

NAME: AUDREY OLDS (MRS.EDWIN OLDS,SR.) 11-18-88

TRANSCRIBED BY GENE WOOD,PARK VOLUNTEER,2/21/99

I---STANDS FOR INTERVIEWER

AO---STANDS FOR PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED

NAMES OF PLACES AND PERSONS ARE SPELLED AS HEARD,BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY CORRECT. WORDS WHICH ARE NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD ARE IN BRACKETS [].

THIS TAPE CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE LETTER (A) BUT THE INTERVIEW IS ON SIDE (B) OF THE TAPE.

I---THIS IS AN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH MRS. AUDREY OLDS AT 5:02 PROSPECT,ROSECLIFF APARTMENTS,APT.206,AT 2 P.M. IN THE AFTERNOON,NOVEMBER 17,1988.

I---TELL US HOW YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THE FORDYCE BATHHOUSE ?

AO---I WAS INVOLVED WITH THE FORDYCE BACK IN THE TWENTIES WHEN MY FATHER, THE LATE HENRY H. JULLIAN, WAS THE MANAGER AND PART OWNER, AND THIS IS HOW I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT IT. I SPENT TWELVE YEARS GROWING UP IN THE FORDYCE.

I---HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS MANAGER ?

AO---WELL,HONEY, I CAN GO BY THE FIRST GRADE IN SCHOOL WITH THAT, AND UP THROUGH TILL I WAS TWELVE.

I---DID YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME AT THE BATHHOUSE ?

AO---OH YES, OH YES.....AND MANY OF MY SCHOOL FRIENDS WOULD COME DOWN THERE AND PLAY IN THE GYMNASIUM, YOU KNOW, AFTER SCHOOL.
AN' IT WAS IMPRESSED UPON ME BY MY FATHER, BY COLONEL FORDYCE, AS TO THE DIFFERENT FACETS OF THE BATHHOUSE, AN' I HAVE REALLY NEVER FORGOTTEN IT, YOU KNOW.

I---SINCE YOU MENTIONED THE GYM, WHY DON'T YOU START BY TELLING US
SOME OF THE THINGS YOU REMEMBER ABOUT WHAT WAS IN THE GYM ?

AO---AT THAT TIME, IN THE GYM, WERE SLIDES AND BASKETBALL HOOPS, AN' ALL KINDS OF, UMMM, I DON'T KNOW THE TERM, BUT WE CALLED 'EM DUMBBELLS, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, AN' WORKOUT BARS, AN' JUST A CONGLOMERATION OF PHYSICAL FITNESS EQUIPMENT.

I---DID THEY HAVE A GYM INSTRUCTOR ?

AO--- AT ONE TIME THEY DID, AN' THEY SPONSORED A, FORMER GOVERNER SYDNEY McMAHON, IN BOXING. UH-HUMM.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER ATHLETES, LIKE BASEBALL TEAMS OR SUCH
COMING ?

AO---NO, I DON'T REMEMBER ANY FAMOUS, BUT THERE WAS ONE FAMOUS BASEBALL PLAYER, AN' I WISH I COULD REMEMBER HIS NAME, BUT I CAN'T.
HE BROUGHT HIS CHILD IN HIS ARMS WHO WAS CRIPPLED WITH ARTHRITIS,
AND HE STAYED ABOUT, ALMOST A YEAR, AND THE CHILD LEFT THE FORDYCE
WALKING, BECAUSE YOU MUST REMEMBER, IT WAS IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS BEFORE THE MIRACLE DRUGS, OR ANYTHING LIKE LEVI, YOU KNOW.

I---WHAT DO REMEMBER ABOUT THE STATE ROOMS ?

AO---OH, I CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THEM, HONEY.
THEY WERE, WHEN I LOOK BACK, I REALIZE HOW EXQUISITE THEY WERE, AN' WE TOOK THEM FOR GRANTED. THE FURNITURE, HAS THE FURNITURE ALL DIS-
APPEARED ? OR HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO FIND ANY OF IT ?

I---WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FROM THE STATE ROOMS, I DON'T BELIEVE.

AO---WELL,IT WAS ABSOLUTELY PRECIOUS .THEY WERE METAL AN' THEY WERE

ALL IN WHITE,AND THE LITTLE BEDS WERE VICTORIAN IRON BEDS, AND SO
WERE THE DRESSERS, AND THEY WERE THREE WAYS,FULL LENGTH, AND THIS
LENGTH, YOU KNOW, AN' THEN THEY HAD THE WHITE WICKER CHAIRS,
AN' WHITE ORGANDY CURTAINS. THEY WERE JUST DARLING. AN' I OFTEN
WONDER WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE FURNITURE, YOU KNOW.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THEM BEING, AH, USED QUITE A BIT ?

AO---OH YES...BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS, THAT WAS THE RULE, HONEY.
YOU HAD TO HAVE A DOCTORS' PRESCRIPTION TO TAKE A BATH, AND
AFTER YOU TOOK THE BATH OR THE, WHATEVER, THAT FOLLOWED THE
STEAM ROOM, AH, YOU HAD TO REST FOR AN HOUR OR SO BEFORE YOU
WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE FORDYCE. IT WAS VERY STRICT. UH-
HUH....YESSSS.....

I---WHERE WAS THE, UMMM, BEAUTY PARLOR ?

AO---THE BEAUTY PARLOR, AS BEST AS I RECALL, AT THAT TIME, WAS
DOWNSTAIRS, WHERE THAT YOU-ALL WOULD CALL THE BASEMENT
NOW, BUT IN THOSE DAYS THEY HAD HAD A BOWLING ALLEY DOWN
THERE, AN' A BEAUTY SHOP, AND SEVERAL OTHER THINGS THAT I
REALLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT MR. GIDDINS TOLD ME THERE WAS NO
SIGN OF A BOWLING ALLEY EVER HAVING BEEN THERE, AN' IT WAS
PERFECTLY BEAUTIFUL. AN' IT, THEY PLAYED WITH THE QUAPAW TEAM
AND THE FORDYCE HAD A TEAM, AND IT WAS A LOT OF COMPETITION
BETWEEN THEM, YOU KNOW.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE, WHAT KIND OF WOOD THE BOWLING
ALLEYS WERE MADE OF ?

AO---UH-HUH....I SURELY DO, CAUSE I HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT IT ALL THE
TIME. OH, IT WAS MARBLE LANES AN' UMM, MAHAGONY SURROUNDS,
UM-HMMM...BEAUTIFUL.

I---AN' THEY WOULDN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO PLAY THAT DIDN'T
PATRONIZE THE
BATHHOUSE, EXCEPT FOR THE OTHER BATHHOUSE YOU MENTIONED.?

AO--- NOW I CAN'T REALLY ANSWER THAT TRUTHFULLY BECAUSE I
HEARD MR.

HOWLETT, WHO MADE THE QUAPAW, AND DADDY WERE JUST REAL CLOSE FRIENDS, AN' THEIR TWO TEAMS COMPETED ALL THE TIME. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THERE MUSTA' BEEN OTHERS BECAUSE THERE WAS ALWAYS SO MUCH, SO MANY PEOPLE THERE, YOU KNOW, PLAYING. SO I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

I---DID YOU AND YOUR SCHOOL FRIENDS PLAY ?

AO---NO, WE DIDN'T PLAY. WE STAYED, WE PLAYED IN THE GYMNASIUM MORE THAN ANYTHING. NOW THE, WHAT WE CALLED THE INN THEN, WAS CALLED THE SALON, WHERE YOU HAVE THOSE DISPLAY CASES, YOU KNOW WHERE I'M TALKING ABOUT, AN' THAT HAD A KNABE BABY GRAND PIANO. IT HAD A WICKER WRITING DESK, AND WICKER ROCKING CHAIRS, AN' WICKER CHAIRS AND FURNITURE, AN' IT WAS QUITE ELEGANT, QUITE ELEGANT, AND THE STATIONARY WAS [EMBOSSSED] AND BEAUTIFUL. AN' I HAVE A LOT OF THE STATIONARY BECAUSE MY FATHERS' NAME WAS ON IT. BUT IT'S PACKED AWAY IN A BOX IN LITTLE ROCK, AN' I'LL HAVE TO GET IT IF YOU-ALL WANTED ANY OF THIS STUFF.

I---YEAH...I DON'T, I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE ANY WITH, WITH YOUR (AO---WITH THE MANAGERS NAME OR) FATHERS NAME ON IT.

AO---WELL, I HAVE THAT AND HIS CALLING CARDS.

I---HMMM....THAT WOULD BE INTERESTING.

