Connie J. Brown: This is an interview with Mary Gardener Carpenter, Marion Gardener Floyd and Jack Floyd, residents of Sulphur Springs, Florida, conducted in the Floyds’ home on November 11, 2003, by C.J. Brown, graduate student in anthropology from the University of South Florida. First, let me take a moment and tell you how much we really appreciate this. It’s always exciting to talk to long term residents of an area and find out how much it’s changed. The first thing I want to ask you is: what year did you first come to Sulphur Springs? Or when—how old were you? Give me the circumstances.

Mary Carpenter: It was in thirty-four [1934], 1934, when we came.

CB: What brought you here?

MC: Well, my parents wanted to move here.

Marion Floyd: We moved from Georgia.

CB: Oh, you did? Where in Georgia?

MC: Valdosta.
MF: They had a restaurant in Valdosta, Georgia.

CB: And you choose Sulphur Springs—they chose Sulphur Springs specifically to move to?

MC: Well, my parents knew some people that lived here, and so that’s why we came here.

CB: And how old were each of you when you moved here?

MC: Well, let me see, that was in thirty-four [1934] and I’m ninety-one now, so—

CB: My math isn’t that good. (laughs)

Jack Floyd: Well, what year was you born?

CB: Yeah, what year?

MC: Nineteen twelve.

JF: Nineteen thirty-four—and twelve [1912]—twelve from thirty-four? Twenty three.

CB: Twenty-three, right. And how old were you, Mrs. Floyd?

MF: I’m figuring it out. (both laugh)

MC: Now, she was young, real young.

CB: Right, right. And why did you move here? I mean, they had a restaurant, but why did you come here?

MC: Well, we thought it would just be better conditions and all for us to come.
CB: Well during thirty-four [1934] that must have been part of the Depression?

MC: It was, it was.

CB: Okay, how many children were in the family?

MC: Eight of us.

CB: Eight of you moved down?

MF: Yes, seven girls and one boy.

CB: Oh, wow! Have you lived anyplace else once you got to Sulphur Springs?

MC: Well, no, I—wait, we lived on Tenth Street when we came here.

MF: When we arrived.

MC: Yeah, and then I lived there until I got married and then we moved to where—we found the house that I’m at now. And so—

CB: Okay, tell me about that first house in Sulphur Springs. Describe it or explain it to me, or give me kind of a mental picture for people.

MC: Well, it was just a house.

MF: Wood frame house.

MC: A house.
MF: And it had three bedrooms and one bath, a living room, a kitchen—

MC: And a dining room.

MF: Well, didn’t we eat on the back porch?

MC: A lot.

MF: Yeah.

CB: That was a large home for that area, then?

MC: Yeah.

CB: Pretty much. Okay, so then you moved—right after you got married, you moved to another house.

MF: Well, I moved to where I am now, and I’ve been there ever since. Nineteen forty.

CB: From 1940 to today.

JF: Fifty-three years.

CB: And what does that home look like?

MC: Well, it’s a little white house, three bedrooms—

JF: Just an old framed house, that’s all it is.

MC: No, it’s—
MF: Two bedrooms now.

MC: And a bath, living room, dining room, and a kitchen.

MF: And a front screened in porch.

JF: And you get to sleep on that screened in porch; now it’s a bedroom.

CB: Is that right? That’s right, for a long time here people didn’t have air conditioning, did they?

JF: Oh, no, there weren’t—air conditioning wasn’t even thought about back then.

CB: Oh, wow!

JF: Fans, that’s all they had.

CB: So, what about you give me some history on you leaving that house over on Tenth Street? Did you leave after you got married?

MF: That’s a long story. No.

JF: She moved next door to me. I lived right next door to her when they moved here.

MF: But seeing my mother and dad passed away in 1935—

MC: And thirty-eight [1938].

MF: And thirty-eight [1938] and so Mary was left with five siblings, and so she moved us to her present home. And then when my other sister got married, Julia, she said that I had to go live with her. So I went to live over in Hyde Park with my other sister.
CB: Oh, okay. So how old were you when your parents passed on? Were you still very young?

MF: Six when my dad passed and eight when my mother passed.

CB: Oh, my! Really young, for goodness’ sakes. So, I guess one of the things I’m looking for: do you have any special memories attached to any of these homes? Anything that when you just think about [that] house you think specifically of something that happened there, or something that’s there?

MC: Well, the Tenth Street, both of my parents passed away there.

MF: In the same house. And there was an elderly lady that we called her Grandma Geiger, but she wasn’t any relation to us. And she was extremely good to us.

CB: And she lived there in the house or close?

MF: No, she lived two doors down.

MC: She had a home.

CB: So tell me what Sulphur Springs was like when you first moved here? Just take me through the town, give me some—

MC: Here’s a picture of what it used to be like.

JF: There’s the Sulphur Springs Hotel.

MC: And everybody knew everybody.

CB: Is that right?

MC: Yes, we could name the neighbors from Tenth Street down to the—
JF: (inaudible) on the back of this one.

MC: Oh, yes. See, that was the Arcade and they tore it down.

CB: Oh, my.

MF: Where the dog track is now.

CB: Right.

MC: Some are part of the dog track—

JF: Next lot down from the dog track.

CB: Okay, okay. And so, did you spend a lot of time at the Arcade?

JF: It was the only place to go. That was Sulphur Springs right there.

CB: That was all of Sulphur Springs, huh?

JF: (murmurs in agreement)

CB: So if you had these young people to raise, I take it you worked in some manner? You had some sort of employment?

MC: I was working on the WPA [Works Progress Administration].

CB: Okay, what did you do?

MC: I was a voucher clerk.
CB: That’s one I haven’t heard, I’ve heard about the sewing room and a lot of other things. Tell me what a voucher clerk is.

MC: Well, it was, you know, when they would come and want things and we’d write vouchers out for them.

CB: Oh, okay, so this was the—now, was this the first job you had when you got here, was with the voucher—with the WPA?

MC: Yeah.

CB: So this was—

MC: And it was in here; our office was in here. (points to photograph)

CB: Oh, it was?

MC: It was back over in here.

CB: Oh, my goodness, now I haven’t heard that part. I’ve heard the, you know, the drug stores and everything else, but the voucher clerk’s office was in here.

MC: Yeah.

CB: Okay, okay.

MC: Well, it was the WPA and so, you know, when they have—bring food there well, we would come there and get—

CB: No! Fill me in on this; I just get little pieces of the WPA. I hear there was a sewing room.
MC: Well, that was over in Ybor City, wasn’t it? The sewing room was. But this was in the Arcade here.

