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Samuel B. Chilton

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McKinley, Roosevelt Stories Related by Sam Chilton

By John Morgan
Staff Writer

Here are two more Sam Chilton stories, told for the "Oral History of Appalachia," a Marshall University project. Chilton, 90, rated as one of Charleston's all-time great storytellers, describes his meetings with President William McKinley, about 1898, and President Theodore Roosevelt, about 1905.

"I had a very pleasant visit with McKinley once. In those old days in the White House, there were two rooms, the blue and the pink room. And just anybody walked in and made themselves at home and looked around.

"My mother had taken me around to see the wonders of Washington while we were visiting. . . But while they were in the pink room, I was in the blue room by myself, and a crowd of children about my age came along. And they went down the hall, and I said I'd go along with them.

"And I went down with them, and the first thing you know we were in the room with McKinley, the president. And they all went up to speak to him, and I went up too.

"And he said, 'What part of Ohio are you from, son?'"

"And I said, 'I'm not from Ohio. I'm from Charleston, West Virginia.'"

"Oh," he said, 'during the war I spent a year up at Gauley Bridge.'"

"And I said, 'Yes, and if one of my great uncles had of seen you, he'd of shot you.'"

"And he just put his hand over on my

head and said, 'You little rebel, you come back and see me again sometime.'"

THE ROOSEVELT story:

"I met Roosevelt once, and I thought he was a great big fellow, and he was just a little short guy then.

"We went down Thanksgiving Day to see Washington and Lee play George Washington in the morning. . . I learned about a race that was going to be down at the Washington track that afternoon, and the horse that would win.

"Well, the official didn't show for the football game . . . one of them didn't, and they hired Bob Maxwell, who was up at Charleston one year. And he got \$25, and I said, 'Bob, let's bet that on that horse.'"

"The horse's name was Dave Crockett or something like that. And we bet it, and the horse paid 10 to one, and we got back \$250. And then that was on Thanksgiving when the Army-Navy game was played at Princeton that year.

"And I went up trying to get off at Princeton, and I was four or five miles away when I got off. And along came a train, and it slowed down and I hopped on it. Two or three big men grabbed me and hollered:

"What do you mean? This is the President's train."

But a man from Huntington—I can't think of his name right now—was Roosevelt's chief guard at that time. Anyway, I asked if he was there, and they said yes, and he came out, and he saw me and he said:

"What are you doing on a Republican train?"

"And I told him, and he said, 'I'll take you back with me.' And he took me back and I talked with Roosevelt on the way into Princeton then.

"That was the year, you know, they changed to the forward pass. They got Roosevelt to be the head of that commission, you know to change the rules for football."

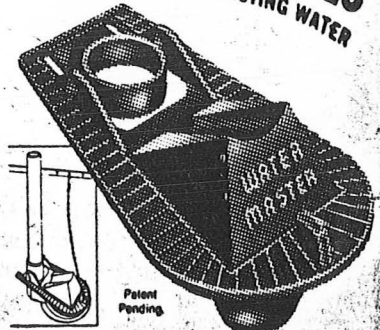
LATER, CHILTON was asked for a report on how changes were made in football rules. He quoted his friend, Maxwell, replying:

"Sam, we all get there about Thursday and have different ideas about rules, and go down to the bar and discuss them. And then the last day we go down and ask the bartender what changes we ought to make, and we make them."



Chilton

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Sam Chilton and the Law: The Roommate Was Arrested

Sam Chilton actually was graduated from West Virginia University Law School. But his conduct wasn't the best, and he unceremoniously received his degree by mail. In today's story, the 90-year-old Charleston resident elaborates. He tells about his minimal law practice and spins a few anecdotes for the "Oral History of Appalachia," a Marshall University project.

By John G. Morgan
Staff Writer

"When I graduated I had them between a rock and a hard place. And they said if I would leave in March and never come back to Morgantown again, they would send me a degree in a paper carton. And I still have it.

"See I had Hogg. I roomed with Hogg. Gene Hogg. And he had been quite a whiskey drinker. But he quit after he was in college, and he wasn't drinking up at West Virginia.

"But I went down one Sunday to get the mail, and all the mail was for him. And I put it in my pocket, then somebody said let's go to Fairmont, and we went to Fairmont.

"And I got drunk and disorderly, and the next thing they put me in jail, and I wouldn't tell them my name. So they just took the mail out of my pocket, and Gene Hogg was arrested for being drunk and disorderly."

During his legal career, Chilton says he occasionally "would try a justice of the peace case." He continues:

"And then I did establish a woman's right to a wedding present. In other words, a woman taken by a man . . . He took her up to the coal mines when he was superintendent. He came one day and found somebody in bed with her.

"And the man was running mad and, eeing the son of the president of the Kana-

wha Valley Bank, he and his wife had received a wonderful line of presents for their wedding. He decided among other things he would take all the presents away from her.

"And she came to me and I established that the presents were to the bride, and the groom didn't have a goddamn thing to do with them."

FOLLOWING ARE a few Chilton anecdotes, given titles for convenient identification. The first is called "The Fourth Time":

"A big fight was going on down in Huntington. We were in a crowd of our own, just raising hell. And the mayor came in and sat down with us, and he started.

"And the bartender came over too. I think to tell us to stop. But he said, 'I've told you all three times to quit making all this noise, and if I have to tell you again...'

"Then he looked over and saw the mayor and said, 'It'll be the fourth time.'"

"The 13th Floor":

"A married woman and a man were in a room on the 13th floor, and there's a knock on the door. And she said, 'Who is it?' And he said, 'It's John.'

"And she said, 'Oh my god, that's my husband.' She said to the man, 'Jump out the window.' He said, 'Me, jump out of a 13th story window?'

"And she said, 'This ain't no time for superstitions.'"

"The Married Dolphin":

"Mr. Laidley, the head of the school system, wasn't a bad guy at that. The time

I had this teacher — I forget which it was, in the 6th or 7th grade — had a habit of reading things out of some magazine. And she read that a single dolphin will have a thousand young in a year.

"And I put up my hand, and she said, 'What is it, Sam?' And I said, 'How many will a married dolphin have?'"

"And she sent me down to see Mr. Laidley, and I told him, and he laughed and said, 'You sit here like I'm punishing you for saying that.'"

"The Priest and the Woman":

"A priest and a woman, traveling in a car, ran out of gas. 'Well, I don't reckon anybody is going by to help us,' he said. It was getting along about six or seven o'clock. He said, 'There's a house over there. I'll go and see if they mind.' He went over and waved for her to come on over.

"She came over and said, 'Not anybody here, but the house is all right. Let's go in.' They waited awhile, and she said, 'Well, no use waiting here. Everything's ready. I'll cook your dinner.' Which she did, and no one came again.

"And they waited until later in the night when she said, 'Well, are you getting sleepy? Well, that's a big bed. I can sleep on one side, and you can sleep on the other. And I'll be gone while you get undressed, and I'll get in bed all right myself.'

"So she got in bed, and pretty soon she said, 'I'm cold.' He said, 'I'll get up and get you a blanket.' Got up and got her a blanket. Directly, she said again, 'I'm cold.' He said, 'Well, I'll get up and get you a blanket.' Then she said, 'I'm cold, let's play like we is married.'

"All right, get up and get your own blanket."

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Chilton

Sam Chilton dies after a long illness

10-5-77

CHARLESTON (AP) — Samuel Blackwell Chilton, 92, who ran unsuccessfully eight times for secretary of state and was considered the father of horse racing in West Virginia, died yesterday.

Chilton, a nephew of the late U. S. Sen. W.E. Chilton, who was publisher of the Charleston Gazette, was a cousin of the present publisher, W.E. Chilton III.

He died in Mountain State Nursing Home and had been ill for some time.

He served as a lobbyist and succeeded in getting two horse racing bills passed by the legislature. The first was vetoed by Gov. John J. Cornwell in 1918 but the second one became law without the signature of Gov. H. G. Kump in 1933.

He was a noted storyteller and many of the sto-

ries and details of his life are on file at Marshall University as part of the "Oral History of Appalachia."

Chilton once explained why he ran repeatedly for secretary of state.

"The secretary of state does nothing, and I do nothing, so I figure I would be eminently qualified for the job," he said.

Secretary of State A. James Manchin recently had Chilton's name given a permanent place on the door of the secretary of state's office and presented him with the Order of the 35th Star, the highest award granted by the secretary of state.

Survivors include his widow, Helen, and a son, Samuel Blackwell Chilton Jr., of Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

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The Charleston Gazette

The State Newspaper

Charleston, West Virginia, Monday Morning, May 31, 1976

28 Pages, 2 Sections, 15 cents

VALLEY EDITION

New Violence Flares In Boston Bus Ruling

By Daniel Q. Haney

BOSTON (AP) — A civil rights leader hailed the Justice Department's decision to stay out of the Boston busing case as "a victory for the U.S. Constitution," but anti-busing militants predicted it would touch off new violence.

Within hours after the decision Saturday by Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi, downtown store windows were smashed and a fire broke out in the admission building to a replica of a ship involved in the Boston Tea Party.

JAMES KELLY, a spokesman for the South Boston Information Center, an anti-

busing organization, said the violence was the work of an unnamed militant anti-busing group.

See Editorial on Page 6A.

"It is my understanding that if an adverse decision came down from Atty. Gen. Levi, then it was 'anything goes' by this militant group," Kelly said. "It is their intention to create havoc in Boston. They want to disrupt any peaceful Bicentennial celebration this summer and particularly get at the businessman."

After two weeks of highly publicized deliberation, Levi announced that the Justice Department would keep away for now from a Supreme Court appeal of Boston's controversial busing program.

PRT Built At Bad Site, Study Says

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. (AP) — The Personal Rapid Transit system at West Virginia University was built in the wrong city and hindered by political pressures, according to a government study.

However, the study concluded that the PRT seems to serve the students reasonably well.

"Morgantown was not a good choice of site for the demonstration," according to the study by the Rand Corp. for the Department of Commerce. "The city's special traffic problems and student population makes generalization to other potential adaptations hazardous at best."

And the report said political pressures forced engineers to put together the system without adequate time to work out the bugs.

"THE TECHNOLOGY was not well enough developed for successful demonstration."

About nine hours later, fire broke out next to the replica of the two-masted sailing ship "Beaver," which is moored at a bridge that leads into South Boston.

The blaze did \$75,000 damage to a gift shop and ticket office, but the ship was unharmed. The fire department arson squad said the fire was of suspicious origin.

CITY COUNCIL President Louise Day Hicks, who has based her political career on opposition to busing, said she feared Levi's announcement would make people in Boston "lose their heads."

"His decision is regrettable," she said. "I have said many times before that the situation in Boston is tense. The people are fed up with the politics of 'do as I say but not as I do.'"

"The decision of the attorney general is the result of political pressure. It's a victory for the high-pressured hypocrites who abound in Washington. President Gerald Ford is a fraud. This is an antiwhite decision."

However, the attorney general's decision was applauded by Thomas I. Atkins, president of the Boston chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

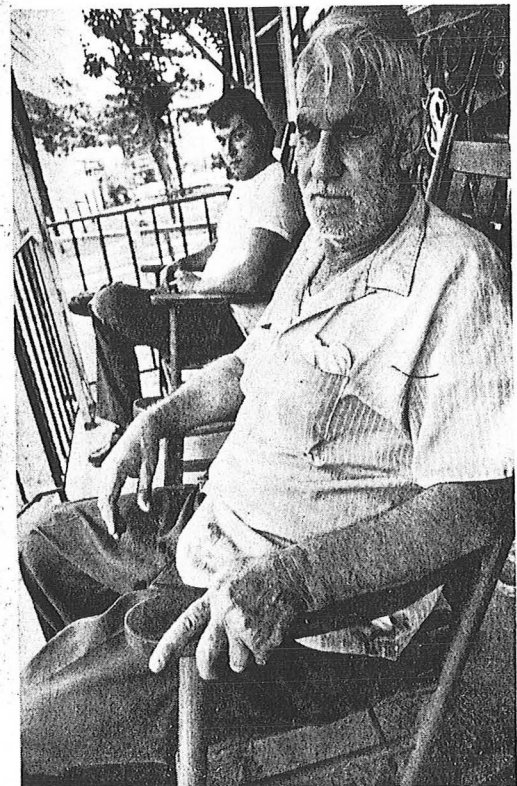
"The principal impact will be to deprive those who have resisted the court order with violence of any further hope that those tactics will be successful," Atkins said. "It's a victory for the U.S. Constitution."

Sen. Edward W. Brooke, the nation's only black senator, had actively campaigned against Justice Department involvement in the Boston case.

AFTER LEVI'S announcement, the Massachusetts Republican said, "This is neither a victory nor a defeat for either side of this issue."

(Please Turn to Page 2A, Col. 4)

Won't Leave Held Land,



A LOST ART is what Kenneth Ray Staten of Campbells Creek Drive is afraid rocking will become. Staten (foreground) and his son, Kenneth, were doing their part to keep the art alive

Sunday, tottering back and forth on their front porch. "I love a good old rocking chair," Staten said. "Sometimes I worry rocking will become a lost art."

(Gazette Photo by David Vick)

With Bicentennial Band

Top U.S. Military Conductors Here



Sam B. Chilton
Tells Racy Stories

Year-Old Storyteller

Many Firsts, Onlys In Chilton's Life

This is another in a series of stories about persons interviewed for the "Oral History of Appalachia," a Marshall University project to capture the special flavor of life among the hills during earlier times.

By John G. Morgan
Staff Writer

There are lots of firsts and onlys in the life of Sam B. Chilton, great storyteller of horse racing in West Virginia politician with a record for losing

in his 91st year. Chilton still tells stories as he follows his own style in picking the colors for his generation. He's the only man ever to run for secretary of state eight times, all unsuccessful.

Secretary of state does nothing, so nothing, so I figure I would be fully qualified for the job," Chilton says in classic fashion.

None of his favorite stories, he likes the time that Uncle Joe stopped her gossip about the Chilton family

Uncle Joe figures prominently in another story told by Sam.

"I went down to my first derby . . . It was in 1913. Uncle Joe and I went down on the train from Lexington to Louisville that morning with the owner and trainer of a horse called "Donny Rail."

See Intercepted Message on Page 6A.

"And we bet on a horse called 'Ten Point' . . . And Donny Rail won and paid \$184 for \$2."

CHILTON HAD high respect for his Uncle Joe as a master politician, especially during that mad time in 1911 when the Republican half of the State Senate went to Cincinnati as a strategy move to control the election of two U.S. senators.

Many Firsts, Onlys In Chilton's Life

From Page One

"And incidentally he brought digitalis to this country," Chilton adds. This herb, used in treatment of heart disease, probably was brought from the University of Maryland, where the father studied medicine.

* * *

THE BOY from St. Albans moved here in 1895 and attended Charleston High School. He is credited with organizing the first football team at the school in 1899. He coached the team from 1910 to 1912.

He has known four presidents personally—William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Warren Harding and Franklin Roosevelt.

Chilton, who likes baseball almost as much as racing, remembers approximately that the man who brought the first curve ball to West Virginia was "McManus or something like that."

For a time Chilton himself was a baseball pitcher. While pitching under an assumed name at Centre College in Kentucky, he gained the reputation of a man who "had the speed of a railroad train and was as wild as a mountain lion."

He says he relied heavily on the spitball as his main pitch. He adds that the spitball was outlawed because it was "so (expletive deleted) good they couldn't hit it."

* * *

IN THE ROLE of a lobbyist, Chilton was instrumental in getting a horse racing bill passed by the legislature in 1918. But Gov. John J. Cornwell vetoed it.

After the veto, Chilton may have scored another first. He returned \$28,000 of \$30,000 a friend had given him to get the bill passed.

About 1933 Chilton again was successful in getting a racing bill through the legislature. Gov. H. G. Kump let it become law without his signature.

"So they gave me credit for being the father of racing in West Virginia. I just happened to, you know. I didn't . . . it wasn't any bill of mine. I just happened to get it passed at that time."

* * *

AND NOW Chilton has an idea, still not fully revealed but almost guaranteed to revolutionize racing.

"Nobody's ever yet had a race where there was a payoff and there wasn't a loser. And I've got a race just like that."

George Daugherty, Charleston lawyer and Chilton's fellow raconteur, regards the no-loser idea of betting as "one of the most ingenious things I've ever seen in my life."

"Every 16 days would be just like having an Irish sweepstakes . . . It's just a wonderful idea. It's very complex. It took him about two or three years to explain it to me . . ."

Daugherty and two Gazette staff members interviewed Chilton during a long afternoon in a downtown office and late in the night at a club across the street. Sculptor Bernie Wiepper, who did a bronze bust of Chilton unveiled on his 90th birthday, participated.

As the talk ran on and on, the story after story rolled out of Chilton, he remarked:

"Hell, I enjoy telling stories as well, maybe more than, the people who hear them."

An interviewer commented:

"That's what makes them good, Sam."

St

Politics, Baseball Blend for Chilton

Here are more Sam Chilton short stories, told for the "Oral History of Appalachia," a Marshall University project. Chilton, 90, rated as one of Charleston's all-time great storytellers, describes incidents involving two late governors, Homer "Rocky" Holt and H. G. Kump, and defines the "dewdrop ball" and "spitball" in today's presentation. He also recites poetry.

John G. Morgan
Staff Writer

"The reason I'm talking about Rocky is I went up to see my friend who was a warden of the penitentiary. And the first thing I saw over the front door was the West Virginia Seal and "Mountaineers Are Always Free."

"That's a helluva thing to have over the front door of a penitentiary. And by god Rocky had it taken down."

The Kump incident occurred during one of his official visits to a state mental institution.

"THEY HAD A ROW down there, and Kump thought he might go down and help. He drove his car down, and parked and went inside the building. Looking for the main office. And along came a fellow and said:

"Hey, you're new here.

"Oh, I'm sorry, my friend. I'm the governor of West Virginia."

"Don't let that bother you. I thought I was Napoleon when they brought me in."

Chilton first mentions the dewdrop ball while talking about Uncle Bob Carr, a portly character and former president of the State Senate, who was among those claiming he should be governor after the controversial election of 1888.

"Everybody loved Uncle Bobby and his old horse. He would come up to the baseball game and sit out and say throw him a dewdrop. Well, a dewdrop was a helluva a good ball. If you could throw a ball up in the air and have it come on the plate coming down . . . it's mighty hard to hit."

Chilton threw the spitball often during his career as a pitcher. When asked to describe it, he says:

"Instead of taking a kind of twist on the ball, it just builds up enough in front of it to make it jump at one side to the other, and it didn't quit."

He says the spitball was outlawed because it was so good that batters just couldn't hit it. But isn't it dangerous? Wouldn't it hit the batter? Chilton replies:

"IT WOULDN'T GO that far. It would go maybe five or six inches. But anyway I learned more about baseball after I quit playing it."

He indicates he might not have been "wild as a mountain lion" as a pitcher if he had met someone like Grover Cleveland Alexander sooner. Chilton tells of a late lesson learned from Alexander, major league strikeout artist:

"Cleve Alexander got to be a good friend of mine, and we were drunk down in Cincinnati one night, out at the Bluegrass Inn, and I said:

"You're pitching tomorrow. What are you doing to get that control?"

"And he said:

"Sam, I haven't got any good control, but I have sense enough to throw at the center of the plate, and you'll get more corner throwing at the center of the plate than you will throwing at the corner."

Chilton has a wide range of appreciation for poetry. He recites the following:

"Mother, may I go out to swim?"

"Yes, my darling daughter.

Intercepted Message on Page 4A

"Hang your clothes on a hickory limb.
"But don't go near the water."

AND THIS ONE:

"Mother, may we go out to see the the horses run?

"Yes, you darling faces.

"Seat yourselves in your father's box.

"But don't bet on the races."

"Pretty much alike," he says with a chuckle.

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ORAL HISTORY

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(Signature - Interviewee)

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Address

Charleston, W. Va.

Date August 7, 1975

[Signature]
(Signature - Witness)

An Interview with:

Sam B. Chilton

Conducted By:

John Morgan and Harry Hoffman
of the Charleston Gazette.

George Daugherty, A Charleston
Lawyer.

Place:

Charleston, W. Va.

Date:

August 7, 1975.