AO---AN' I HAVE A AH',[WORDS UNKNOWN],BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL LET GO
OF IT, COLONEL FORDYCE GAVE DADDY A MARBLE STATUE OF AN INDIAN MAIDEN. IT'S PERFECTLY EXQUISITE, SHE'S STANDING WITH WATER DRIPPING
OFF OF HER HAND, AN' THERE'S A TEAR ON THE CHEEK. IT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL.

I---WE COULD GET A PHOTOGRAPH OF IT.

AO---UH-HUH... IN FACT THE BOX HAS BEEN SEALED FOR YEARS. IT WAS IN
STORAGE WHEN MY MOTHER DIED AN' I HAVEN'T HAD IT UN-SEALED. SO I'LL
DO MY BEST ABOUT IT.

I---WHERE DID THE STATUE SIT ?

AO--- IT SAT ON THE COUNTER, UH-HUH, AN' AS YOU WALKED INTO THE LOBBY
OVER TO THE RIGHT, WAS MY FATHERS' DESK, AN' BY THE WAY, IT HAD A GREEN TIFFANY LAMP ON IT, AN' WHERE IT'S GONE, I DON'T KNOW, UH-
UH....

I--- DID THE FOUNTAINS IN THE LOBBY ALWAYS HAVE WATER RUNNING ?

AO---OH YES, OH YES, UH HUH....AN' THERE WERE MANY BEAUTIFUL,
THAT WE
SAY NOW, BEAUTIFUL WICKER CHAIRS, YOU KNOW, AN' ON THE PORCH
WERE WICKER CHAIRS, PEOPLE WOULD COME AND SIT ALL THE TIME. IT
WAS TRULY
AN ELEGANT BATHHOUSE, VERY BAROQUE, YOU KNOW.

I--- WHAT DO REMEMBER ABOUT THE LADIES' BATH HALL ?

AO---I DON'T REMEMBER A LOT ABOUT THAT, AN' I EVEN REMEMBER,
EXCUSE ME WHILE I GET A DRINK--I HATE BLOOD PRESSURE PILLS, THEY
ABSOLUTELY
DRIVE [DRY?] YOU, NOW THIS'LL BE ON TAPE, OH, OH, OH,.....

I---WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE LADIES BATH HALL.....

AO---OH YES, HONEY....IT WAS RATHER PRIMITIVE. IT WAS OF COURSE
THE
TUBS AN' AN' YOU KNOW, THE BENCHES FOR THEM AND EVERYTHING
AN' AH'
COURSE THEY HAD THE STEAM ROOM AND A' THE TWO ATTENDANTS
NAME, I'M SORRY TO SAY BUT IN THOSE DAYS YOU DIDN'T KNOW THEIR
LAST NAMES, AN' THEY WERE JUST EMMA AND WILLY, ON THE LADIES
SIDE. AN' THEY HAD A RUNNING COMPETITION TO SEE WHO COULD BATH
THE MOST, YOU KNOW. BUT THEY WERE EXCELLENT AN ' THEY HAD
MANY PEOPLE, AN' I
MUST ADD THAT SINCE THIS WAS IN THE TWENTIES, AN' LASTED UNTIL
1930, YOU HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT THAT THE 40'S AN' THE 30'S WERE
THE GOOD YEARS, THIS IS NOT TRUE. THE TWENTIES WERE THE GOLDEN
YEARS BECAUSE IT WAS BEFORE THE CRASH, AN' THE RICH CAME FROM
UP EAST AN' BROUGHT THEIR PRIVATE RAILROAD CARS AN' WOULD
COME
TO THE FORDYCE TO BATHE, AN' THIS LASTED, I WOULD SAY, UNTIL

PROBABLY A LITTLE WAYS INTO THE 30'S, WHEN THE DEPRESSION
BEGAN TO
GET SO BAD, YOU KNOW. BUT THOSE WERE TRULY THOSE YEARS, IN THE
20'S
WERE THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE FORDYCE. BECAUSE MONEY WAS NO
OBJECT
WITH THOSE PEOPLE, THEY WOULD TIP THE ATTENDANTS ANYWHERE
FROM
75 TO 100 DOLLARS, THAT WAS NOTHING, AT ALL. DO YOU WANNA'
KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT THE MENS' SIDE ?

I---SURE.

AO---WELL, AS YOU KNOW, THE TIFFANY CEILING IS OVER THEIRS' AN' I
ASSUME THE STATUE OF DESOTO IS THERE. THE TWO ATTENDANTS
NAMES, AS I DON'T KNOW THEIR LAST NAMES, WERE COLLINS AND THE
FAVORITE WAS AN ENORMOUS BLACK MAN NAMED "BIG JOE", AND HE
HAD SO MANY FAMOUS CUSTOMERS THAT CAME BOUT EVERY YEAR TO
HIM, AN' THEY WERE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, WONDERFUL. THE DESK
CLERKS' NAME WAS MISS LILA
McMAHON, AN' MISS ETHEL, I AM SORRY BUT I CANNOT REMEMBER
MISS
ETHEL'S' LAST NAME, BUT SHE WAS MY FATHERS' SECRETARY. UH-
HUMM...

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE HYDROTHERAPY
ROOM ?

AO---HONEY, THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY EXPENSIVE, LIKE WE WOULD
KNOW
TODAY. FOR ITS' TIME, IT WAS CONSIDERED EXPENSIVE, BUT ACTUALLY
THE
PEOPLE CAME AND WANTED THE BATHS AND THE MESSAGES, AND THE
STEAM ROOM. THAT WAS WHAT THEY WANTED, AND THAT WOULD
TREAT MOST OF IT, BECAUSE WHAT WE KNOW TODAY WASN'T THOUGHT
OF.

I---WHERE WAS THE MASSAGE ROOM ?

AO---WELL, AS I REMEMBER, OVER ON THE MENS' SIDE, THERE WAS A
LITTLE,

THERE WAS A ROOM WITH DRAWINGS, YOU KNOW, THE, AH, MAIN BATHING AREA, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S CLOSED OFF NOW OR WHAT, AN' YOU KNOW, THAT WAS THE MASSAGE ROOM AN' THEY HAD THESE LONG TABLES AN' EVERYTHING, THE BENCHES AND WHATEVER IN THERE. IT WAS SIMILAR TO THE WOMENS' SIDE, THERE WAS THIS OTHER ROOM AN' THAT OFF FROM THERE.

I---DID THEY HAVE TO HIRE MUSICIANS TO PLAY IN THE, UPSTAIRS IN THE..?

AO---IN THE BALL, IN THE GYMNASIUM ? OCCASIONALLY, UH-HUH. THEY WOULD AH, GIVE, IF SAY FOR EXAMPLE THE BATH, THERE WAS GREAT COMPETITION AMONG BATHHOUSE MANAGERS, GREAT. AN' THEY WERE ALL FRIENDS, BUT YOU KNOW, THERE WAS COMPETITION, AN' THEN THEY WOULD ALL HAVE A PARTY, AND SINCE THE FORDYCE DID HAVE THE GYMNASIUM, THEY WOULD HAVE THE ORCHESTRA AND THE REFRESHMENTS AN' WHATEVER, AN' THEY DID LOTS OF CHARITY WORK, FOR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY IN THE BOYS CLUB, AN THEY WOULD BRING THEM THERE, AN' THAT'S HOW SYDNEY McMAHON GOT HIS START, HE WAS IN THE BOYS CLUB,AN' HE CHOSEN TO BE SPONSORED.

AN' AH, I CAN'T THINK, HON', YOU JUST ASK ME WHATEVER YOU THINK OF.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THEM HAVING ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE BASEMENT FLOODING ?

AO---NOT, NO, I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THAT, EVER. NO, IN THOSE DAYS

IT WAS QUITE DRY, AN 'BECAUSE THE BOWLING ALLEY WAS THERE, YOU SEE, AN' IT WAS USED CONSTANTLY, YOU KNOW. AN' REALLY, IT WAS THE PRIDE OF MY FATHER'S HEART, BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING, AND HAD LOVELY CHAIRS AT THE BACK, TO SIT IN FOR THE SPECTATORS, YOU KNOW, AND THE PEOPLE.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT ELEVATOR OPERATORS ?

AO---NO, I SURELY CANNOT REMEMBER, ANYTHING ABOUT THEM. I REALLY CANNOT. 1930, MR.NEIMEYER FOLLOWED MY FATHER, AN' MS. NEIMEYER MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU, NOW I DON'T KNOW WHETHER SHE TOOK AN INTEREST IN THE BATHHOUSE, NOT THAT SHE DIDN'T LIVE HERE, AN' I CAN'T TELL YOU, BUT SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT.

I---DID THEY HAVE FURNITURE UPSTAIRS ON, I MEAN UP ON THE ROOF GARDEN ?

