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HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH
GARLAND ANGLIN

1 (INTRODUCTION)

2 MR. EIDSON: Good morning. My name is Jim
3 Eidson. I'm chair of the Hamilton County Historical
4 Commission. This is April the 13th, 2018, and we are
5 meeting in Andy McMullen's office. Today we're joined
6 by Andy McMullen with the Historical Commission, also
7 Jane Crouch with the Historical Commission, and Jason
8 and Jamie, who are our videographer and our court
9 reporter respectfully. And we are meeting today with
10 Garland Anglin as our interviewee. One of the things
11 about history is that when you go to the textbooks,
12 oftentimes you -- you get the major events, you get
13 some -- some idea of what's happened, the landmarks in
14 history, but it's infrequent that we get the personal
15 experience of history, what was it like to be here at
16 the time of certain events, to live through them. And
17 that's, I think, in large part what oral history does
18 for us. And so today we're going to talk to Garland
19 Anglin, who is a lifelong resident of Hamilton County,
20 multigeneration Texan, multigeneration Hamiltonian, and
21 it's our pleasure to have him today.

22

23

24

1 (INTERVIEW)

2 MR. EIDSON: So thank you, Garland, for
3 joining us.

4 MR. ANGLIN: Thank you, Jim. I was born
5 in the Hamilton sanitarium November 18, 1937, and I
6 was -- although I do not remember, I was always told it
7 snowed four inches that day. In those days, my parents
8 were sharecroppers about five miles south of Hamilton,
9 just off 281 on the Blanchett place, and my family is
10 very intertwined with the Blachetts, not just because we
11 lived on their place, but my dad's older sister married
12 Ritter Blanchett. So they -- they were relatives by
13 marriage.

14 MR. EIDSON: And that was in the vicinity
15 of Shive; is that right?

16 MR. ANGLIN: It -- no. It was just out
17 here this side of the Cowhouse Creek.

18 MR. EIDSON: Okay.

19 MR. ANGLIN: On 281 --

20 MR. EIDSON: All right.

21 MR. ANGLIN: -- just off 281.

22 MR. EIDSON: Okay.

23 MR. ANGLIN: And the Old Man Blanchett was
24 a very colorful character. He died when I was eight

25 years old, but I can remember being taken to see him in

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1 his final days, and he had an old two-story house with a
2 dog run down the middle, had a saddle out there on a
3 sawhorse with a bullet hole in it where the Indians had
4 killed a horse he was riding. And I also remember that
5 there was a little box house in the back they called a
6 bunkhouse, and it had rafters -- no ceiling, just the
7 rafter exposed, and there was a door hanging by wire to
8 form something like a table. Well, my cousin Walter,
9 who was four years older than me, was over there, and we
10 were out seeing what we could get into, and we wanted to
11 see what was on that door. And he held me up because I
12 was small, and it was mounted up with rifles and
13 shotguns. And I've always wondered what happened to
14 them, but, anyhow, that-- -- that's sort of history.

15 Now, kind of -- we lived there until I was
16 almost three years old. So I'm going to concentrate on
17 that period of my life because it's a little bit
18 compartmentalized. And I remember going to church at
19 the Union Methodist Church, which was on Schoolerville
20 Road, and I particularly remember my cousin, Walter, and
21 Carl Chumney got in a fight in Sunday school, and Carl
22 nearly bit his ear off, and there was blood everywhere,
23 and it terrified me. I was three years old. And my dad
24 farmed with horses. They were named Doc and Dan. And

25 during that time he got rid of the horses and got a

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1 Farmall tractor, and I don't -- I'm sure I was shielded
2 from the horses because they were -- kind of a part of
3 the family. And I do not remember what we had for
4 transportation, except my parents bought a little
5 Chevrolet coupe during that time, and they went to Waco
6 and to Sears and bought a silver-tongued, battery
7 powered radio. And in those days, you didn't just turn
8 the radio on. You listened to Walter Cronkite or
9 something or the news and you turned it off, because the
10 battery did not last very long and it cost money. And I
11 can remember that I'd go outside of the old house and
12 I'd hear these doves, and I thought as a three-year-old
13 those were wolves.

14 But I digress a little bit here. The
15 Blanchett family had three sons and two daughters, and
16 there was only one descendant from that whole bunch, my
17 cousin, Blanch Catherine Herrington. Her husband is a
18 Methodist minister, and they're well retired, about
19 90 years old. They live in Bryan. But there was a son
20 named Price Blanchett, and Price did not have a very
21 good reputation. And Elsie Mayfield told me in 2005 --
22 I was visiting her. And the Mayfields were very close
23 to this family. Hathaway [sic] was family and Pat
24 Larson. She told me that one night their party line

25 rang in the middle of the night, and her father got up

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1 and answered it -- she was a teenage girl -- and it was
2 someone calling from -- oh, it was the son, Price,
3 calling from Wyoming, that he had to have \$100, that he
4 had broken his leg and would his dad wire him \$100. And
5 apparently the father agreed to do that. And Elsie said
6 that some time later -- she did not know how long -- but
7 the same night, the phone rang again, and it was a
8 sheriff from Wyoming telling him that his son had been
9 shot and killed, which was true. October 14, 1931. And
10 Mr. Blanchett was of the old mentality that if somebody
11 kills my family, I'll go kill them. But his neighbor
12 and family kept him from going to Wyoming. And he had
13 the body sent here, and it was delivered to my house,
14 which is one block away, where Dr. Kooken -- the elder
15 Dr. Kooken had his office, and Dr. Kooken examined the
16 body and there was no broken leg. So maybe you're going
17 to have a broken leg if you don't come up with \$100, but
18 it is a mystery.

19 Now, what is also a mystery -- in those
20 days, it was much a no-no to carry a pistol. It just
21 wasn't done. And he was known to have a five-shot
22 Hopkins and Allen revolver. Nobody ever found that
23 revolver until I did.

