

Mr. Eldon "Tick" Evans was interviewed for several reasons other than being a friend of Dr. Louise. Mr. Evans happened to be the mayor of Morehead at the time that Louise and Susie began their initial campaign to solicit funds and support for their idea of building a hospital. Perhaps his story of how Louise first approached him to solicit donations and local support is one of the most charming and the most telling about Louise's determination. Mr. Evans was also the elder brother of Louise's close childhood friend Sydney Evans. And, it was at the Evans's beautiful big home where most of their childhood games were played. The story of the pony, Betsy Ross, never does get told twice the same way, but it was the Evans family who owned the famed pony.

After Mr. Evans death (in 1944) his home on Elizabeth Street was sold to Morehead State University and will become the home to the MSU honors program. Mr. Evans younger sister Gladys lives today in Flemingsburg, Kentucky.

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INTERVIEW WITH MR. ELDON "TICK" EVANS**In his home in Morehead, KY****February 8, 1993.**

You know, I won't tell you something unless I know. Now, we all played together. Louise lived on Main Street. And she and Lucille and Boone and Sis played together. I had two sisters and a brother-- by brother got killed. when we were little there was four of us. But, Gladys, she was just a little thing-- she's seven years younger than me. She was just a little thing and, of course, I was the oldest and maybe 10 or 11 years old, and we made candy at Louise's home. And we'd make candy at our home. We'd make candy because in those days there really wasn't much to do for entertainment. There was just the entertainment that you made yourself. Yes, that is a picture of our home. Now, in this home, we cooked in the basement. Except when we had company-- I mean special company. And back then, Louise was very active, she was athletic. She would play football with the boys. Oh, they were little tykes. They didn't care. They didn't pay any attention. You know what I mean. And as I told you, she and Sis-- they's go up a door like this (demonstrates walking up a door frame). They'd get on this door and they'd up, up, up the sides. My sister, Sydney, was athletic too. Oh, yes. But Louise was very much more athletic. And she rode the pony. The pony's name was Betsy-- Betsy Ross.

Oh, we didn't have the pony there at the house, we had a farm. Do you know where Meadowbrook is? (At the branch?) Up where Dr. Holbrook-- do you know where that house is? Or, Larry Fannin? Up Allen Drive. Well, we had a place up there where we kept them. We just had an acre or two-- what I'm talking about-- everybody had their own cow and they had to be pastured. We had our own cow for milk. And Louise and them, they had their place (for a cow) behind their house where they kept their cow. Now, I don't remember where their pasture is. But, about that time we'd pasture our cow different places. . . and two or three places and some of them went to the Tolliver addition. That was then, the only way to have milk-- to have your own cow.

Oh, yes. We didn't have dairies. Or, you could buy it from somebody who had a cow. Yes, you had to have your own cow.

Now, Louise and them, they all went to high school together. And grade school too. We were together, but I wasn't in the same grade. In the same school building. She and Lucille both. I was in Lucille's room. Anyway, we were all in the University and Lucille, she went to Hamilton College there in Lexington and she went to Transylvania. And Louise graduated from high school and she went from there to Ohio State in Physical Education. And she graduated and came back and taught Phys. Ed. here. And then, I don't remember, but it seems to me, that while I was in the service, Louise went to medical school. I don't know, but I think she went to Louisville. About that time they were passing laws that required so much service. The government paid you. The government paid so much of your expense but you had to obligate yourself to do so much community work. Is that the correct way? Then, she graduated from there and, of course, she went down into Southeastern Kentucky, down into Clay County, Windover, down in through there. Did she talk to you about that? Well, she went down into Windover and that's where they had the British midwives, she was down there and spent some time. Then she came back here and she put an office up-- upstairs-- over those pool rooms-- you know where it is. The building is still there. So, she put an office up over the pool rooms. And, if I'm not mistaken, she had an x-ray machine in there. And the funniest thing I remember, I looked up one day and saw Louise and Susie with their heads sticking out the window. I said, "What you up there doin'?" She said, "We're looking for patients." She said, "Do you think we'll make it?" I said, "Well, I think you will." Now, that was their beginning of practice here in Morehead. And, of course, you know the history from there on. Patients just multiplied. And now, on the hospital. This is my recollection.

