

(Tape 1 of 2)

An Oral History Tape Transcription

Of

Interviewer: Sarah Swofford

Interviewee: Phyllis Busch

October 9, 1979

SS: My name is Sarah Swofford. The date is October 9, 1979. I'm having an oral history conversation with Mrs. M.L. Busch at Sterling Municipal Library, Baytown, Texas.

SS: Now, Mrs. Busch, would you give us your full name?

PB: Mrs. M.L., or Phyllis Busch.

SS: Phyllis.

PB: Uh-huh. P-H-Y-L-L-I-S.

SS: Ok. And what was your name before you married?

PB: Phyllis Triggs.

SS: How did you spell that?

PB: T-R-I-G-G-S.

SS: T-R-A...

PB: I, I.

SS: T-R-I

PB: G

SS: G-S?

PB: Right.

SS: Ok. Um, now what was your father's name?

PB: My father's name was Jessie Itriggs. He came to this country from London, England.

SS: Oh, he was an Englishman?

PB: Yes.

SS: Do you know when he arrived here?

PB: Well...

SS: Approximately, you know.

PB: ... it was before 1900. It was ...

SS: And did he come to this area in those days?

PB: He came to Galveston. To Galveston.

SS: I see.

PB: He had a produce house there. And my mother's family lived over at San Leon, but she was going to school in Galveston at that time.

SS: That's how she met your father?

PB: Right.

SS: I see. And what was your mother's name before she married?

PB: Uh, Trumbo. T-R-U-M-B-O. Edith Trumbo.

SS: T-R-U-M?

PB: B-O. Um-hmm.

SS: Edith?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Ok. Did you say she was also English?

PB: No, no.

SS: Oh.

PB: She had lived – no, her folks, her father was French. From that name you'd know he would be French.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And her mother was Scotch. So we just ...

SS: And she lived at San Leon and was going to school in Galveston.

PB: Right.

SS: When she met your father?

PB: Hmm.

SS: Um... ok, now how did – when did you come ... well, first of all, when were you born?

PB: I was born at Galveston, August 28, 1903.

SS: And how long did your family live in Galveston? Before you came to Baytown?

PB: Well, in between there we moved to Houston. And my father was killed in a – he had gone to Canada to work, and was killed in a commercial accident. So...

SS: In Canada?

PB: In Canada. So we lived in Houston for a while, and my mother remarried, and we moved to New Mexico for her health. Then we moved back to Dallas, and then we came back to Baytown.

SS: And when – what year was that?

PB: Nine – 1916.

SS: Came in 1916. Um, let's see, so you were about, what? Twelve or 13 years old?

PB: About 12. I hadn't had my 13th birthday, I don't think cause we came after school was out in Dallas, and my birthday's not till August.

SS: Um-hmm. Uh... What do you first remember about Bay-, and what part of this area did you settle in, first?

PB: Well, we lived over on Eisenhower property. We lived in a tent; the tent was, you know, built up.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And it was about over there somewhere in the area of where the tunnel is.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Uh, but I think the first thing that I would very readily recall was we came down from Houston on a boat.

SS: Oh, you did? Oh.

PB: And it rained on us all the way down, and there was some ducks on the outside, and they were just very happy over the weather.

SS: (Laughs)

PB: But the smell from the ducks, and ... I thought, oh, this is the end of the world.

SS: I'm sure you did think that. (Laughs)

PB: We had just come from Dallas, and I thought this is – but my stepfather had been told by his doctor to seek outside employments. He had had fallen arches.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And so he was coming down to fire a boiler. That was the employment he was coming...

SS: It was in the oilfields, I guess?

PB: Right. In the oilfield.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And so, that was gonna be ... our life.

SS: In those days, I – that was I guess when it was beginning to boom here.

PB: Um-hmm. Right.

SS: They were just building up the oilfields, uh...

PB: Yes, they hadn't even had the sweet 16 well hadn't come in yet. The big well.

SS: Well, that was before that?

PB: It was even before that. But I had an uncle who was a fill manager for a land company, and he had encouraged us to come here.

SS: Now, did you have brothers and sisters? I forgot to ask.

PB: I had just one sister.

SS: So the four of you lived in this tent ...

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: ... when you first arrived?

PB: When we first came here.

