living. All six of us.
ALVIN: All six of y'all are living. Who's the oldest? You are.
INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: Oh, that's a blessing. So -- now, how many years you go to Scarborough Grove school?
INEZ: (inaudible) got to the third grade.
ALVIN: At Scarborough Grove?
INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: And then you went to Willow Hill?
INEZ: Uh-huh.
ALVIN: Now, how many years were you at Willow Hill?
INEZ: I didn't go there long, about two.
ALVIN: Two years?
INEZ: (laughter) Yeah.
ALVIN: Now, when you was at Willow Hill, who was the principal?
INEZ: Professor Rhimes.
ALVIN: Professor Rhimes.
INEZ: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: Did any other principal come up there other than Professor Rhimes?
INEZ: His wife was teaching there.
ALVIN: She was, too.
INEZ: Mm-hmm, his wife.
ALVIN: So up at Willow Hill they had two teachers teaching?

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: Was it two or more than two?

INEZ: I don't think it... At that time it wasn't but two, just him and her.

ALVIN: OK. Was Willow Hill a bigger school than Scarborough Grove?

INEZ: Yes, a bigger school. The little old man (inaudible) all grown, and (inaudible) went to school here. And everyone, (inaudible) couldn't say how in the world (inaudible) beat them boys. They were 22 years old.

ALVIN: He would beat the boys?

INEZ: That's right. You know Crawford?

ALVIN: (inaudible).

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Uh-huh.

INEZ: And that's Nolan's boy, (inaudible), and (inaudible). (inaudible). (inaudible) and all those. And then they go, and they go down there, and he pick them two boys and go in the bushes. (laughter) Found no switch like that here today. (laughter) I ain't found no switch like that today. [00:25:00] (inaudible) and lay it down on the shore like that, and laid it (inaudible) come down (inaudible).

ALVIN: He hit him?

INEZ: Yeah, he hit him. He beat him. Sure, (inaudible). Didn't want to go to school. And he'd report it.

ALVIN: To the parents.

INEZ: To the parents, and also to the --

ALVIN: Trustees.

INEZ: Yeah. At Statesboro (inaudible), at the Board of Stateboro (inaudible). He had to [take it?].

ALVIN: Mm. Was he a good teacher?

INEZ: Yeah, he was a good teacher. And all of the others loved him, and (inaudible) he tell us, "All right, now. That's right. (inaudible) go to church, Sunday school, no talking in our church, no laughing, [tell y'all?] (inaudible) something! You go to church! Don't you go out that door! (inaudible)! You go out there and meet that boy! I'll see you Monday morning." (laughter) Oh, yeah, he was strict.

ALVIN: Strict, huh?

INEZ: Yeah, he was strict.

ALVIN: Mm. Where did he come from?

INEZ: I don't know where he come from, but he taught school, and Mama said he taught them.

ALVIN: Oh, your mama went to Willow Hill, too?

INEZ: No, she didn't go to Willow Hill. I don't know where Mama done went. They was in Screven County.

ALVIN: And so he taught them, too?

INEZ: Uh-huh. Mama said he taught them, too.

ALVIN: Mm. Over in Screven County somewhere?

INEZ: Over there, somewhere.

ALVIN: Now, was he an old man when he was up there?

INEZ: Yeah, he was kind of old. Little old man. Little old man. He was about as high as a reed pole.

ALVIN: Something like that?

INEZ: Yeah. (laughter) Something about like a reed pole. Yeah. And a meanie.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: He used to come to school, he toted a basket. He'd bring a basket, like that, and he have across there. (inaudible) And he'd have dinner in his basket. And (inaudible). She wouldn't let nobody eat (inaudible). She was a good girl, but... And I seen her once. And I bet in three years, and when I seed her, when – who's funeral was that now? McCray? McCray. Ms. Annie McCray.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: Minnie. I think she was some kin to Mr. Passoff. But I'm talking about (inaudible). She was at (inaudible) -- she was at Ms. McCray's, Ms. Annie McCray's house that night. You know (inaudible) talking about the (inaudible). It was?...

ALVIN: It wasn't Mr. Harley McCray had died, was it?

INEZ: I'm trying to think if he was out here.

ALVIN: Y'all was at their house. Must've been somebody in that house, then.

INEZ: It was somebody in the house, (inaudible).

ALVIN: Well, probably Mr. Harley McCray.

INEZ: Huh?

ALVIN: It must've been Mr. Harley McCray.

INEZ: It might've been Harley McCrea. (inaudible) say that was my [second?] -- my goddaddy.

ALVIN: Mr. Harley was?

INEZ: (laughter)

ALVIN: You liked him, huh?

INEZ: Huh?

ALVIN: You liked Mr. Harley McCray, huh?

INEZ: (inaudible). (laughter) I would go to Mr. Harley. He'd get me... He loved the children, Mama said, and then he'd get me and bring me candy. (inaudible). (inaudible), boy, if I get me Mr. Harley -- and they were done -- I was done with them.

ALVIN: (laughter) That candy.

INEZ: And then I done got grown and married, I still couldn't help (inaudible) Mr. Harley. (inaudible) say something I told Mama. I say, "I don't know why he look at me [so much?]. (laughter) Mama said, "Look at you?" "He's just looking at you, see how you looking, and see how you used to be by -- how you used to be by him, and everything..." And I said, "By him?" She said, "Yes." Said, "You wouldn't (inaudible)." "Daddy (inaudible), you see Mr. Harley, you turn loose of us [00:30:00] (inaudible)." (laughter)

ALVIN: (laughter) Oh, that's interesting. Who were some of your other classmates up at Willow Hill you remember?

INEZ: Thelma...

ALVIN: Jones?

INEZ: Yeah, and... And... I know (inaudible). You know Ms. Ella, Ella Donaldson?

ALVIN: Ella --

INEZ: Gracie Lee?

ALVIN: Gracie Lee Donaldson, yes.

INEZ: Mm-hmm. Oh, there's a bunch of us.

ALVIN: OK, well, you're --

INEZ: Lisa Parish.

ALVIN: Lisa Parish, mm-hmm. Was Bennie Donaldson up there?

INEZ: Bennie Donaldson.

ALVIN: Bennie Donaldson was up there with you?

INEZ: Yeah, all of us. They're going through out there where they got them -- where Jesse Ethem they all got them houses out there. That was woods.

ALVIN: That was woods, then?

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: All woods, right in front of them?

INEZ: Uh-huh. All that was woods. We (inaudible) go right cross (inaudible) and (inaudible) right beside (inaudible) from the schoolhouse. We'd go down there, set up and eat.

ALVIN: Eat.

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: On the side of the road.

INEZ: Yeah, and the kids be looking at us, and right where you can see, and eat (inaudible) laugh and talk and go on back to the house. One day we were sitting up there, eating (inaudible), (laughter) they all run off and left me! They all run off and left me, and I was standing there, and I said, "Look a-here, y'all!" They said, "What?" The man was there with the hat off and the tie and a white shirt on. (laughter) Ooh, you talk about yougins running! (laughter) Left me down there!