AO---YES, OH YES, UH-HUH.....THAT WAS LOVELY AN' PEOPLE WOULD THERE,
YOU KNOW, SIT AND LOOK OUT OVER THE MOUNTAINS AN' THE CITY,AN' EVERYTHING AN' JUST ENJOY THEMSELVES. AN' DADDY ALWAYS KEPT A SUPPLY OF ICED TEA CAUSE THAT WAS A GREAT FAVORITE. HE, HE REALLY WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO PROVIDE THESE LITTLE THINGS AN', AN' COLONEL FORDYCE WANTED IT TO BE REALLY LUXURIOUS AN' SO HE WOULD GIVE HIM CARTE BLANCHE, YOU KNOW, FOR THOSE THINGS.

I---WHAT KIND OF FURNITURE DID THEY HAVE OUT THERE ?

AO---HONEY, IT ISN'T LIKE WE WOULD KNOW TODAY, YOU KNOW, IT WAS A,
RIDICULOUS WHEN I THINK OF IT, IT WAS, IT WAS WICKER IS WHAT IT WAS,
THE WICK FOR THE ELEMENTS, YOU KNOW, IT WAS SURPRISE YOU. BUT THEY ALL LOVED TO ROCK AND SIT OUT THERE AN' SO THESE WERE THE MOST COMFORTABLE, YOU KNOW, AN' LIKE THOSE PLANTS, AS I RECALL, LIKE THE POTTED FLOWERS AN', AN' OCCASIONALLY, IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT,
BECAUSE I CAN REMEMBER MY MOTHER AND DADDY WERE SO YOUNG, DRESSING UP, THEY MUST HAVE HAD LITTLE DANCES UP THERE, YOU KNOW,
FOR DIFFERENT AH', PEOPLE THAT CAME THERE, LITTLE PARTIES AND THINGS FOR THEM.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER IF THERE WERE ANY BAND CONCERTS FROM THE BAND-

STAND UP ON THE HILL THEN.?

AO---OH YES, YES, UH-HUH....MANY, YES, UH-HMMM. IN FACT, I THINK THAT'S IN ONE OF THE HOT SPRINGS RECORDS, ABOUT THAT.

I---WE JUST DON'T HAVE MUCH INFORMATION AS TO WHEN THEY MIGHT HAVE STOPPED DOING THAT !!!

AO---OH HONEY, THEY STOPPED THAT, AH, I WOULD SAY, IN THE THIRTIES, AH, SO MUCH STOPPED WHEN DEPRESSION TIMES CAME, YOU KNOW, AN' JUST WE, AH, THE REASON I KNOW THIS, IS WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T LIVE HERE BUT COLONEL FORDYCE REGARDED MY FATHER AS A SON AN' HE WOULD WRITE WHAT THE THINGS THAT WERE HAPPENING, YOU KNOW, AN' BEGGED HIM SO HARD TO COME BACK. HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE MANAGEMENT. SEE, DADDY OWNED STOCK IN THE FORDYCE AND HE SOLD IT TO MS.NEIMEYER, AN' MS.NEIMEYER WAS MRS. FORDYCE'S NIECE, AND SHE GAVE IT TO MR.NEIMEYER, AN' I DON'T THINK HE WAS DOING ANYTHING, AN' SO HE WENT TO THE FORDYCE. AND I DON'T LIKE TO SPEAK ILL OF THE DEAD BUT ANY BODY WILL TELL YOU THAT HE IS THE ONE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION THE FORDYCE IS IN TODAY, I'M SORRY TO SAY.

I---WHAT DID YOUR FATHER GO ON TO DO ?

AO---OH HONEY, HE WAS A C.P.A., AN' HE WAS APPOINTED GENERAL CONTROLLER OF THE WESTERN UNION AND POSTAL TELEGRAPH WHICH HAD MERGED WITH THEM, AN' SEE, HE WAS YOUNG AN' HE COULDN'T SEE SPENDING HIS LIFE, THE REST OF HIS LIFE, IN THE FORDYCE, YOU KNOW, WHEN OPPORTUNITY BECKONS. I GUESS WHEN YOU'RE 29 OR 30 YEARS OLD, YOU THINK THIS WAY. SO, WE WERE TRANSFERRED ABOUT EVERY THREE YEARS, UNDER THAT REGIME.

I---DO YOU STILL HAVE ANY OF THE LETTERS THAT COLONEL FORDYCE WROTE TO YOUR FATHER ?

AO---NOW, IF I DO, THEY'RE IN THIS BOX WHICH I'LL HAVE TO GET FROM LITTLE ROCK, AN' WE'LL OPEN IT AND SEE WHAT IS IN THERE, YOU KNOW.

I---THAT WOULD BE INTERESTING.

AO---YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S IN THERE, EXCEPT THE STATUE, I WILL NOT PART WITH THAT. AN' I'LL TELL YOU WHY; COLONEL FORDYCE HAD A SUCH A MARVELOUS QUAPAW INDIAN COLLECTION AN' I BELIEVE YOU-ALL HAVE SOME OF IT BUT IT WAS GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND IT WAS LOST, AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANNA PART WITH THE STATUE. BECAUSE YOU-ALL WON'T BE THERE FOREVER AN' WHO

KNOWS IN THE FUTURE, YOU KNOW. BUT IT HAPPENS AN', YOU KNOW. AN' I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN OUT TO THE OLD FORDYCE HOME TO TALK TO MISS RICKS. HAVE YOU-ALL BEEN THERE ?

I---NO.....

AO---WELL, NOW SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE HOME BUT THIS TIES INTO THE BATHHOUSE. THE FORDYCE FAMILY USED TO GO TO LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN, IN THE SUMMER TIME, AN' THEY WOULD ASK US TO MOVE OUT THERE, SO WE WOULD MOVE OUT THERE, AN' IN THE BOYS' ROOM, AH' ONE HUGE ROOM UPSTAIRS, WAS A SLIDE THAT LED TO THE LAKE, AN' IN THOSE DAYS THE, YOU KNOW HOW THE MILL WHEEL IS ON THAT DOCK, IT RAN ALL THE TIME AN' THE WATER WAS SO CLEAR AN' THE BOAT WAS FULL OF CANOES AN' PEOPLE WOULD COME CANOEING AN' YOU KNOW, AN' I COULD, I WAS ABOUT ELEVEN AN' I WAS JUST FASCINATED WITH THIS WHOLE THING, YOU CAN IMAGINE. AN' HE KEPT HIS QUAPAW COLLECTION IN ONE OF THE ROOMS WHICH MS. RICKS WILL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU, OFF OF THE MAIN LIVING ROOM, AN' HE HAD BUILT-IN SHELVES, OF COURSE SHE HAD CHANGED THE OUTLOOK, THE WHOLE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE, BUT AH' IT WAS A LOVELY PLACE AND A LOVELY TIME.

I---DID THEY HAVE HORSES THEN ?

AO---OH YES...AN' AH', THEY RENTED OUT HORSES AN' THEY HAD MANY BRIDLE TRAILS UP OVER MOUNTAINS AN' THEY RODE ON THE MOUNTAIN ALL THE TIME, ALL THE TIME. AN' OUT THERE CROSS THE HIGHWAY.

I---I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING, AN' THEN I FORGOT, AN' I HAVE TO WAIT AN' SEE IF IT COMES BACK. OH, I KNOW WHAT I WAS GONNA ASK YOU...WHAT, WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT WHAT WAS IN THE MEN'S GAME ROOM, THE VARIOUS ROOMS?

AO---HONEY...ALL I REMEMBER IS THE BILLIARD TABLE, THAT'S ALL THAT I CAN REMEMBER. I DON'T REMEMBER CHESS, OR BRIDGE, IT SEEMS, NOW THERE COULD HAVE BEEN BUT BILLIARDS IS WHAT I REMEMBER.

I--- DO YOU REMEMBER THE PHONOGRAPH ?

AO---NO..I DON'T REMEMBER THAT, NO...HAVE YOU COME ACROSS ONE ?

I---WELL, IT SHOWS IT SOME OF THE EARLIER PICTURES....

AO---OH, DOES IT ? WELL, I SURELY DON'T, NO, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.

I---WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE MARBLE WATER FOUNTAIN THAT....?

AO---DO YOU MEAN THE ONES IN THE LOBBY ?

I---NO...UPSTAIRS. IN THE PICTURES IT SHOWS ONE IN THE MEN'S ROOM AN'

THEN ONE DOWN IN THE END LADIES ROOM. NOT A DECORATIVE FOUNTAIN BUT..

AO---I WOULD HAVE TO SEE THAT.....

I---ICE, LIKE, MORE LIKE AN ICE BOX WITH THE FAUCETS COMING THROUGH IT..

SO THAT THEY COULD HAVE A COLD DRINKING WATER...?