SS: How long did it take you to find a home or to find a place to live out there?

PB: Well, it wasn't very – it wasn't very long until we had a little house over in what is now Pelly.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And then in the short while we had a house out in Goose Creek or Newtown; it was Newtown then.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And I think my most vivid thing there, remembrance there is the man that brought our water in the barrel.

SS: Oh, he delivered water to your house?

PB: In a barrel. Twenty-five cents a barrel.

SS: Well, I supposed there weren't any water wells around here then.

PB: There wasn't any water pipes, no – nothing like that. And I guess that was – and Brother Anderson had the Baptist Church, and kids all in the neighborhood just loved him to pieces. And he made – you know, he was just a friendly person. He came to our homes, and...

SS: Now, this was in Goose Creek when you lived there?

PB: In Goose Creek, after we lived up in Goose Creek. Um-hmm.

SS: Well, to back up just a little bit to the sort of tent city, I guess. I've heard of something they called tent city when Baytown first developed.

PB: Well, yes. I guess it was a city – we weren't, there weren't that many people over there. But your – you were up on blocks, and then you had a floor, then it was built up maybe two or three feet. Then you had screen. Then the tent was over there.

SS: Sort of like – I've seen pictures in World War II of some of our troops in the tropics had tents like that.

PB: Right.

SS: They had wooden floors and sort of a half wall...

PB: Right.

SS: ...and then screen and canvas top.

PB: And then he canvas top. We had, uh, two rooms: a kitchen and the eating area, and then the bedroom.

SS: Were the people friendly? Did you find that...

PB: Very friendly. Very...

SS: ... they were helpful to each other?

PB: Right. That's – they were very helpful. And of course had come from all over the county, you know, to come.

SS: Um... well, let's see, now. To go back you were talking about your life in Goose Creek. Um... I guess you were going to school by that time?

PB: Yes. Yes. Going ...

SS: Where did you go to school, first?

PB: Well, when we first, uh, the first public school was what we called The Barn. It was where the – it's ... where the Jewish synagogue is located, now.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And that's where we went to school until we got to be in high school, and then we went over to where the YMCA building used to be. Well, it's Citizen's State Bank, now.

SS: Uh-huh. Let's see now, the Jewish s synagogue is located on that corner. That's Commerce and ...

PB: Sterling, I ...

SS: Sterling, isn't it?

PB: I believe. Uh-huh. And that's was the first school we went to.

SS: Um-hmm. And from there you went where?

PB: Over to the YMCA building.

SS: Oh, I see.

PB: For high school.

SS: Now where was that?

PB: Well, that was over there – well, it was behind where the library used to be.

SS: Oh.

PB: Across ... well, like the library was here. Then, you know, then across this street, and the YMCA building was there.

SS: The little library that was on Texas Avenue and, uh...

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: ... I can't remember what that street is there.

PB: I don't know what that cross street is. But anyway, it just a block back of there was the YMCA building.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And that was our high school. Until in '23 they built Horace Mann.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then that ...

SS: And then you went to Horace Mann?

PB: No. Then I got married. (Laughs)

SS: Oh, that was about the time you'd gotten ...

PB: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

SS: Ok, well before we get into, uh, who you married and so forth, I wanted to ask you a little bit about living in Goose Creek. Did people work hard in those days? What was a typical day like in your – like in your home?

PB: Oh, yes. Um... my mother, of course, did not work then except ... just to help the neighbors. There was a woman in our, in that neighborhood that baked bread; she had a bakery.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And my mother would help there some, and – but she did, was not employed as such.

SS: But people ...

PB: And she was beginning to develop this pernicious anemia. We didn't know at that time what it was.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But she wasn't so well.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And that's one reason we had gone to New Mexico, and then we came back. But of course now they know more about it.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Then – you know.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But she'd go in the hospital and have blood transfusion, and then come out and ... for a while.

SS: Well, would you say that your life as a child with your sister and your friends was fairly carefree? Were you – did you roam around the community or ...

PB: Yes.

SS: You were free to ... and felt safe to, uh, kind of explore the countryside?