ALVIN: (laughter) Who was the man?

INEZ: I don't know who the man was. He didn't have no head, just had a tie and a white shirt (inaudible).

ALVIN: Didn't have a head?

INEZ: No. (laughter)

ALVIN: Who was that? Who...? (laughter) So the kids left you?

INEZ: All of -- yeah, we all got in there, and they run and left.

ALVIN: So what did you do?

INEZ: I came onto the house. And I -- and (inaudible). "What was it?" "I don't know. All I know -- it was just -- y'all seen -- you seen it was a man. He didn't have no head." And Lord, when I got home, I got home and I (inaudible). "We were down there by (inaudible), and the man (inaudible) have a white shirt, and no head." (laughter) "Who was it?" I said, "I don't know, Daddy. All of 'em left me. They left -- you know, yeah, they left me." He said, "Well..." He didn't tell me who it was, and he got shot.

ALVIN: He got shot?

INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible) done blowed his head off. The man got his head shot off.

ALVIN: Oh, and he died?

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Oh, so when he came up there he wasn't dead?

INEZ: Well, I don't know whether he's dead or no.

ALVIN: Was he laying on the ground when y'all saw him?

INEZ: No, he was standing up, just (inaudible).

ALVIN: Just standing. And had no head.

INEZ: He had no head and a white shirt and tie.

ALVIN: Did y'all see any blood?

INEZ: No, we couldn't see no (inaudible). All of them running and left me. I was trying to go, too! (laughter)

ALVIN: And they said later they found somebody dead?

INEZ: My daddy said (inaudible) he got shot, somebody shot him. I think somebody shot him and blowed his head off. He knowed the man, but I don't...

ALVIN: Oh, did the teacher know about all that?

INEZ: Yeah, we all ran down and told him.

ALVIN: What did he do? Not tell y'all to go to...?

INEZ: He didn't do nothing. (laughter)

ALVIN: (laughter) Was it a white man?

INEZ: I couldn't tell what he was. All I know, he had a suit and white shirt. Didn't have no head.

ALVIN: Mm. Lord, those little kids took off, didn't they?

INEZ: Left me.

ALVIN: Do you remember who the other kids were who were sitting down there, eating with you?

INEZ: Yeah, all of us was sitting down there. I think it was Gracie Lee, and the Rigg girls.

ALVIN: Ooh, the Cousin Liney?

INEZ: No, not Liney. Liney wasn't there. (inaudible) sister.

ALVIN: Oh, Etha Riggs?

INEZ: Yeah, but I call Etha Parish.

ALVIN: Etha Parish. Is that who you're talking about?

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Cousin Aldie was there, too?

INEZ: [00:35:00] Aldie was there, but there was -- you see all of them bigger girls was all (inaudible). There's a bunch of us.

ALVIN: Mm. Now, was Aunt Cora up there with you? You remember Cora Donaldson?

INEZ: She was going to school.

ALVIN: You remember her, though, huh?

INEZ: Yeah, I know all of 'em.

ALVIN: Now, my grandmother --

INEZ: And Roxie.

ALVIN: Aunt Roxie was there, too?

INEZ: Yeah, Roxie was going to school, too. (laughter) And (inaudible) somebody else (inaudible). I bet if I seen them, they know who they -- and they didn't know who I... (inaudible). That was -- the woman's name, I forgot her name... That was Donaldson.

ALVIN: Was they related to Cousin Tett Donaldson?

INEZ: Yeah, they was related to them. They used to stay up there. (inaudible) stayed (inaudible), they stayed (inaudible). And I don't know -- I've forgotten the name.

ALVIN: Cousin Tett and Cousin Du... No, it wouldn't be them.

INEZ: No, not (inaudible). I told (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK, now, Donaldsons.

INEZ: And she was a good looking woman, a good looking woman.

ALVIN: Now, who would that be?

INEZ: And she had two girls. Two girls. And if I made a mistake, I think that was... I don't know. Who was Mack Brown?

ALVIN: Mack Brown. I'm not sure if I know that name.

INEZ: Mack Brown.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: Yeah, I know near Willow Hill.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: They stayed down on this side (inaudible) and go back this-a-way.

ALVIN: And they were Donaldsons. Hmm. I don't know who that was.

INEZ: (inaudible). Its hard to keep up with them. Its been so long.

ALVIN: Mm.

INEZ: We all go to school and had a good time (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm. So there was a lot of children at Willow Hill then, huh?

INEZ: Yes.

DAN: Sure was.

INEZ: (inaudible)

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: (inaudible)

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Big settlement of blacks, huh?

INEZ: Yeah. Mr. Walter Williams (inaudible). (inaudible) I could go stay the night with her.

ALVIN: Oh, really? Mm-hmm.

INEZ: (inaudible)

DAN: (inaudible). Jones.

ALVIN: Mr. Jones.

DAN: From there slap down (inaudible) Everything was colored (inaudible).

INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible) [colored?].

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Big family. So there was a bunch of them going to that school.

DAN: Yeah, (inaudible).

INEZ: (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: Man Halls.

ALVIN: Now, let's see...

INEZ: Randall Hall.

ALVIN: Cousin Randall Hall. Oh, he had a bunch of girls.

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: Now, you went to school with some of those girls, huh? Were any of those your friends, or...?

INEZ: You know the one they call Ratbaby?

ALVIN: Cousin Ratbaby.

INEZ: (inaudible) went to school nearly all of them three or four...

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Let's see... So you said you was born in 1912, right? So you would've been --

INEZ: May 23rd, 1912.

ALVIN: OK, so you would've been -- the one you would've been closest to of my grandmother's would've been Uncle Bennie. He would've been... But he was born -- he was older than you.

INEZ: You talking about Bennie Donaldson?

ALVIN: Bennie Donaldson.

INEZ: Oh Lord, that boy. (laughter)

ALVIN: Huh?

INEZ: Those all run together.

ALVIN: Uncle Bennie?

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: Tell me -- do you know anything about Uncle Bennie?

INEZ: All of them run together (inaudible).

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: So you remember Uncle Bennie, too?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: What kind of guy was he?

INEZ: (laughter)

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: He was short?

DAN: Short. (inaudible).

ALVIN: Was he? He was trying to catch some girls?

DAN: Yeah.

INEZ: (laughter) That man was something.

DAN: Boyd, Boyd, he would be --

INEZ: The duke.

DAN: -- he would fight.

ALVIN: Who would fight?

DAN: Boyd Donaldson.

ALVIN: Boyd Donaldson?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: So --

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

DAN: No.

ALVIN: Would -- did Uncle Bennie try to study? He tried to study mostly the girls.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: Well, (laughter) (inaudible) stand up and girls and the boys both go and
[00:40:00] get to joking. (laughter) Get to joking, laughing, telling jokes, and telling jokes on one another.

ALVIN: Uncle Bennie used to do that?

INEZ: All of us. (laughter)

ALVIN: All of y'all.

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: So y'all had a good time up at Willow Hill, huh?

INEZ: (inaudible) all the time we stayed at Willow Hill, you'd be like --

ALVIN: All around.