Transcribed by:

Brenda Perego

The person being interviewed on this tape is Mr. Sam B. Chilton. 2299 Blackwell Dr., Charleston, West Virginia. He was born on August the 26, 1885; the date of the interview was August the 7, 1975. The interviewers are Harry Hoffman and John Morgan of The Charleston Gazette, and George Daugherty, a Charleston lawyer.*

SM: Hell they had a bunch of people, older people there and I was just, I don't know what, I was just a youngster compared, compared to Boone Dawson and Rocky Holt and all this crowd and some preachers and everything in there (Laughter). So he got in on some of these damn stories rougher than hell see, and I, and I knew he wouldn't, uh, say I knew he wouldn't uh, I was getting ready cause he was getting, you know he was getting too drunk, you know, getting so it was embarrassing and just keep on going and I was going up there to get him, you know, because he was my buddy and I was gonna go, but I felt like hell, you know, a young guy with all these older people me doing it see. And I never will for get what's-his-name helped me, uh, well anyway. So what I, finally made me do it was this story, see, he said, he told this story and hell that, he said that this guy went to Alaska and he came back (Telephone buzzes).
(Harry Hoffman enters room, inaudible telephone conversation).

SM: Hello Harry.

HH: Sam, how you doing?

SM: Glad to see you.

HH: Good to see you.

SM: Pull, pull, pull that, pull, pull, pull that door and let me tell, uh, (Door closed). Harry, what I was telling them, they were listening to stories here about Riley Wilson and Riley you know could tell a story, when Riley was sober, Riley could tell a story he could tell it in, uh, he could tell it, in uh,

*Dr. O. Norman Simpkins is presenting the introduction which was excluded from the interview. Sam McCorkle and Bernie Wiepper were also present.

in uh, any kind of rotten story as was and, and the language he would use he could tell it, at uh, at uh, at uh, into a congregation. I mean hell, you know, cause he knew the choice of words and everything. But when I was about 21 or 22, I went up to Edgewood to a Washington and Lee Alumni Association meeting and Riley was the speaker, and Riley got screwed up and thought that he was at a West Virginia Alumni meeting. That's when he started off his drunk, see, you know how, you know how drunk he'd sometimes get drunker than a goddamn coot owl. So that started off wrong, you know, here he was up there, you know, and goddamnit giving Washington and Lee hell see (Laughter) here the West Virginia supposedly Alumni Association. So I was trying to get, but that was funny because it was still funny, you know, everybody knew what was happening. But when he had, there's a bunch of older people there, preachers and every other thing, you know, and then he got off started telling these stories and some of um were rougher'n hell you know, and, and so I knew I had to do something because hell, he was my buddy and I was going to get him out, you know get him off there, but hell I was just, was 22 wasn't any older than that cause I, I was going to law school. And, uh, but I had to get him, and hell me get up there in front of these older people, you know, all of um there and I didn't want to do it, you know, cause it was embarrassing as hell but I was going to do it. So what finally made me move was this story, see, he said, this guy went to Alaska, went up to Alaska and he came back and went in to see the doctor. And course Riley, liar you know, telling the way he tells um, and he said he went in and he said, "Uh, I wanna show you some-I got a slight, uh, uh, wanna see you." He said, "What's the trouble?" He said, "Well, I got a slight discharge here." He said, uh, "Well where you been?" He said, "Well, I been up to Alaska." He said, "What'd you do when you were up there?" He said, "Well I, I uh, uh, shot a bear and fucked an Indian." And he said, "Well, you made a serious mistake, what you should have done is shot that Indian and fucked that bear." (Laughter) So I had to get him, see, I never will forget, I was as embarrassed as hell, you know, to get up cause then I didn't know what, I didn't know what was coming next, you see. So I got up to go to go up there and get him, and uh, and uh, Rocky Holt saw what hell, shit I was red-faced and god-blushing and everything else; but I was going up there to take him off there because I knew, hell there wasn't any, and Rocky Holt got up and helped me. And I've, I've always appreciated that in Rocky Holt because, goddamn I was in a hell of a shape, you can imagine

a young kid, cause I was going up and take the main speaker off the goddamn stand, see (Laughter). And hell Rocky Holt came along with me and after.

SC: Well I'm glad, now Rocky wasn't a bad fella.

SM: Well, he some, he had his ways but he was a decent.

SC: He helped me do something for West Virginia.

SM: Yeah, I know, but he was a decent guy, he saw I was in a crack and he knew it should be done and he, and he did come to my rescue and he was the one guy there that could have done it see, cause, uh, you know, uh, I don't know what in the hell, uh, Riley and I libble got in a goddamn argument, you know, hell you know, hell I was going to take him out of there, but uh, hell there was.

SC: Well, Sam (HH: Sam, he was-inaudible.) the way I, the reason I'm talking bout, bout, uh, Rocky was, I went up to go over to see my friend who's a warden of a, uh, penitentiary. And the first thing I look over the front door was the West Virginia seal and mountaineer's are always free (Laughter). That's a hell'va thing to have over the front door of a penitentiary (Laughter). And by god Rocky had it, had it taken down (Laughter). I've been wondering the difference between these two poems. Uh, they're just couplets. You all remember, "Mother, may I go out to swim?" "Yes, my darling daughter, hang your clothes on a hickory limb, but don't go near the water." And this one, "Mother, may we go out to see the horses run?" "Yes, you darling faces, seat yourself in your father's box, but don't bet on the races." (Laughter) Pretty much alike, aren't they (Laughter)?

HH: Yeah.

SM: Uncle Sam, Uncle Sam, sit with Tork, and myself, and Kip one time, talking bout races. He said to pop, pop wasn't much of a horse, you know, he never bet much on horses, you know, and so he, we were in the office and the horses name was "Golden Bane" I never will forget it, now this must have been, bound to been 35 years ago, cause uh, uh, we were just kids. And uh, we were in the office when you sent this thing in it's suppose to be a race, it was whatever it was, how, what the hell it was this horse was going to win "Golden Bane"

is that uh, uh, Golden Wedding, "Golden Bane" was the name of this horse. And so pop said uh, uh, "Uncle Sam, uh, set me a tip here on uh, "Golden Bane." And so Tork and I went up and got mother to give us twenty dollars, which you can imagine, you know, and that's a, and when you're poor, boy that's one hell'va lot of money. And then we went up to John Pauley's to find out where to bet, where to put the bets at. And goddamn John Pauley started in on us about the evils of betting on horses, cause I guess he'd had some problems, you know. And we damn near didn't do it, we damn near didn't put the bet down because of John Pauley was, and he said, "Well, I'm gonna tell you where to go," and, but he, he gave us, uh, so, so we went down to, uh, it was on, on Summer's Street at the Colonial poolroom, is that the name of it, there's a poolroom there where, I tell you where it was it's where, uh, Cohen's is now, right in there there was a place you could bet, put a bet on a horse. I don't know what, I, I forget the name of the poolroom.

SC: (Inaudible).

SM: Well, it was across the street over there by the, uh, Cohens, where Cohens is now. And so we went in there and bet on that damn horse, and the horse won, and I don't know how much, hell one paid off, I don't know how much money we had. But you know that's the last horse race I ever bet on because of that goddamn lecture I got by, uh, by John Pauley, I mean, yea he told me, goddamn you never heard such a lecture as he gave us on horse racing. And I, I never bet on another horse race, I bet on that one because Tork was with me.

HH: What happened to "Golden Bane?"

SM: "Golden Bane won that damn race and we got all kinds of damn money, I don't know what it was. Yeah.

SC: I've, I've got a harder luck story to tell you about that then, I went down to my first derby I went to. It was in 1913. I went down on the, Uncle Joe and I, went down on the train from Lexington to Louisville that morning, with the owner and trainer of a horse called "Donny Rail." And we bet on a horse called "Ten Point (Inaudible). (Laughs) and "Donny Rail" won and paid a hundred and eighty four dollars for two (Laughter).

SM: Jesus Christ!

HH: Donnley Rail?

SC: Huh?

HH: What was that horse's name?

SC: Donny Rail.

HH: Donny Rail.

SC: Yeah. And still I believe if I had to do it over again, the way that horse looked and everything, well goddamnit, if I'd bet on him yet (Laughter).

SM: Didn't believe he won, did you?

SC: He won, he won by an inch or two. I, I don't know what, what they do break (Inaudible) one that's too old for it.

GD: Have you all heard the story about his Uncle Joe taking him to his first horse race?

JM: I don't know.

GD: Why, why don't you tell um that one, Sam?

JM: Tell it to the recorder.

GD: Is the recorder on?

JM: Yeah, yeah. Put it over here where he (moving recorder).

GD: What about your Uncle Joe taking you to the, to your first horse race, Sam?

SC: Well.

GD: Let me, let me plug that thing in over there.

SM: Let me get out of here.

GD: No that's alright. (Break in tape).

GD: Sit still, sit still, Sam. I'll sit over here.

BW: That looks like the old fart, I don't know. (Photograph shown).

SM: Yeah.

HH: Yeah, I saw it yesterday.

SM: Is that him?

HH: Great, great.

BW: Uh huh, he saw it yesterday.

JM: Do you have a photographer coming, uh, Bernie, are you going, uh.

BW: No, uh, not, not that I know of, I thought.

JM: Weren't we going to take his picture?

BW: Yeah, I thought we were, yeah.

HH: Yeah, I think I'll call over there.

JM: Want me to have Jo Ann ring him for you? What's, what's the number Harry?

HH: I can do it.

JM: O.K.

GD: I want you to hear this story. This is a damn good story.

SC: John, I've been wanting to get a hold of you.

JM: Yeah.

SC: I have something that I think is worthwhile and you'd be the man to do your part of it. Up in Beckley there's a, you go into the courthouse and there's a wing's closing goes up, you know, so far out on the marble. And at the center of it you go down a few feet and there's a perfect picture of Franklin D. Roosevelt (JM: Really?) in that marble there.

JM: It just happens to be that way (SC: Just happens) just naturally that way.

SC: Yeah.

JM: Huh.

SC: Now I thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to put old Beckley on the, on the board for having a picture made in that way by God (Laughs).

JM: Can you, you couldn't, can you photograph it or is it something you have to see?

SC: Oh yes, you can photograph it.

JM: Really?

SC: It's just a perfect profile of (JM: Really?) Franklin Delano.

JM: I never heard that before; right inside the main entrance?

SC: Uh, you go into the (Inaudible) where two corners join and then down to the steps, it's six or seven feet.

GD: How about a natural picture of Roosevelt formed up there in the courthouse. Did you know about that? (No.) I've never see it either, Sam's mentioned it two or three times and I've, I've never.

JM: I've never heard anything about it.

SC: Well, George wants Sam in the.

GD: Yeah, he'll be back in a minute. Why, why, why don't, why don't you go ahead. I think he's heard that, hadn't he?

SC: I wouldn't even know, uh.

GD: This, this is the story that's always tickled me about Sam, uh, Uncle Joe taking him to his first horse race.

SC: In 1895, my father died the day that McCorkle was inaugurated; in 1893 on the 4th of March and god by 9:00 that night I don't reckon anyone ever had as fine a legacy as I did when the last words my father said to my grandmother was, "Mommy take care of my boy," and she just brought me the rest of my life to me. Damn it, everone else that ever dealt with me knows I was first. Well, we moved up here in, in 1895 and some time during the summer, uh, my Uncle Joe one Friday night said, "Sam, come and go; I want to take you down to the races, Cincinnati."

We went down there racing at a racing track called Oakley.

HH: Oakland?

SC: Oakley.

HH: Oakley.

SC: And during the day, Uncle Joe had a right bad day I don't think he won a bet. And he bet good money. So the next day was Sunday and Monday he gave Dutch Frye with, with a check said, "Go over to Mont Gobel, over at the Fifth Third Bank," this was the old, I'll think of the name of it. That was the hotel of (HH: Gibson?) Cincinatti. (HH: Gibson?) No. I'll think of it in a minute, was, was on, uh, anyway, said, "Go over to Mont Gobel and he'll cash this check." He give Dutch a check for a thousand dollars and he said, "Maybe that's allright, but this is the Fourth of July and the banks are closed." And he said, "My gosh," said, "Son come on and go with me." And he went down to the manager of the hotel. And said, "I want to get a check cashed." "Well sir, I'll be very glad to cash it." "It's a right sizable check, it's a thousand dollars." Said, "I told you I'd cash your check, come back in the office." And we went back in the office and Uncle Joe got out his checkbook and wrote the check. Then handed it over to the management and thanking him all the time for taking the check. And the manager told the boy, said "Go out and get this thousand dollars for (Spells) Mr. C-H-I-L-T-O-N, Chilton." And Uncle Joe then again thanked him. And said, "Now Mr. Chilton," said "You've been down here so many times, with so many different women, and registered under so many different names, it's worth that much to me to know what name you do business in," (Laughter). Uh, that's a hot one.

GD: Well, you were ten years old, Sam?

SC: Ten years old. I heard, the first time I ever heard Riley talk was, Fife was having, it was the Burrow Opera House, and Fife was having a revival there. Fife's a great revival. Course we were having one up in Uncle Riley Wilson's barn, back of the house. And it came Riley's time to pray, and this was Riley's prayer: Oh God make Pat cut the kindling wood and put it in his heart and carry it it (Laughter).

GD: Sam, how about telling the story about the, uh, about the plowshare.

SC: Well, uh, Ned Smith, you remember Ned, and you remember him. Wasn't anybody worthwhile was worthwhile up in Morgantown and Riley go there he'd take him down to see um. He said, "Sam, the blacksmith hired this swell fella this morning, let's go down and see him." We went down, hadn't been there ten minutes till a farmer came in with a broken, broken plowshare. And he said to this blacksmith says, "Can you fix this?" This fella said, "Yes, hell yes, I can fix it but who in the hell broke it?" "Well, I've a fellow name Ned Smith," said, "worked for me." "Well," said, "ain't he the same fella that last spring had your unmarried daughter in a family way?" Said, "Yes," said, "Clumsy son of a bitch, ain't he?" (Laughter).

HH: Sam, do you remember the details at the time that the senate, uh, moved to Cincinnati?

SC: Yes. In a general way, uh, they, John, he had a very polite story of how they figured it all out. But the way it was figured out, is Uncle Joe went down to John Mayo, in Ashland, and got \$50,000 and bought um, that's the reason they came back (Laughs).

JM: Who did, who did he get the money from?

SC: John Mayo.

JM: Mayo?

SC: Yeah.

HH: (Spells) M-A-Y-O, uh?

SC: (Spells) M-A-Y-O. He was the, he had all of the, he, well he sold consolidation to all, to all the rich fellows down there.

HH: He was down in Ashland, Kentucky?

SC: Yeah, he build a home down there.

JM: Huh.

HH: Now, uh, was that, that occasion the time that the legislature was still rated on electing the United States Senate?

SC: They, it was from Watson and, uh, Uncle Will Rayum.

HH: Yeah.

SC: And they, uh, they'd went to Cincinnati and he went down and got um to come back. But that was alright the way you had it figured out, but the (Inaudible) we were having nothing go to the \$50,000 job (Laughter).

JM: Who did he pay the money to?

SC: From there I don't know who he paid the money to, but he may've paid the money to, to the people that brought um back; I think Hatfield had something to do with it. And, uh, and Uncle Joe did, uh, collecting. As I, before you, you, you put me as the oldest man in connection with him as evidence as one of the incorporated, uh, did I tell you all this or, or not?

JM: Well, I don't believe you did tell us about it.

SC: Well, anyway uh, Uncle Joe came in and said, uh, "Will, I've got the gazette so they won't talk about us and they'd, each morning they'd open up my column as son of a bitch and then warm up." And then Uncle Will said, "My god, Joe, you can't do that." He said, "Yes I can, I bought it, so this is news."

HH: That story, since they're talking alot about bankers these days, that story about the banker that you tell, banker and another son of a bitch.

SC: Yeah, well, well that's Charlie Charlton(?), who was one of the army guys of the Cleveland Press made me spill, why I said, "Charlie, they'll kill me, telling that story." "Time it's over don't you see they'll laugh their heads off and think you're the greatest guy in the world." The story was, that there was a banker and another son of a bitch having a fight and a gentleman came out of a (Inaudible) whorehouse and parted um (Laughter). Well I told it and

you'd thought I was the biggest man in Ohio.

HH: Was this in Cleveland?

SC: Uh, yeah.

HH: Bankers, uh, bankers convention?

SC: Yes, it was. He was, uh, Charlie Charlton (?), was one of the founders of the Cleveland Trust Fund for awhile back in there. He handled all of Rockafella's (Inaudible). He said to me, "I was playing a game of golf on his nine hole course out there, and I came in and told Uncle Booker; I said, "What do you think of a damn golf course without a outer toilet." Said, "If you were worth a million dollars would you build one with a outer toilet?" Said, "Yes," (Laughter). John, if we could get some, take a photographer and go up to, to uh, Beckley I, I think it would be worthwhile.

JM: Yeah, I never.

SC: I tried one time Mrs. Roosevelt was in Bluefield coming over here, that's when Kennedy was running, and I tried to get a hold of her to have her stop in Beckley where I could show it to her, but I didn't do it.

HH: What is it, a certain time of the day that it uh, is it a shadow? Is that.

SC: No, it's, uh, on the wings coating, it's a perfect profile.

BW: That's green, I would figure in the marble, you know, the natural grain for the marble, you know, how marble runs this way and that way.

HH: Yeah.

SC: Bernie told me something that I hadn't realized, there's another one just like it only it's in part they cut through (Laughs).

BW: Well, there's one on the other wall someplace (Laughs).

HH: Yeah.

SC: No, not on the other wall, maybe.

JM: I'm still not quite sure.

BW: There's another one someplace.

JM: Not quite sure right where it is in the courthouse.

SC: Well, you go in the courthouse from the two alleys that go through the courthouse, one going say east and west and the other one north and south, and it's a junction of those two down over to the left exit to the right exit.

HH: On the inside or the outside?

SC: Inside.

BW: Must be marble wings coating.

SC: It's marble, yeah.

BW: Yeah, it's just, you know, the veins that run through the marble.

JM: Yeah.

BW: Like I mentioned to say, there must be another one someplace because if they cut.

SC: Cut two there be another one.

JM: Yeah.

BW: In half there be one on the other half of the one they cut.

JM: Yeah.

SC: (Inaudible), Bernie's wife, and it's his first wife.

BW: My first wife now.

SC: Are the most wonderful people I've ever met, just lovable

and just sweet and smart and, and uh, with my connection with my wife and what I think of her I realize how she was. My wife, she and my wife have the same birthdays.

JM: Is that right?

SC: And the Lord figured out what a hell of a mistake he'd made in my wife and just made her perfect (Laughter). She gets up every morning and wishes I was dead a hundred times before night. I just get up and wish she'd never been born.

BW: Helen doesn't like for George, and I, and Sam to take whiskey out at , to his house. And so if anybody comes in the house, she always, she always searches them for whiskey. She likes me and my wife, so she won't search me. So I always have to carry the whiskey (Laughter).

SC: John, they're both born in Wheeling, not on the same date, but on the same day of the year.

JM: Uh, huh.

BW: Yeah, she'll be forty nine come the twenty ninth.

SC: And Helen'll be seventy one.

BW: Sam.

HH: When's your birthday, Sam?

SC: Um?

HH: When, when's your.

SC: Twenty six.

HH: Twenty six of, uh, August?

SC: Yeah.

JM: What, what year were you born?

SC: Eighty five. Makes me ninety.

BW: Sam said that right after he and Helen got married they got along allright until they was coming out (Laughs), coming out of church and they got in a fight. You and Helen got along allright when you first got married, then you were coming.

SC: Oh, for the first twenty years.

BW: Then you were coming out of church and.

SC: For the first twenty years.

JM: Were you born right here in Charleston, Sam?

SC: In St. Albans. They moved the house I was born in down back.

JM: Yeah, down on B street.

SC: Yeah.

HH: Now, that's what they call the Chilton House?

JM: Yeah. That's right on.

SC: I think they're going to call it the Chilton Museum.

JM: Yeah.

SC: I want to get the pictures of the, uh, family and what I can find there's one room, you see in there.

JM: How many were in the family, uh, how many brothers and sisters?