CB: And they actually brought food in for people to come in for people to come and pick up?

MC: Yeah.

CB: Oh, okay. And then there’s a construction part of it, too?

JF: Yeah, there was a construction to the WPA, too.

CB: Did they keep people employed?

MC: Oh, yeah.

CB: Okay, okay. All right, so is this all there was to Sulphur Springs at the time? Or was there more?

JF: There were a bunch of buildings across the street; there was a movie house and a barbershop—

MF: A barbershop, a grocery store—

JF: The WPA was across the street.

MC: You mean A&P.

JF: I mean A&P. (laughs) A&P.

MF: Yeah.
CB: So you spent all your workdays here. How about entertainment? Did you come back into this area for entertainment?

MC: Yes. Well, the Tourist Club used to have dances and I always went to the dances. That was my entertainment, mostly. And then I went in the swimming in the pool. I took life saving in the pool.

CB: Oh, you did? With classes?

MC: I used to have a picture, but I couldn’t find it today, the group that passed and got their certificates for life saving.

CB: Oh, really? Oh, wonderful. Linda will be interested in that one, I’m sure about it. Okay, so what were the major attractions besides the mall and the pool is that pretty much all that—I mean, obviously we had tourists that came into the area?

MC: And the movies—

MF: (inaudible)

JF: That big skating rink there.

MC: A big skating rink.

JF: That’s about it.

CB: But it seems like—for as small as the town is, it seems like there was in it.

JF: Well, that hotel there had everything in it: barbershops, dry goods store, grocery store, two drug stores, restaurant—

MC: Five and Ten.
JF: Yeah, the five and ten cent store.

CB: Well, now you were old enough to be there by yourself; would you have gone by yourself?

MF: Not in the beginning, but I did.

CB: Okay.

MF: I went to work in Maves Five and Ten Cent store when I was thirteen.

CB: Thirteen! Oh, my goodness. Okay, well talk to me some more about the Arcade. What do you remember most about it, other than they tore it down?

MC: Well they took a petition and people signed a petition to keep it, and I think that was one of the biggest mistakes that was ever made, when they tore it down.

CB: Right, you think that began to change Sulphur Springs?

MC: Yeah, because everybody—and it was to me, you know, it was everything in there. So I couldn’t understand why they didn’t leave it there, because really the dog track don’t even use that part—

JF: They never used it.

MC: —of the parking.

CB: Yeah, I understand that one. I understand. So where else did you work besides WPA and Maves over the years?

MF: Well, then I went—when I went to live with my sister Julia, I worked at Woolworth’s downtown.
CB: And you came back to Sulphur Springs?

MF: Yeah.

CB: Okay, because you married? Or you came back before then?

MF: I came back before that and stayed with Mary. I got a divorce and stayed—that’s all right.

CB: So you came back and stayed with her? And that’s where you met Mr. Floyd?

MF: Well, I had known him all along.

JF: We had known each other since she moved next door.

CB: Okay, so you were too—you were already out of school, but then you must have attended Sulphur Springs School for some time?

MF: Until I graduated from the ninth grade, and then I went to Hyde Park with Julia and went to Plant High School.

CB: Okay, and did you go to Sulphur Springs High, too—or Sulphur Springs School?

JF: I went there one year and that was all.

CB: Okay, so the other thing I was going to ask you is if you still have friends here in Sulphur Springs that you’ve known all these years?

MF: Oh, yeah.

JF: Oh, yeah, we’ve got a bunch of them.
CB: You see them a lot?

JF: See them at these reunions sometimes.

CB: And do you speak to them by phone? I’m looking for how much you stayed connected.

MC: Several. I had Clyde and Junior; we used to go to breakfast with them. And the DeMont—we used to go—now, the DeMonts, we stay in touch with them a lot because Jeri and I are real close friends.

CB: Okay, okay, so you do still have that cohesiveness. Tell me about some of the people you remember from those first years, especially for you, because you obviously have to have somebody to help you along some way?

MC: Well, as we say, she was saying Mrs. Geiger—you know, we called her Grandmother Geiger, and she was like a mother to us.

MF: The neighbors was all good, I mean, even the—

MC: The in-laws.

MF: Pastor of the Church of God—

MC: Lorton.

MF: Lorton. They was very good to us.

MC: Seems like they all took an interest, you know.

CB: Right, right.
MC: And the in-laws lived next door to us.

CB: Oh, okay, so that helped, too. Okay. Well, go back to the school for a minute and tell me about what a day in that school was like. Tell me about going to Sulphur Springs School.

JF: You can’t remember that far back, can you?

MC: Me? I never went. I never went to Sulphur Springs. I had already graduated from Valdosta High School when we came here.

CB: Okay.

MF: It was a brick building; they tore it down. That’s where we first entered first grade; you didn’t go to kindergarten back then. And you had—you didn’t have a cafeteria like they do now. You had to bring your lunch, or go home for lunch.

CB: Right, right. And what kind of subjects—did you stay in one room? Did you move from class to class?

MF: No, we stayed in one room from first grade until junior high, and in junior high you changed classes.

CB: Did your children go to Sulphur Springs?

MC: No.

CB: So when you look at—as a mother looking at your children’s experience at school and your experience at school how do you feel? Are they [the] same? Do you think your children got as great as teachers as you had?

MC: No, no.

CB: Okay, okay, so you had a real appreciation for the teachers.
MC: You respected teachers. When a teacher told you to do something, you did it. You didn’t act like you were indignant about it or that it was a chore, you done what they asked you to do.

CB: Right, right. Okay, I heard each of you say something about how you had a family—you were affiliated with the church in Sulphur Springs. You want to tell me which one and what kind of activities you did with the church?

MC: Well, Northside Baptist, it was called then; we went there. And then Lorton’s church was catty-cornered from us, so he was real good—the pastor there, you know.

MF: He was a Church of God minister.

MC: When our mother was sick he used to come have prayer for her and all that.

MF: We attended Sunday school and at Brother Lorton’s, and we’d go picnics and swimming, and at Christmas time they’d have a Christmas program and we would go and then they’d give a bag of candy to each child that was there.

CB: What do you remember, if you remember—what do you remember about the train depot in Sulphur Springs?

MC: You mean the streetcar?

JF: Streetcar?

CB: Nope, the train depot.

JF: There wasn’t no train depot in Sulphur Springs.

MF: I have never heard of a train depot in Sulphur Springs.
JF: The streetcar.

MF: It’s a streetcar, but no train.

CB: So tell me about the streetcar depot, or house or whatever that—

JF: It’s just a big old—

MC: Covered shed.