PB: I would ... I would say that. Uh, there was a picture show. When we lived in, uh... Pelly. My sister (coughs) sister did like picture shows. I didn't care too much about 'em; I'd rather read.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And so, um... And Mr. Trifon has the picture show down in Pelly, and he was a friend of – got to be a friend of the family. And so, many times she'd go without having to pay the fee.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And he was just real good to the kids in the neighborhood, letting 'em go to the picture show.

SS: Um-hmm. Now, was this before they had talking? Were these silent movies?

PB: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Uh-huh. Um-hmm.

SS: And they had, uh... some kind of music, I guess to go with it?

PB: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah.

SS: It wasn't a piano player, was it canned music of some kind?

PB: It was kind ... I guess, I – there was a person, they – they played the piano down there.

SS: Oh, they had someone there to play it? I brought some pictures here. We had a ...

(Papers shuffling)

PB: See, there was a piano.

SS: Oh, and this is a picture in the old theater? The movie theater?

PB: Yeah, we had – we had a Christmas play.

SS: Oh, I see. And is this – I wonder if this is a player piano? Do you know – do you remember?

PB: A person played it. Now...

SS: A man sat there and played it?

PB: And played. Now, whether he was using it manually or with a machine, I don't know.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, let's see, now. You said that about the time they built the Horace Mann School, which was about 1923.

PB: '23. Twenty-three or '24.

SS: You were married?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: And now what was your husband's name?

PB: Murray Lee Busch, or Murray L. Busch.

SS: Ok. Did you meet him here in Goose Creek? Or how did you meet Mr. Busch?

PB: (Laughs) You're gonna have a fit when I tell you.

SS: (Laughs)

PB: Well, when we – after my mother died, I went to live with an aunt and uncle who lived in Baytown. And they lived at Evergreen. Well, the uncle would bring me to school in the morning.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then in the afternoons when school was out, I was to go back down to Stephenson's Store in Pelly by a jitney. And my uncle would wait for me a certain period of time. Well, if we practiced ball, or if we had a ballgame – and we had our ballgames in the Baytown then cause no lights. Well, I'd go by a jitney to Pelly to Stephenson's Store. And then I'd walk through to Evergreen. Well, Murray and Peewee O'Brian were working for Mr. Stephenson in the store.

SS: This is Mr. R.C. Stephenson?

PB: Um-hmm. And so Murray got so he would make his deliveries to Evergreen in the afternoon, and would take me home. (Laughs)

SS: He had a purpose in doing that, I suppose.

PB: And it really did help a lot, because now I'm sure that not any little girl would walk from Pelly to Evergreen. Go through the woods and all. But at that time I was just as safe as I could be. You know. There were people living in that area.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, now see you were married – what date? What was your wedding date?

PB: 31st of March.

SS: March 31st.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: 1923?

PB: Right.

SS: And now, did you have children?

PB: Yeah, I have three girls.

SS: And what were their names?

PB: Edith, Edith Myrle, who is the oldest; and Mary Elaine; next, then 10 years later I had Laura Patricia.

SS: Now, do the girls still live around here in this area?

PB: Two of 'em live – one of 'em lives right next door to me. The other one lives about a half a mile up, and the other one lives in Alaska.

SS: And I suppose they're married?

PB: Yeah, they're all married and have families.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And all work for the school in some capacity.

SS: Oh, they all got involved with the school, too?

PB: Hmm.

SS: Well, that probably ...

PB: (Laughs)

SS: ... figures when you're – I heard you say that you did like to read, and we're gonna get into this thing about the school in a little bit. Now, you moved to Cedar Bayou after you were married?

PB: Right, uh-huh.

SS: Was that your husband's home?

PB: Right. Yes, he had been born out there. His father – I don't know – yes, I guess his father had been born on Cedar Bayou.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Across in Chambers County.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But Mother was born on this side in Harris County, but there at Cedar Bayou.

SS: So you moved out to Cedar Bayou then, and ...

PB: Um-hmm. And his mother, I guess, was about the third or fourth generations – generation there at Cedar Bayou. She had been a Kelley.

SS: Well, how did you ... how was your life after you settled out there? What was the community like?

PB: Well, it was I'm sure just a rural community. There was not that many people settled. We did not have telephones. For many years we did not have lights; we used kerosene or gasoline. And then, and my mother-in-law and father-in-law lived up – it was about a good half a mile from us. And he was sick a lot, and she'd hang a towel in her kitchen window, and that would mean for us to come. And one of my sister's lived on about a quarter of a mile the other side of me, but the way the houses were she could see the towel, and ...