24 MR. EIDSON: How about that.

25 MS. CROUCH: Look at that.

7

1 MR. ANGLIN: And look at that. The
2 bullets are still in it.

3 MS. CROUCH: Wow. Do be careful.

4 MR. EIDSON: Where did you find it?

5 MR. ANGLIN: I found it under -- the house
6 that we lived in was on the Blanchett place. So my
7 mother had talked about the old home place, and one
8 Sunday we were out at their house, and she said, "We'd
9 go down there sometimes when Charlie Rayburn had it
10 leased." So I called Charlie, and -- a close family
11 friend. "Sure. Help yourself." So we went down there,
12 and I can recall a little porch, just a kind of
13 wipe-the-mud-off-your-feet thing, on the east side of
14 the house, and when they tore the house down, they
15 cleaned up everything. They didn't leave a nail. They
16 didn't leave anything. The back side of that gun was
17 sticking out of the dirt. It had been buried under that
18 porch, which was on Price Blanchett's father's place at
19 that time, and he never had a chance to come back after.
20 Now, where the plot really thickens is today you can go
21 on Google Earth and you can see there have been holes
22 dug all over that hill. I have a feeling something else
23 may have been buried with it. I think those holes were
24 dug for years. They're not anything recent. But

25 anyhow, that kind of concludes my Blanchett side of the

8

1 story.

2 But while we were still living south of
3 town and up to three years old, we had a hand-dug storm
4 cellar. The windmill was in the corner of the yard, and
5 that was the nearest water to the house. And this old
6 house had four rooms and a hall down the middle, and we
7 had -- it basically had a kitchen, and we lived in
8 another room, and the only heat was a fireplace. And
9 even at that age, I still remember it getting pretty
10 cold.

11 And then in November of 1941, we moved to
12 the Fairy area, about a mile west of Long Point
13 Mountain, where Commissioner Huggins lives now, and
14 the -- the house that we lived in after we left there
15 burned. So his house is not the same house. It's just
16 the same place. And one day Dad was off plowing or
17 something and I was out on the back porch, and the porch
18 kind of overlooked the cattle barn and pens, and these
19 cows came running up there and they were running
20 around -- that fence is about five feet tall, and this
21 bear came up and looked at the fence over them. That's
22 the Fairy bear.

23 MR. EIDSON: The Fairy bear.

24 MS. CROUCH: The Fairy bear.

1 about the bear. But we were there during the war --
2 when the war started. In fact, we moved there in
3 November and the war started on December 7, Pearl
4 Harbor, and I can remember an enormous number of
5 airplanes coming over, just -- it seemed like day and
6 night, just endless, big planes, and not very -- not
7 very high. You could see the pilot. I don't know
8 what -- it was some kind of training exercise. And we
9 had blackouts during the war, and I never understood why
10 they wanted to bomb Picca Goins and his post office, but
11 evidently they thought that was important, but we got
12 through the war without Mr. Goins being bombed. And one
13 time a big plane came over and it was on fire, but
14 nobody would believe me, and they finally found it over
15 on the Gresham place where the young dairy is now.

16 MR. EIDSON: I see.

17 MR. ANGLIN: And, of course, we had ration
18 books, and one of my jobs as a five-year-old was to go
19 to the mailbox, and one day I was on my tricycle and I
20 lost the ration book, and that was not a good thing, but
21 we did find it.

22 But people that lived in the country
23 fared a lot better during the war than those in the
24 city. We had everything we could raise. We had beef

25 and pork, a big garden, and although gasoline was

10

1 rationed -- because we didn't really need to go
2 anywhere, but the same gasoline that would run that John
3 Deere tractor would run an old car. So it was not as
4 difficult on the small farmer as it was on maybe the
5 small businessman in -- in a city. And then when I was
6 almost six years old, my parents bought a place out here
7 west of Hamilton, five miles west on 218, and I can
8 remember going over there with my parents and Grandpa
9 Anglin, and it was \$26 an acre for 170 acres. And
10 Grandpa told my dad, "Hey, Son, you're a fool. It will
11 never be worth over \$24." So anyhow -- and my sister
12 lives -- still lives there today. It's been in the
13 family since 1943.

14 And that's where I lived when I started
15 school. And one of the things that I will never be able
16 to solve is the first year I went to school, you could
17 not utter a word on the school bus, and it had to do
18 with Corgie Tatum and his later wife, Merla Tune. And
19 they're both deceased now. But they had done something
20 the year before so socially unacceptable we could not
21 speak on the school bus. And, of course, they had this
22 good, new Corgie paper, and you can only imagine -- but
23 this old bus was green with a silver top and it had
24 benches long ways down the side and then seats in a row

1 MR. EIDSON: Really?

2 MR. ANGLIN: -- in the middle of the bus.

3 MR. EIDSON: Darn.

4 MR. ANGLIN: And our bus route went out
5 Highway 36 and dropped off the Kirklands and the Keeters
6 and others. And in the morning, I came straight in to
7 town, but in the afternoon, it took me an hour to get
8 home because of the way it runs.

9 MR. EIDSON: Right.

10 MR. ANGLIN: And I started school at West
11 Ward, which is where the Ann Whitney Elementary School
12 is today, and I'll never forget the first time -- I
13 hadn't been to town very many times, and I had been told
14 about Ms. Goggins, and I was as scared of her as I was
15 of a bear. We got in there and we had been there about
16 two hours. She jerked Bobby Ray Mosley up and just beat
17 the daylights out of him. I didn't know she had had him
18 the year before. She was getting that boy off to a good
19 start. And I attended that through fifth grade. And
20 then we built the first Ann Whitney Elementary School
21 just south of where the football field is now on
22 Railroad Street. It was made out of old Army barracks
23 that were hauled in from Camp Bowie in Brownwood. And
24 Joe Schooler was a house mover. He hauled one in every

25 day until they pieced all these things together. It was

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1 a great, long building, and it had steam heat. It had
2 the radiators. In fact, the old boiler room is still
3 down there. And there was an auditorium in the middle,
4 and it was -- it was probably adequate. And then -- I
5 went there 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. And when I got in
6 high school, we were right in the transition period of
7 building what was then the new school. Well, the old
8 West Ward school, there were three buildings. On the
9 north end was the high school, and the steps are still
10 there, by the way, and the middle was the auditorium,
11 and on the south was West Ward, and it was a two-story
12 rock building. And they took the top floor off West
13 Ward, and that bottom floor is still in today's Ann
14 Whitney Elementary School. When you go in the door to
15 the superintendent's office, there were four classrooms
16 on either side of an open patio with a cottonwood tree.
17 It's all been closed in now. And then when those ended,
18 the -- that's where the old West Ward began. And it had
19 the library and the lockers and the ag room and I think
20 it was study hall. It had basically four rooms and
21 pretty good-sized rooms, and as I say, it's still there.