JF: Yeah like a carport thing, only great big, and about three cars can pull in there at a time, and that was a dead end. They turned around and went back downtown.

CB: So did you ride it?

MC: Oh, yeah.

JF: That’s all we had to ride.

MC: To get to town.

CB: I was going to say, where did you go on it?

JF: Downtown Tampa.

MC: Downtown, and then a lot—

JF: That was the only way to get down there.

MC: And a lot of time went to Ballast Point.
JF: Yeah.

MF: Yeah.

MC: To, you know—

MF: Just to ride.

JF: That was an all day trip to go to Ballast Point.

CB: Well, because it was my under—I’ve been told that most people were coming to Sulphur Springs because it was a tourist area, so I wanted to know where you guys were going out of Sulphur Springs. You know, where you were going and what you were doing with that time. So did you ever ride the boats from downtown to Sulphur Springs?

MF: No, I didn’t.

MC: I didn’t either.

CB: Did you know about them?

JF: Nope.

CB: Okay. I’ve had somebody mention the boats from downtown to Sulphur Springs.

MC: I never knew it was—

JF: I don’t know where they were, because I’ve lived here all my life and I didn’t know about it either.

MF: On Saturday, Mary would get dressed up, not like you—casual today, but dressed up to go downtown, and if we had the money she would buy a hot dog and a cold drink at Grant’s, but she had this to stand up because you couldn’t sit down unless you got certain
—a dinner. And so my youngest sister, she said, “Speck I hope that I see the day that we can sit down.”

CB: Oh, for heaven’s sakes. In other words, you hadn’t spent enough money for the right to sit down.

MC: That’s it, that’s it.

CB: Oh, my goodness! Now, where was this? This was downtown?

MC: Grant’s.

MF: Grant’s. W.T. Grant’s.

JF: In downtown Tampa.

CB: So did you go down—someone had told me earlier that they would get on the trolley and go downtown to pay bills.

JF: Well, downtown was the only shopping place there was at that time. You paid your bills down there and everything else down at Tampa Electric.

CB: But you couldn’t do that up here at the Arcade?

JF: No, you—we didn’t have that up here.

MC: Well—

JF: I think they did have water—

MC: Yeah, you could pay at Sanders Drug different things.
JF: But then we didn’t have city water then, we had (inaudible).

MC: Yeah, yeah, right.

CB: Okay, so how did you get around? Did you walk, did you have a car, did you mostly take, you know—how did you get around in those later days?

JF: Me and her? I tote her on a bicycle.

CB: Is that right? (all laugh)

MC: Well, I traveled most on the streetcar.

MF: And by foot.

MC: Yeah.

MF: We walked from Tenth Street to Sulphur Springs to go swimming or to the movie or anything.

CB: So when did you get your first car?

MC: Well, when I got married I—well, Daddy had a car.

MF: Yeah.

MC: My dad, but of course then I didn’t get a car until I got married.

CB: And tell me about getting your driver’s license.

MC: I didn’t have a driver’s license for years and years and years.
CB: Didn’t have to have one, huh?

MC: That’s true.

CB: Okay, okay. Now, I know that all of these are kind of not related, but at any point that it takes you into a story, feel free to go forward. What was your favorite food growing up? I want you to talk to me about eating, especially during the Depression. Why don’t you tell me about some of the things that you ate?

MF: Well, we were poor as church mouse, but we always ate good.

MC: Yeah.

MF: (inaudible) and stretch it all. And we always ate good.

MC: And they used to have, like, a mission, and you paid ten or twenty-five cents—it was varied—and you could go and they gave you a lot of vegetables and things.

CB: So, what was your favorite foods growing up?

MC: Well, I think we had just about everything.

MF: And we enjoyed just about everything—

MC: We still do, don’t we?

CB: You weren’t picky eaters, right?

MF: No, ma’am.

MC: Not a one. I think Andy was a—
MF: Our youngest sister, because we spoiled her and she got—came along because she
was so young when our parents passed away.

CB: Well, was there any special food in the family or any traditions regarding food? You
know, like different families have some special story or some special tradition that they
have certain foods?

MC: Well, I always made fruitcake for Christmas.

CB: Okay, where did you get that recipe?

MC: It was, what was that—it was always in the paper.

MF: Mrs. Smith. But that was years later, Mary, not when we were kids.

MC: And then the A&P had good fruitcake.

MF and JF: Oh, yes!

MC: We used to buy.

MF: She would lay it away [layaway], and pay on it from the first of November till time
to get it out for Christmas.

CB: Is that right?

MF: Yes, ma’am. Now, that I remember real well, and it was a five-pound fruitcake and
it only was a very reasonable, like five dollars. Maybe not that much.

JF: I think it was five dollars.

MC: I can’t remember.
MF: But it was very reasonable, but you could lay it away and pay on it.

MC: At the A&P they had the best fruitcakes you could get.

CB: Is that right?

MF: Yes.

CB: Well, at least tell me what a typical dinner was like, especially for those Depression years? Or lunch, what did you pack for lunch to go to school?

MF: Anything we had in the refrigerator or the icebox. (laughs)

CB: Okay, all right. I see you have some papers in front of us. Let’s get to those and you tell me about those.

MC: Well, let me see now. Let me see what this is.

CB: The snow was everywhere. Oh, we had snow!

MC: Oh, yeah.

JF: Oh, that’s when it snowed here, yeah.

MC: Nineteen seventy-seven.

MF: See, look at the snowman.

CB: Oh, my goodness! Right here, huh?
MC: Yes.

MF: Yeah.

CB: But that’s the first time you’d seen snow since you left Georgia?

MC: Yeah, yeah.

CB: Oh, my goodness.

MC: You see, they had quite a bit because—

CB: Look at that.

JF: Here it is. The ground was white.

CB: So it says, “1977 joins 1895 and 1835 in Tampa snowfall history.” Well, we don’t get it very often, do we?

MF: Nope.

CB: Oh, my goodness, all right! Do you remember that day?

MC: Oh, yeah. A friend of mine, she called me. “Mary, get up!” It was real early. “Get up and look out the window!” Pat Hanson, she called me and said, “Get up and look out the window.”

CB: What about you, what were you doing? Do you remember that day?

MC: Yes, I was working at Carrollwood Elementary.

CB: And what else have we got here?
MC: That was at the tourist club when—

CB: Oh, okay, are you in that picture at the Tourist Club?

MC: No, nope.

CB: Okay, now when would have this would have been? This would have been 1983, okay, all right.

MC: That was the shuffleboard group.