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: ... as about as well as we. And that was an indication that his mother needed some help and for us to come.

SS: And so you'd go and lend assistance whatever was needed?

PB: Right. And, of course, at that time the Methodist Church was more or less a center of the community. There was a little Christian Church there, but it was very small. And the school was really the center of the community.

SS: The school?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: And now when you said the Methodist Church, you're speaking of Cedar Bayou Methodist?

PB: Of Cedar Bayou Methodist Church. And of course it was an old church; it was established in 1844. And ... uh... of course it's been remodeled, but the husband's people had given the land for the church and the cemetery to be built on (many years).

SS: Oh, the Busch family ...

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: ... donated that land to the church?

PB: Well, it was the Ray family that gave it, but it came on down to being Busch's, you know, through marriage.

SS: I see, uh-huh. Uh-huh. Now, did you and your husband belong to Cedar Bayou Methodist Church?

PB: Yes. I belonged, had belonged to First Methodist Church in Houston, but after I was married, and was gonna make my home here, in 1925 I brought my letter.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Out here. And it's been here since.

SS: And you're still a member of that church?

PB: Still a member.

SS: Well, um... Now, you said the school was the center of the community. Was there a social life connected with this?

PB: Yes. Our classes were not that big. And like, when the girls – the two older girls and then the younger one – we'd serve as room mothers. And we'd try to have something once a month for each of the classes. Sometimes it would be combined. Then maybe sometimes the activity would be there after school in the gym. Or I may, we'd take 'em on little trips or something. Or maybe – now, my house is through the, on the highway from there, and Murray'd get under the house and brace it thoroughly, and they'd have their dances and parties there at our house.

SS: At your house?

PB: After the girls were in school. And then as may and time for a mayfair had come, well we'd make a picture of the PTA, we'd make the costumes, and we had the mayfair. Everything, you know.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And we'd – the Christmas, community Christmas tree would be there, either at the church or the school.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, did you get involved with the school before your children were in school?

PB: No, no.

SS: It was when they started to school ...

PB: When they started school.

SS: ... that you began to get involved with the school?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: So this was probably in the '30's? That you ...

PB: Yeah, my oldest daughter started in '30. This is my 49th year to pay PTA dues.

SS: Oh! (Laughs) Well, let's see. I wanted to ask you one other thing, now. This was into the '30's, and that was about the Depression, which came in 1929?

PB: Yes.

SS: The crash came in '29?

PB: Right. Right. Um-hmm.

SS: How did that affect community and family life?

PB: Well, it just – it kind of threw us for a loop because Murray and one of his brothers, we had put our savings into a grocery store down in Pelly. And these people that were just as good as gold, when they lost their jobs they moved away with their grocery bills went unpaid.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And we had to pay the wholesaler. So, it kind of threw us for a good three years of just... But everybody else was in that same thing. So we didn't feel like we were really abused.

SS: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

PB: Because everybody else was having a hard time, too.

SS: The same sort of thing happened to many people at that time?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Well, did you feel that the community of, say, Cedar Bayou, or Baytown, or Goose Creek fared better than some places during the Depression, or ...

PB: Well, it seems to me like we did because, as I said, we all seemed to be in the same thing together.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And we didn't feel like – I know the ones that I knew, we didn't feel that we were so abused or mistreated or anything.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, now, you mentioned just before that about the PTA.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: That you were paying your dues for the 49th year?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: When did you first become interested in the PTA?

PB: Well, like I said, when my daughter started to school. And the sister-in-law was, had charge of the cafeteria. Course it was not ... anything like it is now. And she even made her own bread. And, so ... (coughs)

SS: For the cafeteria?

PB: For the cafeteria.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And I honestly – at one time she was sick, and some of us went in there to help – I didn't know there were that many ways to use bread.

SS: (Laughs)

PB: Puddings, and what have you, you know.

SS: She didn't waste any, though?

PB: She didn't – she was very careful. And then, sometimes when her health got so, and she gave it up, and we had some other people, and there just wouldn't be anybody, it would be the PTA people.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: That would man the cafeteria.

SS: That really ...