AO---I DON'T KNOW, I, I, I, I DON'T REMEMBER THAT...I WOULD HAVE TO SEE,
MAYBE IT WOULD COME BACK TO ME THEN....I JUST CANNOT REMEMBER THAT.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THE, THE COLORS OF THE UPHOLSTERY ON THE WICKER CHAIRS ?

AO---OH HONEY, NO, IN FACT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY UPHOLSTERY, I

THINK IT WAS JUST ALL PAINTED WHITE, AND GREEN. I REMEMBER THAT, YOU KNOW. NO, THERE WAS NO UPHOLSTERY BECAUSE IT WAS ALWAYS OUT IN THE ELEMENTS, YOU KNOW. NOW IN THE AH', SALON, I BELIEVE THAT IT DID

HAVE SEATS, CUSHIONS, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY WERE. THE SALON WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU-ALL HAVE THE DISPLAY CASES IN THERE, BECAUSE IT WAS SO ELEGANT, AND THAT, THOSE WERE NOT
IN THERE.

I---WELL,THEY'RE NOT ANYMORE.

AO---WELL,GOOD,I'M JUST,I'M SO GLAD.

I---YEAH...THAT REALLY DOES MAKE THAT ROOM LOOK SO MUCH BIGGER AN'...

AO---WELL,IT WAS TRUE THEY HAD AH',ALL BEAUTIFUL PLANTS AND FLOWERS,
AND LIKE I SAY,THEY WOULD SERVE TEA IN THERE TO THE PEOPLE,YOU KNOW.
PEOPLE WOULD USE THE SALON AN' THEY WOULD PLAY THE PIANO AN' THEY
WOULD WRITE LETTERS AN' VISIT,IT WAS JUST A GATHERING PLACE,YOU KNOW.

I---DID THEY HAVE A LITTLE LIBRARY ROOM UPSTAIRS ?

AO---THERE WAS A LIBRARY AT ONE TIME,AN' IT WASN'T TOO GREAT A SUCCESS,SO I REMEMBER DADDY SAYING,CAUSE HE QUITE A READER,HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD LIKE TO READ WHILE THEY WERE RESTING AFTER THE
WHATEVER THEY WENT THROUGH,YOU KNOW, UP THERE. BUT THEY ALL SEEMED TO WANNA' VISIT AND FIND OUT WHERE EACH ONE CAME FROM,THAT
SEEMED TO BE THE THING.

I---DID YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MR.MANIER,THE FIRST MANAGER,THE
FIRST FEW YEARS ?

AO---NO HONEY...NO,I DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT MR.MANIER,NO. I WAS TOO YOUNG TO HAVE KNOWN,YOU KNOW.NO. NO,SEE THE WAY DADDY CAME TO THE FORDYCE,HE WAS ALREADY [ASCONSED] WITH THE WESTERN UNION AN' COLONEL FORDYCE HAD BEEN AFTER HIM FOR,I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG TO COME AND MANAGE THE BATHHOUSE,AN' FINALLY HE GAVE UP AND
RESIGNED AND WE CAME TO HOT SPRINGS,AND I'D SAY THAT HE STAYED THOSE TWELVE YEARS BUT HE JUST FELT LIKE THERE WAS NOT MUCH OF A
FUTURE IN THOSE DAYS,YOU KNOW,AN' SO THAT'S WHY HE LEFT. AN' COLONEL FORDYCE DIDN'T BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD LEAVE HIM AN' YOU KNOW,OUT ACROSS FROM THE WALL,ACROSS FROM THE FORDYCE PROPERTY,

IF YOU'LL NOTICE THERE'S SOME CONSTRUCTION STARTED AND NEVER FINISHED. HE TRIED TO BUILD A HOUSE TO PERSUADE DADDY TO STAY, THAT WAS GOING TO BE HIS PLACE, YOU KNOW.

I---WHERE DID YOUR FATHER MEET COLONEL FORDYCE ?

AO---OH HONEY, THEY MET WHEN DADDY WAS A YOUNG MAN IN LITTLE ROCK,
WITH THE WESTERN UNION. IN, PROBABLY, DURING WORLD WAR ONE, I WOULD
IMAGINE, I THINK THAT'S WHEN IT WAS. AN' THEN THE FORDYCES' MOVED
TO LITTLE ROCK, RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER FROM ME, AFTER I WAS MARRIED,
ISN'T THAT STRANGE ? AN' THEY, HE, HIS HEART WAS IN HOT SPRINGS, AN' HE BROUGHT AN ENORMOUS, IT WAS, OH, BIGGER THAN THIS, CRYSTAL, EMBEDDED, EMBOSSED, ENLARGED [WORDS UNCLEAR] TO PUT IN HIS YARD, SO
HE COULD ALWAYS LOOK AT THAT AN' THINK OF HOT SPRINGS, YOU KNOW.

I---I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ELSE TOO....

AO---WELL, THE FORDYCE HAD A STATION WAGON, A STATION WAGON WAS UNHEARD OF IN THOSE DAYS AN' YOU-ALL WOULD DIE IF YOU COULD'VE SEEN
IT. IT WAS ABOUT A HUNDRED FEET HIGH, YOU KNOW, AND ALL WOOD, AN' I WAS
SO EMBARRASSED THAT I'D GET ON THE FLOOR SO NOBODY WOULD SEE ME RIDING IN IT.... IT WAS ON NORTH MONROE, IN LITTLE ROCK, RIGHT AROUND
THE CORNER FROM US AN' I USED TO WALK OVER AN' VISIT WITH 'EM.

I---WHAT STREET WERE YOU ON ?

AO---NORTH JACKSON....

I---BUT DIFFERENT PEOPLE OWN 'EM, BUT THE HOUSES ARE STILL THERE ?

AO---OH YES... BUT THAT'S A VERY, AH', SOUGHT AFTER PART OF TOWN, IT'S

ABOUT TWO BLOCKS FROM LITTLE ROCK COUNTRY CLUB,AN'[WORDS UNKNOWN], AND THE HOUSE THAT WE PAID 8000 FOR NOW SELLS FOR 200,000, SO YOU CAN SEE HOW THINGS ARE GOIN' UP,YOU KNOW.

I---WHAT DID COLONEL FORDCYE DO WITH THE CRYSTAL,DID HE MOVE IT WHEN HE MOVED AGAIN ?

AO---NO,I DON'T KNOW,I'VE OFTEN WONDERED. HE DIED FIRST,AN' SHE LIVED ON THERE,AH' THEY MOVED OVER THERE TO BE NEAR THEIR SON,JACK,BUT JACK WAS KILLED IN THE WAR,AN' DOWNS,HIS WIFE STAYED THERE AND I THINK THAT MS.FORDYCE JUST STAYED THERE,BECAUSE SHE WENT AN' WAS QUITE CLOSE TO MY PARENTS AN' SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE AFTER THAT,YOU KNOW.

I---HOW LONG DO REMEMBER MOST PEOPLE STAYING ?

AO---WELL,HONEY,IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE PHYSICIAN. YOU SEE,HE HAD TO PRESCRIBE THE TREATMENT THEN,AN' IF THEY HAD ,SAY,HYPERTENSION,THEY COULDN'T TAKE THE MINERAL BATHS,YOU SEE, THEY,THEY COULD JUST TAKE THE PLAIN WATER BATHS AND AH',THE MESSAGES,THEY COULD TAKE THEM IF THEY COULDN'T HAVE THE STEAM ROOM,SO IT WOULD VARY FROM THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE,YOU KNOW. TWENTY-ONE BATHS WAS THE COURSE, BUT,OF COURSE,A LOT OF PEOPLE COULD NOT TAKE THOSE,BUT THE MAJORITY DID AND TOOK MORE.

I---DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION ABOUT WHAT,YOU MENTIONED HYPERTENSION,WHAT MOST PEOPLE TOOK THE BATHS FOR ?

AO---OH,ARTHRITIS AN' AH, JUST ABOUT ANY HUMAN AILMENT THAT YOU COULD NAME AN'SO MANY WOULD STAY TWO AN' THREE YEARS,AN' SO MANY WOULD GO HOME CURED,BUT THEY WOULD COME BACK YEAR AFTER YEAR.

I---OUT NEXT TO THE FORDYCE WHERE THE OLD CARRIAGE ENTRANCE WAS,
DO YOU REMEMBER THERE BEING ANY FOUNTAINS THERE ON EITHER SIDE ?

AO---YOU KNOW,THERE WAS SOME FOUNTAINS BACK THERE,AN THEY RAN ALL
THE TIME AN' I DON'T KNOW WHATS' HAPPENED TO ALL THAT. THERE'S NO
SIGN OF EM',IS THERE ? (I---UH,UH)

I---WHAT OTHER THINGS,JUST ABOUT HOT SPRINGS IN GENERAL,DO YOU REMEMBER DOING,LIKE PLACES YOU WOULD GO,MUSIC PARKS OR ANYTHING ?