Louise came here to the house one Saturday afternoon. I was taking a shower. My family was in Florida, they were coming back from Florida and they'd had car trouble and they were in Knoxville, Tennessee. I was taking a shower, getting dressed. So, there's somebody at the door. I didn't want to answer the door, shorts and all, so Louise just opened the door and

came in!! She and Susie. And I was in that room there, dressing. And there's a step just before that room. She sat down on the steps while I was dressing and told me about a hospital. This is true!! And I said, "Have you talked to my friend, John Palmer?" -- that lived right over here (in what is now the Palmer House). So, John Palmer lived here next door to me. he was a sales manager for. . . Lee Clay products. He was a personal friend of mine. We went to church together. So, I said, did you talk to my friend. She said, "Yeah, I talked to John, and. . ." she says. "I want to put a hospital here." She said, "I've talked to the Methodists and I've talked to the Baptists and all of them to try to get them to run it, and they won't run it. But, I can get the Catholics to do it." So, now this is the part you're looking for isn't it? So, she started asking people in town for both money and interest. Now, I've forgotten how much money she wanted. And so she started getting pledges for so much over a period of three years.

Oh, well, they all wished they had a hospital but no one wished it hard enough to want to work on it. I don't know if there was even much talk about it. They wanted a hospital here but didn't do anything about it until she took over. That's my opinion.

Well, so there I was trying to get dressed and she was telling me about this hospital. So I said, "I haven't got the time to talk to you." I said, "I've got to go and get some money." But she stayed there until I got dressed and ready to leave and I went out and got in the car. She got in the car with me and drove me down to the Eagle's Nest to get a check cashed. And I took off to Knoxville. And so, that interest, she got the interest started. Louise was the founder of that hospital. That's my opinion. Now, she ran into some opposition from the doctors. There was a Dr. Reynolds that was here. . .

So, we started having meetings, dinners and we had Monsignor something. . . can't recall the name, but he helped Louise. So, eventually we had-- I've forgotten, but it wasn't so awfully much money in terms of today, but back then-- well, a dollar was a little bigger then. So, it just kept on until they finally gave the go ahead decision. Then, after we had the hospital, we didn't have anything for the clinic so then, so we had to, she had to, sell them on the idea of a clinic. That was over on the other side for the doctors. Now, maybe I'm getting ahead of my story. She

talked to the Board of Directors. . . Wait a minute, they started to get a hospital. They organized a foundation-- The Northeastern Kentucky Hospital Foundation-- that raised the money. And that Northeastern Kentucky Foundation. . . there were 12 on the Board.

I wasn't on it originally, but after about a year. So we got the hospital and then we had to go out and get some doctors. We got Dr. Proudfoot. Then we raised enough money, not for the hospital, but for this Foundation itself to build a small clinic. Not the Morehead Clinic, another little clinic. We dissolved that and gave it to the hospital. Anyway, we, the Board of Directors at that time, we guaranteed these doctors salaries. And the Directors-- Louise, she promoted this-- she's promoting all of this, you see what I'm saying. She was the wheel that made this thing go. So, the Board of Directors signed a note, or, I believe, \$2,500 to guarantee these doctors salaries. So then we placed this money. So, they opened up. . . See this, here's a pen and pencil set passed out for being on the Board of Directors. I was the treasurer. It says '1963. In appreciation. Eldon T. Evans. Northeast Kentucky Hospital Foundation. 1963-1988. Twenty-five years of caring.' And it was established and you know what the first addition was? They got that first addition. Then, Louise just kept trying. She just kept trying. And, of course, then they got this second addition. Now, she has helped with getting this third addition, is involved with it. Now with the hospital foundation she is the President, or was the President. She was the President of the remainder of the foundation and the foundation has, oh, about \$25,000. Now, this money-- well, when the doctors got so they could take it in, they said we don't want that (salaries?). So they moved out. So we took all that and converted it into money. We gave some money to the hospital foundation and to some health organization. That money has never been used except for the organization. I think we've got, unless somebody ran off with the money, I think we've. . . oh, Lije Hogg is the Treasurer. I'm the stooge. I think we've got \$25,000 some. Now, we have been giving the income from this money to the school as a scholarship in honor of Louise. Now, I'm just jumping from here to there. So at the last meeting, we're not going to have anymore Board of Directors, we're just going to let it die off. The, the last director that there is, is going to be the treasurer. And then the money that we have left, he will

turn it over to the school as a Louise Caudill Scholarship. We've already got the scholarship up there you see, for nursing students.