22 Where are we on time?

23 MR. EIDSON: It's -- we're good to go. Do
24 you remember any teachers other than the one who jerked

25 the young man? Do you remember other teachers who were

13

1 in --

2 MR. ANGLIN: First grade was Ms. Goggins.

3 Second grade was Ms. Emery. Third grade was Mr. Mull.

4 Fourth grade was Ms. Dunkin. Fifth grade was

5 Ms. Whitty.

6 MR. EIDSON: Is that right? Catherine

7 Whitty?

8 MR. ANGLIN: Catherine Whitty. Quite a

9 character. She would not let us drink with our lunch.

10 You could not have milk or water.

11 MS. CROUCH: Why?

12 MR. ANGLIN: Because she was mean.

13 MS. CROUCH: Okay.

14 MR. EIDSON: Why?

15 MR. ANGLIN: Born that way. Died that

16 way.

17 MR. EIDSON: You didn't consume fluid with

18 your --

19 MR. ANGLIN: Could not have fluid with

20 your meal.

21 MR. EIDSON: With your meal.

22 MR. ANGLIN: It was just for a year. And

23 I do member Ms. Craddick. She was my parents' Sunday

24 school teacher at the Methodist church. They thought

25 that woman could walk on water. But on Monday morning,

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1 she would ask those students who had not attended church
2 the day before to stand up, and she would scold them.
3 And that's when I said I will defend the separation of
4 church and state to the death. They have no business
5 putting church in school. She had people crying,
6 especially little girls. That was another mean one. We
7 had a lot of mean teachers. I don't -- I'm not sure
8 where they taught that.

9 And about the time I started school, my
10 dad took a job at JC Laythem. He was a Farmall digger
11 here, and he built the building where United Care is
12 today, and he was the parts man. And many, many years
13 later until he died, he could still tell you the part
14 number for the little old plows.

15 MR. EIDSON: I'll be --

16 MR. ANGLIN: And he did that for about ten
17 years and then he went to work for Claude Gautier after
18 Gautier bought Laythem out, and Gautier Truck & Tractor
19 was down where Air Comfort System is now. And then he
20 went to work for Clyde Weatherby, and Clyde Weatherby
21 was an entrepreneur. He brought in KCLW. I remember
22 when they signed on June -- May 11 of 1947. KCLW is a
23 part of the acronym for Clyde Willis Weatherby. No --
24 anyway, it's his initials.

25 MR. EIDSON: Uh-huh.

15

1 MR. ANGLIN: And it's an extremely
2 successful business venture for a long time. And I do
3 remember that they moved -- they had the studio over
4 where Dr. Crouch had his office. Clyde Weatherby built
5 that building for the KCLW studios. But the antenna was
6 always out here west of town where it is today. And
7 then later they moved the studios out there, and it was
8 a little two-room building that didn't amount to much.
9 They got through with that. They burned it on purpose.
10 It had all those old Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash
11 records in it, hundreds if not thousands made of black
12 smoke.

13 But Dad was working for Clyde Weatherby,
14 and he had many ventures going. He had hot soup vending
15 machines. They had one at the state capitol, and they
16 had to drive down there once a week and take the money
17 out and put more dry soup in it, and it was a terrible
18 thing to try to eat. And then he also -- Clyde also had
19 him manufacturing something called odor away foot
20 powder. They ground the talc right over here in this
21 building in these neat little boxes and they'd take it
22 around and sell it at drug stores and grocery stores.
23 And then about this time Dad got his real estate license
24 and then did that until he retired.

25 MR. EIDSON: When did your parents move

16

1 into the Freeman house?

2 MR. ANGLIN: About 1985.

3 MR. EIDSON: About '85. Okay.

4 MR. ANGLIN: About '85. And the Freeman
5 house is the second oldest house in town.

6 MR. EIDSON: Yes.

7 MR. ANGLIN: And I'm trying to think about
8 what was going around the square. I know that my
9 parents would bring me to town on a Sunday afternoon
10 when the buses left with those that were drafted for
11 World War II, and it was a big deal, because a lot of
12 them didn't come back.

13 MR. EIDSON: Yeah.

14 MR. ANGLIN: And at one time, I believe we
15 had eight dry goods stores on the square.

16 MR. EIDSON: Good heavens.

17 MR. ANGLIN: And we had at least five
18 grocery stores, and we had a service station on the
19 corner of the square across from El Jardin, a little
20 service station, a Texaco station, and we had three
21 theaters, plus a drive-in. Well, y'all know, of course,
22 where the Texan was that just burned, and The Strand was
23 in the east half of what is now City Drug. And then we
24 had an adult movie -- it didn't last very long because

25 we didn't have any adults -- perform B role. It

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1 originally burned. And the drive-in, of course, out
2 south of town behind Roy Chutney's tractor company. So
3 we had movies to go to. It was -- \$0.16 was the
4 cheapest I remember, which strangely enough, the
5 cheapest gasoline I remember was \$0.16.

6 MS. CROUCH: And law offices? And law
7 offices on the square?

8 MR. ANGLIN: Uh-huh.

9 MS. CROUCH: There were --

10 MR. ANGLIN: I do remember the possible
11 tornado. I believe it was in 1946. It took the phone
12 lines down, and we didn't know about it, and my
13 grandparents' brother came over on Sunday morning and
14 told us about it. We were five miles from it. And to
15 my knowledge, that tornado caused the only fatality
16 that's ever happened from a tornado in Hamilton.
17 Mrs. Glover was holding their infant son and it -- this
18 tornado tore it out of her arms.