AO---WELL,WE WENT TO FOUNTAIN LAKE IN THOSE DAYS,IT WAS SO POPULAR.
AN ' THEY HAD COTTAGES FOR THE SUMMER AN'YOU KNOW,JUST ABOUT ANY-
WHERE IF YOU PICNIC AN', BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS,HONEY,[HOUSE SCREENS
WAS SUCH A SMALL THING],VERY SMALL,VERY,VERY SMALL.AND AH',YOU RODE THE STREETCAR TO EVERYTHING,YOU KNOW.

I---WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER BEING AT HAPPY HOLLOW ?

AO---OH, THAT WAS PRECIOUS,THAT WAS DARLING. I HAVE PICTURES OF ALL OF US THERE,UMMM,THEY HAD,I'M SURE YOU KNOW THIS,THEY HAD CARDBOARD REPLICAS OF WHATEVER,PEOPLE AN' ANIMALS AN'WHAT-NOT. AN'
YOU COULD BEHIND AND POSE AN' HAVE A PICTURE MADE,AN' THIS WAS A
FAVORITE OF EVERYBODYS',AN' THEY HAD A LITTLE DONKEY CART THAT PULLED THE CHILDREN,YOU KNOW,AN' THEY WENT UP AN' DRANK THE WATER,
AN'IT WAS SO POPULAR,YES. THEN THEY HAD A RIFLE RANGE ON CENTRAL AVENUE WHICH YOU COULD NOT HAVE TODAY,OF COURSE,AN' ALL,EVERYBODY
WANTED TO GO DOWN AND TRY THEIR LUCK AT THE RIFLE RANGE. AN' ANOTHER THING,THE "COMO" HOTEL WAS A GREAT FAVORITE IN THE SUMMER
TIME BECAUSE ITS' ROOF GARDEN WAS ALL ILLUMINATED IN BEAUTIFUL LIGHTS,

AND THEY HAD AN ORCHESTRA EVERY NIGHT,AN' THESE WERE FAMOUS ORCHESTRAS,THE BIG,AS WE WOULD CALL NOW,THE BIG BAND SOUND,AN' THEY CAME AN'THEY HAD DANCES EVERY NIGHT IN THE SUMMER TIME AT THE "COMO",BECAUSE MY FOLKS WOULD TAKE ME,THAT WAS BEFORE THE DAYS OF BABYSITTERS AN' WE DANCED WITH OUR FATHERS,YOU KNOW.

I---WHAT IF,DO YOU REMEMBER ANY KIND OF AMUSEMENT PARK DOWN...?

AO---HONEY,THERE WAS ONE OUT HERE ON WHITTINGTON,UH-HUH. OH GOSH, WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT,SEEMS LIKE,WELL I CAN'T REMEMBER THE NAME,BUT THERE WAS A LARGE ONE OUT THERE,YES,UH-HUH.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING,UMMM,THIS SIDE OF THE AMUSEMENT PARK,WHERE THE LITTLE PARK AREA IS NOW,WAS THERE ANY LITTLE LAKE ER' ANYTHING,DO YOU REMEMBER ?

AO---I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING LIKE THAT. ALL I REMEMBER IS THE OSTRICH FARM,AN' THEY HAD LOTS OF OSTRICHES THEN,IT WAS JUST FULL OF 'EM,YOU KNOW,AN' AN ALLIGATOR FARM,THAT WAS THERE THEN,UH-HUH.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THEY DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS BACK THEN, DOWN TOWN ?

AO---IT WAS A' NOTHING TO WHAT WE'RE USED TO TODAY,IT WAS MORE HOME FUN,LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY,YOU KNOW,WAS PRETTY AN'[WORD UNKNOWN].

I---WHILE WE'RE ON CHRISTMAS THOUGH,DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THE FORDYCE DECORATED FOR CHRISTMAS ?

AO---YES,I DO. THEY HAD BEAUTIFUL TREES,BEAUTIFUL,YOU COULD SEE IT THROUGH THE WINDOWS,YOU KNOW,THEN ON THE PORCH THEY HAD,IT,WELL AS I RECALL,IT WAS ALL ILLUMINATED IN THE SHAPE,YOU KNOW,ALL THE BUILDING,ALL WAS, ALL ILLUMINATED,EVEN THE LITTLE RENAISSANCE

FIGURES,EVERYTHING,WAS,AN' IN THOSE DAYS,COURSE IT WAS SAFE TO LEAVE ALL THAT STUFF OUT,YOU KNOW,AN' IT WAS JUST BEAUTIFUL. SO PRETTY.....

I---SO THEY HAD A TREE IN THE LOBBY ?

AO---LORD...AN ENORMOUS THING AN' IT WAS BEAUTIFUL,JUST BEAUTIFUL.

AND MANY OF THE BATHHOUSES DID,IT WASN'T ONLY THE FORDYCE,THE FORDYCE JUST OUTSHOWED EVERYBODY ELSE,YOU KNOW,BECAUSE OF COLONEL FORDYCE. IT WAS A WONDERFUL ERA FOR THE BATHHOUSES, WONDERFUL,THEY JUST,THEY JUST,IT WAS A WONDERFUL TIME BECAUSE OF

THE PEOPLE THAT CAME HERE,THE CLASS OF PEOPLE,YOU KNOW. AN' IT'S

A SHAME THE UMMM, MIRACLE DRUGS PUT AN END TO IT,YOU KNOW,AN' THEY

DIDN'T MIND WALKING TO THE BATHHOUSES TO BATH,YOU KNOW,SO,.....

I---WHAT DO REMEMBER ABOUT THE ARMY-NAVY HOSPITAL ?

AO---I REMEMBER A LOT ABOUT IT,UMMM,IT WAS A MARVELOUS HOSPITAL,

WONDERFUL,AN' WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO LI', WHO CAME TO BE ASSOCIATED

WITH IT, AN'IT PLAYED AN [INTRICATE] PART IN THIS TOWN, AN' IT,IN FACT,WHEN CONGRESS TRIED TO CLOSE IT,THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

FROM HERE TRIED SO HARD TO KEEP IT FROM BEING CLOSED,BUT IT WAS SOME POLITICIAN,NO, IT WAS EISENHOUER,HE SAID THERE WAS NO NEED

FOR IT, THAT'S WHO CLOSED IT RIGHT THERE,I'D FORGOTTEN,AN' IT WAS JUST,IT WAS TOO BAD CAUSE IT WAS A WONDERFUL THING,AN' THE PEOPLE

WERE SO WONDERFUL,YOU KNOW,AN' IN CASE I FORGET,THE SUPERINTENDANT

OF THE BATH,OF THE NATI',WHAT ROGER GIDDINGS JOB IS,IS WHAT DR. BOLSON,AN' I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS FIRST NAME,I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER

IT.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THEM COMING AROUND MAKING INSPECTIONS ?

AO---NOW THIS I COULDN'T TELL YOU,HONEY,I'M SURE THEY DID,BECAUSE MY FATHER WAS,LORD, HE WAS PICKIEST HUMAN THAT EVER LIVED AN' IT WOULD HAVE TO BE,HE WAS THE KIND THAT WOULD THROW ON A WHITE GLOVE AN' GO OVER IT,YOU KNOW,AN' HE,HE WANTED IT TO BE PERFECT, AN' IT WAS,JUST,THERE WERE NO ATTENDANTS ALLOW',I CAN REMEMBER THAT,ALLOWED IN USED UNIFORMS. IF YOU BATHED ONE PATIENT,YOU TOOK THAT OFF AN' PUT ON ANOTHER ONE,YOU KNOW,NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE LAUNDRY BILL WAS,EVERYBODY WAS FRESH,YOU KNOW.....

I---WAS THE, UMMM, THERE ONE ATTENDANT,JUST TOOK CARE OF ONE BATHER AT A TIME ?

AO---NO...AH',THEY WOULD TAKE CARE OF,SAY TWO,MAYBE THREE,YOU KNOW, BECAUSE THEY REALLY DIDN'T NEED ANYMORE,THEY, THEY WERE SO ADAPT AT WHAT THEY DID,THEY WERE MARVELOUS PEOPLE. THEY HAD BEEN TRAINED SO BEAUTIFULLY. AN' SOMETIMES IF THE LOAD GOT TOO MUCH THAT THEY'D BRING IN OTHERS,BUT THE REGULARS,THEY DIDN'T REALLY NEED HELP, THEY WERE JUST SO GRAND.

I---WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT SOME OF THE OTHER,THE HOTELS ?