SC: In my father's family there were, there were two of them that died, but there were, there were five. My father, Uncle Joe, Uncle Will, Uncle Booker, and John Savary. He was man for the chief engineer of the James River Kanawha Turnpike.

HH: John, John Sa.

SC: (Spells)S-A-V-A-R-Y, Savary.

HH: (Spells) S-A-V-A-R-Y.

SC: (Spells) S-A-V-A-R-Y down in St. Albans isn't spelled Savary, it's spelled SA-VA-RY, and.

JM: And what were your father and mother's name?

SC: My father's name was Samuel B., the old, the oldest was always named Samuel Blackburn.

JM: Yeah.

SC: And my mother's name was Nancy Devord (?) Woodward. And that was, that was my grandfather's steamengine.

JM: He was a steamboat, uh, captain, uh?

SC: Well, well he owned a steamboat and was captain and pilot and he had, when he died, he had that steamboat and forty barges.

JM: Huh.

SC: And my Uncle Jim (Break in Tape).

JM: Is that right?

SC: Yeah.

GD: Uh, say something over there, Harry, what did you, you or John.

HH: Yeah, uh, what was, what was Helen's maiden name, Sam? What was your wife's.

SC: Her maiden name was, uh, Perkins.

HH: Perkins.

SC: She was, uh, she was in.

JM: We should tell him something about the project, shouldn't we, or uh, (GD: Yeah, yeah.) should we?

GD: Well, whatever you want to do.

JM: Sam, the reason, one of the reasons we wanted to talk to you was, uh, in connection with a Oral History Project that they have down at Marshall University. Uh, various people talk to some of the older people of the community, you know, (SC: Yeah.) and gather information about how times were way back when and how people lived then.

SC: Uh, huh.

JM: Uh, so the people down at Marshall thought that you'd be a good man to talk to, to add to their wealth of information, you know, so that's one of the reasons we wanted (SC: Well, that's) to talk to you, and those questions I was asking about where you were born, and who was in the family, and that's the type of pertinent information for a project of that type.

SC: I see.

JM: There's several other suggested questions which sort of follow that format, if you don't mind talking.

SC: Oh, I love to, any uh, anyway I can.

JM: Yeah.

SC: My memory is bad and I'll forget something and then I'll remember it before I realize I've forgotten it.

JM: Yeah.

SC: I guess that comes with old age.

HH: I have the same problem, Sam. (Sam laughs)

JM: I think what I would sort of like to do is ask some of these basic questions and then, uh, if you feel like branching out and telling a story any kind of a story you want to well that's fine. Uh, (Inaudible). Do you remember much about how the family lived then? Uh, did, was there a tendency for everybody to sleep in one room or did you all have your sleeping rooms, uh?

SC: Yes, we, in the house in St., in houses we had we all had, uh, sleeping rooms.

JM: Uh huh.

SC: And uh, there wasn't always a bathroom (Laughs).

JM: Yeah.

SC: In the house. I was, uh, now if I get on, uh, I'll, I'll, I'll tell you this, this story won't fit in very much.

JM: I, I don't think you have to worry about that.

SC: But, uh, we have a hill up beyond my house on Woodward Drive called (Inaudible) mountain, and old (Inaudible) lived up at the top of um. And he gave, uh, he gave a party one time invited some young couples and others he didn't invite, but one of the young people put potent oil in the punch. And, uh, old (inaudible) had a outhouse, but it was only a two holer and there were thirty or forty people at the party (Laughter); so you can imagine what happen to the restroom. And one fellow with a plug hat (Laughs), he shit his hat full and then said, "Give this to the yankee, darnit, that McCarty led," (Laughter).

GD: Well, that oughta be part of the Oral History report(Laughter).

SC: Things like that happened, you know, and (Laughs).

JM: Did the house there on B street have an address, uh?

SC: Have what?

JM: An, you remember the address on B street, of the house that you were born in?

SC: No, it was just on the corner of B and Church street.

JM: Church opposite the house there, then.

SC: Methodist church was on, uh.

JM: Was the old blacksmith shop still there down on the.

SC: Yes, it was down on the, uh, street that run along with the river.

JM: Yeah.

SC: And (JM: Tim) I saw.

JM: Tim Harper have, uh, well he was, it was later that Tim Harper took over the blacksmith shop.

SC: No, the man that had the blacksmith shop was named Hayes Wilson.

JM: Hayes Wilson.

SC: And I had a very interesting thing happen to me down there. I used to go down there and he let me sit on the, uh, the, three old yankee soldiers down there and Hayes brother. And the day before, a big nigger had bullied, uh, Haye's brother up on the main street. And then they looked out, the confederate soldiers, and said, "There came the, come the fellow that bullied you yesterday, Ed," or whatever his name was. And he said, "Yes, I shot him one and he went up on the sidewalk to mend." And when he got close and had started talking to him, he just pulled out a gun and shot him.

JM: Huh.

SC: And these three confederate soldiers said, "Dead nigger." And I've was wondering, but they always fall forward when they're dead (Laughs) and when they're not dead they (Laughs), they get backwards. And then he said, "Well, good-bye boys." And turned around and walked on down out to B street and on down, he lived at the end of B street. Then got in a boat and crossed the river and caught a train and that's the last they ever heard of his brother, Ed.

JM: Was this, was this a story that he told you or you were.

SC: No, I was there, I saw, I saw it.

JM: You saw it happen?

SC: Yes.

JM: So these were three, uh, confederate veterans of the (SC: Yes) three veteran, confederate soldiers of.

SC: They could tell colored people by their fingernails. Some damn fingernails, no matter how white you look whether he was a nigger or not they could always tell him by looking at his fingernails.

JM: Did you keep any, uh, servants at that time, uh?

SC: Oh yeah.

JM: You did.

SC: My grandmother down at Davis's were her servants, at, when we were in St. Albans. But when we moved up here, she always kept a house full and they just back of the house (Laughs). Where she could just call on them and they would come in and serve you.

JM: All the servants were black?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Have any boarders, people living with you, or?

SC: Yes, when we, not on Lee, we moved up to a house on Lewis Street, but when we moved over in Washington House where the Davis South (Inaudible) was, moved in that house during the legislation, why we took in some boarders and.

JM: Uh, huh. Remember what year it was you moved from St. Albans up to Charleston?

SC: Ninety five.

JM: 1895.

HH: Where'd you live up here, Sam?

SC: Well, we moved up here to a house on Lewis Street, right about where the old Lewis Sundry Store was. There was that and then across the main there from Morris Street and then, uh, a big orchard was there.

JM: So you were, you were ten years old?

SC: I was ten years old.

JM: You were born in 1885, weren't you?

SC: '85. I remember this legislature we had, a mighty interesting (Laughs) crowd of people, I mean, uh, four or five of them had boarder with us.

HH: That's in the ninety-five legislature?

SC: In the ninety-five.

JM: Huh.

HH: Do you remember any of their names, of those who boarded with you?

SC: Well, Scott, he was quite a politician and a fine man. He was one of the ones that.

BW: What was his name again, Sam?

SC: Huh?

BW: Who was he again?

JM: Scott.

BW: Scott, oh I misunderstood you, I'm sorry.

SC: Scott Law or something like that.

JM: Uh, what, what did your father do then when you were a.

SC: My father was a doctor.

JM: He was.

SC: He was the only doctor that had a degree from a medical school.

JM: Now where did he go to school, uh?

SC: He first went to West Point to the army and there was another fella that, there were two of them that went there and, and the other man was the, was excepted and he wasn't. Then he came to Baltimore, to the University of Maryland, I have his, and his degree from um.

JM: Really?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Well, what sort of a, where did he have his office, was it?

SC: Well, his office was in the drugstore. He and Druckle (?) had a drugstore there in the state of Washington. And uh, Druckle (?) ran it.

JM: What kind of hours did he keep? Did he see, see people?

SC: Only one, just one hour, he would go over if you'er sick or in the middle of the night they come and get him if he wasn't there to tell um. And he get in, get on his horse and ride um home or where it was where they were going. Generally out, when he went out to the stable, you'd hear him say goddamn Booker; Uncle Booker would make one stirrup longer and the other one short (Laughter).

JM: Did he deliver babies and everything?

SC: Everything.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Why would, uh.

SC: And removed the first cataract ever removed, maybe in West Virginia.

JM: Really?

SC: A cousin came over from (Inaudible) town, ain't it, and he removed a cataract from her eye.

JM: Who was the patient, uh?

SC: My cousin from (Inaudible) town. And incidently he brought digitalis to, to this country.

JM: Really?

SC: Yeah. None, but he was the first to try it.

HH: Where, uh, where was digitalis, uh, developed, uh, where'd he bring it from?

SC: Probably around the University of Maryland, and uh.

HH: Oh, you mean when you say this country, you mean West Virginia.

SC: Yeah. It's from southern West Virginia.

HH: Yeah.

JM: Do you know, do you remember what year or, uh, maybe you wouldn't remember, but do you know when he started practice in St. Albans?

SC: He first started in Lincoln County.

JM: He did?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Wonder what.

SC: No, I haven't the slightest idea that.

HH: Sam, when you say.

SC: It would be in the '70's, of course.

JM: Yeah.

HH: When you say your father was the only doctor with a medical degree, was that in St. Albans, or also Charleston?

SC: All of, of southern West Virginia.

HH: Southern West Virginia.

JM: Really?

SC: Well, of course we weren't, there may have been somebody down on the N and W but uh, uh, of this northern, this part of north, (JM: Yeah.) up the northern.

HH: Yeah.

JM: You don't know what year he was born.

SC: Yes, he was thirty nine, in ninety three.

JM: What does that work out to (Inaudible)? It's 1854.

SC: '54 (Inaudible).

JM: So he would have been, uh, too young to serve in the Civil War?

SC: Oh, yeah. 54 was he?

JM: Yes.

SC: Oh.

HH: You say he went first to West Point?

SC: Yes, he and someone else and, uh, between the two of um, the other fella's grades were higher than, and then he came back and I don't know how he started doctoring Maryland. He went to the University of Maryland.

JM: Did he have any, uh, epidemics or anything like that around St. Albans that you can remember while your father was a doctor? Maybe (SC: No, I.) smallpox or, uh, typhoid (SC: No, I couldn't remember) something like that?

SC: Oh, typhoid was more or less an epidemic it was always-never was a Chilton had typhoid that got over it either.

JM: Really?

HH: Is that right?

SC: That is right.

HH: You say you had, uh, two brothers who died as children?

SC: No, I didn't my, there was seven of the original Chiltons. My father and.

HH: Oh, your father and his brothers.

SC: My father and his four brothers. Five, but there were two of them that died in, uh, when they were born. Probably born dead or something.

JM: But, but didn't you say there were five in your family, you had.

SC: I had my father and four, and, uh, and four uncles that was, that was my grandmothers family.

HH: His father's family.

BW: Well, did you have any sisters or brothers, you?

SC: Huh?

BW: Did you have any sisters or brothers?

SC: No.

HH: Oh, I misun-I thought you said you had.

SC: No, no.

JM: Yeah.

SC: No.

JM: You were the only child in the, in the family?

SC: They didn't get much when they got me, I only weighed two pounds and a half.

JM: Really (Laughter)? Did your father deliver you?

SC: Oh, yeah.

JM: At home?

SC: Yeah. Had to.

JM: And you, you were the only child, one.

SC: Yeah.

JM: One child in the family.

SC: I'm sort of like the fella that two boats passed him once, "Say, any news?" "Yeah, first my wife had a three pound baby." "Didn't much more get the bait back, did ya?" (Laughter).

JM: Did the people do much visiting in those days, uh, uh, did you have lots of visitors there at the house, er?

SC: Yes, we always had um. People be somewhere and come to see us.

JM: Lots of family.

SC: Sometime to see us, old Hearst, the uh, the original Hearst was very fond of my father. He came down three or four times to go fishing with him up at the Lower Potomac.

HH: The original who?

SC: The original Hearst.

HH: Hearst?

SC: Hearst, the (HH: You mean the), the newspaperman.

HH: Is that right?

SC: Yeah.

HH: Would that have been, uh, Randolph Hearst's uh, father, er?

SC: Yeah, father or grandfather, I wouldn't know which but, he made to a, a congressman, can't think of the name; Alderson. Alderson was Senator (Inaudible) and he would give parties, fishing parties down on the Potomac River in the day. And my father was Kenna's doctor, you see. He get real sick he would send for my father to come over there and, uh, in that way at one the parties he had he met Hearst. And old Hearst liked him and, and he came out several times on two or three occasions (JM: Uh, huh.) to go fishing with him over at the lower (Inaudible).

JM: Uh, huh.

HH: Now that was Senator Kenna, I mean.

SC: That was Senator, no, that was Senator Kenna, uh, lets see, uh, that was Alderson who was congressman (HH: Yeah.) and he was, he was, uh, yeah, Senator Kenna.

HH: Uh, Senator Kenna (SC: Yeah.) was in, uh, in congress (SC: Yeah.) at the same time Alderson was?

SC: Yeah, yeah.

BW: Huh.

JM: Alderson was in the house, I guess, huh? Alderson was in the house of representatives, huh?

SC: Yes, and I think Kenna was the, the, no Alderson represented us here in the.

HH: Yeah, and Kenna was the United States Senator.

SC: When Kenna was the United States Senator.

JM: Lets see, I think Kenna was in congress, the house too for awhile, wasn't he?

HH: I don't know. Uh, he, wasn't Kenna the one who, uh, campaigned, traveling with a circus or something?

JM: Yeah.

HH: Do you remember that, Sam? When, uh.

SC: He could have been when Johnny (Inaudible) was a clown and he, uh, helped us get the capital located (Laughs) here. I remember my Uncle Joe told me, said, "Sam, always be from Morgantown, cause Morgantown helped us when we took the cap-capital away from Wheeling," (Laughter).

JM: Morgantown didn't like Wheeling?

SC: Well, (Inaudible) ask me when we were figuring on my medical school, said, "I guess you're part from Charleston?" And I said, "No, I'm part from Morgantown, that's what my Uncle Joe told me to do," (Laughter).

JM: Uh, do you recall when your father died?

SC: Yes.

JM: What year was that?

SC: As I say, he died the day that McCorkle was inaugurated as governor. He died that night, March the fourth, 1893.

JM: He died (SC: And that's) at home?

SC: Huh?

JM: He died at home?

SC: Yeah. And I, that's, he had typhoid fever.

JM: He did?

SC: Yeah. And that's, that's the way I got the greatest legacy anybody ever had. The last thing he said, he was my grandmother's favorite child. The last thing he said was, "Mommy, take care of my boy." And no matter who was concerned, by god, I was always first from then on (Laughter).

JM: Who did he say that to?

SC: He said that to my, to my, to my, grandmother, his mother.

JM: He was not very old, uh?

SC: Thirty nine.

JM: Thirty nine. Well, uh, your mother was still living then.

SC: Yeah.

JM: Do you remember how, uh, the family, uh.

SC: But she lived on then with my grandmother, from then on she lived with my grandmother.

JM: I see.

SC: Her father was dead then.

JM: Course, you were living here in town then.

SC: No, we were living in St. Albans.

JM: That's right you must, you were.

SC: But moved here in 1895, in March '95.

JM: I see. Then you were just about eight then when he died?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Do you remember him very well or, your father?

SC: Yes, I, I remember him very well when he caught me up on top of a boxcar trying to loosen the brakes so it would go down and run through the mill, cause he gave me the goddamnest whipping anybody ever got (Laughter). No, but I remember he liked going and playing baseball with me, and carrying me, and fishing, and things like that.

JM: Was he a big fella, er?

SC: He was tall, he wasn't, I don't think he weighed over a hundred eighty or something like that. Uh, Lee Kenna's got some pictures of that, see Kenna, uh, uh, John Kenna, the senator, was quite a photographer. And he's got, uh, he left four of the pictures and we got them and we got a mighty good one. Now I have one of my father (HH: Yeah.) from my daddy.

HH: Well, then in later years, uh, what was the Kenna's name who was a photographer here? Joe L's brother.

SC: That was Arthur Kenna.

HH: Yeah, Arthur.

JM: Well, why did the family decided to move to Charleston?

SC: My, uh, mostly I expect my grandmother made, moved up here to make a home for my Uncle Joe.

JM: Was she, she sort of in charge of the main decisions, your?

SC: What?

JM: Was your grandmother sort of in charge of the family, making the main decisions?

SC: Yes, she was the boss of the whole family and (JM: Yeah), and uh, she could be a boss without you a knowing she was bossing you.

HH: That's a (SC: I remember), being a real.

SC: I remember that Judge Kayo, uh, told me the way he handled to be appointed judge, said he went out to see Cornwall, and that's when Adam, when one of the little fr-Sam's little friends had died. And he asked him and said, "Governor, I hope my recommendations have been good." "Just like all the rest of them are good, and your's is just like them." "But the reason I appointed you is this letter here." Was a letter from my grandmother. Dear Governor, Charlie Kayo's boy what's to be made judge and I want you to make him (Laughs).

JM: What was your grandmother's name?

SC: Mary H. Chilton, daddy would call her.

JM: Did she live to an old age, er?

SC: She lived to be eighty nine or something like that. But she was, most Baptist though get along with (Laughs) Catholics, you know, but the, the Catholics on Easter Sunday all the halls is right full of Catholics and I hear, I hear she was a great Baptist and a great Catholic too (laughter).

JM: Were most of your family, uh, Bap-Baptist or Methodist, er?

SC: Well, my father was an Episcopalian. Uncle Joe was a, I don't know what he was.

JM: People went to church a little more regularly then, then they do now, don't they?

SC: Oh yeah.

JM: The minister would come around and visit, eat with the family, I guess?

SC: Yes, and.

JM: Was your grandmother sort of in charge of the, the discipline of the family after your father, after your uh, father died?

SC: Oh, yes my grandmother. And they'd come and the neighbors would, they'd come and ask her advice about it.

JM: Yeah.

SC: She always cooking a bottle of cordial in the smokehouse or what they called the tobacco building. People would come as far as Lincoln County to get a bottle of cordial. People had the flux in those, disentary disease.

JM: Uh, huh.

SC: I remember one Christmas she sent, uh, uh, tenant of her's a bottle for a Christmas gift and he sent the bottle back and told her to kiss his ass. And she called up Sammy and said, "Sammy, do you got a quart of whiskey?" Sammy bought her down a quart and said, "Now, take this now to Lincoln Unger," or whoever it was, "and give it to him and tell him I just made a mistake and sent him the wrong present," she said, (Laughs).

BW: Well, you want a cigarette, Sam?

SC: Yeah, I got one, I think. You got one, you?

BW: Surely.

SC: Thank you, boy.

BW: I keep telling him smoking those cigarettes gonna shorten his life.

SC: Huh? Shorten your life.

HH: How long you been smoking, Sam?

SC: Since I was about seventeen (Inaudible).

HH: Ever give you any problems?

SC: Not so far.

BW: He runs out occasionally, though. That's the only problem, isn't it?

SC: Yeah. I smoked cigars for awhile, and Helen, my second wife, she didn't like um and I quit.

JM: I'm not sure about your, did your, how long did your mother live, uh, Sam?

SC: My mother died in '32.

JM: 1932.

SC: She was seventy some years old.

JM: But even though, uh, she lived with you also, uh, the grandmother.

SC: She lived with my grandmother all, ever after (JM: Yeah.) my father died.

HH: Uh, when did your grandmother die?

SC: My grandmother died in November, she died the day before, uh, uh, she died the day before Armistice Day.

HH: 1911.

SC: 1918.

HH: Uh, yeah, 1918.

JM: Did, did you ever have an ambition to be a doctor, er, try to follow in your father's footsteps?

SC: No, I didn't. (Break in tape.)

HH: Did you have any particular reason for going into law?

SC: Yes. My Uncle Joe he told me, and uh, Will McCorkle was coming home about that time, and uh, said he'd take the two of us in the, the law firm. Mr. Clark was, came over here from Ohio and he was, he really handled the smaller

issues with the firm. I remember we, uh, I remember we uh, they had their real money was made in trading. They would buy property cheap and then wait until they got word and then whoever put up the money would turn it in for ten percent of it. There's a piece of land down in Wyoming County named the Calliccoat (?) land.

HH: What land?