INEZ: -- church to (inaudible). You didn't go to (inaudible) all be together on church.

ALVIN: Mm. That was a big time when y'all met at Portal, huh?

INEZ: At the church (inaudible).

ALVIN: What church were y'all meeting up at Portal? The one down at the bottom?

INEZ: We went to all of 'em. (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Well, that's very interesting. So now my grandmother, Bonnie, would've been older than y'all, so she would've been one of the big girls up there.

INEZ: Bonnie?

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: Bonnie and Cora, and...

ALVIN: Do you remember Aunt Carrie? You don't know her as well, do you? She was older than everybody.

INEZ: I remember. (inaudible).

ALVIN: Did you know Uncle Hodge, Hodge Donaldson? That was her brother. He was the older one, but he came back later on, after he came back from the service. You remember him, Cousin Dan? OK. So when y'all would go to school, how many times they would give y'all a recess?

INEZ: One recess about nine or ten o'clock.

ALVIN: You get a recess. How long would that be? For an hour?

INEZ: Sometimes it would and sometimes it wouldn't.

ALVIN: OK.

INEZ: It would get dark and he'd call 'em in. (laughter) I will never forget -- you know Lyla Lanier? We call her Lyla Lanier, Ruby Lanier, and Anna Mae. And my sister Ruby and Lyla, they didn't get along. Ooh, they couldn't get along! They'd call one another things. (laughter) (inaudible). They couldn't get along. (inaudible) one another. (laughter) She had to (inaudible) turn it over into his hands. Lord. He, "All right now. We going to recess! Everybody recess but Ruby and Lyla!"

ALVIN: (laughter) Made 'em stay in.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: My dad? Ezekiel Jackson, Zeke Jackson.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: You remember him?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: You remember my dad real good?

DAN: Yeah, I remember him.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. You ever work with him?

DAN: (inaudible). He could walk, too.

ALVIN: My dad?

DAN: (laughter) Yeah.

ALVIN: My dad said he used to walk all night. He told me that, too.

DAN: (inaudible) from here to Mr. Cecil's up yonder to town (inaudible). He walked an hour and a half.

ALVIN: Hoo! He could walk, couldn't he? (laughter)

INEZ: You know Archie Deacle and Kermit?

ALVIN: I heard of them, Deacle. I heard of all them Deacles.

INEZ: Archie (inaudible) and Kermit.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: Archie (inaudible) all them died, all the (inaudible), you know. You know to come back (inaudible).

ALVIN: Now, these are Ms. Nolie Deacle's --

DAN: Boys.

ALVIN: -- boys, and Ms. Helen's brothers.

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: Now, how is Ivy Deacle related?

DAN: (inaudible). That was -- he married Ms. Nolie, Mr. Ivy.

ALVIN: Oh, that was Ms. Nolie's husband? Oh! I was trying to figure out who he was.

OK.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

DAN: (inaudible) 1930, in August. And got all before I got there, (inaudible) closing the highway on the end. I worked there 33 years.

ALVIN: Thirty-three years. (whistles) And my dad used to work there, too?

DAN: Yeah, he worked there (inaudible) big old house, [00:45:00] (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK. We're going to go ahead and... (break in tape) So did you know my daddy's daddy, named Lindsay Jackson? You knew him?

DAN: Lindsay?

ALVIN: Yes. How did you know him?

DAN: He was (inaudible).

INEZ: He the one stayed (inaudible) on the... (inaudible) there on the (inaudible) the Lovett place.

ALVIN: Yeah, that's where he stayed up there. They used to own that place, him and his aunt, Ms. Alice. Did you know Ms. Alice, too?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: Oh, I didn't know you knowed them. So -- did you know them, too?

INEZ: Yeah, I knowed -- knew them.

ALVIN: Did you know my daddy's sister, one named Blanche, one named Pauline? Did you know them? Or did you just know him? And had a brother named Abraham, a brother named Elijah?

DAN: (inaudible) many people live around here (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

DAN: And all the --

INEZ: (inaudible) Round here now they's so many they're gone somewhere.

DAN: I know one man (inaudible), Ernest Cotter. I'm older than he is.

ALVIN: Is he still living? Ernest Cotter. He's a white man.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Does he know a lot of history? Is his mind good?

DAN: (inaudible) He's done got sick.

ALVIN: He used to have the cotton gin, didn't he?

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: (inaudible).

DAN: No, no, (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK. And so he's one of the oldest ones up there in Portal?

DAN: Yeah, he (inaudible).
ALVIN: Mm. And so you are eighty...? How old are you?
DAN: November the 28th, I'll be 87.
ALVIN: Eighty-seven. And you was born in 1909.
DAN: Nineteen-oh-nine.
ALVIN: Uncle Dickie is one year older than you. He was born in 1908. So y'all one --
some of the oldest ones around here.
DAN: Yeah.
INEZ: (inaudible) a while back (inaudible) go back out there and see him again.
ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Yeah. Yep, they was at the association --
INEZ: He know a lot.
ALVIN: Huh?
INEZ: He knows a lot. (laughter)
DAN: They had that association?
ALVIN: They had that association, just... That's where they came down for.
DAN: (inaudible)
ALVIN: Over at [Fishtrap?].
DAN: (inaudible)
ALVIN: The other one was at Collin?
DAN: (inaudible)
ALVIN: OK, now what -- y'all's hasn't come, though, yet, has it?
DAN: (inaudible)
ALVIN: Oh, they had it this Sunday, too? Oh.
INEZ: They used to have it on the same Sunday.
ALVIN: So that was the new Mt. Pleasant.
DAN: Yes.
ALVIN: How many churches in your association?
DAN: Seven.
ALVIN: Seven? Now, what are they? Banks Creek. Is St. Paul in it, too?
DAN: St. Paul.
ALVIN: Banks Creek, St. Paul...
DAN: Cyprus.
ALVIN: Cyprus Grove. And that's the...
DAN: Collins.
ALVIN: Collins, four.
DAN: (inaudible)
ALVIN: Bethel in Statesboro. That's five.
DAN: One in Savannah.
ALVIN: Oh, that's a new one. One in Savannah.
INEZ: That's St. John.
ALVIN: St. John. And then what's the other one? Is that one in Ohio, too?
DAN: The one in Ohio, they pulled out. (inaudible) over there. They went to Ohio, they
changed it.
ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, your brother is still living in Raleigh? OK.
DAN: I got two brothers living there.
ALVIN: Now, who are -- you and...?