19 MS. CROUCH: When was that?

20 MR. ANGLIN: 1945. May of '45. I know we
21 planted sweet potatoes the day before.

22 But in those days, people thought if you
23 left lights on with the chickens, they'd lay more eggs,
24 and we came out of the storm cellar and Dad said it must

25 not have been too bad. The lights are still on in the

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1 chicken house. He was seeing the neighbors' lights. We
2 didn't have any chicken houses. The chickens and the
3 chicken house went to Blue Ridge. That's how close it
4 got to us.

5 And I do remember -- you know, people
6 worked in those days. It was just amazing what they
7 would do with nothing. There was a time -- I was three
8 years old. Someone on South Bell gave my dad a steel
9 storm cellar if he would dig it up. I don't -- I
10 remember the place was on the west side of Bell Street.
11 I don't remember which one it was. And this thing was
12 made out of corrugated steel like a culvert, kind of egg
13 shaped, but it was professionally done. It was a good
14 product. Well, he worked on that thing with a pick and
15 shovel, didn't have a backhoe or anything, and he
16 finally got it dug up, and finally -- my mother gave him
17 a hard time about, "You're going to starve to death
18 while you're trying to dig up that storm cellar. But
19 here he comes one day, and he's got this thing on a
20 little two-wheel trailer behind a little Chevrolet coupe
21 coming down through the pasture, and it was on the
22 Blanchett place, and he balanced it under an oak, and
23 that year -- he had cut a little hole in the end of it,
24 and he put brooder chickens in there, little chickens in

25 it. But when we moved to Fairy, there was already a

19

1 hole, so he moved it over there and put it in that hole.

2 And we would go to the storm cellar at night because we

3 didn't have TV, and -- the Roy Davis family lived on the

4 same place and they'd come help, go to the storm cellar.

5 Well, low and behold, when they bought this place out

6 west of town two years later, he had dug it up and moved

7 it again. It's still out there.

8 MR. EIDSON: I'll be darned. Lots of use.

9 MR. ANGLIN: And we did use the thing.

10 They would attract spiders or snakes. And in those days

11 people kept canned goods or home canning in the storm

12 cellar. It was an even temperature, about 68 degrees.

13 MR. EIDSON: That's right. When did you

14 and Donna move into the Kooken house?

15 MR. ANGLIN: Fifty years ago last month.

16 MR. EIDSON: How about that. Can you tell

17 us something about the history of the house?

18 MR. ANGLIN: Yes. Dr. Kooken built the

19 house about 1912, and his son was later our Dr. Kooken,

20 and he only lived about ten years after he built the

21 house, and --

22 MR. EIDSON: What year was it built?

23 MR. ANGLIN: About 1912.

24 MR. EIDSON: About 1912.

25 MR. ANGLIN: And we came onto it in '68, I

20

1 believe. And, of course, we have four children, and I
2 never wanted to live in town, but if you had to live in
3 town, it wasn't a bad place. Walking distance to
4 school. Eight grandkids went to school here. They'd
5 come down and check the refrigerator every day, and we
6 have a tradition of feeding most of the people we're kin
7 to, and some not, on Wednesday night, and that started
8 with the kids coming down -- the parents would take them
9 home and bring them back something at the church. Well,
10 just stay here and walk across the street, but this
11 continues even though the kids are long gone. And I
12 believe this year we had 23 stockings on the mantle.
13 And if things go according to plan and Mark and Amanda,
14 my granddaughter and her husband's, adoption goes
15 through next month, we'll pick up three more great
16 grandkids.

17 Did you know about that, Jane?

18 MS. CROUCH: I didn't know about that.

19 MR. ANGLIN: A nine-year-old boy and his
20 twin brother and sister who are six years old.

21 MS. CROUCH: Wow. That's neat.

22 MR. ANGLIN: So we're going to have to
23 stock the refrigerator a little better.

24 MS. CROUCH: Yes, you are. Yes, you are.

1 MR. EIDSON: Did -- excuse me. Did --

2 Dr. Kooken used your house as his office --

3 MR. ANGLIN: Yes.

4 MR. EIDSON: -- is that -- is that

5 correct?

6 MR. ANGLIN: The curved part on the front

7 corner with the privacy glass was his office. Now, I

8 just learned recently, and I believe this to be true,

9 that the elder Dr. Kooken would go down to the depot,

10 which was, what, four blocks away, on Friday evening and

11 spend the weekend in Dallas. Well, one day his wife got

12 in the depot in time to see another lady get on the

13 train with him, and when he returned on Sunday, she shot

14 him three times, not fatally but it was very much hushed

15 up.

16 MR. EIDSON: Until today.

17 MR. ANGLIN: Well, I know that --

18 Dr. Kooken was after -- my doctor as a young adult and

19 on good terms. He never wanted anything to do with that

20 house. We found some of his college memorabilia up in a

21 closet. He burned it. So there was something not

22 pleasant about his experience with his family.

23 MR. EIDSON: Well, it's a beautiful -- a

24 beautiful house, and I understand that it was part of

25 the backdrop slide show in the play of The Immigrant.

22

1 MR. ANGLIN: It is a part of Mark
2 Harelík's play, The Immigrant. Most of y'all have seen
3 that. Mark brought his director and somebody else here.
4 They spent a week in Hamilton, and they would come in
5 and make pictures where the light would come through the
6 drapes. And, anyhow, that is Banker Perry's house, and
7 then the house next door, the Fred Freddy house that Joe
8 Moore now owns was the Harelík's house. And there's
9 been talk of a movie, but I haven't heard anything about
10 that in a long time.

11 MR. EIDSON: Interesting.

12 MR. ANGLIN: But it's just a great play.

13 MR. EIDSON: It is. It is certainly a
14 great play.

15 In terms of farming back in your
16 childhood, you talked about the switchover to using
17 tractors and mentioned planting sweet potatoes. What
18 were the -- what were the crops that you raised?