CB: Okay, and you went for the dances?

MC: Oh, yeah, I danced. I didn’t care about shuffleboard.

CB: Okay, how about clubs and organizations? Were there any there in Sulphur Springs, anything in particular you were going in to?

MF: Just the Tourist Club, that’s all that—

MC: Yeah.

MF: The only club that I knew of.

CB: Okay, so how about telling me about meeting for first husband, each of you, or the second, whichever you’d prefer to talk about?

MC: Well, I only had one, so he—in fact, I had a date with someone else and this other person couldn’t come to take me to the dance and so Earl filled in. And so we kept going together, and then got married.
CB: How long did you go together before you got married? Weeks, months, a year?

MC: Years.

CB: Oh, okay. (laughs)

MC: You were going to be sure, huh?

CB: Yeah.

MC: I didn’t marry him until 1940, so we went together for quite a while.

CB: And what kind of work did he do?

MC: He was a shoe salesman.

JF: He worked the shipyard for a while.

MC: Yeah, he did.

MF: During the war he worked at the shipyard.

MC: Yeah, he worked in the shipyard during the war.

JF: He worked at the shipyard when I went to the service.

MC: Yeah, but he was a shoe salesman. He worked at Butler’s and then he went over to Clearwater and still he was with Butler’s.

CB: Well, tell me about the war. You moved to Sulphur Springs during the Depression, and it obviously had an impact on you as far as your life and et cetera. What about the war? Tell me about the war years.
MC: Well, my brother was in—he was in the war. But my husband, being that he was working at the shipyard, they didn’t take him. And then we had a son, so they—I don’t know if they—what he would have done in the war, but anyway he went to the shipyard like Jack said so, that way he—they didn’t take him.

CB: Good. What about you? Want to tell me about—

MF: I was in school when—

CB: The war came?

MF: (murmurs in agreement)

CB: Okay, how did it affect your life?

MF: Oh, when you first heard about it, because—they bombed Pearl Harbor and that’s the first things we heard was the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. And it was devastating, just like the terrorists: when you heard that, you knew that things would be different¹.

CB: Right, right. And you, Mr. Floyd?

JF: Well, I went in the service—I quit school in the ninth grade. I was working at the shipyard. I turned seventeen, and of course they drafted at seventeen back then. So I went ahead and joined the Navy and I was in four years.

CB: So did you—so tell me about meeting this man?

MF: Well, when I came home, he was working in Sarasota and—

JF: After I got out of the service.

¹MF is referring to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.
MF: And I was walking down the—walking to Sulphur Springs with my two young boys and he came along in a car and asked me if I wanted a ride. But I had known him, living next door to him since I was thirteen.

JF: Thirteen, yeah.

CB: Oh, wow. Oh, wow. So did you go together years also, the two of you?

MF: Well, we went together again.

JF: I don’t know how long we were together?

MF: About a year or year and a half.

MC: Yeah.

MF: Before we married.

CB: Did you have any chores when you were growing up?

MF: (laughs) Well, yes!

CB: Well, with the circumstance—but do you remember what any of them were?

MF: I had to get up and fix breakfast for my brother and my brother-in-law and packed their lunches for them to go to work. Then we had to help her wash, and she had a washing machine but we had to rub the white clothes before we could put them in the washing machine.

CB: Why and how did you rub them? I mean, lots of—
MF: We had a rub board.

CB: Lots of people won’t understand this; we have to tell them about it.

MF: Rub board.

CB: Okay. Why did you rub them, though?

MF: Because it was orders from headquarters.

CB: (laughs) Well, what I’m getting at is obviously we’re talking—they didn’t have bleach. Did you use, like, lye soap? Or what, just rub it? I mean, did that help the dirt come out?

MC: Well, no, you’d put soap on it.

CB: Okay, so it’s kind of like scrubbing?

MF: It was armpits and—

JF: Octagon Soap, they used to call it.

CB: Octagon?

JF: Yeah, it was brown looking—

MF: With the bar about that long and about that wide. (makes gestures)

CB: Oh, my goodness.

MF: And you had a rub board and you scrub the collars and the cuffs and then you could put them in the—
JF: Washing machine.

MF: And turn your pockets wrong side out to be sure the pockets—

CB: Well, tell me—I heard somebody say earlier about getting on city waters. So, tell me a little bit about the utilities and everything, the water. Were you on a well?

JF: No.

MC: Hamilton Heat.

JF: Hamilton Heat used to come out—and Hillsborough River up there—and it was pumped through the station there in Sulphur Springs and everybody was hooked to it. In fact, I just got off it last year myself.

CB: Is that right?

JF: Everybody else here was on city water and came around and took out the old Hamilton Heat pipes out in the road and they cut my water off.

CB: So you had to go onto city water.

JF: So I called them, I said, “Ma’am, you just cut my water off.” “Where?” “Right over there in that house.” “Oh, no.” I said, “I was on Hamilton Heat and Water.” “Oh, you got to be kidding.” I said, “No.” So anyhow, they had to come out and put me on a meter. We sit here and watched everybody else hook up to it and wondered why we didn’t. I’m not going to say nothing.

CB: Okay, so what about electricity? Was electricity pretty stable?

JF: We’ve always had that.
MC: Well, I’ve always had electricity that I can remember. I mean—

CB: Right, right. So you didn’t have problems with it during rainstorms or anything like that?

MC: I don’t remember. It might when it was lightning and all the lights would go out for a little while, but they usually didn’t stay off too long.

JF: Still have that problem.

CB: Right. So, what was the biggest change that you’ve seen in Sulphur Springs as an adult?

MC: Well, I think they made the worse mistake they ever made when they tore that building down.

CB: How do you think it affected the Springs when they tore that down?

MC: Well, it—I would have said that was the—

JF: Tourist attraction.

MC: Yeah, that alone.

MF: And the pool. They closed the pool for years, Sulphur Springs pool. And that was a meeting place and a lot of tourists came to the pool.

JF: Right.

CB: So you feel when you lost the tourists it made a big—that was one of the biggest dents in Sulphur Springs?

MF: Yes.
CB: Okay, okay. What’s the—what was the biggest event or change you can remember when you first got to Sulphur Springs? Not tearing down the Arcade but, like, you as a child, you know, what was—or you in your early years. What big thing did you remember, some big experience or event or something that left an impression on you?

JF: I don’t know.

MC: I don’t—

JF: We had one flood when I was a kid. I lived a block from the old Nebraska Avenue bridge at that time.

CB: Okay, tell me—what year would that have been roughly?

JF: I don’t know what year that was.