AO---WELL,I REMEMBER THE "EASTMAN" WAS OH,SIMPLY FABULOUS. THERE'S NO HOTEL IN AMERICA TODAY THAT CAN COMPETE WITH THE "EASTMAN". IT HAD IT'S OWN RAILROAD SPUR,AN' PRIVATE RAILROAD CARS WOULD COME ON THIS SPUR,YOU KNOW,AN' THEIR GUESTS WOULD COME FROM THERE. AN' THEY HAD ALL KINDS OF FAMOUS ENTERTAINERS THERE, AN' THEY,IT WAS JUST IT WAS ELEGANT,BEAUTIFUL,FINE. I REALLY KNOW OF NOTHING,AN' I'VE

BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD,THAT CAN TOUCH THE EASTMAN,IN THAT TIME,
YOU KNOW.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER IT BEING OPEN YEAR AROUND THEN,OR JUST SEASONAL ?

AO---OH YES,OH YES....OH YES,THE EASTMAN WAS OPEN ALL YEAR,THEY ALL WERE,HONEY,AN' ANOTHER BATHHOUSE,BEFORE I FORGET IT,I SHALL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WAS ALLOWED TO BE TORN DOWN,IS THE [ALHERBRA],UP ON OUACHITA,ARE YOU-ALL FAMILIAR WITH THAT ? HOW DID THAT EVER GET TO BE TORN DOWN ?

I---WELL,THEY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS AN' SOLD IT,AN' I THINK SOMEHOW A FIRE GOT STARTED IN IT,AN' BURNED WHAT WAS LEFT,BUT THEY HAD LEFT IT REALLY IN BAD SHAPE. (AO-OHH) WE WENT IN AND GOT PICTURES OF IT NOT LONG BEFORE IT BURNED AN' THEY THEN TORE IT DOWN AND THE ROOF HAD FALLEN IN,AN' IT WAS,THEY ABANDONED IT.

AO---WELL,IF YOU COULD SEE ONE OF THE HOT SPRINGS RECORDS, THEY HAVE A PICTURE OF IT,AN' IT WAS LOVELY. IT WAS A SMALL ONE,YOU KNOW,BUT IT WAS TRULY LOVELY.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRE,WHEN THE ARLINGTON BURNED ?

AO---OH NO,HONEY,THAT WAS BEFORE MY TIME. SEE,I DON'T KNOW THAT.

I---OKAY...

AO---NO,I'M NOT QUITE THAT OLD YET.....

I---THEN YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER IT WHERE IT IS NOW ?

AO---OH YES,THAT'S THE WAY I REMEMBER IT.

I--- DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT AH',OH,IT'S THE WAUKESHA, THE ROCKEFELLER INN,OR PLACES THAT ARE GONE.....?

AO---OH YES,HONEY,MR.ROCK,MY AH',UNCLE WAS A FEDERAL JUDGE AND MR. ROCKEFELLER WAS A VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF HIS,AN' THAT WAS THE MOST, WHEN I LOOK BACK,IT WAS A PERIOD PIECE,YOU KNOW,I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THATS' GONE,AN' THEN MY BEST FRIEND HERE AN ' ALSO MY THIRD COUSIN IS ED [LONSNODDY],HER FAM,UH,HIS,HER HUSBANDS FAMILY OWNED THE WAUKESHA,THE MILWAUKEE,THE GODDARD,THE PEARLMAN,AN' ONE MORE THAT I CAN'T THINK OF,BUT THEY OWNED ALL THOSE. NOW SHE WOULD BE THE ONE TO TALK TO ABOUT THE MILWAUKEE,BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONE HER HUSBAND RAN,AN' IT WAS RIGHT THERE,I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHERE IT WAS, AN' WHY THEY TORE IT DOWN AN' MAKE A PARKING LOT,NOBODY PARKS THERE,YOU KNOW.....

I---NOW [SAY],OF ALL,OF ALL OF THOSE,THE GODDARD'S THE ONLY ONE LEFT, AND IT'S EMPTY.

AO---ISN'T THAT PITIFUL ? AND IT'S OWNED NOW,I THINK,BY [HANES BREAD], I BELIEVE [HANK] OWNS THAT,AN' LOUIS [LONGINAY],THE OLDER BOY OF THAT FAMILY JUST DIED LAST WEEK,AN' FOR YEARS HE LIVED IN THE,IN THE,HE WAS A RECLUSE,AN' HE LIVED IN THE GODDARD BY HIMSELF,CAN YOU IMAGINE SUCH A THING,BUT HE DID.

I---WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE THEATRES,ANY THEATRE SHOWS ?

AO---I REMEMBER A LOT,BECAUSE I WAS CRAZY OVER GOING TO THE PICTURE SHOW. AN' ALL THE PICTURE SHOWS HAD STOCK COMPANIES,CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT ? BUT THEY DID,THEY HAD STOCK COMPANIES,AN' WE GOT TO SEE ALL THAT AFTER THE PICTURE WAS OVER,AN' OH,WE JUST THOUGHT THIS WAS

WONDERFUL, YOU KNOW.

I--- WHERE WERE THEY ?

AO---THERE USED TO BE ONE RIGHT DOWN ON CENTRAL AVENUE, KINDA IN THE MIDDLE, YOU KNOW, AN' THEN WHERE THAT, I CAN'T THINK OF THE NAME OF IT, I GUESS IT'S A [NOT UNDERSTOOD] OR SOMETHING, IT'S UP THIS WAY, AN' THAT WAS ANOTHER ONE, AN' THERE WERE THREE HERE, THE ROYAL, THE PRINCESS, AN' ONE MORE THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER. OH YES, OH YES, THAT WAS A MARVELOUS PARKING PLACE WHEN MOTHER WANTED TO SHOP, YOU KNOW, PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE SHOW. AND WHEN MY MOTHER WOULD GO TO LITTLE ROCK TO VISIT HER SISTER, SHE WOULD GIVE DADDY STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO NOT TAKE ME TO THE PICTURE SHOWS, AN' THE STOCK COMPANIES, AND DON'T LET ME BUY ANY TRUE STORY MAGAZINES. AN' THE MINUTE SHE GOT OUT OF SIGHT, WE WENT TO THE NEWS STAND AND HE DIDN'T PAY ANY MORE ATTENTION TO WHAT I WAS PICKING OUT, AN' I PICKED OUT THE TRUE STORIES, THEN WE'D GO TO THE PICTURE SHOW AN' HE'D GO TO SLEEP, AN' I'D LOOK AT THE STOCK COMPANIES, [CHUCKLE, CKUCKLE]. SO YOU CAN SEE, WE HAD A LOT OF FUN, YOU KNOW, WHEN MOTHER WAS GONE.

I---WHAT OTHER KINDS OF STORES WERE THERE DOWN TOWN HERE ?

AO---HONEY, THEY HAD BEAUTIFUL DRESS SHOPS, OH REALLY LOVELY ONES, SO MANY, AN' THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LINEN SHOPS, JUST EXQUISITE, AN' PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL OVER THE STATE AND EVERYWHERE TO SHOP, IT WAS LIKE THE SHOPS IN THESE DAYS, IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS THAT FINE, YOU KNOW, BEAUTIFUL SHOPS, JUST BEAUTIFUL. HARD TO THINK THEY'RE GONE, YOU KNOW.

I---WHAT RESTAURANTS DO YOU REMEMBER ?

AO---I REMEMBER,DO YOU MEAN IN THAT PERIOD,
I---YEAH....

AO---IN THIS PARTICULAR PERIOD ?

I---DOWNTOWN....

AO---YEAH,OKAY,DOWNTOWN...WELL NOW, I'M GONNA SITE TO YOU THE FAVORITES OF THE OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE. NOW THE RESTAURANTS THAT IM'

GONNA TELL YOU ABOUT ARE NOT LIKE WHEN WE GO OUT TO DINNER AT COYS',

YOU KNOW,THERE'S A DIFFERENCE. THERE WAS ONE CALLED "THE DELUXE CAFE", AN' I'LL NEVER FORGET IT, AN' IT WAS THE FAVORITE OF ALL THE

DOCTORS WHO WERE AT THE MEDICAL ARTS AND THE BATHHOUSE MANAGERS, AN' IT WAS RUN BY A GREEK FAMILY AN' THEY WERE VERY PROMINENT HERE

AN' WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND SERVED WONDERFUL FOOD,AN' THAT WAS THE,

THAT'S THE ONE THAT STANDS OUT IN MY MEMORY,I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY

OTHERS.

I---WHERE WAS IT,THAT ONE ?

AO---IT WAS WAY DOWN ,UH,NEAR THE RIFLE RANGE,IT WAS CLOSE TO THAT,

AN' AH',JOHNSONS FLORISTS WERE DOWN THERE,AH' IT WAS, WELL,THEY JUST HAD EVERYTHING ON CENTRAL,EVERYTHING,THAT YOU WOULD WANT,YOU KNOW.