I was Mayor from 1960, while the hospital was going on. Well, the interstate was being built. The school was big, and I was interested in the water and sewer and the widening of the creek. Well, the sewer wasn't big enough. With the hospital being built and the school growing, wasn't that something that had to be thought about? Yes, it all goes together. NO!! I didn't run for mayor again! I didn't want to go the second go around. But, I had to see this thing through. Which it did. But, widening the creeks. . . That was to take these little narrow creeks and make them much wider. That was for flood control. For flood control and then there is the sewer plant downtown. Now, they've got a good waterworks-- a good sewer plant. You see, my cattle, over on the farm, if I want to let them, they drink the same water that you drink. You see, we were a rural community-- you follow what I'm saying-- when I grew up, no electric. We were just rural. The school came here in 1922-23. My brother and I, they sent us in 1923 and we didn't like it very much. I was 13 and my brother was 11.

We had indoor plumbing but most of the houses didn't. There were outhouses, with two and three holes. Even in the town, and little boys would go around and push them over! Oh, yes, I did too!! Little kids weren't supposed to-- but they did. We played-- now you see, there at our home-- this front part on both sides of the house, we had croquet grounds. And on the back, on the side next to Perry Ave. there was a great football boundary. That's where Louise and them played, the little kids, you know. And on the other side was the garden. Now that's where we stole the roasting ears. Oh, we did everything! We stole roasting ears of corn! My Mother used a paddle or a switch, but my Daddy, he didn't. He wasn't home much. And Mother, oh she fussed at us for stealing the corn. We'd go down on the right side of the house-- there was a coal house on the back alley and on the right side of that was a garden. Now, Daddy, he was a good gardener. He loved it and he made me and my brother love it too. He was really in the lumber business and he was away oh, half of the time. And when he'd come in, well, me and my brother would be sitting here waiting for him. Then we'd go swimming over here in this

creek. Now, honey, back then that creek was just so clear you could see a dime. Pure. And there wasn't any contamination and we'd wait until he came in. He'd have his suitcase and walk up through the garden, look, and say "Well, boys, you've done a pretty good job." Or, "Boys, you haven't done a pretty good job." And if we hadn't done a pretty good job, we'd have to go back and do it over again.

Anyway, the kids would go swimming in that creek. Oh, the creek that's way over there, you know, where the City Park is. That's the creek that we were talking about. They could swim up and down that creek. Wherever. . .

Now, that gang that put the pony in the attic! I forgot to tell you about that. Well, I wasn't one of them. Now, my brother, Hugh, Jr., he'd do anything. And he got the pony and Louise and Sis, and I don't know, there was a big bunch of them, they got the pony. And, they brought it right through the front door! Hardwood floors! They took it on up the stairs. The stairs were carpet. They took it up there and then they took it on up to the attic stairs. They weren't much over two one half feet and up a curve. Look over at that picture of the house. See that dormer up on the third floor? That's where they had the pony's head sticking out. Yes, well, somebody went down the street and got my Mother and they said, "Mrs. Evans. . . they've got the pony's head sticking out that attic window." She said, "Lord, have mercy. What will those young uns do next?" She came up straight and made them bring it back down. Well, how they got it up there-- I've heard different stories. Well, I think they all got in there and maybe some of them pushed a little bit. Well, that pony was easy to get along with. It was a pet. Only 40 inches high. The pony, oh, I told you, we had this place up at the branch-- and we'd go up and get that pony. Some of them would, and they wanted to ride it. They'd bring it down and put it out there in the yard. We had a hedge around that yard and they'd play with the pony. And the pony got tired of it and it would shake its bridle down and shove off and take off right up through town and go for the barn. Just to get away from those kids!

Now, Louise is still my doctor. People, not only here, but all around. They come to her rather than just any doctor. Women come to her, but a lot of men come to her too. I go to her.

I've gone to her ever since. . . Well, Dr. Jerrett, he was a town doctor. I've been going to her ever since, oh, I guess I'd been to her some before that. But, she used to make house calls. And that's about unheard of now. . . Well, that's a fact. But I can remember my Father and Mother. They were in Sarasota and my Father passed away, unfortunately. . . and the doctor came to the house at noon that day and then came back that evening. Why, you couldn't pay a doctor to do that now. Louise, I guess, she still will make a house call. Now, that's Louise. She's been very. . . she's been very supportive of the Christian Church and I don't even know what other charities she helps. She's been good. Louise, well for many years, people thought that she and Bob Bishop-- you know Bob? They thought that she and Bob would get married. Well, Bob's father passed away the night he graduated from high school. So, he took the drugstore over. . . medicine sales. They used to go to New York plays together. Well, Bob was fixing to have his eyes worked on. And, Louise, what did the doctor say? And he got a second opinion and if "Doc" okayed it, it was alright. I'll tell you a little story. Now, this was the occasion- - but a nurse at the hospital told me that Bob went in out there to the emergency room and they said, "Who's your doctor?" And he said, "Louise, Louise Caudill." And they said, "We can't get Louise, she's out. She's at a hospital Board meeting." (She's on the Board out there). And they told her and she left that hospital Board meeting to take care of Bob. They're really good friends.