DAN: Betty. My sister, Betty.
 ALVIN: Now, where does she live?
 DAN: She lives in Pensacola.
 ALVIN: Pensacola, Florida?
 DAN: Yeah.
 ALVIN: Did she come to Cousin Maggie's funeral?
 DAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. She come. Yeah, she came.
 ALVIN: Now, is she older or younger than you?
 DAN: She's 90.
 ALVIN: (whistles)
 DAN: And (inaudible).
 ALVIN: How is her mind?
 DAN: Her mind is better than mine. (laughter)
 ALVIN: She got a good mind?
 DAN: Uh-huh.
 ALVIN: Now, can she talk on the phone?
 DAN: Huh?
 ALVIN: She talk on the telephone?
 DAN: Yeah.
 ALVIN: Now, what is -- do you know her phone number?
 DAN: Let me see...
 ALVIN: Because I want to call and [00:50:00] see what kind of history she know. And so she's 91, and you said her mind is real good?
 INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible).
 ALVIN: She knows the history?
 INEZ: I reckon she know. (laughter)
 ALVIN: She get around pretty good?
 DAN: No, she can't get around.
 INEZ: No, she in a rolling chair, just like I am.
 ALVIN: She's in a rolling chair?
 INEZ: Yeah.
 ALVIN: But she came to the funeral?
 INEZ: Yeah, they brought her (inaudible). She got enough young'uns to fill up the church. (laughter)
 ALVIN: Mm. She got a bunch of children. Now, who did she marry?
 DAN: (inaudible) -- she married a Young, T.J. Young.
 ALVIN: OK. Now, he was from Bulloch County?
 DAN: Yeah.
 ALVIN: OK. And then she had a bunch of children, huh?
 INEZ: (inaudible) might be around them, might... (laughter)
 ALVIN: So yeah, I'm going to try to give her a call sometime and try to get some history, information, see what she knows. So y'all are the only two left?
 DAN: We're the only two.
 ALVIN: Now, tell me how many children your mother and them had? It was -- starting from the oldest. (inaudible). OK, this is his number here. This is Mamie. Is that her name?

INEZ: That's her daughter.
DAN: Yeah, her daughter.
ALVIN: OK, Mamie R-U-T-L-E-G... R-U-T-L-E-D-G-E, 904-587-2854, 904-5 -- I think that's a five, that's not a three -- 587-2854. And that's her daughter. And they live in Pensacola, Florida. And when they -- best time to talk to her would be before 12:00 or after 12:00?
DAN: Well, she be there all the time.
ALVIN: She's there all the time.
DAN: That's if she ain't going to the doctor.
ALVIN: OK, so she probably would enjoy talking on the phone then, huh?
INEZ: You got to tell her who you is.
ALVIN: Oh, I'll make her know. She'll know Granddaddy Solomon and all, won't she?
DAN: Yeah, (inaudible).
INEZ: Where your sister?
ALVIN: She's up in Ohio, Columbus, Ohio. And then my brother, he the one was killed on the motorcycle, up in Pennsylvania.
INEZ: How many was y'all? Just two?
ALVIN: There was just three of us. You know, my mother was the one that got burnt up.
INEZ: Uh-huh, I know (inaudible), but two girls --
ALVIN: It was --
INEZ: One girl and two boys?
ALVIN: -- one girl and two boys, mm-hmm.
INEZ: Well, you know Joseph, don't you?
ALVIN: Joseph Lee?
INEZ: Yeah.
ALVIN: Yeah, I know Joseph Lee.
INEZ: I'm talking about our Jospheh.
ALVIN: Yeah, I remember him.
INEZ: Yeah, I knew y'all was -- every time they see (inaudible) --
ALVIN: We came along together, Joseph... I remember Joseph real good. He used to be kind of tall.
INEZ: Well, you ought to see him now.
ALVIN: I haven't seen Joseph in so long. We were classmates.
DAN: He's in Atlanta.
ALVIN: He's in Atlanta?
INEZ: Yeah. (laughter)
ALVIN: I'd love to see -- next time you see him, you tell him I asked for him. We went to school together. Where's Laura?
INEZ: Big old boy.
ALVIN: Laura? Don't you have somebody named Laura?
INEZ: Maude.
ALVIN: Maude. OK, Maude. OK.
INEZ: She over there.
ALVIN: OK.
INEZ: You know you met her before.
ALVIN: Yes, OK. I did meet her before. All right, now, that was --

INEZ: And I know where y'all -- the girl... (inaudible) --

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: I live in Ohio.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: Haven't seen him in a good while.

ALVIN: I live in a little town called Freemont. I was living in Columbus, Ohio, but I live now between Cleveland -- (phone rings) between Cleveland, Ohio, and Toledo, Ohio, up in northwest Ohio.

INEZ: (inaudible)

DAN: Yeah, you ever be down by Cincinnati?

ALVIN: I do. My boy goes to school down at the University of Cincinnati. Mm-hmm, so I passed -- in fact, I stopped in Cincinnati on my way down.

DAN: (inaudible) he died.

ALVIN: OK, now when did he die? Cousin Raleigh?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Now, his wife was sister Alice Lee.

DAN: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: She still living?

DAN: No, she (inaudible).

ALVIN: She died before he did?

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: I remember Sister Alice real good, 'cause she usually come to our house to see my grandmother, and they used to talk.

DAN: He got a (inaudible) son, (inaudible) James.

ALVIN: James Lee.

DAN: Raleigh Junior.

ALVIN: OK, I remember him.

INEZ: And Aunt (inaudible).

DAN: (inaudible).

ALVIN: I remember them. Where's Mary Alice? There was a girl named Mary Alice.

DAN: She (inaudible).

ALVIN: I remember her.

INEZ: All of them. (inaudible).

ALVIN: Oh, Lord, I haven't seen them in so long.

INEZ: I think she's the only one --

DAN: She (inaudible).

INEZ: -- lived down here. They come and got her. (laughter)

ALVIN: OK, now sister Ida Janie, was she sisters to Ms. Alice?

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: They sisters.

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: And those were Preacher Smith's daughters, right? H.W. Smith [00:55:00] or whatever, H.E. Smith. And so Sister Ida Jane the only one living.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK. Oh, where does he live?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Oh, OK. Herschel.

DAN: He went down... He went down to Savannah.

ALVIN: To the funeral?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Oh.

INEZ: Him and James both.

DAN: (inaudible) Him and James both.

ALVIN: Oh. I wish I'd known they had the association of it. I would've gone over there just one day. I might've done one day there and one day, just to get a little bit of it.

DAN: Yeah, he had --

INEZ: Oh, and James preach, too.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

DAN: He had four boys.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, they have pianos in this church, don't they?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: In your association they have pianos, don't they?

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: In that other association, they don't have any instrument. They do the stomping of the feet, the clapping. They do it just like they did it in the olden days.

DAN: Yeah, they do.

ALVIN: Way -- I mean, no instrument, and then they read, and then they do the hymns and chants.

DAN: (inaudible) they do that in the old...

ALVIN: Old-timey way. I said, "This is the same way our ancestors did it. I know..." 'Cause it just remind you way back. I haven't seen anything like that in a long, long time. They were shouting. And I remember I was thinking of Cousin Essie Mae. We used to go up to Banks Creek, and she would get happy.

DAN: Oh, yeah, (inaudible).

ALVIN: She would get up and shout.

INEZ: Oh, (laughter) we'd go down there. We'd go down there sometime --

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: -- and our daddies sit there and talk, and our moms would be there and talk, too, but I'd get sleepy and I'd go to sleep. And they sat there talking, one o'clock sometime. I said, woo, Lord! Have mercy!

DAN: (inaudible) remember that she was (inaudible). But you don't heard anybody get happy like that. You can (inaudible).