SC: The Calliccoat (?) land was a rectangular property didn't follow the creek, ten thousand acres. And they could buy it for a hundred thousand dollars. And they went over to Mansfield, Ohio and got Charlie (Inaudible) who was the president of the bank and a man named Charlie Ziegler who made Martha Washington (Inaudible) to put up the \$100,000 and buy it. Now that was about ten years before they took Will McCorkle, Sam's father, and I in the law firm. Will was aware of something, but they handled the property, and still had the check for a million dollars. And had me take it into Mr. (Inaudible). And I gave it to Mr. (Inaudible) and he looked at it, then passed it over to Charlie Ziegler and said, "You see how much smarter we were to put our money in this land then go in with that old fool Ford that wanted to build an automobile," (Laughter). I think cousin put \$6,500 and took out sixty (Laughs) to five million dollars.

JM: Do you remember was there any particular age that, maybe when a child was suppose to be an adult and take on the responsibilities of an adult back in those days?

SC: Free, white and twenty one (Laughs).

JM: Really? Do you remember anything about your early schooling, uh, where you went to school and how it was?

SC: Oh yes, Mrs. Thompson was the, in charge of the lower grades down at St. Albans. I went to her and then when I had the, the fourth grade, it was (A man named Frank enters room.), hi, how are you today?

FRANK: Oh pretty good.

BW: Frank, how are you?

HH: Frank (Inaudible).

SC: When I got in the, the fourth grade, it was Miss Ida (Inaudible). Then came up here and they just put me in the fourth grade up here.

JM: Uh, huh. What'd they teach you when you first started in, just reading, writing, and arithmetic, er?

SC: That's about all, I reckon, I.

BW: No sex education, uh?

SC: I learn my learners, my wife, she learn her's backwards as well as frontwards and the Marsh's up in Wheeling thought that was great and wanted their doctor (Inaudible-Laughter). I have a very good theory about, I was telling John about, bout Bern-Bernie's wife, who's one of the finest, his first wife, one of the finest women I ever met and has all the finer things. (Pictures being taken-Inaudible conversation). But, uh, he uh, the way I feel about my wife now is not very pleasant, she gets up and wish I was dead a hundred times before night, and I just get up and wish she'd never been born. But the, the Lord, uh, found out what a mistake he'd made in her and several years after his wife was born he just made up by making her just that, he corrected all the mistakes he made in my wife. And then again I have another theory, Harry. I was sitting over on the, that building on the corner of Hale and Virginia Street that uh, lodge, Mason lodge or something. I was sitting on there and saw a car coming and uh, thought I could beat it across. Well I, I, I did beat it across I thought but the car hit me, I went to hell and then I went up and met my wife (Laughter).

JM: Do you remember much about, uh, er, uh, how Charleston was when you first came here and how it's changed?

SC: John, you uh, forget those things, I uh, I remember the racetrack and the baseball field, and uh.

JM: Now, they were in the east end weren't they, though?

SM: They were, uh, a hundred, the racetrack begin a hundred and fifty feet behind the, where Bradford Street is. And uh, I remember when Bryan came here to speak once, they moved the judges stand over this side close to Washington Street and he spoke from the, from the judges stand (Laughs).

JM: What year would that have been, do you think?

SC: That was, run in '96, when he ran it was one of those days.

JM: Were you much impressed by his speaking ability?

SC: Huh, I don't know.

JM: Really?

SC: Funny thing about it I, I, I came up one time with Bryan from, from uh, Huntington to Charleston where he stopped. And he didn't speak, speak loud but his voice would seemed to carry for miles.

JM: Really?

SC: Bryan was very fond of my wife.

JM: Did they just have, they just had horse races here then, is that right?

SC: No, they had bicycles races up in front of old John Shanklin's farm.

JM: Really, was it, was there any betting? Did they, did people bet very much?

SC: We had bet on the horses (Inaudible).

JM: So it was mostly just for fun that they had the.

SC: Yeah. Did I recite, I know I have to Harry, recite the two poems, the two couplets that are very similar. Did I ever tell you?

HH: Yeah. Why don't you do it again?

SC: Huh?

HH: Why don't you, uh, get it on this record?

JM: Yeah, I'd like to hear that.

SC: Yeah. Well, the first couplet was, "Mother, may I go out to swim?" "Yes, my darling daughter, hang your clothes on a

hickory limb, but don't go near the water." My cuplet was, "Mother, may we go out to see the horses run?" "Yes, you darling faces, sit yourself in your father's box, but don't bet on the races," (Laughter).

JM: Well, the city limit then was at Bradford Street.

SC: City limits was at Bradford Street.

JM: Yeah, now what was on beyond Bradford Street, just the racetrack?

SC: Just the, well there was mostly a, a big orchard in there and, and you went (Inaudible) as far as sledtown, that was the way I, which was the furthest (Laughs).

JM: Sledtown?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Why'd they call it, just sled houses there, I guess.

SC: I think so, yeah.

JM: Uh, what, what about the western limits of the city? Was.

SC: Elk Creek.

JM: Elk, wasn't any westside?

SC: No. Uh, there was that bridge, the suspension bridge.

JM: And when was it build?

SC: The crosswalk, say it was Elk City then. Course we called it the worst side of the city, the westside.

JM: There was some kind of settlement there although it wasn't much.

SC: Oh yes, a great many Civil War pensioners had there homes there.

JM: Well, you just had the one bridge, the Washington Bridge, er?

SC: The Washington, yeah.

JM: Were any of the streets paved then?

SC: Yes. I think Summers Street for a block or two of it was the first paved street with wooden foundation. Tarred boards for the foundation.

JM: Was there much horse and buggy traffic in town?

SC: Yeah. Just about all the traffic there was, was (JM: Any, uh.) funny thing the, the drivers were all colored, the ones we had (JM: Really?) horse and buggy, you see them together in automobiles they all got white.

HH: Were there streetcars in Charleston when you came here?

SC: Yes. There were horse drawing.

HH: Horse drawing cars?

SC: Horse drawing and the buggy.

HH: When did the electric cars come in?

SC: I can't remember it was shortly, it was before, it was after my time.

HH: Did some of your family have something to do with building the Kanawha City bridge as a streetcar bridge?

SC: I had more to do with that than anybody else. No, it was the Patrick Street bridge down the front. Dr. Tom Johnson, John, T.M. Johnson had invited me to go to Europe with him and I had (Inaudible) and everything, and I was all ready to go and I got a wire from Governor McCorkle that we were building a streetcar line from down to St. Albans, for me to come over and get the right away, and I, I, I reckon I did play hell with (Inaudible). But, uh.

HH: Well, was the Patrick Street bridge, uh, built primarily as a streetcar bridge?

SC: No, uh, the, the Patrick Street, the railroad bridge we got from, permission to run the car over the railroad bridge and they also have a roadway over that bridge (HH: And the.), the Patrick Street bridge was built afterwards, Henry Oakes built the Patrick Street bridge.

HH: Oh, well that was bout '24, wasn't it?

SC: I wouldn't know, something like that.

HH: But the Kanawha City bridge was, uh, (break in tape).

GD: Let me just make sure you see.

SC: It's just impossible for me to realize, in other words, I wouldn't know anymore know how to try a law suit then the way George tries then anything in the world, different things, different things like this.

HH: Yeah. Sam, did you, uh, did you go to law school or did you get your degree practicing with an established law firm?

SC: No, I was expelled from (Inaudible), Sprow (?) got me to go to (Inaudible), Governor Sprow (?).

HH: Governor?

SC: Sprow (?). He, uh, I had a scholarship offered me from Wheeling-Sanford out in California and Governor Sprow (?) got me to go to (Inaudible).

HH: And he was Governor?

SC: No, he wasn't Governor at the time, just president of the Senate. He was president of the Senate twenty some years before he was Governor.

HH: In, in what state?

SC: Pennsylvania.

HH: Pennsylvania.

SC: But, uh, we had a habit of when you had a girl with you on a date, an occasion like a football game or anything, always register the president of the school's name and wife. And I'm over in booking and dry, was on probation, I was over in booking and dry, and so whatever Swain's name was, he's president of (Inaudible), and wife. And I said, "Gee, I'll go up and get a drink." And I went up there and knocked on the door and I said, "Get up you son of a bitch, I need a drink." And when he came, it was Swain himself, the

president. I ran down the hall but hell I knew what would happen. So I said to Uncle Joe, I said, uh, "I'm going to be fired," when I came home for Christmas, I said, "I'm going to be fired." So he said, "Sam, it doesn't matter much," said, "I've got a Boston Commentary here, you can read that for the, till time to go up to West Virginia next year." Which I did, and uh.

HH: So you graduated from West Virginia (SC: I graduated), West Virginia Law School?

SC: Yes, when I graduated I had um between a rock and a hard place. And they said if I'd leave in March and never come back to Morgantown again, they'd, uh, they'd send me my degree in a, in a paper carbon. And I still have it. See I had, Hogg, I roomed with Hogg, Gene Hogg. And he had been quite a whiskey drinker and, but he quit after he was in college and he wasn't drinking up at West Virginia. But I went down one Sunday to get, uh, this was in the morning, went down one Sunday to get the mail and all the mail was for him. And I put it in my pocket, then somebody said let's go to Fairmont and we went to Fairmont. And I got drunk and disorderly, the next thing they put me in jail and I wouldn't tell um my name. So they just took the mail out of my pocket and Gene Hogg was arrested for being drunk and disorderly (Laughter).

JM: What was his name, Hogg?

SC: Hogg.

HH: (Spells) H-O-Double G, huh?

SC: Yeah, uh, and uh (HH: Now was he), the, the, sad part of it was they, they'd say I was just taking the rap for old, for old Hogg, so they said get out of here, we'll attend to this ourselves. Which was very funny.

HH: Was he, uh, related to Gory Hogg?

SC: He was uh, uh, brother of Gory.

HH: Is that right?

JM: Sam, when you moved up here from uh, St. Albans do you

remember where the house was, what address?

SC: Uh, the house that I moved in to?

JM: Yeah.

SC: It was on Lewis Street. Do you remember far enough back to when Lewis Hudden Company had their grocery store out there?

JM: Well, uh, a warehouse, did they have a store out there too?

SC: Well, that was a warehouse, wasn't it? It was on the lot between the house that Uncle Joe had rented for my grandmother and our family. The lot the house was on that vacant lot between that and Lawrence Street.

JM: Uh, how long did you live there, did you?

SC: Just a year.

JM: Didn't you later move to Virginia Street or.

SC: No. Then we moved to, we moved here, no, then we moved to Morris Street, as I remember. And from there moved down to where the David South (Inaudible) was on Washington, no we moved there first, I think, in nine, in ninety eight we were living in the David South Home. That's where Scott Law and the Fairmont people boarded with us during the legislation. And then we moved out on Morris Street, next to the McMillian Hospital. And, uh, (JM: Then you) then from there we moved down on, on uh, Virginia Street, 11010 there. And Uncle Joe came home and grandmother had some real nice curtains she was going to put up in the parlor, and he said, "No, mommy," said, "Wait to put um up, I'm gonna build you a new house." So he went down on 1108 and built a brick house.

HH: 1108?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Remember bout what year it was that house was built?

SC: 1969. Uh, no, it was bout, uh, I'm not gonna straighten

this out here.

JM: Did you go.

SC: You see I was having a housefull of colored people to wait on us.

JM: Did you go to Mercer School?

SC: Yes, I went to Mercer, then my, when I went to high school they moved me down to the Union School. That was, you know I remember even (HH: Where was the Union), let me tell you. Is this on here?

HH: Yes.

SC: This is a pretty rotten story.

HH: Well that doesn't hurt, does it?

JM: I don't think it does.

HH: No.

SC: Uh, this uh, fella had a girl and he'd take her out in the barn and, and uh, fuck her in different ways. And he said, "Let's fuck like the dogs do." She said, "How?" "Well," he said, "You get down and I'll walk around you." Which she did, "And now," he said, "Pee a little bit." She just couldn't pee a little and then he starting, uh, walking away pretty fast and she said, "Come back, I can pee a little now." And he said, "You'd love to look up in that tree and see your father, you'd shit a little even," (Laughs). The old man was up there watching them (Laughter).

JM: Union School was, uh, where on the westside or down on Washington Street?

SC: Huh?

JM: Where was the Union School?

SC: The Union School was on, State Street was known then as (Inaudible), uh, between, uh, Summers and the next street house.

HH: Summers.

SC: Mrs. McGuigen (?) lives in the house.

HH: Summers, between Summers.

SC: Dickerson's wagon shop was.

HH: Between Summers and Leland?

SC: Yes, it would be between there. There's a, there was a field and (Inaudible) down there, uh.

HH: And that, uh, that was the high school, Union?

SC: That was the high school.

JM: Uh, you must.

SC: Now I have given you just the high school.

HH: Yeah, bout what time, what year was that, the uh, Union?

SC: It was bout 1900 or 1901, because that's where I organized the first football team, that the high school had, and we had to play Morris Harvey, and Marshall, and Montgomery Prep because there weren't any high schools that had teams. Then we found a high school over at Gallipolis, we went down and play and old Mrs. McGuigen (?), she's over with us.

JM: How did you do , pretty well, you usually win or lose?

SC: We beat Marshall once and they beat us once.

JM: Pretty good for a high school team.

HH: Say Mrs. McGuigen, there was a McGuigen school wasn't there?

SC: Yeah, it's name after her. They should have named the football field after her because old Laydley (?) was always against any atheletics or anything. Well Mrs. McGuigen (?) was putting her money in it and more the teams was betting on her and everything else.

JM: Do you remember much about the old, uh, capital on Capital Street?

SC: I saw the capital and I knowed when it burnt down, yes I know it did. See Lyle Wilson's father, Uncle Eric Wilson, was janitor and when the, uh, the discussion between whether Flemming was elected or not went on, why, before that Uncle Bob Carr was president of the senate and he went out to take over as governor and Uncle Eric met him with a gatling gun at each door. So he, uh.

JM: Who, who met him at the door?

SC: Uncle Eric Wilson, Riley's father and he was janitor.

HH: And uh, and he met him there with a gatling gun to keep him from taking over.

SC: With a gatling gun at every door he had, uh, from taking over the governor, yes.

HH: Uh, this, the governor had died?

SC: No, there was some discussion, what was the discussion when, when uh?

JM: Well, uh, when Flemming ran, who did, who did Flemming run against?

SC: I don't know.

JM: Uh, there was a big dispute as to whether he had won or not.

SC: That was what it was.

JM: And Wilson was governor then. And uh, so for almost a year uh, while the results of the election was being decided, Wilson continued as governor.

SC: Yeah, that's right.

JM: And Flemming eventually went in. But it was during this period that Bob Carr thought he had a right as president of the senate.

SC: He probably did.

JM: Yeah.

SC: He was president of the senate.

JM: Yeah. So they kicked him out.

SC: Yeah, and uh.

JM: Do you remember, uh, him very well? What sort of a man he was, er?

SC: Who, Uncle Bob, or?

JM: Yeah.

SC: Oh yeah, everybody loved Uncle Bobby and the old horse, Come up from the baseball game and sit out and say throw him a dewdrop. Well, a dewdrop was a hell'va good ball, if you could throw a ball up in the air and have it come on the plate coming down instead of coming this way it's mighty hard to hit.

JM: I never heard of a dewdrop ball.

SC: Yeah, it was a dewdrop, throw it way up in the air then let it come down.

HH: Say Uncle Bob Carr yelled at um to throw a dewdrop.

SC: Yeah. Throw him a dewdrop.

JM: He was a great big fella, wasn't he, uh?

SM: Yeah.

HH: He looked like the typical caricature of a politician, didn't he?

SC: Yes, he was a nice looking big (JM: Big man?) man, great big man.

HH: Uh, I've seen his picture out there in the senate president's office.

SC: Yeah, he was a good man, he was a fine old man.

JM: Were you, you were, uh, present of the day of the capital fire and saw the top fall.

SC: I'd been in Huntington and came up here that afternoon on the four o'clock train. And the fire was getting along pretty heavy by that time. And then I was looking (Laughs) at it when the, when the clock fell out of the tower.

JM: Really? Quite a large crowd around, I guess and the.

SM: Well, and the a-a-at some distance away and they'd been getting up close and they didn't allow them to hardly.

JM: Yeah. But after you got out of the train, off the train you came over and hel...

SC: Off the train I came over and the capital was on fire and then I uh, went in the train and hollered back, come out and look at the fire, Bob (Laughter).

JM: You came up from Huntington on the, on the C & O.

SC: On the C & O and it was the four o'clock train.

JM: Yeah.

HH: How many trains did they have through Charleston, uh, at that, uh.

SC: Well, they had some local trains . There, there were two trains, a train, two trains at night. One that came west at night and the other one that went east at night. And then there was, uh, the FFV, the Fast Flying Virginian, went through here about twelve o'clock going to Huntington, going to Cincinnati.

HH: At midnight?

SC: No.

HH: At noontime.

SC: At noontime, and then at six twenty nine or something , there was a train that went east that, and that's the way, that's the way, uh, uh, these uh, goddamnit I'm telling

you, I'll think of it in a minute.

JM: Is it the name of the train, er?

HH: Uh, George Washington?

SC: George Washington, I don't know, uh.

HH: Was there much, uh.

SC: Wait a minute, I think the George Washington at that time went east and along about ten o'clock at night some other train on, got here from Washington the next morning.

JM: Fast Flying Virginian was.

SC: FFV, Fast Flying Virginian.

JM: Was that it?

SC: That was what the noon train come and went.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Was there much, uh, river traffic in those days?

SC: Oh yeah. Not passenger, but I mean river barges and things (HH: Uh, huh.) had coal. As I was telling someone, when my grandfather died he left this steamboat here, the one up over the wall there, and forty barges. And then after my Uncle Jim had stolen all the boats and barges, he tried to take the farm away from my mother and Uncle Will saved that for her (Laughs).

HH: Your Uncle Jim?

SC: Uncle Jim.

HH: Now.

SC: He was a steamboat captain and he was the first man to run the Wheeling bridges at night, for the steamboat.

HH: Uh, uh, uh, he was, he was the brother.

SC: My mother's brother. He was Uncle Jim Woodward.

HH: Oh, I see, he was, he, he, he was not a Chilton?

SC: He wasn't a Chilton, no.

JM: Did you take any river trips as a passenger?

SC: Huh?

JM: Did you take any steamboat trips, er?

SC: Oh, I drove with him sometimes on the boat when he stopped in here.

JM: But I mean when the, uh.

SC: No, I never saw my grandfather. He was dead before I was born.

JM: No, I mean when the, uh, did you just ride some other steamboats when they were running up and down the river here?

SC: Occasionally, yes.

JM: Go down to Cincinnati on a boat, er?

SC: No, I don't remember ever going, I've gone from Maysville to Cincinnati and, uh, have ridden in the Upper Ohio. Not, not Upper, but uh, but passenger boats weren't, they, they, elite over river traffic were the tugboat. And uh, something to have a tugboat.

JM: Sam, do you remember when it was that they mailed you your law degree from Morgantown?

SC: It was in seven or eight. I have a yearbook for that.

JM: Then you started practicing, did you actually practice law for awhile, and?

SC: No, no they took, when we came back they took Will McCorkle and I in the firm at the same time. Hoping that we'd be good friends and we were better friends than they ever,

ever (Laughs). I told you the story bout, thank you Harry. Told you the story about how Will had a boat, one of these little twenty foot boats they had on the river. And he would rock and weaving on it and going down to the shoot, which was below Elk River, and I was afraid he'd run into the bank and sinking himself. And I said, "Will, let me take the (Inaudible)." He said, "Why?" "Well," I said, "All my people are river people, my grandfather." "Allright you take it then, when you get through pull over to the bank." So I said, "Why Will?" He said, "All my people are Indian traitors and I want to get out and kill an Indian," (Laughter).

JM: Uh, uh, did you ever try any cases as a lawyer,er?

SC: Yes, I occasionally would try a justice of the peace case. And then I did establish a woman's right to a wedding present. In otherwords, a woman taken by a man Stockton, was Stockton, they lived on Stockton. He took her up to the coal mines when he was superintendent. He came home one day and found somebody in bed with her. And the boy soon was running mad and being the son of the president of The Kanawha Valley Bank, they got um a wonderful line of presents. He decided among other things he'd take all the presents away from her. And she came to me and I established that the presents were (Laughs) to the bride and the groom didn't have a goddamn thing to do with them (Laughter).