CB: In the thirties [1930s], in the forties [1940s], in the—

JF: Had to have been in the thirties [1930s]. But somebody knocked on our door one morning, jumped out of bed and jumped right in the water. Water was already up in our house. Yeah, we were out in a boat.

CB: Oh, were you here for that flood?

MC: I don’t remember.

MF: (inaudible)

JF: I don’t think so, no.

---

2This was the flood of September 1933, caused by the 1933 Treasure Coast hurricane. Heavy rainfall resulted in the collapse of Tampa Electric’s dam.
MC: I don’t think we were here.

JF: That was before I moved up there where I am.

MC: Oh, yeah. Well, we weren’t—

JF: You weren’t here yet.

CB: Okay, okay. So was your family doctor in Sulphur Springs? Tell me about having—did you have a family doctor?

MC: No, I don’t think we had a regular family doctor that I remember.

MF: Nope, me either.

CB: Evidently you didn’t go to a doctor back then?

MC: That’s right.

MF: We didn’t, we didn’t.

CB: So did you drink the sulfur water?

MF: Some, but not much, ’cause we didn’t like the taste of it.

CB: So what did you think kept you so healthy? I mean, if you didn’t have a family doctor and you didn’t go so much, you obviously were healthy.

MC: Well, we must have just come from a good stock or something, but we—nobody was sick that I can remember. But we ate good and we exercised.
CB: Okay, okay. So you said that you went to the Tourist Club, so you’ve been over there. Did any of you ever go get water specifically from the gazebo or the Tourist Club?

MC: Yeah they had a—it was—you could go there and get the sulfur water if you wanted a well—

JF: They had a spring right outside of there, and it flowed all the time.

MC: And it flowed all the time.

JF: I don’t know if that’s still there or not, is it?

MC: I don’t think so.

MF: I don’t know.

CB: It’s been capped off.

JF: Probably has been.

CB: Has been capped off. And you are so funny because one of my questions was, did you ever go to the Tourist Club? So, tell me about being inside the Tourist Club?

MC: Well, we used to have the broom dance—

MF: No alcohol allowed.

CB: Is that right? That’s the first I’ve heard of that.

JF: Yeah.
MF: Yeah, no alcohol. It was strictly entertainment and it wasn’t anything that you had to worry about, young person trouble getting into, because it was nothing they could get into up there except the dance.

CB: Right, right.

MC: And they had square dancin’, and round dancin’, too.

CB: They had USO [United Service Organizations] dances up there, you said?

MC: No, I don’t know. I can’t remember.

JF: No not up there, (inaudible) where they used to have those events.

CB: The USO dances? Okay. I know there was some tourist rentals in Sulphur Springs, or have been told there have been. But did most of the people in town own their homes or did they rent?

MC: Well, we rented until I moved up back to where I am.

CB: Right, right. Was that—I mean, how much would you say—there was a lot of rental property in Sulphur Springs?

MC: Yes, I would say quite a few.

CB: Okay, okay. And did people move often in the Springs?

MC: Well—

CB: You know, if you were a regular resident, did you move—you obviously didn’t, you’ve lived at the same—
MF: Yeah, and I don’t think other people did because the DeMonts lived up there a long time and the Crews owned their place, but they lived a time, and then the Sanders—

MC: Right, they owned their own, too.

MF: All of them.

JF: Carl Hensel, all of them lived right here for years and years and years.

MF: Yeah.

CB: So there wasn’t that much moving? Do you remember anything about Jim Walters Homes?

JF: Yes, I used to work for him.

CB: Oh, you did? For Jim Walters Homes, or Jim Walters?

JF: Jim Walters Homes.

CB: Okay, okay, and so—

MF: And he was my sister’s brother-in-law.

CB: Oh, okay.

MF: She was a Walters before she passed.

CB: Is that right?

MF: She passed this December will be three years.
CB: Well, I’ve thrown the question out several times and a lot of people say, “Oh, we knew about it.” But you’re the first times that ever had a real connection with that. So tell me a little bit about that, how it got started and whether it had—

JF: Well, he started right down here on Waters Avenue, across the street from the dog track, little old one story house, about twenty [feet] by twenty-four or six, I think, at that time.

CB: Oh, wow.

MF: Is that where the church parking lot is now?

JF: Yeah, that’s where the church is now, that’s right.

CB: Is that right?

MC: Yeah, the Methodist Church.

JF: Yeah, the little warehouse, that’s where I started to work for him.

CB: Well, for goodness’ sakes.

JF: And then he moved over on Hillsborough Avenue and put up about four or five models over there. I was on the road. I covered thirteen states for hauling building material up there, mostly nails and doors to different warehouses. But I worked with him for fifteen years.

CB: Is that right?

MF: And his mother and daddy lived in the Arcade in an apartment.

CB: Is that right?
MF: (murmurs in agreement)

JF: Jim Walters.

CB: I’ll be darned. Have you ever been upstairs in the Arcade?

MF: Oh, yes!

MC: Oh, yeah!

CB: So tell me what’s up there? Everybody talks about the downstairs.

JF: It’s like a hotel; it looks just like a hotel.

MF: It was a hotel.

MC: It’s like a big hotel, a big hotel.

MF: But they had converted some into apartments and they had a two-bedroom living room and a kitchen combination of dining and one bath. They didn’t have but one bath.

CB: Well, I had heard that there were dances on that top floor somewhere, too.

MC: Well, I never went to them or ever—

JF: Never heard of that either.

CB: Was there any place up there for them to have a dance? I mean, if it’s a hotel there might not be a thing—

MC: I don’t know.
MF: I never—

JF: Never heard of it.

MC: Me either.

CB: Okay, and there were eating places down below?

JF: Yeah, there was a restaurant down at the end of that hotel down there.

CB: Okay, was that a fancy restaurant or is that some place you dropped in?

JF: Well, back then it was a—

MC: A fancy restaurant.

JF: A fancy restaurant.

CB: Okay.

JF: It was the only one around.

MC: We were lucky to go. (laughs)

JF: It was the only one around.

MC: Once in a while; that was where we got a little better off. (all laugh)

CB: Well, I also heard people say Billy Graham got his start out in this area. Did you—
MC: In Temple Terrace.

CB: Yeah, did you ever get to go see Billy Graham when he was just starting out?

MC: Not when he was starting out, no.

CB: You found out about him after the fact, right?

MC: Right.

MF: Right, right.

CB: Okay, so what kind of health routines did you do? I mean, you know somebody who’s always giving their kids cod liver oil or something like that?

JF: (coughs)

CB: Oh, there’s a story, somebody going to laugh. Okay, all right, so tell me.