ALVIN: She was strong, huh? (laughter)

DAN: (inaudible). I got where I would've helped her, but I (inaudible). (inaudible) you got to be a good (inaudible). (laughter)

INEZ: (laughter) Yeah, because I said, "(inaudible). I say, "you just keep them from falling."

ALVIN: I tell you -- and Cousin Jesse Sickman was the only man I ever saw shout up at the Banks Creek. And he used to yell, "I said..." (laughter)

DAN: Jesse, though, I would get out of his way.

ALVIN: He'd hurt you!

DAN: Oh, yes, sir. (laughter) He had (inaudible) -- he had walked them benches.

ALVIN: He walked the benches.

DAN: He would stand up there. He would jump up there. (inaudible). You had to move out of his way.

ALVIN: Mm! He jumped on the benches!

DAN: Yes.

ALVIN: Have mercy. I remember when Brother Jack Munley -- I remember when he used to preach we used to call him Brother Jack, and I remember he used to come by our house, had a '55 Chevy, used to come by and visit my grandmother. And my grandmother left Banks Creek and went down and joined a church in Savannah. And I remember he used to come and talk to her. We were little kids. And so that was a good... You remember my Uncle Dooley, don't you?

DAN: Yeah, I knew him.

ALVIN: He used to be a deacon up at Banks Creek.

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: You know all them Lee boys.

DAN: Yeah, I do.

ALVIN: Now, which one you was more along with.

DAN: Well, how old did you say (inaudible)?

ALVIN: Uncle Dougie?

DAN: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: Uncle Dougie was born in 1908, so he is '88. He'll be '89 in June.

DAN: Who related to him?

ALVIN: Let's see... You got Uncle Dooley, you got Uncle Claude, Uncle Mill, Uncle Jack. Uncle Jack probably be under him. Uncle Jack. So you'd be closer with Uncle Jack, then.

DAN: (inaudible). Well, (inaudible) down there around the (inaudible). He (inaudible).

ALVIN: Uncle Dougie? Yeah, he's born in June, so he's 88.

DAN: (inaudible) next to him. Me and him has been right close.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, when you went to Bennett Grove, who were some of the people went to school up there with you? You remember any of the classmates?

DAN: The Bennetts.

ALVIN: Was that their own personal school, Bennett Grove?

DAN: Yeah, that's where they went at. All of them.

ALVIN: Is that school still there?

DAN: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: [01:00:00] It's still -- the building is there?

DAN: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: Show me -- where is that located? Is it along the highway?

DAN: (inaudible). You know them houses up here? (inaudible) brick houses, (inaudible)?

ALVIN: Cousin Doll, I know where they house is.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Can you see it from the road?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Is that road that go by the school?

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: OK, now, so if I'm coming from Portal --

DAN: You ever know where Fred Lester...?

ALVIN: I don't remember where he stayed. I know who he was. OK, if I'm coming from Portal, if I pass -- I pass Cousin Dollie's house -- you know where Cousin Dollie and them stayed?

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: You go past there, go past Ms. Annie Moore Bennett's house.

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: And do I...? There's a road that come out on the left-hand side that take you up to Millen.

DAN: The highway?

ALVIN: Yes. Do you go past that, too?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK. There is a dirt road... Let me see... Is there a dirt... Do you make a right or a left turn to go to Bennett Grove?

DAN: (inaudible) make a left. You go down there --

INEZ: If you go up this highway then you turn to the right...

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: If I'm coming from --

INEZ: If you go up there -- come on up, this is a highway, and get to the crossing, and turn to right.

DAN: Well, he --

INEZ: And go right on around.

DAN: He didn't want to go up this highway here, across this highway, like you're going right on up. The first crossroads you get to, turn to the right.

ALVIN: To the right. And if I'm coming from Portal, I turn to the left. If I'm coming from Portal.

DAN: Yeah, (inaudible).

ALVIN: I would turn left. How far down the road is it? Is it right on that road?

DAN: Yeah, right side there.

ALVIN: Now, is... How far down that road off that turn off?

DAN: Well, you either come --

INEZ: Now, you --

DAN: ---well, you go in there, go by it, come around, back into the road, down here before you get to the Millen Highway.

ALVIN: OK. Now, Millen Highway --

INEZ: If you go up this highway right here, it's a big old barn --

ALVIN: If I drive right --

INEZ: Red barn sitting on -- wine-colored barn, you get to that crossroads, you turn right there, and go all the way around.

ALVIN: Turn right or left?

INEZ: Right.

ALVIN: Make a right.

INEZ: You take it right on around, and y'all see and you take it on around until you see the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse in the back of on the hill on the right.

ALVIN: Is it brought -- is it about tore down?

INEZ: No, it's standing there like it's pretty good.

ALVIN: Do they use it?

DAN: I don't know. A fellow bought (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK, who bought it? A white fellow?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: I hope they don't tear that down, because this is some interesting history.

INEZ: (inaudible). (laughter)

ALVIN: The weeds all around it?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Is it a little small school? That's about the only old school left here of the black schools, is it?

DAN: Sure is.

ALVIN: There another one?

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: (inaudible). (inaudible) different classes (inaudible). Yeah, they only got two rooms.

DAN: Two rooms?

INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible) --

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: It look little on the outside, but it's a pretty good size.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: OK. Now, let me make sure. Now, if I go right past your house, and I would run straight into a road. I run straight into a highway, right? Just keep going until I run into the highway.

DAN: The highway, right.

ALVIN: But when I run into the highway, do I turn right or left?

INEZ: No, don't turn nowhere, I don't think.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Go straight across that highway. Go straight across it, and then keep going until I come to another highway.

INEZ: No --

DAN: No, an old dirt road.

INEZ: It's a dirt road, (inaudible) --

DAN: (inaudible) first dirt road you get (inaudible).

ALVIN: OK.

DAN: Old building.

INEZ: And you'll need to cross -- you get to -- cross when you get to a barn, that old wine-colored barn.

ALVIN: OK.

INEZ: And there's a pond sitting off in the front, on the left. You don't turn there. You turn back to the right.

ALVIN: Now, but what I'm having a hard time understanding is I don't even -- I keep -- I go across the highway.

DAN: Yeah, the main highway.

ALVIN: OK, so when I go past here, I go across the highway, and then I keep going until I see a barn.

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: And then when I see that barn, I turn right, right by that barn.

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: And then that road takes you straight on to Bennett Grove.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Bennett Grove. And then if I keep going by Bennett Grove I end up into 25.

DAN: (inaudible) you come back in down (inaudible) and then you hit this highway
here, you come back (inaudible) --

ALVIN: So in other words, I'd come right back [01:05:00] in a circle.

DAN: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: Right back around to that road. All right. That's why it pays to keep asking until
you get an understanding, because a lot of times --

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: -- people likely don't have an understanding, they go and they get lost.

INEZ: Well, now you go around there where Fred Lester's house, (inaudible).

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, did Mr. Ozell Lawrence used to live over that way, too?

DAN: Yeah, he (inaudible).