PB: Um-hmm, um-hmm.

SS: ... did the cafeteria work. If they were needed.

PB: If they were needed.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, now was there already an organization when you ...

PB: Oh, yes.

SS: ... you weren't in the original ...

PB: Oh, no.

SS: ... forming of it?

PB: They had had Parent Teacher help as such on the campus. I don't think it was a part of the state or national up even until after that time. But in 1916, um – I don't have one of our PTA yearbooks, but we had a Parent Teacher Association there on the campus in six – 1916.

SS: In 1916?

PB: Beginning in 1916.

SS: At Cedar Bayou?

PB: At Cedar Bayou. Well, then after the school areas were consolidated, and the Cedar Bayou School became a junior high.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And the ones of us who were in Parent Teacher work just moved lock, stock and barrel over to Bowie.

SS: Um-hmm. So that's the way ...

PB: So that's – it has been at James Bowie is an outgrowth of the Cedar Bayou.

SS: Parent Teacher Association is primarily for elementary school, is that right?

PB: Right. Right. In, in...

SS: It's not really too active in junior high or high school?

PB: No, no. And I don't – and I don't think here in Baytown area we have one organization in either one. Junior high nor high – elementary. But now in some areas – I think in Galena Park they do have.

SS: They do. Um-hmm.

PB: In some areas they have ...

SS: I thought I had heard of that, but I – you don't hear of it very much.

PB: No. Not much. Not very much.

SS: Now, you mentioned that in 1916 there was a chapter or a – on the campus.

PB: A PTA camp, uh-huh.

SS: I wonder how – do you have any idea how it was formed, or when it ...?

PB: Well, I guess they must have met to meet the needs of there at the school. I tell you, some of us would even take – there were not screens on the windows, and we'd have to take fly spray or fly swatters.

SS: (Laughs) To your PTA meeting?

PB: To the PTA meetings.

SS: My goodness.

PB: And then after we got up in the '30's and the '40's, we were – because we were a part of the county, that group, we were a part of Harris County Council.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And they met, uh ... just four times during the year.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And they'd have a luncheon at the school that was hostess. And in one of my yearbooks ... the – they out at the council they got a kick. We were – Cedar Bayou was gonna serve the luncheon that day, and a plate at the luncheon was gonna be 25 cents.

SS: (Laughs) You can't even have a drink at a luncheon now.

PB: No.

SS: Iced tea costs more than that usually.

PB: That's right.

SS: Um... Well, now what sort of things did you – you mentioned that you even helped in the cafeteria. Did you have projects like we do now to help the school? You know ...

PB: Yes.

SS: ... purchase, the piano?

PB: A piano, or something. Yes, and it was many, many years before we learned that that's not for PTA people to do.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But we did do it. And like I said, we made costumes for the Mayfade.

SS: You made, actually made costumes...

PB: We actually...

SS: ...for the children?

PB: For the children to wear in the Mayfade. I know one year we made 'em out – and course, it was mostly out of crepe paper – and the roof sprung a leak, and we had to do 'em all over again.

SS: The roof sprung a leak? (Laughs)

PB: And we had to do 'em all over again.

SS: Oh, dear. Well, could you sort of briefly describe one of these Mayfades? What did they do?

PB: Oh, yes. We had – oh, just really had it big. We had a king's court, we had the queen and the princess from the higher grades, each one. In the meantime they would had little contests raising money.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And it was just a penny a vote. And the one that got the most money – and it, it kind of was understood that it would come from the higher grades.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: The queen. But each of 'em would have a princess.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then the others would be, well, they'd either have a – act out a, like a nursery rhyme, or be sunflowers and sing a little song. You know.

SS: A little program that was presented.

PB: A program, uh-huh.

SS: Oh, yes it would be – would involve nearly every child in school.

PB: It – but it wasn't a carnival like thing?

SS: Oh, no, no. No, no.

PB: It was more a program or presentation ...

SS: A presentation, um-hmm.

PB: ... that was made in the auditorium.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And, now maybe we would have had our ... benefit at an earlier date, and we'd have Halloween carnivals. And they were money-making things.

SS: Yeah, I was gonna ask you how you raised money for the organization.

PB: Um-hmm. Well, we'd have a, maybe a carnival, a Halloween, you know?