Now, you see all that medicine over there. I'm getting ready to leave for a few days, but I call down there for more and if she wants me to she'll say, 'Come down' and if not she'll say, 'I'll call the drug store and have them send you some medicine.' I came home from Florida with gout. I could hardly walk. So, I got down there and said, "Oh, I want to see Louise." I had an old pair of house slippers on. She said, "Boy, I know you're sick if you come down here looking like that!"

Well, she's a very kind and caring person. Does that sound right? She's genuine. That's a good word. I have to be careful with you school teachers!

INTERVIEW WITH MR. ELDON "tick" EVANS

MSU ARCHIVES

February 8, 1993.
In his home in Morehead, Kentucky.
Concerning Dr. Louise Caudill.

- I The other day you were telling me about ringing the bells.
- E. About ringing the bell, yes. That was in 1922. It was the afternoon that the Legislature had passed, and the Governor had signed the bill, establishing Morehead State. And it was quite an occasion for Morehead and so we children - if I remember correctly - we rang the bells over at the Baptist Church. The bells rang all over town and horns blowing and what have you on that particular time. That was in 19 and twenty two and I think it was in the Spring.
You know, I won't tell you something unless I know.
Now, we all played together.
Louise lived on Main Street. And she and Lucille and Boone and Sis (Sidney?) played together.
- I How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- E I had two sisters and a brother - my brother got killed. When we were little there was four of us. But, Gladys, she was just a little thing - she's seven years younger than me. she was just a little thing and, of course, I was the oldest and maybe 10 or eleven years old and we made candy at Louise's home.
And we'd make candy at our home.
We'd make candy because in those days there really wasn't much to do for entertainment. There was just the entertainment that you made yourself.
yes, that is a picture of our home.
And Louise and Lucille made candy.
Now, in this home, we cooked in the basement. Except when we had company - I mean special company.
And back then, Louise was very active, she was athletic.
She would play football with the boys.
- I And they let her?
- E Oh, they were little tykes. They didn't care. They didn't pay any attention. You know what I mean.
And, as I told you, she and Sis - they's go up a door like this (demonstrates walking up a door frame).
They'd get on this door and they'd up up the sides.
- I Now, Sis is your sister but what was her real name?
- E Sydney
- I Was that Louise's closest friend.
- E Well, she was one of them.

2. Eldon Evans. Feb. 8.

I So, your sister was athletic too.

E Oh, yes. But Louise was very much more athletic. And she rode the pony . The pony's name was Betsy - Betsy Ross.

I Did you have a lot of animals in town - or why would you have a pony.

E Oh, we didn't have the pony there at the house, we had a farm. Do you know where Meadowbrook is? (At the Branch?) Up where Dr. Holbrook - do you know where that house is?
Or, Larry Fannin?
Up Allen Drive. Well, we had a place up there where we kept them. We just had an acre or two - oh, two or three acres. That was where we kept our cow. and our pony.
See, at that time - what I'm talking about - everybody had their own cow and they had to be pastured.

I You had that cow for your milk?

E Yes, we had our own cow for milk. And Louise and them, they had their place (for a cow) behind their house where they kept their cow. Now, I don't remember where their pasture is. But, about that time we'd pasture our cow in different places... and two or three places and some of them went to the Tolliver addition.

I Was that then the only way to have milk - to have your own cow?

E Oh, Yes. We didn't have any dairys . Or, you could buy it from somebody who had a cow. Yes, you had to have your own cow.

See, you were raised in the city.

I You bet.

E You're as bad a my girls.
Now, Louise and them, they all went to high school together.

I What about grade school?

E Yes, grade school We were together but I wasn't in the smae grade. In the same school building. She and Lucille both. I was in Lucille's room.
Anyway, we were all in grade school together and Lucille - Louise was still in high school with Sis. I was in the University and Lucille, she went to Hamilton College there in Lexington and she went to Transylvania.
And Louise graduated from high school and she went from there to Ohio State in Physical education. And she graduated and came back and taught Phys Ed. here .
And then - I don't remember, but it seems to me - that while I was in the Service , Louise went to medical school.
I don't know but I think she went to Louisville.
About that time they were passing laws that required so much service. The government paid you.