HH: And she go to keep um, right?

SC: Yes, she kept the presents. She was a good looking gal, (Laughter).

JM: How long did you practice law?

SC: Off and on till, I don't know. Did more trading then practicing law, off and on till that time ten till forty.

JM: Well, somewhere along the line you became one of the first, you were among the first incorporators of the Gazette, is that?

SC: Yeah, you got that (JM: Yeah.) , you dug that out.

JM: Yeah.

SC: There were five incorporators, I think , they had one share each.

JM: Something like that.

SC: My memory, wonder why they had to do with the mind. Attention I played the hygiene. I, my, my birthday party Jennie Johnson had three or four years ago, a Gazette man came out and ask me what I attributed my longevity to and I told him. Someone told me that if I carried a buckeye in my left pocket, I wouldn't catch the clap and it didn't work and from then on I paid no attention to, to hygiene (Laughter).

HH: Those five incorporators beside yourself was Uncle Joe.

SC: No, four beside myself.

HH: I mean, Uncle Joe Chilton.

SC: I haven't the slightest idea. Do you remember who they were, John?

JM: I don't remember, uh, I do have them, uh, written down though, I think.

SC: I'd like to know, maybe just to the members of the firm.

JM: Yeah. When was that, I want to make sure we have that story about Uncle Joe coming in and announcing the, uh.

SC: That they wouldn't talk about us anymore?

JM: Yeah.

HH: Who own the Gazette before that?

SC: The McGraw interest from the Bretts and the uh, the Burns represented them and then, uh, of course for political enemies of the democrats. John McGraw (?) was a good democrat.

HH: And Burns, what was, uh?

SC: Well, the Burns come here from out (Inaudible) someplace.

JM: Yeah, Sutan I think.

SC: Yeah.

HH: But they, well democrats, they were political enemies of the Chiltons and the McCorkles.

SC: Yeah, yeah.

JM: They had been talking about the Chiltons or writing about the Chiltons.

SC: Oh god, yes. As I say they called um son of bitches and then warmed up and then that was all I heard.

HH: Then when was this that, uh, Uncle Joe came in and announced that, that sort of thing was going to stop?

SC: Sometime between nineteen and six and , do you remember when the unincorporation was?

JM: I think that's about right, I'll have to check it.

SC: Because I remember I was in the room when he said, "Will, they're not going to talk about us anymore." And he said, "Why?" And he said, "By god, I bought the paper this afternoon."

HH: Then it remained in the Chilton family ever since.

SC: Yeah. The, that uh, that son of Elizabeth over in Falls Church, why he uh, seems to be the biggest stockholder today, through some manipulation.

HH: I don't really know.

SC: See, Uncle Will had his family, Aunt May and all of them, and left it to the rest of the family when he died.

JM: That's it. You were, uh, never very active in the, on the newspaper.

SC: No, I wrote, Uncle, I'd uh, Uncle Will and I'd be talking about something, I remember he ask me women serving on jury and he ask me to write the editorial on that.

HH: You were favorable?

SC: Favorable.

JM: I think you told me that, uh, you delivered the paper for awhile as a boy?

SC: Yes, that was while we were living in the David South Home and that, that political year. I can't remember who was president of the senate, was a democrat (JM: Uh, huh.) legislation. McKinney or something.

JM: What was your daily rounds, at?

SC: Well, uh, I pass the paper at the beginning of Broad Street going out to the hill and up Piedmont and back down the street along the railroad was called Wall Street then. Wall Street and then back out the corner street of both streets and Washington Street. Uh, I remember one morning when I went out to deliver the paper it was twenty six below zero (Laughs).

HH: Bout what year was that?

SC: Nine-1898.

HH: Uh, did you ever, uh, run for any office other than Secretary of State?

SC: Yeah, I run for the senate once, Harry, uh, I mean uh.

HH: State Senate? Oh, United States Senate.

SC: United States (HH: Yeah.) Senate, yeah.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

SC: What-cha-ma-call-it, uh, (HH: Is that) his boy with you now, died that was, uh, that Ned brought here for senate from Mansfield.

HH: Oh, uh.

SC: John, uh, John's his boy with the Gazette now and John, oh shit, Harry, you ought to know.

HH: Right, right, right. Uh, uh, you're talking about the time you ran against Nealy?

SC: Yeah, he asked me to run. John, the man that would put Coonskin Park on.

JM: Oh, you mean Frank Knight.

SC: Frank Knight.

HH: Yeah.

SC: Yeah.

HH: Yeah. Was that in 1942 that you ran against Nealy?

SC: I haven't the slightest idea.

HH: Well, see Nealy.

SC: It was, I ran second.

HH: Yeah, Nealy was elected to The United States Senate in, in 1930, 1936, wait a minute.

SC: And ran for governor in '40.

HH: Right, and then he ran for the senate again in '42, and while he got the nomination Revercomb defeated him in the general election in (SC: Yeah.) '42.

SC: Yeah, yeah.

HH: And I guess it was in.

SC: It must have been in '42.

HH: Then Nealy ran again for the United States Senate in 1948.

SC: Yeah.

HH: And that time he defeated Revercomb and went back in to the senate.

SC: Went back in.

JM: Harry, there's a newsclip here he ran 1954. against, oh against, uh.

SC: Huh?

HH: Yeah.

SC: Say, I saw a real interesting article, uh, on my desk. The man that hit the fellow down when he shot at Roosevelt, had died about a year ago.

HH: Surmack?

SC: Huh? Remember down in Florida when the.

HH: The mayor of Chicago?

SC: Yeah.

HH: Sur-Sur-Surmack, was it? Something like that, He was killed.

SC: Surmack was killed.

HH: Yeah, yeah.

SC: But this was the man that shot, uh, at Roosevelt and he had aimed at Roosevelt and Roosevelt hit his arm.

JM: Huh.

HH: Yeah.

SC: I'll bring it up so you all can see it.

HH: Yeah.

SC: That's where Roosevelt wrote Uncle Will when, when he wanted Uncle Will, when he ran for vice-president in (Inaudible) wanted Uncle Will to go with him. And Uncle Will had other engagements. Said he send me, and then Roosevelt wrote him back and said he rather have me anyway (Laughs). Then uh, then we went this way and on up and finally the last speech he made was, was in uh, Fairmont in front of the courthouse

and I was thinking I was sitting beside him and of course Hal Burns and all those people.

JM: How many times did you run for Secretary of State?

SC: Eight times.

JM: Eight times.

SC: Yeah.

JM: Are you sorry now that you didn't make it, er?

SC: No, I'm glad I didn't make it.

HH: Was the first time in uh, (SC: Thirty.) thirty two?

SC: Two, I believe.

HH: That was at the time, that uh, Judge O'Brian was elected.

SC: Yeah. He beat me around 1500 votes.

JM: That was in the primary?

SC: Yeah. Then the closest was when Pitt ran a hundred and eighty some votes.

HH: Yeah. That would have been, uh, that was when, after I was down here.

SC: Yeah.

HH: That must have been around 1940. Let's see I, it probably was, uh, it was probably after '40 I suspect, uh, oh uh, Judge got re-elected in '40 and he probably died before '44 was.

SC: Harry.

JM: Yeah, uh, it uh.

SC: Speaking of Frank, uh, Ned brought in here from Mansfield, not from Mansfield.

HH: Canton, Ohio.

SC: Canton. A sports editor and he was probably the worst sports editor they ever had. And when he died, if they had him insured for a million dollars, they'd lost money on him, as a newspaperman. (Laughs). That Frank, I was very fond of Frank.

HH: Yeah, yeah.

JM: Yeah, I remember when the Judge died, it was, uh, later than that I believe. It was during my career which started in '47.

HH: Yeah, I was uh, I know, I know that uh, old Judge O'Brian was Secretary of State when I was covering the State House but I don't know what, what the time.

JM: Yeah.

HH: And I was covering it from '39 till round '47, '48.

JM: Yeah, yeah.

SC: Well all I've had is some fun, I've had a drink and I haven't even touched it. Goddamnit, (something spills).

HH: I'll get it, Sam. Let's see, uh, there you are.

SC: Thanks Harry, thanks Harry. Did George get you some drinks for you, boys?

HH: Uh, uh, uh, Bernie brought that to you.

SC: You know Bernie, Bernie is a real artist.

HH: Yes he is (Telephone rings).

JM: Yes he is.

HH: (Answering telephone) Hello, yes but he's not here, (Laughs). No, this is Harry Hoffman from the Gazette and uh, O.K., doctor. How you doing? Uh, oh yeah, tremendously (Laughs). Is that right? Yeah, yeah (Inaudible conversation).

JM: I understand one of your proudest achievements was the, getting through a racing bill up at the legislature.

SC: Yeah. That was along time going on file, uh, John. I first passed that bill when Governor, when Cornwall was governor and I counted on it and uh, he uh, he vetoed it, Cornwall did and we damn near beat his veto. But uh, the state police was coming in about that time, anyway I had to wait till Cump (?) got in and Cump (?) didn't sign it but let it go as the law.

JM: So that would have been in 1933, I guess.

SC: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

SC: So then they, they gave me credit over being the father of racing in West Virginia. I just happen to, you know, I didn't, uh, wasn't any bill of my I just happen to get it passed at that time.

JM: Uh, that's.

SC: I was, what?

JM: That's the basic law in which we're still operating, I guess.

SC: Yeah. I was, uh, I was telling, uh, Frank Knight told me that, that, I mean Tom, is that his boy? Tom told me that his, his father picked out his wife for him.

HH: Picked out Tommy's wife?

SC: Tom's wife. He made a good pick, damn I like her (Laughter). She's from Weston. I was telling her about the time Cump went down to Weston. They had a row down there and he thought he might go down and help and drove his car down and parked and went inside the building; looking for the main office. And along came a fellow and said, "Hey, you're new in here." "Oh, I, I'm sorry my friend, I'm the governor of West Virginia." "Don't let that bother you, I thought I was Napoleon when they brought me in," (Laughter).

HH: Uh, well that, that racing law was passed, uh, in the '30's,

wasn't it?

SC: Passed in '33 as I, as I remember, and this goddamn superintendent of the schools went along with me and I marked it for schools and teachers (HH: Yeah, uh.), then he went against me and I turned it over to the general fund and instead of making the million that I saved him, they could make thirteen million.

HH: W. W. Trent.

SC: Yeah. I've got a bill now and uh, at least, uh, figured out a race and really make some money. But I haven't, I haven't done nothing about patenting it yet. But I, I'd like to patent it. Nobody's ever, nobody's ever yet had a race where there was a payoff and there wasn't a loser. And I've got a race just like that.

HH: Is that right?

SC: Yeah. In otherwords, you take the average man will bet ten dollars on one of those races like the daily double (Inaudible), in otherwords I've got that where you bet your ten dollars but two thirds of it goes over to bet on the safer (Inaudible) and you bet on that race and save your money and good for, to bet on the straight run (Laughs).

HH: How do you, uh, have for several years have had a bill up in the legislature to legalize dog racing. How do you feel about bringing dog racing into the state?

SC: They should do it Harry. But why I don't see why, that Mullihan, Mullihan's not much politician, is he? He, he carries his up there, white or god, go to red or blue, he carries that all the time but when it comes to state wide affairs he don't seem to be able to do um. He's not trying to put that bill through.

HH: Yeah. I don't know whether he has anything to do with it this time or not.

SC: Yes, uh, Joe Connally told me, uh, himself.

HH: Better push him.

SC: Yeah. (Break in tape.)

SC: Uh, how long do those things last, I mean?

HH: I think they said an hour, didn't they?

JM: Yeah, an hour on each side, I think. We didn't get all, on the end of that tape, uh, you went into law practice with the son of the governor.

SC: Chilton, McCorkle and Chilton, either in 1908 or 9.

JM: And the, that was Will McCorkle who was the son of the governor?

SC: Uh, huh.

JM: And I asked you for your impression of Uncle Will Chilton. How was it you described that?

SC: Well he, uh, he I think loved children more than anyone I ever knew. I remember once-is someone out there?

HH: I thought so.

SC: I remember once going to Cincinnati with my (Inaudible). And Uncle Will went up and the boy wouldn't have a damn thing to do with him. And he went up, I think we were back in the drawing room, he went up a dozen times and the boy just wouldn't have a thing to do with him. And finally the next morning we crossed the bridge at Cincinnati, come back and said, "That goddamn boy is going to be a mother," (Laughter). But he loved children.

HH: Uh, huh.

JM: Was he a good politician, do you think?

SC: Yes, he was a pretty good politician.

HH: Uh, he, he got elected to the senate when the legislature elected the United States Senate.

SC: Yes, in 1910, as I remember, '11.

JM: Yeah, 1911.

HH: And how, how long did he serve in the.

SC: One time in '6, in '19.

HH: Yeah.

SC: That's where I met Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I had lunch with him on several occasions. I guess I'm the only man in West Virginia, I'd say Mr. Roosevelt and finally he said, "Sam, for christ sake, call me Frank, I'm not Mr. Roosevelt to you," (Laughter).

JM: Where did you meet him?

SC: When Uncle Will was in a restaurant called the Oxadental(?). Uncle Will lived in their hotel.

HH: I'm familiar with it.

SC: Yeah.

HH: It's closed, the old Oxadental is closed up now, Sam.

SC: Yes, I wouldn't be surprised.

JM: What was your impression of Franklin Delano then?

SC: Well, uh, we were close. I liked him very much and everything, and I just kept on liking him more as he (Laughs), as he went on. The last time I saw him was before he was governor, the day after he had his stroke, before he was governor of New York. And I, uh, Dr. Johnson were the compromise candidate when they elected candidates, and Argie Davis our man. He thought Roosevelt would be the man, and he went to see. The doctor made his wonderful talk and then he just looked down at his legs and he said I can't doctor. And just think what he did after that.

JM: Yeah.

HH: This, uh, there in '24 he'd already had polio, huh?

SC: Yes, I, I, uh, did see him just to say hello and talk a

little while with him after he made his acceptance speech in Chicago that time.

JM: When he was, uh, nominated?

SC: Where he was nominated.

JM: For president for (SC: Yeah.) the first time?

SC: Yeah. Uh, the uh, he's just the same. To me he was the greatest of all of um.

HH: When you, uh, uh, had lunch with him, when Uncle Will was in the United States Senate.

SC: Yeah.

HH: Was Franklin Roosevelt at that time Assistant Secretary of the Navy?

SC: Yes, there wasn't war at that time. And uh, and uh, this fella uh, I just can't think of names anymore. It was in, he was County Commissioner of (Inaudible), Jerry Coon.

HH: Oh.

SC: Jerry Coon had a picture of him taken during that time, now uh, uh, Jerry'll give it to me, I know. He knows I want it. But you can see the, you can see the uh, something background would, would remind you, Daniels was Secretary of the Navy then.

HH: Believe so.

SC: Yeah.

JM: Did you.

SC: Uh.

JM: Did you know the old Governor McCorkle pretty well?

SC: Oh yeah.

JM: He was a delightful character.

SC: Governor had a brother that was, uh, uh, I wanna tell you a story (Inaudible) uh, I had uh, Dave Judge. He made Judge when McQueen was Mayor, why he made uh, uh, Dave McCorkle the Peace Judge. I (Inaudible) went down and pick him up at noon and he was still trying court. They'd get drunk down there Saturday night and on Monday court would be pretty busy. But the last case was up and there was a hell of a good looking gal, awful good looking and young, uh, gal. And there was a man that was the culprit and, and she and (Inaudible). And gov-and Dave looked down said, "Now, what's your trouble?" And she said, "That man there say he'd like to fuck me." And gov-and Dave said, "I don't blame him, I'd like to fuck you myself, case dismissed," (Laughter). But Dave didn't intend bringing everything out in the open and the Governor was kind of secret and (Inaudible).

HH: Now, was Dave the Governor's son?

SC: No, Dave was his brother.

HH: Oh, his brother.

SC: Dave. Dave it was.

HH: Dave.

SC: He married Miss Comstock (Inaudible). I had a dream two or three months ago, Roosevelt was before, he had, he had his, uh, paralyses.

HH: Uh, huh.

SC: And that's how, how, how he appeared to me in the, in the dream.

HH: Uh, huh.

JM: Sam, in your, uh, lifetime who do you think was the best governor of West Vir-that West Virginia had?

SC: Well, Governor brou-McCorkle brought in more outside interest into West Virginia than anyone I know. See I didn't know the family from that, that (Inaudible).

HH: Yeah.

SC: Cornwall was a very good governor, but he was purely a B & O man.

HH: Purely a what?

SC: A B & O.

HH: Oh, B & O man.

SC: Man, and, and uh, McCorkle was a C & O man (Laughter).

JM: Do you remember, uh, a case in uh, uh, Federal Court here, I think it was when the judge was trying one of the Hatfields and, and he allowed the, all the Hatfields bring in their guns in case the McCoys would, would uh.

SC: Shoot it out with them.

JM: Shoot it out with then. Do you remember what that case was about or anything?

SC: No, I don't. I don't even remember the judge, was it, do you remember what?

JM: No I don't, uh, I don't think, uh, no I don't remember the judge.

SC: I remember one judge, he was an old timer. "Where's that, where's that nigger they use to call the Alabama Kid?" The little nigger got up and "Judge," said "That little nigger ain't going pester you no more," says, "a nigger done 44rd him over on the horn," (Laughs).

JM: Uh, wasn't there a story about you seeing some sort of a, uh, shooting incident down here on Summers Street?

SC: Yes.

JM: Uh, do you recall that?

SC: We uh, uh, as our law office back in those times was the (Inaudible) house that McCorkle had built, uh, where the bus terminal is now. And I saw a fella go across the street

and pull out a gun and shoot a girl twice, uh, and then shoot her in the head while she was on the ground. And then put the gun up to his head and kill himself.

JM: Huh.

SC: And she fell in a very lady like way, she just fell over and her skirts were just perfectly put up in, put up courtesy.

JM: Huh.

SC: Yes, I, I saw that.

JM: Do you remember any other acts of violence back in the early times, uh, shooting incidents or?

SC: Well, I on, uh, two or three occasions and Election Day, I've had a couple of people draw guns on me that could have killed me.

JM: Really?

SC: And was never a bit of afraid then and that night by god I was the scarest guy that you ever (Laughter).

HH: What sort of people, uh, pulled guns on you, Sam?

SC: Just at elections.

HH: Oh, elections.

JM: Do you remember meeting President McKinley?

SC: Yes, I had a very, had a very, uh, pleasant, uh, visit with McKinley once. In those old days why the White House uh, there were two rooms in there, the blue and the pink room. And just anybody walked in and made themselves at home and looked around. My mother had taken me around to see the wonders of Washington while we were visiting in Warrenton (?) or Jefferson anyway (Inaudible). But while they were in the pink room, I was in the blue room by myself and a crowd of children about my age came along. And they went down the hall and I said I'd go along with them. And I went down with um and the first thing you

know we were in the room with McKinley, the President. And they all went up to speak to him and I went up too. And he said, "What part of Ohio are you from, son?" And I said, "I'm not from Ohio, I'm from Charleston, West Virginia." "Oh," he said, "During the war I spent a year up at Gauley Bridge." And I said, "Yes, and if one of my great uncles had of seen you he'd of shot you." And he just put his hand over on my head and said, "You little rebel you come back and see me again sometime," (Laughter).

JM: What year was that, do you have any idea?

SC: Yes, I would and uh, it was shortly before he was killed.

JM: He was killed.

SC: '98 would, would that be right?

JM: That would sound about right. He was killed in 1901, I think.

SC: I, I, I, I, I think I was, I was 13 years old maybe at the time. That would have been, that would have been '98.

JM: Uh, huh.

SC: And uh, then I met Roosevelt one, and time I thought he was a great big fella and he was just a little short guy then.

JM: Really?

SC: Yeah, going into; we went down Thanksgiving Day to see Washington & Lee play George Washington in the morning. And uh, I knew an Indian, on the Carlyle Indians, they played Georgetown that afternoon. Told me about a race that was going to be down at the Washington track that afternoon, and the horse that would win. Well, the official didn't show for the, uh, George Washington, one of um didn't and Bob, well they hired Bob Maxwell, uh, uh, was up at Charleston one year. And uh, I uh, he got twenty five dollars and I, he told me about this horse and I said, "Bob, let's bet that on that horse." The horse's name was Dave Crocket or something like that.