MF: (laughs) (inaudible) Springs, Mrs. Carpenter would give us (laughs) cod liver oil, by all means. And I’m telling you—

CB: Ever Spring, right?

MF: Oh, boy, would she give cod liver oil.

CB: Now, what was that supposed to do for you health-wise? (laughs)

MF: It cleans—(laughs)

CB: It cleans you out, right?
MF: Right, right.

MC: Kept them alive.

MF: And she gave us sulfur and cream of tartar tablets, but you can’t even buy that today.

CB: Now was this a combination tablet of sulfur and cream of tartar?

MC: Yes.

MF: Yes.

CB: And what was that supposed to do? Same thing?

MF: It was supposed to purify your blood.

CB: Purify the blood, okay? Well, it must have worked; you all look pretty good to me. (all laugh) Well, what else did—what else, wonderful little jewels, did we do to get healthy?

MC: Those are the two that I really remember.

CB: And did you take that on into when you were a mother? Did you pass that on?

MC: No, ma’am, I sure didn’t. I didn’t, I didn’t. I had to give them cod liver oil once in a while, but I didn’t give it to them religiously. (CB laughs) They’d have rebelled.

CB: Okay, so can you remember—tell me about the grocery stores, either what you bought there or what kind of pricing there was or how you—or how did you manage, because this was a really rough time in our history. How did you manage?
MC: Well, I’d go the A&P and I could—I done most of my shopping at the A&P.

JF: That was the biggest, really, store in the—

MC: In the Springs.

JF: Yeah, there was a home supply there in the—

CB: In the Arcade?

JF: Arcade, that’s where Winn-Dixie really started from.

CB: Is that right?

JF: Was the home supply, table supply, food supply. And Winn-Dixie—

MF: But she could buy just about any and everything for ten cents.

JF: Oh, yeah.

CB: Exactly.

MF: You take five dollars and buy a basket of groceries.

JF: Oh, yeah, come home with—

CB: So did you have a garden to supplement?

MC: No.

MF: We had chickens that one time.
CB: Okay, tell me about the chickens. Just for the eggs?

MF: That was for eating, too.

JF: Eggs and chicken.

CB: Okay, so did you have to clean those chickens?

MF: Yes, ma’am.

CB: Which means you also had to put them down?

MF: Oh, yes, we knew how to put them down, really.

CB: And how did you put them down?

MC: Wring their necks.

MF: (Makes noise)

CB: Okay, you wrung their neck by swinging them around?

MF: Yup, and then you throw them in the yard and you let them flop.

JF: They’ll put you in jail for that today, being cruel to—

CB: That’s right.

MC: Being cruel to animals.
CB: That’s right.

MC: You said it.

CB: But these are the things that people, you know, won’t understand. I remember my grandmother talking about it, that’s why I was asking. People don’t know how did we—you know, before you just went and found this chicken already dressed, how did you go about fixing your meals? How did you go about, you know, preparing or taking care of your family?

JF: We always raised chickens, too.

CB: Okay.

MC: And you had a garden.

JF: Yeah, and I used to try and grow a little garden in there.

CB: And how about clothes, where did you come—where did you compose your clothes?

JF: They bought a lot of flour in big sacks.

MF: And Maribel made all of our clothes.

MC: And I can sew. I can sew.

JF: And flour sacks.

MC: Most all of their clothes.
CB: Well a lot of people have heard about sewing out of flour sacks, and so tell me how did you prepare it? Most of the young people today won’t even relate to a cloth flour sack. So how did you prepare the fabric?

MC: When you had to clean them good, wash them real good. And then most all of the trimming would come off.

CB: Okay, so was everything one color or did you dye it?

MC: No, I didn’t dye nothing.

MF: No, she didn’t dye nothing, and then her husband—where did you get the material to make that white silk dress of mine?

MC: Well, at the store, decorations.

MF: That’s what I thought. Earl brought it to you.

MC: Yeah, it’s silk.

MF: Well, then I was—yeah, I was about ten years old. She made me a white dress out of this silk material and she appliquéd little flowers—

MC: Embroidered it. I embroidered it.

MF: —all down the front of it.

CB: Oh, my goodness.

MF: And the pink roses, little rose buds. And then she—and we went to the movies, she would see Shirley Temple dresses, and she went home and cut her out a pattern and made my youngest sister a dress just like it.
CB: Oh, my goodness.

MF: She was very talented.

CB: Obviously, a woman of many talents, and to hold it all together, too.

MF: And then when her only son drowned, well, she had us—

CB: Was he very young when you lost—

MC: Sixteen.

CB: Oh, that would have been very difficult. Go ahead.

MC: He’d have been the first of the graduating class from Chamberlain High School that year.

MF: He was in the class, the first class that graduated from Chamberlain High.

CB: Oh, for goodness’ sakes.

MC: And he played in the band, he played the trumpet.

CB: And did he drown here in—if it’s not too painful—in the river?

MC: Yeah, Hillsborough River.

CB: Is that right?

MC: He and a boy—a friend of his wanted him to go change a boat or something; I never did really understand what it was all about. And I told him, I said, “Well, I wanted you to stay and help me today.” And he said, “Doing what?” And so I said, “Well, go on.” And
so they were fooling around, that made him—because I think he was trying to get up—what I understood, he was trying to get up on skis in the deep water, and this friend of his would go around the boat and throw the rope at him and tell him to grab on to it, you know.

CB: Okay, in 195—(inaudible). And what about your children, tell me about having your children?

MF: Well, I had two of them right here in this house.

CB: Did you?

MF: (murmurs in agreement) And then I had one, my daughter was born in 1953 and we were living in the projects and I had her first and then had the two boys.

CB: Now, tell me where the projects are?

MF: Well, they’re not any more. (inaudible)

CB: And it was a part of Sulphur Springs?

MF: Well, they were right over the bridge.

CB: Okay, okay, and why do they have the name “the projects”? In other words, give me some history. I’m not from the area.

MC: Low income.

MF: Yeah, low income.

JF: Low income, yeah.

CB: And then you moved from there to?
MF: Right here.

CB: Right here?

JF: (murmurs in agreement)

MF: Been here ever since.

JF: Been here fifty-one years.

CB: In this house?

MF: (murmurs in agreement)

CB: That’s amazing. (inaudible) to stay for fifty-one years.

JF: Right, when we moved here that kitchen and front room was in that room right there; this was the back porch area.

CB: Oh, my! So it was a—

JF: Two bedroom, one bathroom area.

CB: Okay, and so you’ve added on (inaudible).