3. Eldon Evans. Feb. 3.

E The government paid so much of your expense but you had to obligate yourself to do so much community work. Is that the correct way?

Then, she graduated from there and, of course, she went down into Southeastern Kentucky, down into Clay County, Windover, down in through there. Did she talk to you about that?

Well, she went down into Windover and that's where they had the British midwives, she was down there and spent some time. Then she came back here and she put an office up - upstairs - over those pool - you know where it is?

I The building is still there.

E Yes. She put an office up over the pool rooms. And, if I'm not mistaken, she had an x-ray machine in there. And the funniest thing I remember. I looked up one day and saw Louise and Susie with their heads sticking out the window. I said, "What you up there doin'?" She said, "We're looking for patients." She said, "Do you think we'll make it?" I said, "Well, I think you will." Now, that was their beginning of practice here in Morehead. And, of course, you know the history from there on. Patients just multiplied. And now, on the hospital. this is my recollection.

Louise came here to the house one Saturday afternoon. I was taking a shower. My family was in Florida, they were coming back from Florida and they'd had car trouble and they were in Knoxville Tennessee. I was taking a shower, getting dressed. So - there's somebody at the door. I didn't want to answer the door, shorts and all - so Louise just opened the door and came in!!

She and Susie.

And I was in that room there, dressing. And there's a step just before that room. She sat down on the steps while I was dressing and told me about a hospital.

This is true!!

And I said, have you talked to my friend, John Palmer - that lived right over here (in what is now the Palmer House).

Oh, do you know David Northcutt who runs the funeral home?

Do you know Mary Powell?

So, John Palmer lived here next door to me. he was a sales manager for.....way products. He was a personal friend of mine. We went to church together.

So, I said, did you talk to my friend? She said, Yeh, I talked to John and, she says, I want to put a hospital here.

She said, I've talked to the Methodist and I've talked to the Baptists and all of them to try to get them to run it, and they won't run it. But - I can get the Catholics to do it.

4. Feb. 3. Eldon Evans.

E So, now this is the part you're looking for isn't it?
So she started asking people in town for.....?

I Was she asking for money or just your interest?

E She was asking for both.

Now, I've forgotten how much money she wanted. And so she started getting interest and getting pledges for so much over a period of three years.

I May I ask you, do you know if anyone before that had wanted to build a hospital here? - of, thought about it or wished they had one.

E Oh, well, they wished they had one but no one wished it hard enough to want to work on it. I don't know if there was even much talk about it.

I You mean, they wanted a hospital here but didn't do naything about it.

E Yes, until she took over. That's my opinion

I Alright, so there you are trying to get dressed and she is telling you about this hospital.

E So, I said, I haven't got the time to talk to you. I said, I've got to go and get some money. But she stayed there until I got dressed and ready to leave and I went out and got in the car. She got in the car with me and drove me down to the Eagle's Nest to get a check cashed. And I took off to Knoxville. And so, that interest, she got the interest started. Louise was the founder of that hospital. That's my opinion. Now, she ran into some opposition from the doctors There was a dr. Reynolds that was here....

I Already in town..
You'd think that doctors would be the first ones who'd want a hospital.

E That's right. So we started having meetings, dinners and we had Monsgineur something....can't recall the name, but he helped Louise. So, eventually we had - I've forgotten, but it wasn't so awfully much money in terms of today but back then - well, a dollar was a little bigger then
So, it just kept on until they finally gave the go ahead decision. Then, after we had the hospital, we didn't have anything for the clinic so then so we had to, she had to, sell them on the idea of a clinic. That was over on the other side for the doctors.
Now, maybe i'm getting ahead of my story.
She talked to the Board of Directors
Wait aminute, they started to get a hospital. They organized a Foundation - the Northeastern Kentucky Hospital Foundation.

5. Eldon Evans. Feb. 8.

E that raised the money. And that Northeastern Kentucky Foundatio.
.....There were 12?)?)

