

4-14-2016

Oral History of Eddie Lee Webster, Jr. (Part 2 of 2)

Eddie Lee Webster Jr.

Chet Bush
University of Mississippi

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/cssc_interviews



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [Oral History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Webster, Eddie Lee Jr. and Bush, Chet, "Oral History of Eddie Lee Webster, Jr. (Part 2 of 2)" (2016). *Oral History Interviews*. 4.

https://egrove.olemiss.edu/cssc_interviews/4

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Projects at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oral History Interviews by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Oral History of Eddie Lee Webster, Jr.
Part 2 of 2
April 14, 2016

Interviewee: Eddie Lee Webster, Jr.
Interviewer: Chet Bush
Location: Quitman County Public Library, Marks, Mississippi
Length: Sixty-two minutes

In this second of two interviews, Webster shares about his childhood and the people who surrounded him growing up. Webster reflects on life in the rural areas of Quitman County near Lambert, MS. Webster shares about the woman who raised him, Arizona Bradford, a godmother who legally adopted Webster and his brother and sister. Bradford also raised five other children.

He discusses Bradford's activism in the community working with Headstart and Meals-on-Wheels, and providing transportation for children to and from school. He names churches that hosted the Headstart program: Green Hill and Pleasant Ridge.

Webster lived on his grandparents' land that they farmed together as a family. He remembers the two mules his grandfather owned for plowing the field: Buddy and Kate, and how farm life changed after his grandfather purchased his first tractor in 1966. He talks about his work performed on the farm, cutting corn and picking cotton.

Webster remembers his mother (godmother, Bradford) sewing on a pedal automated sewing machine where, as a young boy, he gathered the fabric as it came off her table. He later worked in a factory sewing pockets and seams for Levi jeans. Webster talks about the various work he has done in his life in Tennessee, Oregon, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

He identifies a local leader of the Marks community, Manuel Killebrew, as family on his godmother's side. Killebrew operates a funeral home in town, Delta Burial Company, and serves as the Quitman County Supervisor.

Webster reflects on life in rural Quitman County when he was a boy. He remembers Saturday nights in Lambert where they went to the drugstore on Main Street for ice cream, and how his mother warned the children from venturing to the "low end" of town where the juke joints offered music and dancing on the weekends. Webster also identifies the locations of his baptism and where his family is buried.