19 MR. ANGLIN: Corn and milo. We called it
20 maize then. And broomcorn was a cash crop. Most
21 farmers had ten or 15 acres of broomcorn, and there was
22 a man named Suggs that had a broom factory at Evant. So
23 you'd haul this broomcorn to Evant to sell it. And
24 broomcorn is a sorghum and it makes -- when it heads

25 out, it makes seed, and you go in and break the top off

23

1 of it, and they -- you go along about every 15 feet and
2 break some stalks over and make what they call a table,
3 and you'd lay this -- you know, a handful, whatever you
4 could handle, on that table to dry out for about a week,
5 then come along and tie it, and then haul it to Evant
6 and sell it, but it was an imported cash crop. But
7 before broomcorn -- and plastic, then, took the place of
8 broomcorn basically. Although, you still can buy a corn
9 broom. But the crops were basically corn and cotton and
10 milo and oats and wheat. And there was a grand somewhat
11 like wheat they called Spelt, S-p-e-l-t-z [sic], and
12 that's something that's come and gone. It was a
13 livestock feed. I never knew of it being human food,
14 although I don't know why it could not be. And most
15 farmers had chickens and had a milk cow or two, and we'd
16 skim them -- the cream off the milk and put it in what
17 they called a cream can and sell it every Saturday; ours
18 to Norman Clark over across the highway from the
19 doughnut shop. I never understood why people did not
20 die from eating that cream that had been sitting out in
21 the warm weather for a week, but maybe they did. But --
22 and sell -- oh, I guess, a typical farmer would sell
23 maybe ten dozen eggs a week, something like that. And
24 then the produce people would haul them to the city to

25 the grocery store. And they candled eggs in those days,

24

1 and an egg would keep longer if it was not fertile. So
2 they could take this candling machine and actually look
3 through the egg. There was a light bulb, but -- it
4 wasn't a candle. Maybe it was at one time -- and you
5 could tell whether the egg was fertile or not, and if it
6 was fertile, it went in one stack to be sold
7 immediately, and the others to be shipped. Had y'all
8 ever heard about that?

9 MR. EIDSON: No.

10 MR. ANGLIN: A lot of times the
11 farmer's -- farmer's wife took care of the cream and egg
12 money. And one of my favorite stories is that the --
13 Old Man Arnick built a house out here on the Cowhouse
14 Creek. He would have been older than my parents, that
15 generation. He had a little shotgun box house, and he
16 wanted it to face one way and the wife wanted it to face
17 the other way. Well, he lost. No. She lost. It faced
18 his way. Well, Mr. Arnick would hook up one horse to
19 the buggy and come to town on Saturday afternoon and
20 play dominos with Sons of the Pioneers, and a bale of
21 whiskey changed hands. And one Sunday morning he comes
22 up that hill in that buggy and his house has been turned
23 around in the moonlight, and he had a little trouble
24 realizing what he was seeing. Well, Mrs. Arnick had

25 saved up cream and egg money. She hired Joe Schooler to

25

1 go up there and turn it around. No plumbing, no wiring,
2 just turn it around. But that was so romantic and
3 pretty quick a thing.

4 One time my parents were down there
5 visiting Bratton and Mary -- this was Bratton's
6 father -- and the Hadley boys came up, and they said,
7 "Mr. Arnick, we'd sure like to go down below that brook
8 and pick up some of the rattlesnakes." He said, "You
9 boys are welcome to it, but there ain't no rattlesnakes
10 in this place. I was raised here and my dad was raised
11 here, and we've never seen a rattlesnake, but go ahead."
12 Well, they came back up and had about a third or so sack
13 full of rattlesnakes. And Bratton turned to Mary and
14 said, "Mary, I now see the advantages of indoor
15 plumbing."

16 Oh, let's see. In 196- -- we had four
17 little kids and no money, but in -- beginning of 1968, I
18 was an Oliver Typewriter dealer, and we won a trip to
19 Europe, all expenses paid for two, three consecutive
20 years. That probably changed my wife's life more than
21 anything I ever did except maybe getting married. She
22 thoroughly enjoys travel, and she's been back with
23 students many times. Probably 12 or 15 times.

24 MR. EIDSON: Good heavens.

25 MR. ANGLIN: And because of the -- Gary

26

1 and Nancy and Larry and being so close together, we had
2 four in college at the same time. We had one at Rice,
3 one at the University of Dallas, one at UT, and one at
4 McMurry. I finally bought an extra car and a wrecker,
5 then Saturday you'd hook up and go somewhere, but that's
6 all history now.

7 MR. EIDSON: There was a story -- pardon
8 me, Garland -- Garland, that you told about -- I think
9 it was your great grandfather who walked from
10 Kentucky --

11 MR. ANGLIN: My Grandfather Rutger. He
12 walked there from Campbellsville, Kentucky, and settled
13 near Shive.

14 MR. EIDSON: When was this?

15 MR. ANGLIN: It would have been around the
16 turn of the century. Born in '84. So it would have
17 been right after 1900. Settled east of Shive. And
18 among other things, he owned a steam engine, and he --
19 it came from St. Louis to Dallas by rail, and one winter
20 he walked beside it and chopped wood and drove it to
21 Hamilton, which took weeks. It would make about a mile
22 an hour.

23 MR. EIDSON: Good heavens.

24 MR. ANGLIN: I wish I had asked him how he

25 crossed the river.

27

1 MR. EIDSON: Yeah, that is a question. So
2 when we're talking about a steam engine, we're talking
3 about the thing they used to hook threshers up to in the
4 field?

5 MR. ANGLIN: He used this to power
6 threshers is threshing season, and it powered a gin in
7 Shive in ginning season. And just west of Shive,
8 there's still an old rock and concrete contraption that
9 they backed this thing up to to stabilize it. It's
10 still there.

11 MR. EIDSON: Wow. Boy, that's -- while
12 we're talking about old times again, did you -- did you
13 ever run into Brushy Bill here in town?

14 MR. ANGLIN: Right down here in front of
15 the Jordan Pharmacy. He wore a felt hat with flat brown
16 and silver conchos, and my mother was afraid of him.
17 She wouldn't let me go up and talk to him, but, yes, I
18 remember him very well. See, he died in 1951. I was
19 13, 14 years old. Yes, I remember him very well. And I
20 believe he is the real thing.