ALVIN: Somewhere in that area. OK, I thought he lived over there. OK, so Bennett's
Grove is about the only school left.

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: I don't know any other one. They tore --

DAN: Not the main house.

ALVIN: Now, Willow Hill School, that house that my grandmother lived in after the one
burned down, that's part of the Willow Hill School, that house that she lived in. We
bought that from the Willow Hill School and moved it down. So that's --

INEZ: Oh, you mean the house.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: They picked that up?

ALVIN: Yeah. Yes, ma'am. Sure did.

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Uncle Bobby?

DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Uncle Bobby?

DAN: Where Willow Hill used to be.

ALVIN: Where Willow Hill School used to be? Ken Douglas is there.

DAN: Douglas, yeah.

ALVIN: Yeah.

DAN: Wilkerson.

ALVIN: Cousin Douglas is there, mm-hmm. Cousin Douglas married Cousin Sue. Now,
Cousin Sue went to school with you.

INEZ: Yeah.

DAN: Yeah, she (inaudible).

ALVIN: Yeah, she went to school --

INEZ: She (inaudible).

ALVIN: What time y'all usually go to bed? About now?

DAN: What time is it?

ALVIN: It's five minutes 'til 10:00.

DAN: About eleven o'clock.

ALVIN: OK, so you sit up a little longer usually.

INEZ: I be so tired some days. (laughter) I go to bed, (inaudible) so tired, I get up (inaudible) go back to bed.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm. So do y'all still go out to Banks Creek? Y'all still have fourth Sunday meetings?

DAN: Second and fourth.

ALVIN: Second and fourth. Oh, y'all go twice a month now. I remember a long time ago you used to go once a month. You have the first Sunday, you have the second Sunday, you have the third Sunday, you have the fourth Sunday. Everybody goes every Sunday, but they go to somebody else's church. Actually, that was kind of nice, because it made you visit each other.

DAN: Yeah, yeah, you (inaudible) I like (inaudible) their town (inaudible). They had -- they have it every Sunday. (inaudible) but I got two Sundays, and then you go around to the other ones.

ALVIN: And visit.

DAN: Yeah.

ALVIN: That's what I like.

DAN: You just go every Sunday (inaudible), (inaudible) every Sunday (inaudible).

ALVIN: You don't see anybody else. You keep seeing the same people, all... (laughter) And so it's kind of nice to fellowship.

DAN: It's good -- it's good for you to go around to other churches.

ALVIN: It sure is. It sure is.

INEZ: Who did you marry?

ALVIN: I married a girl from up in... I met her when I was in Ohio. We went to school together. And I have four children, two boys and two girls. And my oldest daughter is up in medical school in Atlanta. Our second boy is at the University of Cincinnati, and that's when I stopped to visit him.

INEZ: Someone married a girl (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

ALVIN: And I got two at home. Ma'am?

INEZ: (inaudible) married a girl (inaudible) South Carolina.

ALVIN: Oh, OK. Good. I had my camera. What did I do with it? I thought I brought a camera in here with me. Here it is. I knew I had bought one, but I... (laughter)

INEZ: (inaudible) she knew -- she tall.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: They went to school together, too, down here in Savannah.

ALVIN: Savannah.

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: (inaudible), you know, you got (inaudible).

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

DAN: The older boy's in Jackson.

ALVIN: Now, what's his name?

DAN: Dan, Jr.

ALVIN: Dan, Jr. So how many children you have? How many children y'all have?
 INEZ: We got seven.
 ALVIN: Seven.
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: OK, now, starting from the oldest, living and dead, how many children did y'all have total? Seven?
 DAN: Ten.
 ALVIN: Ten. Now, who was the oldest?
 DAN: Maude.
 ALVIN: Mose Lee.
 DAN: Maude, (inaudible).
 ALVIN: Oh, Maude. OK. She's oldest. Now, who's next?
 DAN: Junior. Dan, Jr.
 ALVIN: Dan, Jr. Then who's the next? So that's the two.
 DAN: (inaudible)... (inaudible). But Joe, he dead. (inaudible).
 ALVIN: Who was he?
 DAN: Lou.
 INEZ: A girl, Lily Belle.
 DAN: Lily Belle. She dead.
 ALVIN: She died?
 INEZ: [01:10:00] She caught fire.
 ALVIN: How old was she?
 INEZ: Eighteen months.
 ALVIN: Eighteen months old when she caught fire? Wow. How did she catch fire?
 INEZ: (inaudible) way down from the house, and I told (inaudible) and I said (inaudible), and I said, "Now, y'all -- Maude, take her to the house. Don't y'all go in the house. Y'all stay out." And the children went in the house, and I reckon she must've been there, put some paper on the fire, something that started -- there was coals in there -- and it caught her dress.
 ALVIN: Mm. Now, was anybody there to try to put her out? And they didn't know what to do?
 INEZ: I run, but -- I had to run a good piece before I got to the house.
 ALVIN: You heard 'em hollering?
 INEZ: Yeah, they called me, and I was running. I got there and took her clothes off. It burned her clothes off her. See, she (inaudible). Her dress tail caught and set fire.
 ALVIN: So the whole -- all the clothes had burned off?
 INEZ: No, they all didn't. I tore 'em off. But the doctor said that she sucked it from her breath from her wounds.
 ALVIN: Mm. How long did she live?
 INEZ: She didn't live long.
 ALVIN: She died that same day?
 INEZ: That night.
 ALVIN: Was she in the hospital? Back then... What year was that?
 INEZ: That was in '30. Was it '30? Yes.
 ALVIN: So they didn't have hospitals... OK, so the doctors come to your house.
 INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: OK.

DAN: And then there's (inaudible), and there's Cardel (inaudible).

INEZ: Uh-huh, Cardel was next.

ALVIN: Yeah, he dead, too?

INEZ: Mm-hmm.

ALVIN: How old was he when he died?

INEZ: Thirteen, just come 13.

ALVIN: What happened to him?

INEZ: Got drowned.

ALVIN: Where was that?

INEZ: Over on the -- in (inaudible).

ALVIN: He was out there swimming?

INEZ: He went out (inaudible) picking cotton, and (inaudible) and (inaudible) sang a song about (inaudible), and (inaudible) all his children (inaudible), and he told (inaudible) told Paul (inaudible) to sing about me, just sing about, sing about me. (inaudible) he got out, he go into the house and (inaudible) rain. You couldn't even see the trees, 'cause the rain right there, all around that field, and we all went to that house. And then (inaudible) he got out and said, "We're going to... We go out and pick up pecans." So yeah, it was a pecan tree (inaudible), and he never stopped.

ALVIN: He didn't stop?

INEZ: Mm-mm. They said he didn't stop, just kept on running, got to the pond.

ALVIN: What did he do? He just jumped in?

INEZ: Jumped in.

ALVIN: Did he know how to swim?

INEZ: No. He didn't know how to swim?

ALVIN: He didn't?

INEZ: Uh-uh.

ALVIN: Well, why would he jump in? Did anybody ever figure that out?