I I wasn't on it originally but after about a year. So we got the hospital and then we had to go out and get some doctors. We got Dr. Proudfoot... Then we raised enough money, not for the hospital, but for this Foundation itself to build a small clinic. Not the Morehead Clinic, another little clinic. We dissolved that and gave it to the hospital. Anyway, we, the Board of Directors at that time. We guaranteed these doctors salaries. And the Directors - Louise, she promoted this, - she's promoting all of this, you see what I'm saying. She was the wheel that made the thing go. So, the Board of Directors signed a note for, I believe, \$2,500. to guarantee these doctors' salaries. So then we placed this money. So, they opened up See this, here's a pen and pencil set passed out for (that?)

I Is this for being on the Board of Directors?

E I was the Treasurer. What does it say there?

I It says 1963. In appreciation, Eldon T. Evans , Northeast Kentucky Hospital Foundation.

E I got some more here someplace.

I Oh, this says, 1963, 1988, twenty five years of caring.

E Now here's something you haven't seen in a long time.

I I think never. That's beautiful.

E That's an honest to God silver dollar.
That's pure silver.

I Let me ask you something - and maybe you don't want to answer this - but I don't know what your religion is...

E Well, I'm a protestant Methodist but that has no bearing on this.

I In this town, - oh, Susie told me that the Catholics just had a garage to go to. This is a very protestant town and they want a hospital but the Catholics will run it. What was that like to the people here?

E Oh, the people from here were going to St. Joe in Lexington, which is a catholic hospital, you see. There was very little animosity toward the Catholics. There was some. Some of 'em were these old 'hard shell' Baptists. They were the hard hard kind. Now, the story goes, I'll tell you a little story - This man died and he went up to St. Peter and St. Peter let him in Then Sally Smith came on and St. Peter said go right on in - but when you pass that first door on the right, don't say anything.

6. Feb. 8. Eldon Evans.

E So, Sam Jones came in and St. Peter said be careful about that righthand door....so, say, you are standing there and you say - but you let all these people in and you told them all to be careful about when you pass that door on the right. He said, I'll tell you, I've got a Baptist in there and he thinks there isn't anybody up here but him.

I You said there were some doctors who objected to the hospital.

E No, I said there was one doctor....let's not put the name. He did object (he was a cousin of Louise's) He was anti-... don't say object - be nice. And it was established and you know what the first addition was? They got that first addition. Then, Louise just kept trying. She just kept trying. And, of course, then they got this second addition. Now she has helped with getting this third addition - is involved with it. Now with the hospital Foundation, she is President - or was the president. She was president of the remainder of the foundation and the foundation has, oh, about 25,000. Now this money - Well, when the doctors got so they could take it in, they said, we don't want that (salaries?) So they moved out. So we took all that and converted it into money. We gave some money to the hospital foundation, to some health organization. That money has never been used except for the organization. I think we've got - unless somebody ran off with the money - I think we'veOh, Lige Hogg is the Treasurer, I'm the stooge. I think we've got \$25,000 some. Now we have been giving the income from this money to the school as a scholarship in honor of Louise. Now, I'm just jumping from here to there. So at the last meeting - we're not going to have anymore Board of Directors. We're just going to let it die off. Then, the last Director that there is is going to be the treasurer. And then the money that we have left, he will turn it over to the school as a Louise Caudill Scholarship. We've already got the scholarship up there you see.

I Will that be for any student or just for nursing students.

E Nursing students.

I There are two other things I'd like to hear about. One was, what was Morehead like when you were the Mayor? What kind of town was it, what went on?

E I was Mayor from 1960 - while this hospital was going on.

Well, the Interstate was being built. The school was big - and I was very unpopular with Dr. Doran. You've heard of Doran.

I Yes, I've heard about him.

7. Feb. 8. Eldon Evans.

E My time was along in the '60s.

I Did you really want to be the Mayor?

E Oh, I wanted to straighten some things out.

I Like what?

E Well, the water situation - and the sewers. You see, this lake up here (Eagle Lake) the city The school built this - the State built this - and the school - we;;. don't misunderstand me, Bill Layne signed a contract shortly after, anyway, the city signed a contract with the school for the water. And they built the filtration plant, so their time was running out and they (the school) wanted to extend their contract. I didn't believe in it.

I Why?

E Because then school controlled the water situation - the school controlled the water for the city. So we got into it with negotiations and it was like - oh, you wanted it and I didn't. So, I refused to sign it. For four years I refused to sign it.

I What was the alternative?

E To build our own. So I got a grant - now don't misunderstand me when I'm saying I got a grant - maybe I should say we got a grant to go to Cave Run to bring that water to Morehead. Some of us had talked about that - raw water. Untreated. So, I ran again - and Doran ran Bill.