21 MR. EIDSON: Do you recall some of the
22 stories that -- that he might have told?

23 MR. ANGLIN: I never heard one. No.

24 MR. EIDSON: Okay.

25 MR. ANGLIN: But I'm sure there were some.

28

1 MR. EIDSON: Well, I wanted to leap
2 forward a little bit timewise. Back in the 1970s that
3 you -- you worked with Cambodian refugees. If you
4 could, tell us something about that story.

5 MR. ANGLIN: Yes. This was a Methodist
6 church -- a Methodist project through the Church of
7 World Service. There was a thing called the Cambodian
8 Boat People, and various churches were organizing and
9 resettling them. And strange this should come up
10 because Monday will be 40 years. It was April 15, 40
11 years ago. And there was this large family, about nine
12 of them, and they could not get a sponsor because of the
13 large number of people, and we decided that we would
14 bite that off. And they were in Camp Khao Yai,
15 Thailand, you know, a refugee camp, a pretty bad deal.
16 So we were to meet them at DFW at 7:00 in the evening,
17 and it was Donna and me and Ken and Sue Gardner and Bob
18 Lindsey and his wife, who was our pastor at the time,
19 and Warren and Louise Alexander.

20 MR. EIDSON: And this was a family, a
21 mother, father, children?

22 MR. ANGLIN: A mother, father, and five
23 children at that time.

24 MR. EIDSON: Five children.

1 not speak any English. So I had met a man named
2 Barnett, who worked for Braniff, very briefly. His
3 daughter was a bicentennial courier to Europe for
4 Governor Briscoe, and our son, Gary, was the same thing,
5 and we had been in one meeting together, just the
6 briefest encounter, but he was the only person I knew.
7 So I called him. "Oh, yeah. Yeah. I remember you.
8 What can I do for you?" "Well, we've got some
9 Cambodians coming in tomorrow evening. I need you to
10 find somebody that can talk to them." He said, "I'll do
11 what I can." Well, we got up there, and they had come
12 in an hour before we expected them, but he had them. He
13 had taken them to the restroom, got them a Coke, that
14 kind of thing. And these people are in awful shape.
15 They've been to -- adults have starved themselves to
16 feed the kids. And they had cardboard boxes with rope
17 around it with a few belongings, clothes and rice bowls
18 and their Bible, and Mr. Barnett called me aside and he
19 said, "I admire what y'all are doing. That man does not
20 have a dime to his name. Can I give him some money?"
21 "Well, yeah." He handed -- he had gone to the bank and
22 got a hundred new one dollar bills, but the man had some
23 money then. And I'll never forget bringing them home.
24 We stopped at Kentucky Fried Chicken and got them fed,

25 and we had no way to talk to them. By the time we got

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1 to -- and this is 11:30 at night, pitch-black. They
2 don't know where we're taking them. They don't know
3 we're not going to take them out and kill them, and
4 there's no way for us to communicate it to them. Well,
5 we had rented a little house up there on Corner Street
6 near the school and tried to furnish it with [sic] and
7 that kind of thing. We got up there that night, and
8 they were clearly afraid, and rightly so, and Bob
9 Lindsey, the preacher, kept saying "You'll be okay.
10 You'll be okay" louder and louder and louder. Finally,
11 Warren called him aside and said, "Preacher, it's not
12 their hearing. They don't speak English. Louder won't
13 help."

14 Well, that was on a Thursday -- late
15 Thursday night. Well, we had put some minimal groceries
16 in there, but we had no way to tell them, "There's
17 plenty more. You're not going to go hungry." We found
18 out only later that a hundred pounds of rice is their
19 security. If we had known to take them a hundred pounds
20 of rice, their life would have been much easier. But we
21 found a -- Sing was the oldest boy. When we got them,
22 it was Papa Sang and Keogh, the mother. Sing was 19.
23 Then there was Tsai and Bau and Boi. There was another
24 one. But anyhow, they had an older brother that had

25 gotten out to Paris, and he could never come to the

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1 United States. He got out under an assumed name, and
2 there was a problem with his paperwork. Now, they have
3 since been to see him numerous times. And there were
4 two daughters that the Viet Cong had killed. Well, one
5 night the phone rings, and I answered it, and somebody
6 is speaking Cambodian. So I sent Larry up the field to
7 get Sing and come running back down there. It's this
8 dead sister calling from Denver with her two-year-old
9 daughter Yong that they didn't even know they had.
10 Well, Jim and Linda Taylor were involved with us on that
11 at the time, and Jim knew somebody in Denver that had
12 worked for Jostens, whom he worked for. He called this
13 guy and he said, "I've arranged for the tickets to the
14 airport. You go get this woman and this little girl and
15 put them on an airplane." And they fallen in with some
16 undesirable people. And the guy called us back, and he
17 said, "I hope I got the wrong ones, but they're on" --
18 "the right ones, but they're on the plane." And then
19 Yong was on our state championship basketball team.
20 Probably one of the most gorgeous human beings I've ever
21 seen. And she married a banker and she lived in Rome,
22 got about a ten-year-old son. And, of course, most of
23 y'all know the stories of the others. They've been in
24 several businesses, a weight loss clinic, Chinese food

1 hired the old man and gave him a good job for many
2 years, and it helped immensely.

3 But they are very goal oriented. They
4 hadn't been here very long, and he said to me in his own
5 way, "I want that house." Well, there's a house down
6 there on South Rice, a pink brick house, about the
7 second one or third one down from [sic]. I said, "Well,
8 there's two problems. You don't have money and it's not
9 for sale." "I'll buy it." Well, he did. I don't know
10 how, but he did. One day -- oh, and our part -- one of
11 our main things with the Cambodians is they came to our
12 house at 8:00 every night for homework from the
13 schoolhouse, and they'd come line up and circle around
14 the teacher and we'd have homework for an hour. And one
15 day Sing came over --

16 MR. EIDSON: So that was -- that was
17 your -- Donna --

18 MR. ANGLIN: Yes.

19 MR. EIDSON: -- your wife was a teacher in
20 the school district here --

21 MR. ANGLIN: Yeah.

22 MR. EIDSON: -- and helped with homework?

23 MR. ANGLIN: Right.

24 MR. EIDSON: And she was the English

25 teacher, too, which I imagine helped.