JF: I got her this, another bath, another bedroom and Florida room.

CB: Got a groove a little bit on—someone was telling me in one of the interviews about how she used to throw her wash water out in the back, and then when they came along and changed, somehow she wasn’t allowed to do that anymore.
MC: The city water.

JF: She had to hook up to city sewage.

CB: Okay. So you weren’t allowed to throw your wash water back in the trenches anymore?

MC: No.

CB: Okay.

JF: Well, I ain’t going to say nothing now.

MC: But I do—I mean, I’ve got to think that I’ve run a drain that runs it right in the yard and waters the yard.

CB: Well, I wondered why we would want to waste good water.

MF: Because it has detergent in it.

CB: Oh, okay. Well, tell me some more of these great stories you started to tell me at the reunion? Tell me about what you remember about some of the other jobs you’ve had. You’ve worked for the WPA?

MC: Yeah.

CB: And you worked for who else?

MC: Well, I’ve worked in the sewing room when my mother was sick.

CB: Did you?
MC: She had worked in the sewing room and I was handing out all the materials. I was a clerk, like, in the cutting room.

CB: Okay, so she passed from being ill with something, your mom?

MF: Oh, yes, she had cancer.

CB: Okay, and did Daddy pass from being ill or was there an accident?

MC: Yeah. No, he had—cerebral hemorrhage.

CB: Oh, my goodness. Okay.

MF: And they both passed at age fifty. And when she [Marion] turned fifty she was afraid she’d pass because she didn’t have any relation that lived pass fifty, but here she is at ninety-one, almost ninety-two next year, and she’s going strong.

CB: I think you might be trying to hit that double fifty, it sounds like to me.

MC: (laughs) I think so, too. She probably will.

CB: You’re going to make it up for everybody.

MC: I hope so, as long as I can wait on myself.

CB: Well, you both seem very healthy and very capable and get around and everything else. How do you fill your days today? You obviously fill yours constantly; getting this appointment was interesting. What are some of the activities you are involved in?

MC: Well I go to the SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] program every day.
CB: I don’t know what that is.

MC: Well, it’s senior citizens; they serve meals there. I go and I help serve the meals and I wash all the trays.

MF: She has a job every day.

CB: Sounds like it. Do you think that makes—


CB: You think that has made a difference on your outlook on life?

MC: Well, I think so. You don’t have time to pity yourself, you see somebody else worse off then you are.

CB: And how do you fill your days? Trying to find her? (all laugh)

MF: No! I let her roam until dark, then I check up on her.

JF: You have to make an appointment with her to see her in the daytime.

CB: I guess.

MF: No, Jack and I used to volunteer at the school before he became sick, but since he’s been sick, well, we don’t volunteer like we did. And every other Wednesday I go to the church for a luncheon, and then we’re going to have a garage sale, and I keep myself real busy.

CB: Sounds like it. Do you think that has an impact on the fact you stay healthy?
MF: Yes, I think that if you’re active and you read and you find things to occupy your mind and don’t feel sorry for yourself and don’t regret things that has happened in the past, well—

JF: The minute you sit down and don’t do nothing, you’re not going to last long.

CB: So what’s the thing you’re most concerned people won’t know about Sulphur Springs or they won’t remember? What would you want people to know and remember about Sulphur Springs, the one you knew?

MC: Well, I think the swimming in the pools; it used to be like a beach there.

CB: Is that right?

MC: Yes.

JF: That’s where all the kids went on the weekend.

MC: Yeah.

MF: Well, come May, everybody would go to the pool even and start swimming.

JF: Right.

CB: Is that right?

MF: Yeah.

CB: And you swam all through the summer?

JF: Yeah.
MF: All through the summer; it was only a dime to get in. And we skated a lot, went to the skating rink.

CB: Well, what would you want them to know about the town itself? What would think that—what would be the image that you want people to understand about what it was like to live in Sulphur Springs? Anything special?

JF: Well, I’d say there wasn’t much here except that swimming pool, skating rink, and one movie.

MF: But it was a close knit—everybody, you could walk down to the Arcade and you’d meet—anybody you’d me you’d know by face and name. And if they come in to—when I was a kid and come in to Maves Five and Ten Cent Store, you would know them. And at Christmas time they had chocolate covered cherries and it would—pound box fifty-nine cents, I never forgot that.

CB: Oh, my goodness.

MF: Because I asked for the chocolate covered cherries one Christmas and got so many, I don’t like them. (CB laughs)

CB: You don’t eat them anymore, huh?

MF: No.

CB: So that was obviously one of your most memorable Christmas presents. How about birthdays? Do you remember celebrating any other holidays or birthdays?

MF: Well, she always made us feel special because we’d get one gift and usually at—even at Christmas, she’d try to get us the one gift that we wanted.

CB: You really had a lot of work to do here, didn’t you? (CB laughs) You really did. Well, what would you want people to remember about you personally when your great-great-great-great-grandnieces and -nephews and whoever listen to this tape? What do you want them to know about who you were as a person?
MF: That I tried to live my life, that I set a good example, that I didn’t hurt someone and didn’t apologize or—

MC: Well, I just always—I didn’t want to do anything that my parents would be ashamed of.

MF: And she taught us that. She said, “Don’t ever do anything that you’d be ashamed for your parents to know.”

CB: Right, right. Now, your parents’ name was?

MC: Gardener.

CB: Right.

MC: Alice and James Gardener.

CB: Okay, and how about you? Anything to add to what you want people to remember you about—about you?

JF: I don’t think anybody will remember me.

CB: (laughs)

MC: Oh, your children will remember you, Daddy.

JF: I don’t really know.

CB: Any other special things that we haven’t hit on that you might want to mention about Sulphur Springs, or you want to talk about, share with me?

MF: Well, his mother was the first barber in Sulphur Springs.
CB: Is that right?

JF: In Tampa.

MF: In Tampa, yeah.

JF: She started down there on Franklin Street.

MC: The lady barber, the first lady barber.

MF: Yeah.

CB: Oh, for goodness’ sakes.

MF: And then she moved—

JF: She moved up there on at the Foxworth building.

MF: And then she moved right in the corner of Sulphur Springs.

JF: Right down there by the Tourist Club, right?

MF: Yeah.

JF: By the river.

CB: Is that right? Do you remember the tin can—like, they call them the tin-can tourists or whatever; do you remember them coming to town? In their little—they call them tin-can tourist or something because they would bring their own tin cans worth of food and they pull in their Airstream trailers. (JF laughs) Remember any of the campgrounds or anything like that around here?
MF: (murmurs in disagreement)

CB: Okay. So most of your life was centered, what, around the school, around the church, around home? Where would you say the center of your life was?