INEZ: No, (inaudible) could never figure why he jumped out. Jumped in. He just run in and jump in the deepest part, in the deepest part. And... What his name, Dan? Daisy Coney.

ALVIN: Mm-hmm.

INEZ: You know him, don't you? Daisy Coney.

ALVIN: I don't know if I know him.

INEZ: He used to pick guitar and sing. Well, anyway... He stayed right there, close by the pond. And we all (inaudible), and we got down there, and they got him out. And they tried to shake him, you know, get him out. And I said, "Oh, Lord." I said, "I told you not to come down this -- not to go out that direction, not to go down to the pond." And I couldn't... I said, "Lord, have mercy!" And (inaudible) shake him, too. And I shake him, too. And he died (inaudible). I took him (inaudible, voice breaks) back there. And so I say, "He gone." And they (inaudible). I say, (inaudible).

ALVIN: Right there he was gone. How long did he stay in the water?

INEZ: No time.

ALVIN: They got him out pretty fast?

INEZ: Yeah.

ALVIN: Did anybody see him go up and down?

INEZ: Yeah, (inaudible) children.
ALVIN: They was watching him go up and down?
INEZ: No, say he jumped in the water, and then when he come up.
ALVIN: Hmm. And he never could swim, and nobody knows why he would jump in.
INEZ: Uh-uh. No more than (inaudible) sang the song about see about me, and then you know Melindie, (inaudible) Melindie.
ALVIN: Mm-hmm.
INEZ: And he had (inaudible) paper, grit -- was it grit paper?
ALVIN: Grip paper.
INEZ: Yeah. And you had (inaudible), and he tumbled in. Melindie said told her, Melindie said, "I got something to give you." Said, [01:15:00] "Don't ever let nobody have it." Said, "I got something I can give you." Said, "Don't let nobody have it, nobody. You keep it all your life." So she said, "Oh, (inaudible), how come you don't want (inaudible)?" "No, don't let nobody have it. You keep it all your life." So he give it to her. So Melindie kept it. Then the last time when Melindie was down here before she died, she told me she said, (inaudible).
ALVIN: Mm.
INEZ: (inaudible)
ALVIN: Mm. So who was the next one after Cardel?
DAN: Irene.
INEZ: Irene.
ALVIN: Irene. And then who after that?
INEZ: Arlene.
ALVIN: Arlene. Oh, I remember Arlene real good. Then who come after Arlene?
INEZ: Frank. Frank? No, Frank come before. Frank come before -- he come before Irene.
ALVIN: OK.
INEZ: And then Irene, and then Arlene.
ALVIN: Mm-hmm.
INEZ: Then (inaudible).
DAN: (inaudible)
INEZ: I said Irene come behind Frank.
DAN: Irene (inaudible).
INEZ: Yes, she did!
DAN: Irene was after Jack, after Cardel. He was (inaudible).
INEZ: Yeah. I said after we left. (inaudible). Maude, George...
DAN: Irene, I think.
INEZ: Maude and George and Cardel.
DAN: And Irene.
INEZ: And Irene. That's it.
DAN: Irene.
INEZ: That's it. And Arlene.
DAN: Arlene.
INEZ: (inaudible), and Jack.
DAN: Joe (inaudible).
INEZ: And Sonia.

ALVIN: Sonia. Now, Sonia --
 INEZ: Sonia come in (inaudible).
 DAN: Jack (inaudible).
 ALVIN: OK. How many grands do you have?
 INEZ: I don't know.
 ALVIN: A bunch of 'em.
 INEZ: There are so many, I don't know.
 DAN: We ain't got but 40.
 ALVIN: Forty! (laughter) But 40!
 INEZ: You don't know how many you got.
 DAN: Forty, 40, 40 grands.
 INEZ: You don't know how many (inaudible) all up to the doctor (inaudible).
 DAN: (inaudible)
 INEZ: Well, (inaudible) knowing.
 DAN: Got 60, 70-something.
 ALVIN: Ooh!
 DAN: Got seven (inaudible), five or six, seven, eight great-grandchildren.
 ALVIN: Have mercy. You've been blessed. You've been really blessed. Ooh, Lord have mercy!
 INEZ: Danny got 'em, he got a whole church! (laughter)
 DAN: We been married 66 years.
 ALVIN: Sixty-six years. Not too many people can say that. Sixty-six. And you married in 19-what?
 DAN: Thirty.
 ALVIN: Thirty. That's a long time! And not too many people can say that they're still together. That's wonderful. Sixty-six years. And you've been living here since 1952. Forty-seven years. And so most of your kids went to Willow Hill, too, didn't they? I know a lot of them went to...
 INEZ: Some of them went to Bennett Grove.
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. I want to see if I can find that Bennie Grove. That'd be kind of nice. Now, let me see, is there anything else I wanted to ask you.
 INEZ: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. We was talking about his classmates over at Bennett Grove, and you said the Bennetts. Now, my -- none of my aunts and uncles after Uncle Jackson's -- Lindsay Jackson sure didn't go to Bennett Grove with you, did they?
 DAN: No, they went up there, too. (inaudible).
 ALVIN: They had a school up there? What was the name of that? Gay's Grove?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 INEZ: (inaudible)
 DAN: They went to (inaudible).
 ALVIN: Mm-hmm. Now, who did you say was teaching at Bennett Grove?
 DAN: I can't think of her name.
 INEZ: (inaudible)
 DAN: Hmm?
 INEZ: Fred's wife taught at school.
 DAN: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Fred who?
 INEZ: Lester.
 ALVIN: Oh, so Levana Lester used to teach there?
 INEZ: Uh-huh.
 ALVIN: You know anybody else used to teach at Bennett Grove?
 INEZ: The little girl named... Oh, I can't think of her name. Mildred.
 DAN: (inaudible)
 INEZ: Yeah, and one of Mr. Johnny Green's girls.
 DAN: And what's her name? Carol?
 INEZ: Carol.
 ALVIN: Carolyn Green used to teach there?
 INEZ: Yeah, and also Beatrice.
 ALVIN: Beatrice who?
 INEZ: Jones.
 ALVIN: Beatrice Jones. That's Cousin Eva Jones's sister. So Beatrice Jones... [01:20:00]
 Who else you saying? Beatrice Jones...
 INEZ: Beatrice Jones, Johnny Green's girl.
 ALVIN: Ms. Carolyn Green.
 INEZ: And (inaudible) and Mildred. The girl (inaudible) (laughter) going to school (inaudible). My daughter Maude and (inaudible), they were (inaudible). And Corine's children. They (inaudible) school (inaudible) picking at Maude or something and they went to fighting over it, fight (inaudible). Maude had stuck a piece of clay dirt (inaudible) side the head, and she didn't say nothing about it when she comes in, and (inaudible) he didn't say nothing about it, neither. So come on in, we told Mrs. Annie, and Mrs. Annie was his name, and (inaudible). And so his aunt was there, too, his aunt on his dad's side. She wrote a note, telling the teacher that Maude had bloodied his head with some clay -- with rocks. And it was just a-bleeding. So her teacher beat Maude that next morning, and beat her, and then beat him. So when Maude come in from school, she told me about it. So I flew hot. (laughter) I went to that schoolhouse, and I got out there, and I (inaudible). So (inaudible) recess, and I told her, I said, "(inaudible)." I said, "I don't mind you beating my child." I said, "I'm going to tell you (inaudible)." I said, "Now look, I'm going to tell you. I don't mind you beating my child, and I don't mind that cause she's in your hands. I don't know nothing about it." I said, "As long as the children's in your hands, (inaudible), nobody knows nothing on the road. They in your hands." I said, "(inaudible) leave our house and out of our hands into yours." I said, "Now, I'm going (inaudible). You know you done -- you beat us. I ain't talking about come out here and get at you about beating, but I'm getting at you about not beating it in the right way." And she said, "Oh, what was that right way?" I said, "Now, you know you was a child. You know you was a child. And you know your mama (inaudible) with the fussing and fighting. She really might've put you up a little bit. And then again, y'all kept on arguing. She got both of you. She never beat -- she'd beat you, she'd beat this one. (inaudible) the rest of them know a thing about... She got them, too. Got the whole push. And when she get the whole push, (inaudible)." I said, "When you beat him," I said, "now, you get him, 'cause she couldn't fight by herself, 'cause he had to do something to her." I said, "Now, you beat him just like you beat her, (inaudible)."