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And that kept the youngsters, we thought, from doing the other things.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: You know?

SS: That weren't ... so productive. (Laughs)

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Uh-huh. Ok, well um... Did the community respond well to the PTA organization?

PB: Right.

SS: Did you get a lot of cooperation?

PB: I tell you, we put on a minstrel, even. Mr. Will Ilfree, uh, and some of those others – Ed Ilfree – some of those who were senior citizens.

SS: Now, are these the ones that had the stores and the ferry?

PB: Uh-huh.

SS: That he supervised?

PB: Ed Ilfree.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And he would just – he would just take the cake in the minstrels. Now these – and some – the women, too. And that would be – and I think, I actually think now they anticipated looking, you know, for that for the coming down the year. And ...

SS: They really enjoyed doing it, then?

PB: I think they did. I think they did.

SS: And I'm sure the community looked forward to seeing them perform?

PB: Right, right. And Mr. John M. Kilgore they all – you know, we could count on them.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And if we were gonna have – like at the Halloween carnival – we're gonna have a ducking stool, we could count on them.

SS: Who were some of the ... just kind of the staunch community residents out there? You mentioned the Kilgore's and the Ilfree's.

PB: Well, uh...

SS: I wonder what other families maybe were your neighbors?

PB: The Fishers. Of course Fisher's lived kind of down on the hill from us. And then the Smith's. Mr. Smith lived across because he was not any older. The older Mr. Smith had died before I moved out there.

SS: What was this Mr. Smith's name? Given name?

PB: R – the one across from me is Wheeler, was Wheeler.

SS: Wheeler Smith?

PB: Wheeler Smith. And his father was Robert Smith. And he had a brother, Robert. But ... and – but now there was some Smith's that worked for the county, and there were Charlie Massey. And I tell you, Charlie Massey – who was our Commissioner for many years – he would be the life of the show.

SS: Oh, really?

PB: He certainly would be the life of the show.

SS: And all of these people supported the community...

PB: Right.

SS: ...activities? And participated in.

PB: And participated. That's true. And now when – long years ago we'd be getting ready to go to a ballgame, course it'd be afternoon. Mr. Kilgore, he'd be there to give every one of the kids on the bus a quarter. For – course you could buy a hamburger and a ice cream for a quarter. And Mr. Ja–

SS: You mean, out of his own pocket?

PB: Out of his own pocket he was there to do that thing.

SS: Now, these were ballgames that they were just like we do today?

PB: Like we ... yes.

SS: Going to football, or basketball near the school?

PB: That's right. Except we had to go in the afternoons. We would go mostly in the afternoon.

SS: Did you have school buses to take you to it?

PB: Yeah, we sure did. Um-hmm.

SS: Um... How about your response from the schools? You know, the teachers and the administrators for your organization?

PB: Oh, they just couldn't have been any better. I don't believe I ever knew anybody that was disgruntled with PTA, except E.W. Bruce.

SS: (Laughs)

PB: And of course he had been a principal down at Horace Mann, and he didn't like any part of PTA. But Mr. Aikeridge and Mr. Owens and everybody that we had out there. Well, they almost demanded that their teachers be members.

SS: Now, were these Principals that you're mentioning?

PB: Um-hmm. Right.

SS: Mr. Akers and ...

PB: Aikeridge and ...

SS: Aikeridge?

PB: And Owens and some of them. And they would just – and Mr. Bennett. Course George Bennett came on down into the Goose Creek System.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Mr. Aikeridge. But they were just ... just... very cooperative.

SS: Now when did, um... Cedar Bayou School became a part of the Goose Creek Independent School System?

PB: In '54.

SS: 1954?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Um-hmm. And then what happened to Cedar Bayou School?

PB: The Cedar Bayou became a junior high. The Cedar Bayou School.

SS: And it is still?

PB: It is still a junior high. Um-hmm. And then they have added the two elementary schools out there: the Stephen F. Austin, and the James Bowie since they closed the little black school across the bayou. Closed it.

SS: What was it called?

PB: Victoria Walker School.

SS: Victoria...?

PB: Walker.

SS: And where was it located?

PB: Across Cedar Bayou, just right there in that Negro settlement.

SS: Sort of across from ... where Cedar Bayou School is now?