I---WERE THE,ANY OF THE AUCTION HOUSES LIKE WE HAVE NOW,THEN ?

AO---OH YES,HONEY,OH THERE WERE ABOUT FIVE,THERE WERE [NATARS] AN' THE MOST FAMOUS WAS THE [BARRISHES], AN' THEY OWNED SEVERAL OF THEM

HERE,AND THEN THERE WERE ABOUT THREE OTHERS,AN' OH,THEY WERE,THEY

WERE, THEY WERE SOMETHING THEN,NOT LIKE WHAT YOU SEE NOW,YOU KNOW,IT WAS REALLY LOVELY,AN' PEOPLE WOULD,WERE FACINATED WITH 'EM,

YOU KNOW,AN' I 'SPECIALLY REMEMBER HOW EXQUISITE THE LINEN SHOPS WERE,THOSE WERE JUST EXQUISITE. AND AH', JUST GIFT SHOPS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.

I---WERE THE AUCTION HOUSES ON THE UP & UP ?

AO---IN THOSE DAYS,THEY TRULY WERE. THEY WERE SUPERVISED VERY CAREFULLY AN' ANOTHER THING,IS THIS UNCLE I MENTIONED, WAS REFEREEING BANKRUPTCY,SO YOU SEE,HE WAS ON THEIR TRAIL,POSSIBLY, SO THEY COULDN'T CLOSE AND TAKE BANKRUPTCY,AN' HE HAD THE COURT PEOPLE,YOU KNOW, CHECKING ON THEM,BUT THEY ALWAYS WERE THEN,NOW LATER ON THEY WERE NOT,THEY WERE NOT,BECAUSE THE BREED OF MEN THAT RAN THEM PASSED AWAY. AN' THEY WERE JUST GRAND.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THE SOUTHERN CLUB OR ANYTHING.....?

AO---OH WELL,THAT CAME LATER,YES,I CERTAINLY REMEMBER THE SOUTHERN, UH-HUH,OH YES,IT HAD WONDERFUL FOOD,WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT, OF COURSE,GAMBLING,WAS IN,YOU KNOW,BUT IT WAS ALWAYS IN A CASINO AN' VERY UN-OBTRUSIVE,AN' BELVIDERE, OF COURSE,WAS PERFECTLY MAGNIFICENT IN HIS HAY-DAY;THE FINEST OF WOODWORK,THE FINEST OF EVERY [APPOINTMENT] WAS IN THERE,AN' IT WAS RUN THAT,LIKE I SAY,I'VE BEEN AROUND THE WORLD AN'I'VE BEEN TO MONTE CARLO,AN' IT WAS RUN LIKE MONTE CARLO WAS BACK THEN,AN' MONTE CARLO HAS BECOME MORE CHEAP NOW,BUT IN THOSE DAYS YOU HAD TO BE IN TAILS OR TUX OR EVENING CLOTHES TO GO,WELL THAT'S THE WAY BELVIDERE WAS,UH-HUH.....

I---WHAT WERE THE OTHER FAMOUS CLUBS ?

AO---UMMM...LET'S SEE, HONEY...BACK THEN THE BELVIDERE,THE SOUTHERN CLUB,THERE WERE A LOT OF SMALL CLUBS BUT THEY WERE NOT SO FINE, THEY WERE NICE BUT THEY WEREN'T,YOU KNOW,THEY DIDN'T DRAW THE CARRIAGE

TRADE,LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY,THEY DREW THE PEOPLE WHO HAD A FEW BUCKS AN' WOULD COME HERE TO, WHATEVER,YOU KNOW, UMMM...I WAS TRYIN' TO THINK OF THE NAME OF ONE,IT WAS VERY POPULAR WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW [STRAIGHT N'MEANS] BUT JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GO TO THE OTHERS,AN' I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THAT,WHAT THOSE WERE. I'LL TELL YOU,THE VERY POPULAR PLACE WAS JACKSONS' NEWS-STAND,LORD,THAT MUST HAVE HAD EVERYTHING,CAUSE IT WAS THE MEETING PLACE FOR EVERY-BODY,YOU KNOW.....

I---DID THEY CARRY NEWSPAPERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BACK THEN ?

AO---THAT'S RIGHT,YEAH.....

I---WHAT DO REMEMBER ABOUT THE STORES IN SPENCERS CORNERS ?

AO---OH WELL,THE SPENCER GIRLS WERE MY CLOSE FRIENDS,SO I CAN TELL YOU ALMOST ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. THAT WAS, AS YOU KNOW, A WHOLESALE AH',LIQUOR,WINE,AND CIGAR PLACE,AN' GAMBLIN' THE GROTTA RESTAURANT WAS,THAT WAS THE WINE SELLERS,AND MR.C.J.SPENCER OWNED IT AN' RAN IT AND THE UPSTAIRS WAS AH'ROOMS OF LIQUOR AN'CIGARS AN' WHATEVER,WHOLESALE,AN' AH',THAT'S WHAT ALL THAT WAS,UH-HUH....IS IT TOO HOT IN HERE FOR YOU-ALL,I'LL TURN THAT DOWN, IF IT IS ? JUST SPEAK UP,OKAY.

I---WHAT SCHOOL DID YOU GO TO ?

AO---I WENT TO JONES GRAMMER SCHOOL.

I---WAS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL THERE,THAT YOU REMEMBER ?

AO---WELL,I REMEMBER BEING SO HAPPY,AN' AS YOU KNOW,IT'S ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOW,AN' IN THOSE DAYS,WE COULD PLAY JACKS IN THE WELL HOUSE,I MEAN THE BELL HOUSE,BUT NOW THEY HAVE IT ENCLOSED BECAUSE OF VANDALS. AN' THE FIRE,WE HAD A FIREPLACE IN THE PRINCIPALS OFFICE,AND STILL DO,IT'S BEAUTIFULLY KEPT. AN'AH',OH IT WAS A LOVELY, IT WAS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO GO TO SCHOOL,YOU WERE SO HAPPY,YOU KNOW,ALL THE TIME,AN' YOU LEARNED SO MUCH....

I---DID THEY RING THE BELL EVERY MORNING ?

AO---EVERY MORNING...AND THEY STILL DO,I HEAR IT EVERY MORNING OUT OF MY BEDROOM WINDOW.

I---DID THEY HAVE A PLAYGROUND ACROSS THE STREET LIKE THEY DO NOW ?

AO---THAT'S RIGHT,THEY SURE DID,SINCE I FELL OFF THAT THING MANY A TIME.

I---WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE BLACK PEOPLE IN TOWN THAT,WERE THEY.....?

AO--- WELL,THERE WAS NO FEELING,HONEY,OF COURSE YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS WAS IN THE DAYS OF SEGREGATION,AN' IT WAS SEPERATE BUT EQUAL,UH,SUPPOSEDLY,YOU KNOW,BUT EVERYONE WAS VERY HAPPY,THERE WAS NEVER ANY CONTENTION,AS THEY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THEIR AH',NEIGHBORHOOD,AN' THEY KEPT THEIR HOMES BEAUTIFULLY AND MALVERN AVENUE WAS A SHOWPLACE FOR THE BLACK BUSINESSES,YOU WOULDN'T THINK SO TODAY,BUT IT WAS. AND THAT HOTEL,THAT BAPTIST HOTEL WAS A LOVELY,JUST LOVELY. AND THOSE MEN WERE VERY RESPECTED DOWN THERE,IT WAS NOT,THERE WAS NEVER ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE,WITH THE BLACKS AT ALL,NONE.

I---WERE THERE MOSTLY BLACK PEOPLE THAT WORKED IN THE BATHHOUSES ?

AO---OH YES, THE BUCKSTAFF IS THE ONLY ONE WHO EMPLOYED WHITES,

THEY NEVER EMPLOYED COLORED PEOPLE,EVER...I DON'T,I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY RACIAL FEELINGS,THERE WAS JUST THE THING THAT THEY HAD ALWAYS DONE,USED WHITE ATTENDANTS.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT AH,ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS,WERE

THERE A LOT OF GERMANS OR.....

AO--- OH YES,THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS GERMAN POPULATION HERE,HONEY.

IN FACT,THE MASSEUR AT THE FORDYCE WAS MR.JOHN BISHOFF AND HE WAS

FROM GERMANY,AN' SPOKE WITH A DECIDED ACCENT,AN' THE MASSEUSE WAS

MISS VEGA CARLSON AND SHE WAS FROM SWEDEN,SO YOU SEE,YOU HAD THAT AN' THEY WERE WONDERFUL PEOPLE,WONDERFUL....OH,THERE'S A HUGE GERMAN POPULATION HERE,OH I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW,HOW LARGE IT IS.