33

1 MR. ANGLIN: And I believe the children
2 that came have been highly successful in anything they
3 try to do. Bau is a -- has been a Sonic manager. I
4 don't -- I'm not sure what he's doing now. And, of
5 course, Boi was a teacher here for a long time, and now
6 she's teaching in Houston, but they can do anything.

7 But, anyhow, one day Sing was over at our
8 house, and he said, "Papa wants to know if you'd buy us
9 a hog. We'll pay for it. You just get it." I said,
10 "What are you going to do?" "Going to kill it." "It's
11 August. It's hot." "Oh, it's hot in Cambodia." You
12 cannot win an argument with them. They're always right.
13 So I thought, "Okay." "Saturday morning, going to kill
14 it out at your place?" "Yep. Got shade and water."
15 "Saturday morning at 9:00, I'll have a hog there." He
16 comes back and says, "Uncle is coming from Houston. Get
17 two hogs." Okay. I'll get two hogs. And so I called
18 Bob Wright, and he took care of it. And I got out
19 there, and here are all these Cambodians in loin cloths
20 with sharp knives. It was a little bit scary. And Sing
21 says to me "You shoot them and go to town," meaning he
22 didn't want to take my time. "Well, Sing, let's shoot
23 one of them. I know what to do with a live hog in the
24 summertime." Well, we let this one out, and I shot him.

1 and he walks around him. I thought, "Does he know what
2 he's doing?" In a little bit, he makes an incision in
3 that hog's throat. I never saw a hog bleed like that.
4 He knew exactly what he was doing. Well, these women
5 flipped that hog over on his back and skinned him and
6 worked him up on his own skin. Now, they don't do the
7 traditional ham and pork chops and bacon. They don't --
8 it's cubed pork to stir-fry with the rice. And I went
9 back out there later in the day to see if anything
10 needed to be -- there wasn't even a fly there. You
11 could not tell where they were. They're meticulously
12 clean about everything they do. But life in the camp
13 was so bad. Boi was eight or nine years old. She does
14 not recall any of Camp Khao Yai. But the day we got
15 them, they had been from Khao Yai to Anchorage to
16 Sacramento to Dallas. They had no idea where they were
17 on the globe. Papa had two seagoing diesel fishing
18 boats, and they got word that the Vietcong were coming
19 for the older boys. He transferred the fuel from one
20 ship to the other and sank one of them, and that's the
21 way they went to Cambodia. And I found out later that
22 he's fluent in seven languages, but he doesn't read or
23 write. And I said, you know, "That seems strange." He
24 didn't need it. "I catch fish. I hire people to read

25 and write." But they are very bottom-line people.

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1 MR. EIDSON: I forgot my question. Wait a
2 second. So how -- how were they received in Hamilton?
3 And what year was this again? This was --

4 MR. ANGLIN: Oh, that was -- that was 40
5 years ago. It would have been '78.

6 MR. EIDSON: Okay. '78. How were they
7 received by the community here?

8 MR. ANGLIN: I think very well, and that
9 was a question Helen Thompson had when we were talking
10 about doing this. But they minded their own business,
11 they worked hard, and when it was over a year -- not
12 over, but a year or two in when they were settled, we
13 sat down one night and we figured out what it cost. We
14 saved their life for \$100 a piece. That's pretty cheap.

15 MR. EIDSON: That is.

16 MR. ANGLIN: And they have since been to
17 see the two daughters. Well, one of them came here, and
18 one of them is living on an island off of Vietnam, and
19 she -- everybody is fine. And the old lady -- when we
20 got them, I thought "She won't live until we get to
21 Hico," and she lived 39 more years. But it was an
22 interesting, interesting experience, and it's still
23 going on.

24 Now, the daughter that came with the

25 child, the Vietcong killed her husband, and she -- we

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1 were talking -- after we got to where we could talk,
2 she's "I cannot go to church until I kill the man that
3 killed my husband, and he lives in Houston." Now, I
4 don't know whatever happened, maybe nothing, but that's
5 what she said, and I don't doubt it.

6 MR. EIDSON: Wow. That's quite a story.

7 Well, Garland, you've had a long history
8 of working as a volunteer in -- in our community, and I
9 thought perhaps you could talk a little bit about the
10 different charitable organizations and work that you've
11 done.

12 MR. ANGLIN: Well, we came onto a thing
13 four years ago through my daughter-in-law, Robin, who is
14 a teacher at Hamilton High School -- at Hamilton
15 Elementary School, that the school had quit doing
16 weekend backpacks because they couldn't get anybody to
17 do it and they didn't have room for it, which sounds
18 like a pretty lame excuse, but that's what I was told.
19 So we have a little group of men that meet at the
20 Methodist church on Thursday morning and have breakfast
21 and kind of look for little things that we can do, and
22 we unanimously agreed that we would do the backpacks.
23 And there is zero local cost. It comes from the Terry
24 area food bank, and every other Tuesday the truck comes

25 and brings a two-week supply. On Wednesday afternoon, I

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1 pick up the backpacks that are furnished by the food
2 bank, pick them up at the school, take them to the
3 church, and on Thursday morning, we eat breakfast, and
4 we put this food in these backpacks. It's presorted
5 food, and it's the equivalent for a child of somewhere
6 in the neighborhood of four or five meals, and it's good
7 stuff, no junk, and then we take those backpacks to the
8 school on Thursday, and on Friday, they distribute them,
9 and they go home for the weekend. And we are just
10 ending our fourth year of that, and I've -- I've tried
11 to put some numbers on it, but it touches a good many
12 people with zero cost.