And we bet it and the horse paid ten to one and we got back \$250. And then that was on Thanksgiving when the Army-Navy game was played in Princeton that year. And I went up trying to get off at Princeton and I was four or five miles away when I got off. And along, train run the rest of the way and along come a train and it slowed down and I hopped on it. And I hadn't hopped on it two or three big men grabbed me and hollered, "What do you mean, this is the President's (Inaudible)." But the man from Washington, I mean from Huntington and I can't think of his name right now (Inaudible), but he was Roosevelt's chief guard and I say.

HH: Callahan?

SC: Huh?

HH: Callahan?

SC: No, no, no this is uh, I'll say uh, uh, whoever his chief guard was back then in 1966 or 5. Anyway, uh, I asked if he was there and they said yes and he come out and he saw me and he said, "What are you doing on a Republican train?" And I told him and he said, "I'll take him back with me." And he took me back and I talked with Roosevelt on the way into Princeton then. And he.

JM: Really, what, what year?

SC: No, that, that was the year, you know, they changed with, to the forward pass back then, uh, they got Roosevelt to be the head of that commission, you know, to change the rules for football.

JM: Oh really?

SC: Yeah.

JM: About what year was that, now?

SC: 1905 or 6, I'm not sure.

JM: Uh, huh.

HH: Well, let's see, Teddy Bullmoose year was in 1912, wasn't it?

JM: Yeah.

HH: Uh, so.

SC: Yeah, but was the bullmoose year in the year of Wilson and was Fletcher?

HH: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Wilson was elected and Roosevelt ran as a bullmoose candidate.

SC: Yeah, that's right.

HH: Uh, so uh, he must not have been elected till 1908.

JM: Well he, see he succeeded McKinley.

SC: He was vice-president.

HH: Yeah, yeah, yeah that's right. Yeah, then he ran successfully in 1904, didn't he, uh?

SC: Yeah. Uh, uh, and, and that would've made the date allright because.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Yeah.

JM: He was president then.

HH: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

SC: But uh.

JM: Didn't, didn't Roosevelt visit Charleston once, uh?

SC: Yes, he spoke here once.

JM: Uh, that was uh, (HH: Teddy.) Teddy Roosevelt, yeah, didn't he uh, about 1911 or something like that?

SC: I remember him being here, I saw him that's the reason I thought he was a great big man, I just saw him in the car (JM: Yeah.) as he (JM: Yeah.), as he went by.

HH: Where did he speak when he spoke in Charleston?

SC: Don't remember.

HH: Were you, uh, present when, uh, Herbert Hoover spoke in Laydley (?) Field? I guess '28.

SC: No.

HH: I always understood, I heard it said that, uh, when, no, not '28, '32 (JM: Yeah.) when Hoover came here and spoke in Laydley (?) Field and it was the biggest crowd they ever had in Laydley Field.

SC: I don't remember that, Harry.

JM: Say the forward pass came in about 1906?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Do you remember the story about, uh, when West Virginia was playing Pitt, and, uh, you were the center, and uh, you stopped the star there you saw their touchdown play?

SC: Yeah, uh, uh, what sorta touchdown? I remember, I remember when I was playing center, uh, uh, against Pitt. It wasn't Pitt then, it was Western University of Pennsylvania.

JM: Uh, huh.

SC: And they'd kick the ball and run me down the field one way and down another one and I decided that this is one play I'm not going to enter into. And just stood there and here come the trick play of the world, and I just sat on my can and we lost it. Lost to Oregon and the only reason (Laughs) I play is I wasn't going to be in the play that time. Yes, I remember that.

JM: Did they have, have any other games around here, uh, back at the turn of the century?

SC: Their, their big game of the year, thank you Harry.

HH: You're welcome.

SC: Their big game of the year was the Washington & Lee.

JM: Yeah.

SC: West Virginia U.

JM: Yeah, well back at the turn of the century, uh, baseball was pretty popular around here, I guess, wasn't it?

SC: Yeah. Yes we had.

JM: Where did they have their field, up in the east end, or?

SC: They had um in the racetrack up here.

JM: Yeah.

SC: The racetrack was just 150 feet back of Bradford Street.

JM: Yeah.

SC: And that's where all the, the baseball diamonds, skid diamonds were there for.

JM: You didn't have an organized league this, this (SC: No.) just.

SC: Just sandlot.

JM: Sandlot bases, yeah.

SC: (Laughs) That was like, that was like when Riley and I, Riley's mother bought a farm down below Springhill about a mile. And they had a team up in Springhill called The Springhill Independence Team. And we played on it. We didn't have but one baseball shirt, you want to take pictures of the team, everybody put the shirt on. But you had to write the full name out on the shirt cause (Spells) S-H-I-T wouldn't look very good on the Springhill Independence Team, wouldn't look very good on it (Laughter).

JM: What, what else did people do for recreation around those times, uh, round the turn of the century? Did they do alot of boating, hunting, and fishing, er?

SC: Yes they, back when I was little, the uh, river is good deal on it, canoes and, and boats and then they'd hunt some and fish. Some sports were mostly fishing and on the river. That's where, see the first birthday party they had for me, was uh, up at the Douglas's, G.A. Douglas, Paul Miles' wife. I said, "No one ever said happy birthday to me." And she said, "Well I'll say it." So she came down my birthday and said happy birthday is anybody, no, said, "Anybody said happy birthday?" And I said, "No." She said, uh, "Happy birthday, your dinner is on the table." And I said, "Where's Paul?" And she said, "Well Paul's worry, he's constipated." And I said, "Why don't he take a western treatment." And she said, "What is the western treatment?" And I said, "That's where the whole thing got started, out west," I said, "They swallow grasshoppers backwards and let them kick the shit out of you." (Laughter). Then, then Jenny, Jenny Johnson, she was Jenny Smith, she was then. She decided to have my next day party at, birthday party at.

HH: Yeah, I was up at that one.

SC: You were up at that one?

HH: Yeah.

SC: That's the one no, no, you weren't, the first one, the first one only eight people there.

HH: Oh, is that, uh, uh, I, there was a crowd at the one I went to.

SC: They toasted what's-his-name, uh, Morris, uh, Perry Morris.

HH: Yeah.

SC: He and I were left of the eight guests. And Jenny said, "Will you all have another drink?" And Perry said yeah he'd take a beer and I said, "Give me a whiskey and water." And, by god, she just give me a glass of water, there wasn't any whiskey in it. And I said, "Let's go down to

the (Inaudible) and get our next drink," I said, "I don't like these love in canoe drinks." And she said, "What is love in canoe?" And I said, "That's fuck and add water."

HH: The what?

SC: I said, "That's fuck and add water." Love in canoe. (laughter) But we've had some, she started that out with eight people and she had over 150. And incidently, you all come next year, she's gonna have it, she's gonna have it, shit, up in the Tower Building.

HH: The Imperial Tower?

SC: And we'll have a damn tower in our section (HH: Yeah.) untill 11:30, 11:30 and then go on up and relax. And you, you want to see one wild people (Inaudible).

HH: Yeah, well they sold that house up there, didn't they?

SC: Yeah, they sold it. They built a beautiful place in, a little one story up there on uh, west of Palm Beach. She called me up one day and kept on talking and I thought she was here. And I said, "Get in your car and come on down, quit this telephone talking." And she said, "I'll be," dog gone if she wasn't.

JM: Do you think way back then, some fifty years or so ago, people had, uh, a better way of living than they have now?

SC: No.

JM: Better now?

SC: Much better, I was just telling someone about (Inaudible), who started that Hospital down in uh, the Broadway, the hospital down in Milton. He had, uh, his office was down on 3rd avenue and, and we were talking, I, I kept telling said Sam his wife had the first electric lamp ever in this part of West Virginia. They charged to come in see it, in this house. Just think of that, now I'm talking about living better. You can go 15 miles up the hollow and uh, there's a lamp lighted with electricity now.

JM: Yeah.

SC: And all things are, uh.

HH: The pace was much slower in those days, though, wasn't it?

SC: Oh lord, yes. All the niggers, all the, all the drivers you had were niggers then, horse and buggy. Now all the and uh, and uh, the hardly any nigger drive a taxi cab.

HH: Uh.

JM: Were there lots of blacks in Charleston back then?

SC: Oh yeah.

JM: There were always.

SC: But they were, they were genteel blacks, they knew how to behave themselves and uh, always.

HH: Do you think we'd, uh, be better off today if with all the conveniences we have, we'd just slow down the pace of living a little bit?

SC: By all means, Harry. They can, they can now solve the gasoline problem if people would quit using cars for pleasure and just for business. Don't you think so?

JM: It would help alot.

SC: Yeah, cause you (Break in tape, move to resturant.).

SC: Yes sir, they uh, had a grand fraternity of their own at that time. They just had their own ideas.

GD: Yeah.

SC: And their own ideas were pretty right too.

GD: What did, what did the fella say about his, was he proud about his daughters?

SC: Bragging, bragging about his daughters. In front of me and the (Inaudible) said I give um the money to dress up and when they come down the street you can't tell um from the whores.

GD: (Laughs) Said that with a great deal of fatherly pride.

SC: Yeah.

HH: Sam, you remember that story you told John and me about the time that the, I think up in Clendenin or someplace, that the drummer came by, the salesman. And stopped at the store to stay all night and sat the sample bag down. Do you remember that story? Sample food, the little man got up and saw it in the morning and he thought it was sample food, remember that?

SC: Yeah, (This section of tape inaudible).

JM: Sam has two stories tacked up here, Harry.

GD: Yeah.

HH: Is that right? (Inaudible).

SC: George, will these girls over here hear me?

GD: No, they won't hear you Sam. Sam, uh, why don't you tell um that story about the, uh, the guy that was an expert on throwing three dice?

SC: Knobby Scales (?), I expect you met Knobby when he was here with me.

HH: May have.

SC: He was, he was, he was an expert. He could throw three dice and always knew the two to throw out when he wanted. And uh, they opened up a gambling house, The Fayden House, down at the first town in Indiana beyond Cincinnati. And said, he was awful stinking drunk when he told me. And he said, "Let's go down there and we try to get in." And I knew he could do that alright. And we got down there and Knobby (?) shot along alright and finally he just got so drunk that he threw out all three dice at the same time. Come two fives and a four and I thought we were going to get killed then, but they paid the money to him and Knobby pulled out twenty dollars and said, "Twenty more'll make the fourteen," (Laughter).

GD: Sam.

SC: Knobby(?), Knobby, bragging on a fella. Miss Bea, you know, was stuck on Knobby. He was her man. That's the main big whore in Lexington. They even, I've seen him, they stay in her house and everything.

GD: Is that right?

SC: Oh yeah.

GD: Sam, have you told um, uh, the one about the uh, the uh, they were talking about Appalachian flavor and talking about, uh, uh, something there for Marshall University in Huntington, and all that. Have you told um the one about the uh, the fella who, uh, the railroader who had the lamp and all that down there and the guy that came in and said put the (Inaudible) and all, have you told um that one?

SC: No. It's, uh, I can't think of his name (Inaudible) the man that brought his tobacco in to sell. Wait till I think of his name and I'll tell the story.

GD: O.K., yeah. You ought to remember his name, that's (Laughs). Sam, talking about.

SC: Yeah.

GD: How hard it is to tell a story because if you're not careful you'll offend some group, you know. And we, we went over to, I notice you were noticing that little program.

JM: Yeah, I mean to ask about that, yeah.

GD: Yeah, you can have one of those if you want.

JM: Yeah.

GD: I've got a whole bunch of them over there. Sam and I played a show up in Marietta for the uh, about four states worth of electrical contractors. They told us it was going to be kind of a stag show so Sam and I were just, you know, we were regular element. Got over there and they must have had, everybody had their wives and most of um had their kids, and uh, we were just pretty well, stumped for, for uh, jokes to tell.

So Sam's struggling along and uh, and besides the, of most, uh, the mildest one he can think of is in terms of a Catholic priest and (Laughs) I thought, oh my god, with this big Catholic population in Marietta (Laughs) you're gonna get us both killed. I don't know why he chose to tell it about a priest, but remember the joke you told about the, about they were going out through, the, this guy and the uh, the girl and the uh, I had hoped you would have said preacher but I think you said priest. Going along and they ran out of gas, remember?

SC: Yeah, car stopped. Was a priest (Laughter).

GD: That's the way you told it. I would have rather you'd of said Christian Scientist down there to tell you the truth.

SC: And he said, "Well, I don't reckon anybody is going by to help us," he said. It was getting along about six or seven o'clock. He said, "There's a house over there, I'll go over and see if they mind." He went over and waved for her to come on over. She came over said, "Not anybody here but the house is alright, let's go in." They waited awhile, they waited awhile and she said, "Well, no use waiting here everythings ready, I'll cook your dinner." Which they did and no one came again. And uh, waited till later in the night why said, "Well you getting sleepy?" "Well that's a big bed, I can sleep on one side and you can sleep on the other." "And I'll be gone while you get undressed and I'll get in bed alright myself." So she got in bed and pretty soon she said, "I'm cold." He said, "I'll get up and get you a blanket." Got up and got her a blanket. Drectly she said, "I'm cold." He said, "Well I'll get up and get you a blanket." Then she said, "I'm cold, let's play like we is married." (Waitress interrupts.)

GD: Just wait a minute, we're right in the middle of a punch line here (Laughs).

SC: Said, "I'm cold, let's play like we's married." Said "Alright, get up and get your own blanket," (Laughter).

GD: Now I must say I was very relieved when I finally heard that punch line.

JM: There really was a priest, huh?

GD: Now a days though (Break in tape).

GD: Turn that on there, Sam.

SC: When you read it over there that I, I.

HH: Well I saw that on there.

GD: You didn't tell um about, tell, tell um about being the, about coaching up there when they first started football and all that, what they gave you and everything.

SC: Well, they gave me a watch for my three years coaching there.

GD: Just three years? Were you the first one they had?

SC: Oh yeah, yeah. (Inaudible) had the first team then.

GD: One of the, Sam's I don't know whether he played for you er, er what but, uh, Mayor Shanklin and we were up to the ball park one night and uh, Mayor Shanklin came over, he was always, you know, very friendly, he always is and everything. And he and Sam had a long discussion, and uh, at the time, Sam, I think you were 87. And Mayor Shanklin was up in his 70's I guess, and when, uh, Mayor Shanklin left I later told Mayor Shanklin about this, so Sam said, "You know that Johnny Shanklin always was a nice boy." (Laughs) well he's only 10 or 12 years younger than you, itn't he Sam?

SC: Yeah.

GD: Said Johnny Shanklin is such a nice boy (Laughs).

SC: Yeah. That's who we went (Inaudible) when I had a date with her and had to go to Washington and, and uh, told John, Lee Kenna, I said, "You wouldn't be here if it hadn't been for me," which is right," John I told you about.

HH: Yeah.

JM: Yeah, we didn't get that on the tape (Inaudible).

SC: Bout, I told you bout, John, John uh, Joe Kenna coming in and me giving him a ticket. He took it to, he would never known if it hadn't been for me having to go to Washington.

JM: Now that was, uh, Joe Kenna.

SC: Joe Kenna.

JM: The father of.

SC: This is Lee Kenna, the father of Joe Kenna.

JM: You introduced, uh.

SC: I introduced (HH: Joe Kenna.) and gave him the tickets to take her to the show.

JM: Yeah.

GD: Now Sam, did you tell um bout naming Laydley Field?

SC: Yeah, I told um that that should have been named McGuigen (?) Field. Old Mrs. McGuigen (?) was a swell old gal.

GD: Should have been what, who was Mrs. McGuigen?

SC: Mrs. McGuigen (?) was the principal of the high school.

GD: Uh, huh. That, things like that are interesting, aren't they though, that uh.

HH: Yeah.

GD: I had always assumed that Laydley (?), that Mr. Laydley (?) would have been a sports, uh.

HH: Yeah, now.

SC: Mr. Laydley (?) wasn't a bad guy at that. The time I had, this teacher, I forget which it was in the 6th or 7th grade, had a habit of reading things out of the, some magazine. And she read that, and read a single dolphin will have a thousand young in a year. And I put up my hand and she said, "What is it, Sam?" And I said, "How many will a married dolphin have?" (Laughter) and she sent me down to Mr. Laydley (Laughs) and I told him and he laughed and said, "You sit here like I'm punishing you for saying that," (Laughter).

HH: Now what was, uh, Mrs. McGuigen (?) was principal?

SC: Principal of the high school.

HH: Now what was Laydley?

SC: Huh?

HH: What was Laydley?

SC: Laydley was superintendent.

HH: Oh yeah.

SC: Not superintendent, but the head of all the schools, whatever you call him (Break in tape).

SC: Now Komer(?) Bias, was the name of this tobacco raiser.

GD: Oh, o.k. Komer(?) Bias. Is that, it's very important that you remember that name.

HH: Komer(?) Bias.

GD: This, this, this is a , this is a story that I first heard up in uh, Joe, Joe, Mr. Joe Buchanan, who was the vice-president for the, the uh, Monongahela Power Company, and he was a famous story teller in, in Northern West Virginia. And alot of people thought he was kind of Riley's counterpart up that way. They, they, they'd equate the two and he, he was in demand everywhere; told me this story as his Mannington story. I was born in Mannington so that impressed me. Well I was trying to tell this story to Sam one night, and Sam had told it better, I think, and it related to a very same story to a Huntington situation (Laughs).

SC: Yeah.

GD: Involving a gentleman named Komer(?) Bias down there.

SC: Well Komer(?) raises tobacco, the longer leaf, whatever it was. And bought it in as he always did and sold it to the (Inaudible). Got the money and then went down to the Florentine Hotel, which was the hotel of Huntington then.

GD: Which one, Sam?

SC: Florentine.

GD: Florentine.

SC: And uh, went to the bar, got acquainted with the bartender and waited till dark. No gentleman would go to a whore house in the daytime, you know, in the day, they waited till dark to go there. But in the meantime, L. Martin had the house that he went to, but in the meantime Bill Campbell, this golf player's father, uh, had been luncheon there and he run all over town of Huntington. But Komer didn't know that, so he went up to the place where L. Martin lived and it was down on two street. In the meantime, a railroad man, it was handy to his work, had rented the house and was living in it. So Komer went up and knocked on the door and no one came, but drectly this big old railroad man came down with the shiniest lantern, they had the shiniest lanterns, and opened the door. And Komer said, "But these nickels in the piano and tell the girls to come down." Well, the old railroad man hit him and knocked him out in the yard. Then Komer got wiped off and went back up to the, went back up to the saloon and go to the bartender and said, "Spiteful fella as that is that L. Martin's got answering the door for her, she ain't gonna make no success (Laughter).

GD: Sam, uh, when, when uh, Mike, uh, Mike White I believe it was Mike White, wasn't it, or was it George Steel wrote that story about your birthday party, Sam, up at Pete's? That was Mike White, wasn't it?

HH: I believe it was George Steel.

GD: Was it George Steel, believe it was George Steel, yes, yes. It was an excellent story and, and an old gentleman from up in, in Bell wrote Sam a letter. I don't know if you remember his name or not, Sam. But he, he was from uh, he'd read about Sam being from St. Albans and had remembered Sam and, so uh, Sam insisted we reach the gentleman and finally we got him by phone. I took Sam up to see him and he, he was uh, committed to a chair, wasn't he, uh?

SC: Yeah, (GD: And) and he was the son of a man that brought the curve ball.

JM: Really?

SC: The curve ball to maybe West Virginia, I know to Southern West Virginia.

GD: Now this fella was an old baseball player. He'd played in the Second World War for some team overseas and he could tell you every play that he'd ever made. And after Sam discovered that he was interested in baseball, Sam told him that his father was the man who Sam had remembered as bringing the curve ball to West Virginia. Now I don't know whether Sam was just , whether that was an act of kindness or whether.

SC: No, I thought he was a telegraph operator but he was working for Kahle(?), the big lumber man.

GD: Uh, huh. But it sure made that old gentleman's day, you know. He was, nobody comes to see him and everything and they had a wonderful visit.