(laughter) So she got him. She got him. And they didn't fight no more on that school ground. (laughter)

ALVIN: Was that at Bennett Grove?

INEZ: Yeah. (laughter)

ALVIN: And... And the teacher's name was Miss...?

INEZ: Alvers.

ALVIN: Alvers.

INEZ: Uh-huh.

ALVIN: She was from Metter?

INEZ: Millen.

ALVIN: Millen. Oh, OK. That's an interesting story. Now --

INEZ: But she didn't beat him. I said, "Don't beat one and leave the other." And so (inaudible) beat her, beat her, and then do him, (inaudible).

ALVIN: Ah.

INEZ: (inaudible) --

ALVIN: Put a stop to that.

INEZ: And I went over -- next morning I went out there, and I told (inaudible), and they didn't fight on that road no more.

ALVIN: Mm. Do y'all have any old pictures? Do you have any pictures of the Lees, any old pictures? Jack Lee, or Wallace Hodge --

DAN: I don't have none.

ALVIN: -- or Melindie Hodge? You know anybody with Wallace Hodge pictures?

DAN: I sure don't.

ALVIN: Your sister got any?

DAN: Yeah. (inaudible).

ALVIN: What happened to 'em?

INEZ: (inaudible)

ALVIN: Who'd you have?

INEZ: I didn't have but one.

ALVIN: Who did you have?

INEZ: [01:25:00] That was Dan's brother's picture. He's dead.

ALVIN: His brother?

INEZ: (inaudible) what you say? You remember between you --

DAN: Huh?

INEZ: -- and pie?

DAN: Oh, (inaudible) we had... We have Mama's, too.

INEZ: You had your mama's picture.

DAN: My sister, Rose (inaudible).

INEZ: You got 'em here somewhere. I don't know where (inaudible) --

DAN: (inaudible) they were big. (inaudible) large.

ALVIN: What happened to 'em?

DAN: (inaudible)

INEZ: I know George has got the one of your brother.

DAN: George (inaudible) --

INEZ: In a big black -- and a big ring. When it got there, it was black.

DAN: (inaudible) on the way.

ALVIN: Who? Your son got it?
 DAN: My brother George.
 ALVIN: George Lee? Now, where is his people at now?
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: That's your --
 INEZ: More like a baby brother.
 ALVIN: OK, is -- so he's dead now?
 DAN: Mm-hmm.
 ALVIN: Where's his family? Where did he die? Where was he living when he died?
 DAN: In town.
 ALVIN: So --
 DAN: His wife... He never had no children.
 ALVIN: He didn't have any children. So what happened? So --
 INEZ: They adopted one.
 ALVIN: What happened to the pictures, then?
 DAN: I don't know what happened to that picture. It wasn't in the house cause we
 looked when he died.
 INEZ: That girl might have kept one. And one girl here (inaudible). They adopted that
 child.
 ALVIN: So there's no picture of Wallace Hodge. Do y'all remember the tornado of '29?
 Was anybody hurt that you knew about?
 INEZ: Mr. Jeff Spells was hurt.
 DAN: He got killed.
 INEZ: Got killed.
 DAN: In the tornado?
 INEZ: Mm-hmm.
 ALVIN: Whoa, Mr. Jeff Spells. That's Ms. [Corinne?] Spells's husband or daddy?
 INEZ: Her husband.
 DAN: Corinne (inaudible).
 INEZ: Mr. Duncan (inaudible).
 ALVIN: OK. So anybody else other than him died that you knew about?
 INEZ: Mr. Charleston, his... His wife got killed.
 ALVIN: Mr. Charleston Mense?
 INEZ: No, she didn't get killed, but (inaudible).
 ALVIN: OK.
 DAN: (inaudible)
 ALVIN: Who were they? They was related to you? You said Aunt who?
 DAN: Aunt Lily (inaudible).
 ALVIN: Who is that?
 DAN: (inaudible). And then (inaudible). I know she got (inaudible).
 INEZ: And she --
 DAN: Thomas. Tommy Thomas.
 ALVIN: Oh, I heard of them. This is Susie Thomas's husband. Was he killed?
 DAN: No, his mama.
 ALVIN: Was killed
 DAN: (inaudible).

ALVIN: Huh. Now, Ms. Susie Thomas is still living, isn't she?
DAN: Yes.
ALVIN: How old is she?
DAN: She (inaudible).
ALVIN: She old as you?
DAN: Mm-hmm.
ALVIN: Is her mind good?
DAN: Yeah, her mind's good. (inaudible) --
ALVIN: She might be somebody to get some information from, huh? Because she's a member of Banks Creek.
INEZ: (inaudible).
ALVIN: Mm-hmm. She ever come down to Bank Creek? She getting around good?
DAN: Yeah, she walk pretty good.
INEZ: She's sick.
DAN: She is sick.
ALVIN: Now, that's Ms. Susie Thomas.
DAN: Yeah.
ALVIN: Was that Cousin Jimmy Riggs's daughter? So that's Ms. Dolly --
INEZ: Dolly.
ALVIN: -- Riggs's sister? Ms. Dolly Riggs's sister? OK. I gotcha. Well, I got a lot of information. I guess my tape is getting close, but I kind of just went on a lot of things: school, we talked a little bit about church, and a little bit about the tornado, and when I come back again --
INEZ: (inaudible), I mean, that was the time back then.
ALVIN: A lot of people nervous about that.
INEZ: Swept the yard, like went through them woods and swept it like (inaudible) a broom. (laughter)
ALVIN: Mm. Well, next time I come through maybe we'll get a chance to talk a little bit more. I'm --
INEZ: Yeah.
DAN: (inaudible) Mr. Jeff (inaudible).
INEZ: No, my sister. Mr. Jeff (inaudible).
DAN: (inaudible) he got killed there. It killed him.

END OF AUDIO FILE