MC: Well, I think the church and home.

MF: It was.

CB: Is that pretty much stayed the same throughout the years?

MC: Yup.

CB: Okay, what other jobs have you had?

MF: Well, I worked at, like I said, downtown when I was still in school, and then I worked in a doctor’s office and I worked in a—I went to work for the school system in—

JF: Florida (inaudible).

MF: Yeah.

JF: For thirty years, demonstrating all over the state.

CB: Oh, wow, so you’ve done some travel.

MC: We were both cafeteria—school cafeteria managers.

MF: Retired.
CB: Really?

MC: Yeah.

MF: Both of us retired from the school system.

CB: Okay. Of all the jobs which ones do you think was the most satisfying to you, that you got up and looked forward to get to?

MC: I liked that one.

MF: I did too. I loved the school.

MC: I looked forward to going, and I had such good health then.

MF: And I wouldn’t have retired when I did at age sixty-five, but he insisted.

CB: (laughs) You needed a playmate, right?

JF: Naw, she couldn’t get no help up there and just working herself half to death, so I told her to get out of there.

CB: Oh, my. Oh, my. All right, so anything else?

MF: Like I said, the skating rink and the pool was our recreation—

JF: And then the Roxie Theater, I used to meet you down—

MF: Oh, yeah, and the Roxie Theater.

CB: So was the Roxie Theater was an indoor or outdoor theater?
MF: Indoor.

JF: Right across the street from the hotel there.

CB: Oh, okay.

MC: They tore it down now.

MF: Oh, yeah.

CB: Is that right? What do you remember seeing at the theater? What was it like to go to a movie?

JF: Tom Mix and Gene Autry and—

MF: It cost us a dime to get in and we could buy dime popcorn and a nickel cold drink.

JF: We’d get a quarter.

MC: I think I was about twenty-six years old and they said, “You going to have to start paying.”

CB: Oh!

MC: I was still going in.

CB: As a child for free?

JF: Oh, yeah, you could get in free for a—how old do you have to be?

MC: Not free, but a dime, so I was going to have to start paying.
CB: Oh, no!

MF: As an adult.

CB: Oh, my goodness, how wonderful. Okay, well, is there anything else that we just—remembering that somebody might come along centuries along that are your long-lost relatives, anything you want to be sure that—this is your chance to put it on tape so they’ll know.

MF: Nope.

CB: No?

MF: That, like I said, time has changed so much you don’t dress up to go to town, you don’t dress up to go anywhere, and a lot of people don’t even dress up to go to church. They take no pride in themselves.

MC: Used to be we dressed up to go to church, that was one thing we dressed up—

MF: In town, too, Mary; we dressed to go downtown on Saturday. Man, that was an outing, to go to—

CB: And what was dressing, was that a dress and gloves and a hat?

MC: For Sunday, yes.

CB: Here in Florida with all this humidity, that was devotion, ladies. (CB laughs)

MC: But it wasn’t that hot to—

JF: We didn’t think it got that hot back them. Not like it does now.
MC: It didn’t seem like it was as hot like it is now.

MF: No.

CB: So it actually seems hotter now then it seemed back then.

MC: Yeah, right.

CB: And you slept out on the porch some nights?

JF: Oh, all the time.

MF: Oh, she had a screened in porch, had awnings that came up and down, and at night she’d pull them up. Well, it had two beds out there for the girls, which was Ann and Dorothy and myself, and that’s where we slept.

CB: For goodness’ sakes. So was your son born at home, too?

MC: No, he was born at Centro Español Hospital.

CB: But he was born in the house you’ve lived in.

MC: Well, he was—I brought him home from the hospital.

CB: Yeah.

MF: Yeah.

MC: But I belong to the Centro Español and I went over on Bayshore, they had a hospital over there [Sanatorio del Centro Español].
CB: So tell me what the Centro Español is?

MC: Well, a lot of Spanish—I knew this lady and she got me to join. It was Spanish, most all of them. They had—in Ybor City they had that other club, I can’t think of it now.

MF: Gonzalez.

MC: Yeah, the Gonzalez Club.

MF: Clinic.

MC: And that was a hospital, like; it was a hospital.

CB: So you joined a club so that you had hospital facilities?

MC: Yeah.

MF: She joined the Club because she paid a due, like insurance is now, and you could go to the hospital for a very small amount.

CB: Wow! Okay.

MC: And I think I had to pay thirty-five dollars extra to have my son there.

CB: Amazing! Now, when you said you had your children at home, did you physically give birth at home or you—

MF: No, no, brought it back to this—

CB: Okay, okay. Like I said it’s fascinating. If there’s anything else that you want to talk about—you have another Penny Saver here. Something about the parks—
MC: Oh, that was about the Tourist Club.

CB: The Tourist Club, okay.

MC: You know, all of the shuffleboard group, that was one.

CB: So do you see a lot of your old friends now, when they come back for the reunions?

MC: Yes, it’s a lot that goes through the reunion.

CB: Is there anything that you would want to see happen at the reunion or in Sulphur Springs? Something that you’d like to see take place here or to come about?

MF: I don’t think Sulphur Springs will ever be Sulphur Springs again.

JF: No.

MC: Like it used to be.

CB: Is that right?

MC: Because the dog track is there and that’s taken up so much of the land, and they tore the Arcade down and just put pavement, it’s all—and the pool is nothing like it was years ago.

MF: Like it used to be.

CB: Is that right? Have you been over to the gazebo or the tower? Either one, Sulphur Springs tower or the gazebo?

MC: Nope.
MF: Not recently, no.

CB: Because they’re talking about possibly putting a museum over at the tower property.

JF: Yeah, they’ve been talking about doing something with that for the last thirty years, and they haven’t done nothing yet.

CB: So you’ll believe it when you see it, right?

MF: Yeah, yeah.

JF: There’s been all kind of things going in there—

CB: And it hasn’t happened yet.

JF: Seen nothing yet.

CB: Okay. So, all in all, Sulphur Springs has been good to you. You liked living here?

MC: Yes, I’ve gotten—

MF: Yup.

MC: I just soon live in Sulphur Springs as I had in Hyde Park or something.

CB: Good, good. Well, ladies and sir, you have been just delightful. I greatly appreciate this. If there’s anything else that you want to add to it, if you want me to come back another time because suddenly all your memories come forward, let me know. But I have really enjoyed it, and we appreciate you allowing us to put this on tape and keep it for future generations.

*End of interview*