JM: You don't remember his name?

GD: Sam, what was his name, do you still got that letter?

SC: I, I, McManis or something like that.

GD: Probably got it in your pocket, I expect (Laughs), libel to.

SC: No, uh, I'll remember, I'll think of it.

JM: Did you, uh, what, what position did you play when you were playing ball?

SC: Huh?

JM: When you played baseball, what position?

SC: I was the pitcher.

JM: Pitcher, usually.

SC: When I, when I went down to Center College to play under an assumed name, the first game I pitched (Inaudible) Shepard was his name. That wasn't the name I couldn't remember, (Inaudible) Shepard pitched for Center College. He had the speed of a railroad train and wild as a mountain lion (Laughter).

JM: You throw a pretty good curve?

SC: I used spitball mostly, they used spitball most of us.

JM: What does a spitball do, does it just libe to go anywhere?

SC: Well it just instead of taking the kind of the twist on the ball, it just build up enough in front of it to make it jump at one side to the other and it didn't quit.

HH: Why'd they outlaw the spitball, Sam?

SC: Because it was so goddamn good they couldn't hit it, that was the reason.

JM: Was it a little bit dangerous maybe hit the, hit the batter?

SC: Wouldn't quite go that far, it would go maybe five or six inches. But anyway, I learned more about baseball after I got through playing it, I might've, might not have been as wild as a mountain lion because Cleave Alexander got to be a good friend of mine and we were drunk down in Cincinnati one night, out at the Bluegrass Inn, and I said, "You're pitching tomorrow, what are you going to get that control?" And he said, "Sam, I haven't got any good control, but," said, "I've had sense enough to throw at the center of the plate and you'll get more corner throwing at the center of the plate than you will throwing at the corner," (Laughter) he said.

HH: Well that sounds like, uh, there's a lot of logic there, I'd say.

GD: Yeah.

SC: Cleave was a hell of a nice guy.

HH: Reverend Cleveland Alexander.

SC: (Inaudible).

HH: Do you know, uh, (Inaudible)?

SC: No.

HH: Let's see, he's suppose to be here, itn't he?

GD: Yeah, he was here last week.

SC: He was here.

HH: Oh, was he?

GD: Did you tell um how they picked the, how they changed the rules in football, Sam?

SC: Well, I told um that Teddy Roosevelt was the head of it.

GD: Uh, huh.

SC: But, uh, the forward pass, you see, in football you could pass, but it was always behind you, don't you know, then they changed. But, but you, you were talking about (Laughs) Georgia's, Georgia (Inaudible) team getting beat 75 to 0. Uh, in the last advent a fella would just run on to catch (Laughs) the forward pass.

GD: You tell um when they had those meetings, where the, where they'd go to decide which rules to have for next year; have you, have you told um that story?

SC: No I haven't, I asked Bob Maxwell, see Tiny Maxwell was a great sportswriter, as well as being one of the greatest football players of his age. And he'd go to these rules meetings and I said, "How you change the rules?" "Oh," he said, "Sam, we all get there about Thursday and have different ideas about rules, and go down to the bar and discuss um." "And then the last day we go down and ask the bartender what changes we ought to make and we make um," (Laughter).

GD: Did he explain Tiny Maxwell's role in Charleston?

HH: No.

GD: I was trying to tell um the other day, Sam, that I didn't understand it completely but how, how did Tiny Maxwell come to, come down here and be with the Gazette and all that sort of thing and what, what was his position with the Gazette?

SC: Well he, he came down here to see me.

GD: Been your roommate, hadn't he?

SC: Yeah. And then he and a girl had, had a fight or something and he decided to stay there, stayed up home with me a couple of months before he got some other place to stay. And then he wrote and they thought he was a good man and he was what you call city editor, wasn't that, wasn't that what they call um? Wrote this story the Isabella Law.

GD: Isabella, that was your friend, Sam, wasn't?

SC: Yeah. And the girl I had, whose father use to be manager of the Palmer House in Chicago when they had the Palmer House Bride and that's twenty years back. And she was a beautiful girl. And uh, (Inaudible) and I had two or three little old twenty foot boats out here on the river and we got another one and I said let me name it and we named it the Isabella Law. And then she wanted a picture of it and I went over to Ward's ninety foot yacht. Got a fella to paint me a sign, the Isabella Law and put it over the (Inaudible) and sent her a picture of it. Then the worst thing was (Laughs) she decided she'd come down and take a trip on the, uh, Isabella Law. And then Bob wrote the story about how the Isabella Law went over Kanawha Falls and sank. Oh, uh, he wrote I, I seen that everybody got the bag. Then the head of it was, she was a star in Vaudeville, she was starring up in someplace and Bob went in to see her and she told him about three or four trips she'd taken on the Isabella (Laughter).

BW: Well, you had it pretty close there, George.

SC: But she was a pretty swell gal, I liked her.

GD: Did you tell um about the fella that was going to get around the world from St. Albans, Sam? If he ever made a lot of money in one thing another.

SC: Now he was, that uh, that was uh, McKinley, that was my, my cousin, uh, Ollie Barnett. We made a nice deal, made \$35,000 a piece and he said if he ever made any big money he'd like to go around the world. Well he had a wife who was a highly educated girl, named Elizabeth something, and also had a sweetheart at the, a nurse at the hospital named Molly. And I said, "Now you've got the money, going around

the world, who would you take with you?" Well, he said, "Sam, I'm not going to take either of um, I'm not going around the world." "But I certainly wouldn't take Molly, it would be just a long hard trip for her," (Laughter). Cause Molly was a good-looking gal. She lived up at Hearts Creek. I've got a couple of thousand pages of notes that I've written during these years and when I run on a name or story, why I, I can't look over the whole 2,000 pages (Laughs).

HH: Where do you have these 2,000 pages of notes, Sam?

SC: At the foot of my bed, I'm gonna.

HH: Is that right?

SC: Try and get um.

HH: Well I bet there's alot of, uh, a lot of real information in those.

SC: Yes, when you asked me about settling the, about bringing the legislature back from Cincinnati I've got the whole story written up there someplace maybe on page 800 or maybe on page 195.

JM: Really? Do you have soul stories written like that? Not just notes or.

SC: No, it's kind of a diary.

JM: Oh, uh, huh.

SC: That I've written.

GD: Sam has come up with an idea which is one of the most ingenious things I've ever in my life seen. And we've tried our best to figure out a way to patent it or copyright it. In fact, we've had some, we got an opinion from some lawyers in Washington about it. And they didn't think there was anyway we could patent the idea. They thought maybe if you could lock it into the machinery the think or something you might, but there's no way, but uh, he's got an idea that would totally revolutionize horse racing.

SC: One race.

GD: Did he tell you about that?

SC: Just one race.

HH: Yeah, he told us about it.

GD: Every sixteen days would be just like having an Irish sweepstakes and I think it would just cause people to, cause you'd get a chance on a , on a ticket that you'd already pay your money for and lost on anyway, all you have to do is just to use it again and maybe you would uh, you would win on the 16th day and course it would make big news everytime someone won a, you know, a pot of money and uh, it's just a wonderful idea. It's, it's very complexed, it took him about two or three years to explain it to me and I have to get out my notes which I finally.

HH: Well I uh, you know, Sam was telling us about that. And uh, and uh, I'm the world's worst when, uh, it comes to figuring out how you win on the horses, uh, so I, I really couldn't comprehend it.

GD: Oh it's, it's very complicated course it, it, it, Sam, the first thing you.

SC: You never bet, you're not betting on the horses. This is putting the race on and what it would make for the people connected with racing. This isn't the bets that would beat the races, this is the bet that the race tracks put on and it's the money that they'll make out of this race.

GD: Everybody, everybody'll make money and course the person that, that goes out the wage runner can't lose because all he's doing is taking a free ride, right?

SC: That's right.

GD: That's his, that's his, course it gets him out to the track again. But, course Sam had to explain to me the intricacies of the various, uh, facts of horse racing before you could understand the dog gone thing. I don't

know anything about it. But it is absolutely, uh, fool-proof, and uh, but there's no way we could figure out to.

HH: You mean that if this goes into effect that uh, that uh, horse race betters no longer will die poor (Laughter).

GD: Will I expect, I expect the betters will die about the same way but they'll have alot more excitement (Laughter).

SC: Uh, now I uh, my, you know, my theory of life is that, that god, I always call him the master, found out he was living in nothing and he invented time to put in it's place (Laughter). And this is just an invention. And what, all the, I don't know, know what they call it, but all the things that might ruin the idea I've always thinking about whether, whether they can happen you know. In other words, for instance, the tracks don't make their take. The tracks that stake don't make their take out of this last stake. And they'd say well they wouldn't like it. Well why not, because the people that come there to bet their money have already bet on making a normal crowd and then they want, want to bet on the race will be on a normal crowd and then they'll not only bet on that race but they'll bet on the other races they're having that day and that's where they'll make their money (Inaudible).

JM: It would general, generally stimulate betting too, wouldn't it?

GD: Oh absolutely.

JM: Pay off every sixteen days?

GD: Uh, huh. Did you tell um about your role in getting the horse race bill through in West Virginia, Sam ?

SC: Well, I told um I got it through once in '18 and then had to wait till Senator Cornwall vetoed it. Then I had to wait till '32 when Cump was in to.

GD: Did you tell um about giving the man his money back, part of his money back?

SC: No.

GD: Did he tell you that?

HH: No.

SC: A buddy sent me, uh, \$30,000 to get the bill passed.

HH: Bradley?

SC: Yeah. This is the one that was passed when Cornwall was governor. E. R. Bradley down at Lexington. And we spent, with my connection with Everett Moore and Howard Mann and those other people, we got together through and spent about \$2,000 doing it. Then Cornwall vetoed the bill I had that \$28,000 and I took it down and gave it back to Bradley. Then I went by there one day on the way to the derby and stopped by to see him and he said, "Your wife with you, Sam?" And I said, "Yes." Said, "I want to tell her what an honest man you are." And so he went out and told her (Laughter).

GD: What's your, what's your friend's name up at, uh, runs Wheeling Downs, Sam?

SC: Tom Sheham(?).

GD: Tom Sheham(?). He wrote that up at, uh, in a real nice article in a, wasn't it racing news or something like that?

SC: Yeah. He was, uh, American Racing Record, he was, uh, editor of that for many years. That is the uh, racing paper of American.

GD: He wrote that story up, referred to Sam as the father of horse racing in West Virginia. Which I think Sam is probably, I expect you are as proud of that as just about anything, weren't you Sam?

SC: Proud of it, but I wasn't any proud of anything new I was just, goddamn happen at the right time that I could get um to put racing in West Virginia. I told um about Trent going back on me, I had this, all this money dedicated to the teachers. And Trent went back on me and I just made a generally fund out of it (Laughter) 13 million dollars a year is not bad.

HH: Well they got more than their share of it anyhow.

SC: Huh?

HH: They got more than their share of it anyhow (SC: Yeah.), teachers. Now that's, that's uh, that's sort of ironic wasn't it. That uh, that happened back in '33 and here just this special session.

GD: Forty years later.

HH: Now that uh, they uh, tied teacher pay, dedicating the horse and dog racing funds to the, to the payment of teachers pay.

GD: I one time asked Sam, you know, he, he's had a remarkable uh, he's lived in the world of remarkable times because uh, he saw the advent of the automobile and the radio and the television and just about everything that's happened and all (HH: Arch Moore.) Arch Moore (Laughs), bout every phenomenon. And I one time asked Sam what, uh, he thought, uh, was the most, uh, most remarkable thing that happened in his lifetime and I don't, Sam to tell you the truth I don't remember what you told me. Alot of these things like radio and television and all those things, what, what uh, what do you geel is the most, what has astounded you most about, uh, changes?

SC: About what, George?

GD: Well, about uh, the advancement of, uh, science and all that.

SC: Well, I, I still think that, think it's, course you know uh, (Inaudible) deserves some credit. What would this world be today without photography.

HH: I thought you were gonna say that the most astounding development in your time was the invention of the wheel.

SC: The what?

GD: The wheel (Laughs), the wheel.

SC: Well, yes, I, I, I dealt with that in that article I showed you today.

GD: Yeah. Yeah, Sam talks about those things, he always does.

what, what, all kidding aside though, Sam, uh, really you've seen hasn't it been surprising to you to see all these developments like television and every.

SC: Well just to see, for instance.

GD: Well, hell a man on the moon.

SC: (Inaudible) what was the name of that hospital he started in Milton? The big hospital down in Milton.

GD: I'm not, I don't know.

SC: Goddamnit, Harry ought to know.

HH: Uh, well.

JM: When was it, along time ago, or?

SC: Yeah, along time ago (Inaudible) started a hospital in Milton.

JM: Well they, they have that Morris Memorial Home down there now.

SC: That's it, that's where.

HH: Morris Memorial.

JM: Yeah.

HH: Yeah, it was a hospital.

SC: Well anyway he had the uh, the home of somebody on third avenue. That was, uh, a big car maker something to do with railroads he told me that one time, that a man bought the first electric light to Huntington and charged people to come in and see it. And then you look, you look up 15 miles up a hollow and saw them using electricity for a light.

JM: You remember seeing your first car in Charleston?

SC: No, I remember the first car that Riley and I had.

JM: Really?

SC: In 1904, I think we paid (Inaudible) \$400 for, or \$800 for it. And then we started, started it going and put the gears in so you could go forward and it'd go backwards. Have to get out and start all over again (Laughs).

GD: Start all over again.

SC: But, uh, but you take, take photographer (Inaudible) invented photography, take photographer out of the world and what kind of a goddamn world would we have today (Laughs).

JM: Do you remember, uh, getting uh, uh, watching progress reports on prize fights, baseball games outside the newspaper office? They had some way of, uh.

SC: The way they do that uh, John, is you go to a saloon and then get a telegram describing the, the round, this one hits this one and so fourth and so on.

JM: Yeah.

SC: And then the bartender would read it to um.

JM: Really?

SC: And there's a big fight going on down at, uh, Huntington and we were over in a crowd of our own; just raising hell and the mayor came in and sat down with us and he started. And the bartender come over to, I think to tell us to stop. But he said, "I've told you all three times to quit making all this noise, and if I have to tell you again," then he looked over and saw, saw the mayor and he said, "It'll be the fourth time," (Laughter).

HH: Oh yeah. Uh, I think they had the same thing up in Wheeling. A little register they use to have down at the gazette on Hale Street. They'd have a big board up in front, you know, if a guy get'd a front base hit, they'd move the little ball up to first base. They just had an outline of the playing field, you know, move things around.

JM: Did everybody clutch around the office or outside during, uh, the world series or major prime fights?

HH: Yeah. Yeah, I remember seeing a picture that was taken

outside the gazette back sometime in the '30's (Inaudible) clutching around, had Hail Street blocked.

SC: George, can you move that?

GD: Sure Sam.

JM: Tape still going, George?

GD: Yeah. Still, still going, got about ten minutes left there.

JM: How can you tell, use those numbers or what?

GD: No, uh, just uh, estimate, see, you see just about how much is left there. Sam knew Jimmy Walker, he's on the, matter of fact Sam knew George M. Cohad(?).

JM: Really?

GD: Only man that I ever knew that knew, knew my hero, George M. Cohad (Laughs).

JM: How about that.

SC: Yeah, I knew George very well. I met him, he was a great friend of Sid Riley's when the old.

GD: Sam says he's a very generous man. Apparently he supported alot of people after he became successful.

SC: I know lots would come in there and I'd say, "Who are they, George?" He'd say, "Some old boy come to collect some money to live on." He told me, he said, "Sam, you can practice law and make a living, but I've got'a act, goddamn, having to act to make your life, a living," (Laughs).

JM: Did uh, showboats was quite a thing in uh.

SC: Huh?

JM: Showboats use to stop here pretty often back in the early days?

SC: Yeah, well uh, they wouldn't stop here so much as they'd go by.

JM: Where did they usually stop, Montgomery or?

SC: They'd stopped at, only time they'd stop would be from one dock to another.

JM: Oh. When the calliope.

SC: Yeah. Only they called um caliope (Laughs).

JM: Yeah.

HH: Yeah, that's the way pronounced it in Wheeling where I grew up, caliope.

JM: That's what we called it, Putnam County. But I was, somebody else told me it was calliope. Which is right, do you know, George?

GD: No, I have no idea.

SC: Calliope must be right cause we.

GD: I know Wallace Perry always said caliope.

SC: Calliope must be right because we called it caliope.

HH: That reminds me of years ago, over on the old gazette we had a guy by the name of Ray Murphy, he was, uh, a real rough-looking Irishman. And uh, he was doing a series on coal and old Ned hadn't met Murphy or hadn't known anything about him being there until he saw a story in the paper about this series by Ray Murphy. And he called up Frank Knight and he said, "Where in the hell did this guy Murphy come from?" And uh, Frank said, "Oh, he's a new reporter we hired." Uh, uh, so Ned wasn't taking it too well and uh, finally he was asked, you know, what were his qualifications. Frank was stumbling through this and that. Ned wasn't taking it too well and finally Frank said, "Well, uh, you use to play a caliope in a whore house," he said, Ned said, "He did?" (Laughter). He hit the magic number there.

SC: How long did Ned live after you came here, several years wasn't it?

HH: Well I came here in '39 and uh, uh.

SC: He died in the '50's.

HH: I think it was '52, '51. '51, '52.

JM: '52, I think Harry.

GD: Sam almost had to quit eating here. They didn't serve ice cream for a long time. Sam like to eat ice cream and dunk it in his coffee. For awhile the girls would go out and get it for him (Laughs), then they quit so Sam went on a strike so now they serve ice cream (Laughs).

SC: Hell, I went on a strike because they wasn't good enough to serve me some ice cream.

GD: Number Eight Capitol Street, they, when Ross Tuckwiller(?) sold the place to Danny Jones, he put in the contract of sale that Sam got all his drinks free.

HH: Is that right?

JM: Really?

GD: Yeah.

JM: Isn't that something.

GD: Did you all see the, the uh, thing of Sam down there, the uh, pictures and the caricatures and things that they've got down there of Sam? Down at Number Eight.

JM: No.

HH: Yeah. I've never been there.

GD: Have you never been down there? It's, it's a very nice spot.

HH: Uh, Number Eight is a restaurant?

GD: Right across the street there from my office downstairs. It use to be a real tough joint, you know, use to be the Rendezvous and the Supper Club and all that real, real tough spots. But they've made a real nice place out of it, and.

HH: Well, I've been there back when it was a real tough spot.

GD: Oh yeah, uh, uh, it was, it was for years, you know, just a, but uh, it's now the, it's probably the most popular lunch spot in Charleston.

JM: Really?

GD: Yeah.

JM: Just go there and have lunch.

GD: Uh, huh. Well in, in the evenings they have cocktail hour, you know, and that, they get all, it's worthwhile stopping there. Really it's, it's a very respectable place and it's real cool and it's nice atmosphere and all that.

HH: I, I remember being in there years ago, sometime during the legislative session, come down with the legislatures, you know, they had dance acts.

GD: Uh, huh. Use to be the only place at one time, it was the only place that I ever heard of in Charleston where they tried to have (Inaudible) girls. You know, just to get you to buy um drinks and drink coke or whatever, you know, and make you think you're buying um bourbon. But it, it's uh, it's really worthwhile to go down there and have lunch now.

HH: Yeah. I might try that.

JM: Is it a good dinner spot too, er?

GD: Well, mostly lunch.

SC: No, they only have lunch.

GD: Serve a little, uh, pizza pie or, you know, something like that, have little hors d'oeuvres.

HH: John, do you want to try the bread, it's good.

GD: Did you?

JM: Did anybody else have a bread?

GD: No thank you, John.

JM: Sam's eating white bread.

GD: I love, yeah, Sam eats white bread. I'd love to try some but it's, it's such a temptation to me now. If I'd eat one piece of that, I'd eat the whole dern thing.

JM: Really?

GD: Isn't that delicious bread? I think Mose, uh, does that himself. I think they have somebody do it there everyday. Did you tell um what you.

HH: Could I have a cup of coffee, black?

GD: Did you tell um what you attribute, attribute your old age to, Sam?

SC: Yeah.

GD: You already told um that?

SC: Yeah, I told um.