I Because he wanted the school to keep control of the water.

E But, i had some friends. After we got a grant. And Bill tried to stop it in Washington by saying he wanted another look at it. Well, the three of us found out about it . So, we struck out one Thursday evening about 9:00 o'clock and headed for Washington and got into Washington the next morning. And we got a new application for a water grant. And I wasn't even on the Council - I was just plain like I am now, but I got some people who were. They took it and made Bill sign it. MADE him sign it. So, that's how we got the water.

I I'll bet the president of the school was upset.

E Oh, he was so upset - he was about to blow a fuse. And of course Bill, now don't misunderstand me, Bill was a personal friend of mine. And I was interested in the water and the sewer and the widening of the creek.

I What was happening with the sewers and the creek?

E Well, the sewer wasn't big enough. With the hospital being built and the school growing wasn't that something that had to be thought about?

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- E Yes, it all goes together. But some people want to control. He told me, Doran told me, "Now, Tick, you can damn up every creek in the hollow in this country and get plenty of water but you don't have to do anything. He wanted control, see.
- I What about the hospital? They couldn't control the hospital.
- E No, but they could control the water supply. See, with the school controlling the water, they could say - well, this can't be a subdivision out here because they can't have sufficient water.
- I I see, you could really run everything.. Did he try to pressure you?
- E Oh, yes! he tried to get me out, you see. If he got me out - then he could control the mayor.
- I How did yop feel about that?
- E Oh, that was alright with me because that was costing me money.
- I Then did you run for Mayor again?
- E NO!! I didn't want to go the second go round. But, I had to see this thing through. Which it did.
- I What is this widening of the c reek - what was that about?
- E That was to take these little narrow creeks and make them much wider. That was for flood control. For flood control and then there is the sewer plant downtown. Now, they've got a good waterworks - a good sewer plant. You see, my cattle, over on the farm, if I want to let them, they drink the same water that you drink.
(Hard to understand here about a creek going over into Hardin County?)
- I So than, when you were little did people have their own wells?
- E I could take you down here to Clearfield - I was born in Clearfield - I said, "Mother, where was I born?" Well, the house is washed out now ...
- I In a flood?
- E Yes. She said, "Son, down over in there that's in the back porch and that was the back part of the house. You see, we were a rural community - you follow what I'm saying - when I grew up - no electric. We were just rural. The school came here in 1922-23 My brother and I, they sent us in 1923 and we didn't like it very much. I was 13 and my brother was 11

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- E Anyway, now, back to Louise. Now Louise has always been the power behind the throne. On this hospital ...that's what you're really interested in...
- I Well, any other.
- E Generally speaking. Now, she was with me on the water situation.
- I I guess, as a doctor, the sewage and the water supply would be a real concern. How long has the sewer plant been here.
- E As you go down the road there, you can see the old sewer plant. But, it was becoming inadequate. So they went on down five miles
////
- I But, when you were really little was there plumbing in the house?
- E We did, but most of the houses didn't. There were outhouses, with two and three holes.
- I Even in the town?
- E Oh, yes.
- I I've heard stories that little boys would go around and push them over - did you?
- E Oh, yes, I did! Little kids weren't supposed to - but they did. We played - now, you see, there at our home - this front part on both sides of the house, we had croquet grounds. And on the back, on the side next to (Perry? Ave.) there was a great football boundary. That's where Louise and them played, the little kids you know. On the other side was the garden. Now that's where we stole the roasting ears. Oh, we did everything We stole roasting ears....
- I What's the worst thing you ever did?
You ever get spanked?
- E My mother used a paddle or a switch but my daddy, he didn't. He wasn't home much. And mother, oh she fussed at us for stealing the corn. We'd go wn on the right side of the house - there was a coal house on the back alley and on the right side of that was a garden. Now, daddy, he was a good gardener ; he loved it and he made me and my brother love it too. He was really in the lumber business and he was away - oh - half the time. And when he'd come in, well, me and my brother would be sitting there waiting for him.. Then we'd go swimming over here in this creek, Now, honey back then that creek was just so clear you could see a dime. Pure. And there wasn't any contamination and we'd wait until he came in. He have his suitcase and walk up through the garden , look, and say "Well, bosity you've done a pretty good job." Or, "Boys you haven't done a pretty good job." And if we hadn't done a pretty good job we'd have to go back and do it over again.

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I Did all the kids go swimming in that creek?

E Oh, the creek is way over there, you know where the City Park is? That's the creek that we were talking about. They could swim up and down that creek. Wherever.