13 The other thing we do through the Terry
14 area food bank -- they have a free summer lunch program.
15 They serve 13 counties, and we did that in 2016. And
16 the way it works is they send a truck on Mondays and
17 Wednesdays with a hot meal for that day, a cold meal for
18 the next day, and so on. And the first year, we served
19 1,104 kid meals, and the second year, we served 1,507
20 kid meals. Now, we've learned pretty quick that the old
21 ladies that bring those kids are hungry, too, and we
22 can't use the food bank food for anyone over 19 -- over
23 18. So thanks to some local people, we are able to feed
24 the adults. And I did not track the adults, but I feel

25 like we fed around a thousand adult meals this year.

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1 And the problem is that -- we have a kid table and we
2 have an adult table. Sometimes the adult table looks so
3 much better, the kids go straight there.

4 MR. EIDSON: That's true.

5 MR. ANGLIN: And Jim is one of our 35
6 volunteers. We have a team of seven that comes in every
7 day, and they do the same thing, but the team leader --
8 it had a little different flavor. Somebody does --
9 keeps the milk cold this way, somebody does the green
10 grapes and strawberries this way. There's no wrong way.
11 It's just a little bit different. Now, the only
12 requirement for the children -- this is not need based.
13 Now, the backpacks are need based. They're related to
14 the free summer -- the free lunch program, but the
15 summer lunches, the only requirement is that we ask them
16 to wash their hands. We don't take a name, we don't
17 take an address, nothing. Not that we mind knowing
18 their name, but there are zero requirements. Now, I
19 think -- and Jim may back me up on this, but I was there
20 every day for 68 days this summer, and I can tell what
21 kids are hungry. I'm not talking about because it's
22 12:00. I'm talking about because they haven't had
23 anything since yesterday.

24 MS. CROUCH: No doubt.

25 MR. ANGLIN: And I think we're doing

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1 something good.

2 MR. EIDSON: Oh, I agree.

3 MR. ANGLIN: Now, from the church, it
4 should be a win-win deal. It puts a child in that
5 building for a pleasant experience. And we've had -- in
6 two years, we've had one incident. This year we had one
7 kid spill a glass of milk.

8 MR. EIDSON: They are amazingly
9 well-behaved. It's an -- it's an orderly process.

10 MR. ANGLIN: They really are. And I'm
11 right now trying to figure out how we can do a better
12 job this year. I'd like to see us get up to 2,000
13 meals.

14 MR. EIDSON: That's really, really
15 possible.

16 MS. CROUCH: How do you get the word out?

17 MR. ANGLIN: Every way we can think of.
18 Maria is very cooperative with the newspaper. We have
19 handouts at school. The school announces it in the
20 class. We put flyers in the backpacks.

21 Now, a little side event here.
22 Thirteen years ago, Barbara Johnson and some others, a
23 schoolteacher, did a reenactment of what they believed
24 may have been the last dinner on the Titanic, and they

25 came to the Methodist church, went downstairs, and

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1 decorated -- transformed that room to what a dining room
2 on a ship might have looked like, and the kids were told
3 the dress code is wear the best thing you have and it'll
4 be okay. And the superintendent dresses up like the
5 captain. And these kids come in there -- and the
6 parents and the teachers cooked, and they're the
7 servers, waiters and waitresses, and my wife, Donna,
8 furnishes the dishes. She has 1,400 of this one kind of
9 china. And I believe they take about 740 pieces across
10 the street. And they've gotten to where -- about five
11 years ago, Jon Lengefeld was involved, and he bought big
12 plastic totes, and we never even unpacked them. They
13 just live upstairs in those plastic totes, and Sunday,
14 May 6, they'll come over and carry them across the
15 street, they'll put them back in the tote, and bring
16 them back until next year. So I would encourage any of
17 you to come down there a little after noon on May 7 and
18 watch them parade around the square.

19 You've probably seen them, Andy.

20 MR. EIDSON: Seen the pictures.

21 MR. ANGLIN: And they are on their best
22 behavior. A few years ago, Donna got a letter from a
23 little boy that said, "Thank you for using your pretty
24 dishes. We didn't break none." I also was cooking

25 steaks for them one year, and this lady came up and

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1 said, "I don't know how this is going to work." "What
2 do you mean?" She said, "My son's never eaten anything
3 that wasn't fried." "Well, tell him to get ready." But
4 some of these kids have had such a limited experience
5 culturally. They don't know about the silverware and
6 the different courses and things like that. I don't
7 know why this has stayed with me, but one time 40 years
8 ago, maybe, we went to Brownwood, and Laura took a
9 little friend along with her, a girl. She was probably
10 13 years old, and we ate at Long John Silver's. This
11 little girl goes, "Oh, I've never had seafood."

12 MS. CROUCH: Wow.

13 MR. ANGLIN: But we have some of that, and
14 this is just one little way to try to enhance these
15 children. Our preacher did not -- is new this year, and
16 he didn't know about it, and I was talking to him about
17 it this week. And I said, "You know, there's not a
18 preacher in the world that wouldn't kill to have every
19 student in the school sometime during their education
20 have a four-hour pleasant experience in your church."
21 You know, 20 years from now, they may say, "You know,
22 church is not a bad deal." We don't know.

23 MR. EIDSON: Well, that's true.

24 Do we have any questions from the panel?

25 MR. MCMULLEN: No.

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1 MS. CROUCH: I've enjoyed every moment of
2 this.

3 MR. EIDSON: Absolutely.

4 MS. CROUCH: Thank you, Garland.

5 MR. ANGLIN: Now, some of that's true.

6 MR. MCMULLEN: Thank you, Garland.

7 MS. CROUCH: Some of it's true.

8 MR. MCMULLEN: Thank you, Garland.

9 MS. CROUCH: We appreciate it.

10 MR. EIDSON: That was great. Well, we
11 appreciate you taking your time and sharing --

12 MR. ANGLIN: My pleasure.

13 MR. EIDSON: -- sharing your history and
14 information. It's been -- been delightful. Thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. ANGLIN: Well, thank y'all.

17 MS. CROUCH: You're so welcome.

18 (INTERVIEW CONCLUDED)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

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3 I, Jamie Cooley, Certified Shorthand

4 Reporter for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that

5 the above and foregoing interview contains a true and

6 correct transcription of all portions of the

7 proceedings, all of which were reported by me.

8 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my hand on

9 this the 31st day of January, 2019.

10

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