GD: Did you?

SC: Yeah, (Inaudible).

JM: I'm not sure I remember what, what, what outstanding contribution to long life.

GD: Why, why don't you tell um again, Sam. I don't think.

SC: Huh?

GD: Uh, John, John didn't recollect that you told him what your, uh, remedy was for longevity.

HH: Buckeye story.

SC: Well, wa-wa-wa-wasn't any remedy, there just what I attributed my longevity to, the.

JM: I remember the buckeye.

SC: When it came to the.

GD: Oh, did he tell it already?

SC: I caught the clap and from then on I paid no attention whatsoever to hygiene.

JM: Right.

HH: Yeah.

JM: Yeah.

HH: (Waitress interrupts.) Thank you dear.

(Waitress: Is everything alright?)

HH: Very good.

GD: Don't put much on those tapes when you eat, do you Sam?

SC: M-m-m, um. (Break in tape.)

GD: There we go.

SC: One time the priest and the present attorney (Inaudible), meaning minister of ours, at this dinner. And the waiter come around to take their orders for drinks, came to the preacher and he said, "Bring me a scotch and soda." And finally got around to present Sam preacher why he said, "I would as soon commit adultery than to take a drink." Preacher Sam said, "Take my order back, I didn't know you had a choice," he said (Laughter).

GD: I'm glad you didn't tell that one in Marietta, Sam.

SC: No, that one's not too good.

HH: I didn't get what, uh, what the minister said, I'd soon commit (Inaudible voices).

SC: Well.

GD: Sam was in his heyday with the Riverboat Pilots Association, though, because it was strictly stag and most of them,

Sam, were apparently old river people, weren't they, they.

SC: Yeah.

GD: They'd been around and they were good guys and they really enjoyed Sam could relax with them, you know, and he just sat down in the middle of the room down there at the Kanawha Country Club, and I guess we must of told stories to them for what, twenty or twenty-five or thirty minutes, Sam?

SC: I don't know, I just kept on telling stories (Laughter), hell I enjoy stories as well, maybe more than the people that hear it (Laughter).

HH: That's what makes them good, Sam.

SC: Yeah.

JM: That's right.

GD: Yeah, it's true. I could never get Sam to admit that he and one of, one of his opponents when he was running for Secretary of State, the way I heard the story shared expenses but they were both a little broke. Got a friend to drive em and uh, borrowed a car, rode around in the same car, and they were up in the eastern panhandle one evening, happened to notice a schoolhouse full of people, and they sent the driver in to inquire whether a couple of political candidates could make a speech. So course they were delighted to have some entertainment so Sam spoke about an hour and his opponent spoke about an hour and a half. This fellow came up afterwards and said, "Mr. Chilton, I listened to both of you very carefully and if we lived over there in West Virginia, I think I'd vote for you," (Laughter). He wander, wander over to Maryland, you know, had a few drinks. Now Sam's never admitted that story.

SC: No, uh.

GD: Huh? That wasn't true, Sam?

SC: That certainly wasn't true (Laughter).

GD: Good story, though (Laughter).

SC: Good story.

GD: Did you tell then the story about what that fellow, that piano player from Tennessee told you, about voting down there at the jamboree?

SC: You boys go over to the jamboree any? Over in the westside?

HH: I'm not a country music fan.

SC: Well, there is, uh.

HH: I grew up in Wheeling where we had the ww sing every Saturday night (Laughter).

SC: Harry, this is the star in one of the shows and he'd written lots of songs and what was his name, do you remember?

GD: I can't remember his name off hand, great big chubby fellow, he's the piano player.

SC: That veterinarian down in St. Albans.

GD: Harry Newl.

SC: Harry Newl had given me some cards to pass around, well I had George's boys pass them. I had one and we were talking and I said to him.

HH: (Talking to waitress.) Frank got any beer? Frank, got any.

SC: Said he didn't, uh, I said, "I didn't give you one of these cards." And he read it and he said, "Well, I'm a Chilton fan." "I'm not a resident, lots of residents in here vote in Tennessee, take this five dollars and see if you can't buy him a vote."

GD: That guy was a good guy, he, a real young fellow, he's only twenty.

SC: Yeah.

GD: Three or twenty-four years old. But he told Sam he was sorry he couldn't vote for Dr. Newl, but he said just take this five dollar bill and see if you can't buy one for him.

(Laughter). He was from Tennessee (Laughter). That's where all the fun from the jamboree was, back uh, backstage. Now Sam got to know the, uh, these Nashville stars better than anybody cause he sit back in the dressing room, course they'd do one show early in the evening, then they'd have two or three hours to loaf around. And Sam would get to know them back there and, hell, they'd sing songs to Sam and just sing their latest songs they had written or had recorded. Sam got to know them better than anybody.

JM: How'd he get in the dressing room?

GD: Well, that's uh, that's just where everybody loafed around.

SC: They're nice interesting people, too.

GD: He, he came every Saturday night and, you know.

JM: Got to know them, huh?

GD: Uh, huh. Sam was kind of the official greeter over there, you know.

JM: Yeah.

GD: Sam's kinda like Harry, he didn't give much for the music, but he enjoyed the people, you know (Laughter). How much time you got, uh (Laughter).

SC: Don't turn it on till I think of one, I'll, George reminds me of.

BW: Of a story.

SC: Of a story.

BW: They're putting words in his mouth now. I'll be nice.

SC: Sometimes a very short story.

GD: Sam, what's a, what's the uh, limerick that you told about the, the uh, fellow that farmed over in Ohio, or something about that, I bet you haven't told them that, have you?

SC: I told a limerick about the young man from Chicago and that's a little rotten.

GD: (Laughter) I don't remember that one.

SC: He was exceedingly slick
He greased his asshole with butter
And then inserted his prick.
Now he didn't do this for money nor gain nor health,
But just for the sake of a commoner who said, go fuck yourself.

HH: Well, that sort of reminds me, Sam, of, uh, uh, the old man,
there was an old man from Kent whose penis was so soft that
it bent, so to save himself trouble he put it in double, and
instead of coming he went (Laughter).

SC: You know, on a very serious occasion that's what a girl
said to me (Laughter), and I give you my word, I couldn't
help but laugh (Laughter). I had.

BW: There was a young man from Racine who invented a fucking
machine. Convex, uh,uh.

GD: Concave.

BW: Concave or convex, it fit every sex, but it sure was a
bastard to clean (Laughter).

SC: Uh, that, that story about the fellow with the girl up on
the thirteenth floor.

BW: Up where? On the what?

SC: Thirteenth floor of the hotel.

BW: The thirteenth floor.

SC: Yeah. A married woman, and there's a knock on the door
(someone knocks) and she said, "Who is it?" And he said,
"It's John." And she said, "Oh my god, that's my husband,"
she said to the man, "Jump out the window." He said, "Me,
jump out of a thirteenth story window?" Said, "This ain't
no time for superstitions," (Laughter).

BW: Did he tell you the one about, uh, go and piss down the steps,
and uh, uh, the one about you and Riley going down to Cincinnati
and you were in the, in the hotel taking a bath, or a shower
and, and Riley left and got drunk and, uh, he called you.

SC: No.

BW: Piss down the steps, the one about piss down the steps.

SC: No, uh, well.

BW: I heard (Inaudible).

SC: I had just gotten up, I hadn't seen Riley all afternoon, just gotten up and the phone was ringing and he said, says, "Sam," says, "Come and get me out," says, "I'm in jail." I said, "My god, Riley, what are you doing in jail?" "Oh," he said, (Inaudible). I said, "Well, alright, where are you?" He said, "I don't know." "Well," I said, "How am I going to get, get there?" He said, "Go over to a restuarant they had down there in Pittsburgh and piss down the front steps and they'll bring you here," (Laughter).

HH: You, you all remember Holmes Morton?

GD: Yeah.

SC: Yeah, very well.

HH: Well, I heard, uh, Carl Andrews told me this story about, uh, one time, uh, Holmes Morton was over in Washington at a coal meeting and, uh, Harry Kennedy was with him. Harry was secretary of the Kanawha Coal Operators, and of course, Holmes got pretty drunk on a Saturday night.

BW: Are you ready?

SC: Um, hmm.

HH: And uh, Sunday morning he woke up and was all hung over and Washington just closed up, you know, get uh, get uh, get uh, just downright, uh, uh, irrational it's uh, even ask the taxi cab driver to get you where you could get a bottle of whiskey. But anyhow, Holmes told Harry to get him a bottle of whiskey and he called the bellhop and after awhile the bellhop shows up, Holmes was in the bathroom taking a shower, and he heard the, Harry out there arguing with the bellhop. He brought a pint of whiskey and he wanted fifteen dollars for it. Finally Holmes took all he could and stuck his head out the door and he said, "Goddamnit Harry, quit haggling and pay the man, it's

the first time I ever had, heard'em ask what it was really worth," (Laughter). You can tell them stories and they don't, the old time whorehouses they don't know about them. For instance, the house, the whorehouse was on fire and all the girls and the madam were out, and here come the madam, she pimped with them, one of the towels in her arms and she said, "Thank god, he saved the books," she said (Laughter). Now people don't know that they used to count the towels and then make the whores pay for the towels that they'd use (Laughter).

BW: Hey Sam, I'm not that young.

SC: You know that you know a few things about them now (Laughter).

BW: I know bout that then.

SC: Well.

BW: There was a whorehouse in Bluefield, West Virginia, it was some years ago, that the IRS couldn't figure out how much money they owed em, so they go to the laundry and counted the towels, that's the way they figured out their income tax, from the towels that they sent to the laundry (Laughter). It was their friend of reference. So many towels meant so many money. In Cinder Bottom.

JM: That's not in, that's, that's not in Bluefield.

BW: Well, it's right next to Bluefield, it's just down the road a littlt bit, you know.

JM: That's outside of Welch.

BW: Well, now this is Bob Bowlings that, uh, that uh, he was, was.

GD: Cinder Bottom is a famous, that's a famous area right outside of Welch.

BW: Well, how far is that from, uh.

GD: Forty miles.

BW: Forty miles, well (Laughter).

GD: But Bob would tell about that, cause everybody knew about that.

HH: How many whorehouses?

GD: No, I never been there, now don't get me wrong (Laughter).

JM: How many whorehouses, uh, were there in Charleston in your heyday?

BW: Turn the tape on. Now turn it up some there.

SC: Well.

BW: Well (Laughs).

SC: It would be mighty hard to tell, uh, generally one or two had one, a big uh, big whorehouses, you know, and there'd be a whole lot of others. I'd say five or six at the most.

JM: Did they have, uh, segregation at the whorehouses, or, they uh?

SC: Oh yes.

JM: Oh.

SC: Uh, Betty Mead was the top madam.

BW: Who, please, who?

SC: Betty Mead.

BW: Betty Mend?

SC: (Spells) Mead, M-E-A-D.

BW: (Spells) mead, M-E-A-D.

SC: I helped her select a large collection when she moved in her new house (Laughter).

JM: Where, where was it located?

SC: I, uh, uh, John, you go out in the back end of town, they

changed the name, I don't remember the name, it was right off of the main street that goes through there, which is Clendenin Street, to the right, the first house down. It was, here's what I'm getting at and this fellow is to blame. We selected some fine art over in Columbus, Ted Hooks and I did, but then I gave her one for her own bedroom, and I thought it was very good, it was good at the time too. A picture of a school teacher going home, and on her way home she had to walk a log that'd been sawed off so it was square and flat to walk on, cross a creek, and here the big boys of her class had put their cocks all out on there so she couldn't walk across, and then she's scratching her head, first picture. Second picture is that she's raised her skirts up to her knees and all the boy's cocks are up against their belly and she walked across.

BW: Walked right across, cross the log (Laughter).

SC: But, but Bernie won't draw me the picture (Laughter).

(Waitress: More coffee, anyone?)

HH: I don't believe.

(Waitress: After dinner drink?)

GD: No, no thank you, not, not for me, no thank you.

(Waitress: O.K.)

GD: Sam, wa-wasn't the, uh, the uh, place where the Army-Navy Club is now, wasn't that a famous?

SC: Huh?

GD: Brothel? Wh-where the Army-Navy Club, is that a.

HH: Yeah.

SC: Oh no, not, yeah, that was a , after Uncle Joe and Miss Mullen moved out, some girl I forget her name, she had that, that was a very nice.

BW: Now Sam, the, uh, the uh, the one across from, uh, from what's now the Sterling Restaurant, 205½ (Inaudible) street, was, uh.

HH: Relatively modern, itn't it?

BW: That's bout close to forty years ago, back in the forties, early thirties and forties.

SC: No, I, I don't remember that one.

JM: How about Five Dolly, they use to, was that one well known?

SC: That was the colored house, that was colored.

JM: Dryden Street and Nelson.

SC: Dryden Street was, that, they weren't good houses on Dryden Street.

JM: Just cheap houses.

SC: Yeah.

BW: How bout Anne.

SC: Don't remember Anne.

BW: Don't remember Anne?

SC: No.

BW: Well, she ran all the houses in town for years, back in, uh, along in the forties.

GD: Have you all, have you all discussed the, uh.

SC: Been trying to remember, Bernie.

GD: Sherman Billingsly thing, when he was in and all that? What was, uh, Sherman Billingsly, uh, was in here, Sam, and got his, part of his start here in Charleston, uh, you've told me before, haven't you?

SC: The Billingsly boys came in here when they struck oil in West Virginia and, uh, goddamnit, the building west of the arcade, uh, the store there was where they did their bookwork.

GD: Upstairs there, wasn't it? Uh.

SC: No, that was downstairs.

GD: Downstairs?

SC: Oh, yeah.

GD: But that was Sherman who later ran the, uh, Stork Club.

SC: Well, it was Sherman and, and uh, Logan. I knew the young nephew, he was a great friend of mine.

GD: Yeah. Mose, here, I think knows the story on that, doesn't he?

SC: Huh?

GD: Mose Goodwin, I think, knows that.

SC: He should know.

GD: Story on all that.

SC: I don't know whether he does or not.

HH: George, would you like an after dinner drink?

GD: No, thank you Harry, I, I'm just, I just feel perfect.

SC: Uh.

GD: How about the churches in Charleston, Sam, have you noticed any change in the churches over the years?

SC: In the what?

GD: The churches.

SC: (Laughs) use to go to the Presbyterian Church down the street next to, near the Gazette now. Uh.

BW: That's George's church.

SC: The Presbyterian north of (Inaudible) and the one up on the corner, no, that George (Inaudible).

BW: Oh really, I, I, I'm sorry.

SC: That's the one south of (Inaudible).

BW: Forget it then (Laughter).

JM: Did they have tent meetings back then?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Preacher come set up a tent?

SC: Yeah, every Sunday had a big tent meetings here. That was right where, we had that right where Coyle and Richardson store.

JM: Had the sawdust trails, go down to the.

SC: Huh?

JM: They have, had what they call sawdust trails?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Walk down, uh, (SC: Yeah.) surrender to God?

BW: And be saved. Sam, how many times have you been saved?

SC: I don't know. I never pay much attention to that (Laughter).

GD: Well.

JM: Did you do any swimming, much in the river when you were a kid?

SC: Yes, that's, that's the only place we had to, the only place we had to swim.

JM: You go in stark naked or?

SC: No, no, no we had swimming suits (Inaudible) was with one of.

JM: Yeah.

SC: The main swimming places.

HH: The river was pretty clean then, wasn't it, Sam?

SC: Yeah. Well it, I guess cleaner than it is now (Laughter).

JM: The river freeze over in the winter time much?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Have skating on the river?

SC: Now over the years I remember up to a certain point, I've seen the, uh, the ice on Kanawha River at least twelve inches thick.

JM: Really?

SC: It takes less sleighs on them.

BW: Uh, huh.

HH: Well, when they got those chemical plants there, start pumping out water to cool things and heat it up.

GD: Is that why it didn't freeze anymore?

HH: I think so.

SC: Yeah.

HH: All those plants, uh, pump it in to cool their stuff, pump it out.

GD: I know they keep their.

HH: That's what they, I understand that's what gives you, so often in the morning you'll see fog coming off of it, it gets the water warmer than the air and.

SC: Thank you Bernie.

BW: Surely.

SC: The only swimming pool we had, John, was we'd swim in the reservoir up in, uh, up, uh, on the hill there, and finally we got somebody to put a spingboard up there, and that caused them to stop it (Laughter).

JM: Which was that hill, Capitol Hill?

SC: The one right up here (Inaudible) is it still out there, the reservoir?

JM: I don't know, is there a reservoir up there now?

GD: I think there is up there.

BW: I don't know, I don't know.

SC: I've got a, tomorrow Bill Wallace. I'm, uh, I went I, I had a camp, but before I had the camp there Uncle Joe got the farm where I had a camp but before I went, I went camping on Island Creek, not the big Island Creek of, uh, of Logan County but this the Island Creek of Lincoln County. And the officer came down and, and arrested me and took me up to the Justice of the Peace, why, Bill Wallace. And he said, "Well sir, you're arrested for committing a great crime in West Virginia." And my turn came and I said, "Well, by god, then why I don't know of anything I've done particular wrong." Said, "Yes, you did very wrong," said, "You gave that girl last night that you had fifty cents for it and we've been getting it two for a quarter all along, and I'm just going to fine you the biggest drink in Kana-in, in, in Lincoln County of moonshine." And we had a drink of moonshine (Laughter).

BW: Ran the price up, huh?

SC: Yeah, but then I went down one time to (BW: Inflation) swear out a warrant to (BW: Inflation) swear out a girl down at St. Albans and I just, I just got there in time to, as they quarantined the house, and of course the girl was quarantined along with it and then (Laughs) the next thing a man and his wife and daughter that I hadn't seen in Cincinnati for the time of the quarantined (Laughter). He's a fine fellow, Bill Wallace is.

JM: Sam, you've been married twice, is that right?

SC: Huh, yes.

JM: When were you married?

SC: I was married in the twenties, early twenties to an actress.

JM: Really?

SC: Yes, she is (Inaudible) had the longest run in, uh, New York at the time, and also was Christie MacDonald.

JM: I'm, I'm not sure of those names, can you, uh?

SC: Well, they was pretty good, Christie danced pretty good in, in opera at the time and, uh.

BW: Who were they again, Sam, who were they again?

SC: Christie MacDonald was, was the girl's name.

JM: Christie MacDonald?

SC: Yeah. And, uh, course (Inaudible) was just the show. But I do claim one thing that I, I, I got to know in the theater world, theatrical world then, when I was married to her, but.

JM: Now what, was that her name, what was her name, do you, your wife?

SC: Oh, Anne Austin.

BW: What? Who?

SC: Anne Austin.

BW: Anne Austin.

SC: She was a, uh, daughter of a lawyer in Augusta, uh, uh, Augusta, Georgia and uh.

JM: She came from, uh, Georgia?

SC: Yeah. We, we had a fight and she went to England and I had kinda lost track of her for a couple of years, then I went down to the Empire City racetrack and she was down and we made up.

JM: What was the racetrack?

SC: Empire City. That was the track right in.

BW: Empire City, where was it?

SC: North of New York, right in (Inaudible).

BW: New York, uh?

SC: Yeah. In the meantime, she'd married an English banker and she was divorced from him, uh, had lived a year in Shanghai, China. She had some very interesting things to tell about China.

JM: About how long were you married to her?

SC: About two years. We, I don't imagine two people ever were divorced and both of um wanted to give each other everything we had.

JM: Really?

SC: But she had a habit of trying to commit suicide when she'd get drunk.

JM: Huh.

BW: Oh really?

SC: I stopped her three times and I just couldn't stand it, I divorced her and she, she killed herself in about six months.

BW: Oh, she killed herself, huh?

SC: Yeah.

JM: Well, this was after she went to England and.

SC: This was after she'd gotten a divorce from the Englishman on that side and married me and we divorced and.

BW: And then she killed herself.

SC: She killed herself about it. It was a cinch she would, but I just couldn't stand it. She was a lovable, wonderful girl.

JM: She, I got, sorta got turned around, she married the Englishman before she married you?

SC: Yeah. I was like old George Washington, and, I like to tell

that on his birthday "First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen," he struck first in everything but his wife, and he married a widow (Laughter).

JM: Now you married the second time when, uh?

SC: I married on the 19th of (End of tape).