I---WAS THAT THE MOST NOTICEABLE FOREIGN GROUP ?

AO---OFF THE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT,UH-HUH,YES,I WOULD SAY THEY'RE, THEY OUTNUMBER;NOW THEY'RE QUIET BUT LITHUANIANS HAVE COME LATLEY

BUT THEY'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE GERMANS HERE.....

I---REMEMBER ANY,ANY CHINESE ?

AO---NO,NO, THAT I DON'T. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN,BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THAT.

I---YOU ALREADY MENTIONED THE ONE GREEK FAMILY THAT HAD THE RESTAURANT,REMEMBER ?

AO---OH YEAH,AN' THEN THERE'S O' GREEK FAMILIES HERE,THAT [PAKISTAS]

HAD THE RESTAURANT ON OUACHITA, YOU KNOW, AN' THE [FOVIO] FAMILY, THERE WERE JUST LOTS OF 'EM. AN' VERY RESPECTED, VERY WELL LIKED....

I---AN' THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ?

AO---IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, THEY JUST, THIS IS A VERY COMPATABLE TOWN AN' NO ONE EVER THOUGHT LIKE, THEY ARE JEW OR THEY ARE HISPANIC OR WHATEVER, THEY WERE JUST FRIENDS, YOU KNOW. WE LIVED NEXT DOOR TO THE [SHIDMACKS] AND THEY HAD A BEAUTIFUL STORE ON CENTRAL AVENUE, AND THEY WERE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, WONDERFUL. AND AH' THERE WAS JUST NOT THE KIND OF THING THAT YOU SEE TODAY, HONEY, IT JUST WASN'T THERE.

I---DID PEOPLE THINK ANYTHING OF THE CATHOLICS, DID THEY

AO---NO...

I---DID THEY....

AO---OH NO...

I---THEY WEREN'T ANY DIFFERENT THAN...

AO---OH NO, THERE WAS NO RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION OR FEELING, IN FACT, SOME

OF THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN TOWN WERE THE CATHOLICS, THE HORNER FAMILY, AN', WELL, MARY CALAHAN WHOSE HUSBAND AH', WHO OWNED AND MANAGED THE QUAPAU, THEY'RE A BIG CATHOLIC FAMILY, AND AH', NO, THERE

WAS NO RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCE. IN FACT, IF YOU GOT TIRED OF YOUR OWN CHURCH, YOU'D GO TO SOMEBODY ELSE'S, YOU KNOW.

I---WAS MAYOR McLAUGHLIN.....

AO---HE WAS THE MAYOR.....

I---THE MAYOR AT THAT TIME ?

AO---UH-HUH, HE SURELY WAS, AND HE WAS MAYOR THROUGH THE THIRTIES, I

BELIEVE. HE WAS A COLORFUL FIGURE. HE WOULD DRIVE DOWN CENTRAL AVENUE IN A AH', IN HIS NICE CARRIAGE, I WISH I COULD THINK OF THE PROPER

NAME, DRAWN BY TWO HORSES NAMED SCOTCH AND SODA, AND HE QUITE FLAMBOUYANT, BUT HE KEPT HOT SPRINGS FREE OF CRIME, ANY

GANGSTERS WERE MET AT THE STATION IN THOSE DAYS,AN' WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER,AN' HE REALLY RAN A TIGHT BAN.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANY GANGSTERS COMING IN THE FORDYCE ?

AO---NO,NO,THEY DIDN'T COME TO THE FORDYCE,NO. THEY,THEY WERE NOT THAT DEVOUT,YOU KNOW.....

I---BUT YOU REMEMBER THEM BEING IN THE BATH ?

AO---UH-HUH,LATER,LATER NOW,REMEMBER LUCKY LUCIANO BEING HERE,AND AH'OH, AL CAPONE AND AH,BUT THEY BATHED AT THE HOTEL.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING THE GOVERNMENT FREE BATHHOUSE FOR THE.....

AO---NO,THAT WAS, THAT WAS GONE,I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT THAT OR IF IT WAS HERE, IT WAS,I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

I THINK THAT WAS IN THE EARLY,EARLY DAYS WHEN THE BATHHOUSES WERE

JUST GETTING STARTED,YOU KNOW,AN' OF COURSE,THEY DID HAVE THE FREE BATHS.....WAIT A MINUTE.....THERE WAS A FREE BATHHOUSE,YES,AND WHERE

WAS THAT. YES,NOW THAT YOU SAY THAT,I DO REMEMBER ONE,YOU KNOW,I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LOCATION BUT I CAN REMEMBER DADDY SAYING HOW

WONDERFUL IT WAS,AN' IT WAS AVAILABLE. I'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THAT, YES,UH-HUH.

I---IS THERE ANYTHING PARTICULAR YOU REMEMBER ABOUT UMM..HOW THE LAWNS ON BATHHOUSE WERE KEPT OR....?

AO---I JUST REMEMBER THEY WERE BEAUTIFULLY KEPT,THEY HAD GARDNERS,YOU KNOW,PARDON ME,AN' EVERYTHING WAS JUST EMACULATE AN' SOME OF THE BATHHOUSES HAD BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BEDS AN' JUST DIFF'... EACH BATHHOUSE HAD IT'S OWN DIFFERENT AMBIANCE,YOU KNOW, IT WAS JUST LOVELY,AN' THEY WERE ALWAYS KEPT BEAUTIFULLY.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THAT,IF THERE WERE EVER FLOWERS PLANTED IN THE,
ON THE FORDYCE FRONT ?

AO---UH-HUH,UH-HUH.....YES...THERE WERE SOME JARDINIERES THERE,AN'
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'VE GONE TO,THEY WERE ENORMOUS,THEY WERE
[REAL COCO],YOU KNOW, AN' THEY WERE FULL OF ALL KINDS OF FLOWERS, I,I CAN SEE THEM YET,YES,UM-HUMM.

I---DO YOU REMEMBER,DID THEY EVER USE THE PLANTERS UP ON THE 'BOUT
THE SECOND WINDOWS.....

AO---OF THIS,I CAN'T REMEMBER.....

I---THERE ARE SOME LITTLE SHALLOW PLANTERS,.....

AO---THERE MUST HAVE BEEN.....

I---IF THEY EVER USED THEM,WE'RE NOT SURE.....

AO---THEY MUST HAVE BEEN,AT LEAST DURING TENURE,BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN WHO BELIEVED IN,IN BEAUTY ENHANCING THE THING. AN' SO HE WOULD

PLANT THINGS ,YOU KNOW,AN' HE ALWAYS KEPT THE JARDINIERES' FILLED

AN' SOMETHING ELSE HE KEPT PLANTED,OH, BACK BY THE SPRING,YOU KNOW,

IS THAT SPRING STILL THERE ? YOU KNOW,I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO NEAR THE FORDYCE AN' THIS IS WHY.....

I---RIGHT UP BEHIND THE MAURICE ?

AO---UH-HUH,IS IT,IS THAT STILL THERE ? WELL,THAT WAS PLANTED WITH BEAUTIFUL PLANTS,YEAH.....

I---DO YOU REMEMBER THE AWNINGS ON THE FORDYCE ?

AO---NO,THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY AWNINGS THEN.THERE WAS NOTHING THERE

BUT THE,AH,FRONT SIGN THAT SAID "FORDYCE BATHHOUSE",THERE WERE NO

AWNINGS IN THE TWENTIES.UM-HUM.....

I---DID YOU EVER PICNIC OVER IN GULPHA GORGE ?

AO---NO,WE DIDN'T GO TO GULPHA,IN FACT,I WASN'T,DON'T,WASN'T
EVEN
AWARE OF IT. PEOPLE WENT OUT THERE WAS SO MANY BEAUTIFUL
PLACES
[TO OUT] WITH NATURAL STREAMS THAT PEOPLE WOULD GO TO,THIS
WAS

BEFORE THE DAYS OF LAKE HAMILTON,YOU SEE,SO YOU'D GO OUT AN'
JUST
DRIVE UNTIL YOU CAME TO SOME PRETTY PLACE,AN' A CREEK,AN'
PICNIC,
OR FOUNTAIN LAKE,THAT'S WHERE WE ALL WENT. OZARK [LITHIA] BY
THE
LAKE,THAT WAS A MARVELOUS PLACE.

I---WELL,WE APPRECIATE YOU SPENDING THE TIME WITH US AN' IF YOU
THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE THAT WE HAVEN'T ASKED YOU,ABOUT THE
BATH-
HOUSE AND SUCH,LET US KNOW AN' WE'LL BE GLAD TO COME BACK.

AO---ALRIGHT,YEAH,I SURELY WILL AN' I HOPE THAT I'VE BEEN OF SOME
HELP.