I How was the fishing?

E There's no fish in it.

I What did you like to do best when you were a little kid?

E Oh, I don't know. We played some baseball. Football and then I got hurt once or twice and I gave that up.

I Were you part of that gang that put the pony in the attic.

E Oh, yes, I forgot to tell you about that.

I Tell me.

E Well, I wasn't one of them. Now, my brother - Hugh, Jr. - he'd do anything. And he got the pony and Louise and Sis - and I don't know, there was a big bunch of them, they got the pony. And, they brought it right in the front door! Hardwood floors! They took it on up the stairs. The stairs with carpet. They took it up there and then they took it on up to the attic stairs - they weren't much over 2 one half feet and up a curve - look over at that picture of the house. See that dormer up on the third floor? That's where they had the pony's head sticking out.

I Guess the whole town could see that.

E Yes, well, somebody went down the street and got my mother and they said, "Mrs. Evans....they've got the pony's head sticking out that attic window."
She said, "Lord, have mercy, what will those young'uns do next?"
She came up straight and made them bring it back down.
Well, how they got it up there - I've heard many different stories.

I Which one is true?

E Well I think they all got in there and maybe some of them pushed a little bit.

I Was that pony easy to get along with?

E Oh, it was a pet. Only 40 inches high. The pony - oh, I told you

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E (cont'd) - we had this place up at the branch- and we'd go up and get that pony. Some of them would, and they wanted to ride it. They'd bring it down and put it out there in the yard. We had a hedge around that yard and they'd play with the pony. And the pony got tired of it and it would shake its bridle down and shove off and take off right up through town and go for the b arn.

I Just get away from those kids.

E Yes.

I Tell me, you still go to Louise as your doctor.

E Oh, yes.

F Oh, yes. When you were little (young) could you even dream that she - this little football player - that you'd be going to her for your health problems.

(Nods no).

Everyone I've talked to love her.

E People, not only here, but every go round, they come to her rather than just any doctor. Women come to her but a lot of men come to her too.

I go to her. I've gone to her ever since well, you know where this faculty house is there down below the science building - Dr. Jerrett was there - he was a town doctor - oh, cussed like a sailor!!! I've been going to her ever since (not clear.....) Oh, I guess I'd been to her some before that. But, she used to make house calls.

I That's about unheard of now.

E Well, that's a fact. But I can remember my father and mother, they were in Sarasota and my father passed away, unfortunately, ...and the doctor came to the house at noon that day and then came back that evening . Why, you couldn't pay a doctor to do that now. Louise, I guess, she still will make a house call. Now, that's Louise. She's been veryshe's been very supportive of the Christian Church and I don't even know what other charities she helps. She's been good. Louise, well, for many years, people thought that she and Bob Bishop - you know Bob?

I Yes, I've met him.

E They thought that she and Bob would get married. Well, Bob's father passed away the night he graduated from high school. So he took the drugstore over...medicine sales. They used to go to New York plays together. Well, bob was fixing to have his eyes worked on. And - Louise - what did the doctor say? And he got a second opinion and if doc ok'd it it was alright.

- E I'll tell you a little story. Now, this was the occasion - but a nurse at the hospital told me that Bob went in out there to the emergency room and they said, who's your doctor? And he said, Louise, Louise Caudill. And they said, we can't get Louise, she's out. She's at a hospital Board meeting (she's on the Board out there) and they told her and she left that hospital board meeting to take care of Bob. They're really good friends.
- I If you were to describe Louise to somebody else, somebody who'd didn't know here and had never been here - how would you describe her? How is she different from other people.
- E Well, she'd a very kind and caring person. Does that sound right?
- I earlier you seemed to describe her as an athletic tomboy - and then she turns into this woman who is just beloved by a whole area. Why - what makes her so special? You know it as soon as you meet.
- E She's genuine. That's a good word.
I have to be careful with you school teachers.....
- I Genuine - yes - she's not trying to impress you or be something else. Do you think part of that has something to do with growing up in a small town like this - where you're permitted to be yourself.
- E Now, you see all that medicine over there. I'm getting ready to leave for a few days but I call down there for more and if she wants me to she'll say come down and if not, she'll say I'll call the drug store and have them send you some medicine.
- I came home from Florida with gout.
I could hardly walk. So, I got down there and said, oh, I want to see Louise. I had an old pair of house slippers on.
She said, boy, I know you're sick if you come down here looking like that.