PB: No, no. It's clear down – it was on the bayou.

SS: On down by the bridge?

PB: On toward the bridge, right.

SS: Where the bridge is now.

PB: Right.

SS: Um-hmm. Ok. Victoria Walker School.

PB: Uh-huh. She was a teacher there so long. And I tell you she was a fabulous teacher. When it, when – before we had been a part of Goose Creek, and it was just a one-room school over there. And I worked out there at Smith's Store where she would come out and get either soup meat or stew meat or something, and she prepared a meal for all those youngsters on her own. Unless somebody else wanted to have...

SS: Every day?

PB: Every – every school day.

SS: And now what – what years was this?

PB: Well...

SS: During what time would you say?

PB: I would say that was maybe during the Depression years.

SS: Um-hmm. When maybe the children really came to school without enough to eat.

PB: Wouldn't have had a balanced meal.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: But Victoria saw that they got one good meal.

SS: She cooked up a stew or something like that?

PB: Um-hmm. Right.

SS: To see that the children were fed. Course these – this was before the days of integration?

PB: Right. Right. Yes.

SS: The Negro children had special schools?

PB: Yeah, they were.

SS: Separate schools.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Well, let's see – back to the PTA now, um... What kind of changes have you seen? You said you're still an active member?

PB: Right. Right.

SS: Could you just think of a little bit about some of the changes you've seen in those years?

PB: Yes. (Laughs)

SS: It's hard to just...

PB: It really is hard. At the James Bowie PTA – and I tell you, it was before we began to learn many of the objectives of PTA. And to get our, to make our people come out we thought it would help if we used the children in the program.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Of course we know now we should not exploit the children. But, uh, I still find that if we share with their parents some of the knowledge that they've gained, or lore that they've learned or something that the parents will come out.

SS: Um-hmm. And I think that's true.

PB: And, but – uh, according to the policies and all we should not exploit the children. You ought – and you ought to have your program so interesting the people are gonna come.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But now, of course the fault that I find now they – so many of the... they're reaching out to try to have night meetings to meet – get more fathers, which is good, but I can't drive at night so I'm disgruntled. I'm staying at home and griping.

SS: You don't get to go?

PB: But, uh, I'm gonna remedy that; I'm gonna get somebody to pick me up so that I can go.

SS: Oh. That's nice.

PB: But the council, now Harris County Council and the Baytown City Councils were a little bit different. Harris County Council was made up schools all over the county, so when we came together it was more like a district meeting.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And Baytown City Council – it doesn't duplicate the work of the local, but still when they meet every month you kind of get – your programs seem to be a duplication.

SS: Um-hmm. Now, you're talking about the city PTA as opposed to the county organization?

PB: Right. Right. Um-hmm.

SS: And do you – now, are you saying you feel the county is kind of superfluous? It's not really needed?

PB: No.

SS: Oh, you're saying ...

PB: I'm saying that I think it is better.

SS: Oh, I see. Better than...

PB: Because they don't meet as often during the year, and they can put a little bit more emphasis on it, and they ...

(End of tape)

(Tape 2 of 2)

SS: Now, Mrs. Busch, when the tape ran out I was asking you about the county organizations. You felt that you'd got maybe some input from other communities that was lacking in the city, uh... meetings?

PB: I feel like it is. It was more like a district meeting. And of course the city council participates in the district conferences, and the state conventions, and they have been just real faithful in going to these groups, and they bring back much inspiration. But, uh, I kind of believe like from Harris County more of us got to go.

SS: Um-hmm. And when you say City Council you mean the city PTA Council?

PB: Right.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Baytown City Council of Parent Teacher Association.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And ... we've had such capable – they've had such outstanding leaders out here in the Baytown Council since I've been there, really. Think they ought to be congratulated on their efforts because it's not easy, we have many conflicts, and we have this PTO that wants it to be a local situation.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And, uh...

SS: Um... Could you name just a few of the people that you've known that you felt were really outstanding leaders in the PTA in Baytown? Just a few.

PB: Oh, in Baytown... Well, let me see. I can't even think of ...

SS: We can come back to that.

PB: Well, Francis Elliot – who was President the previous two years – was so good. And, um...

SS: Who was president when you first got into it? Can you remember?

PB: You mean out at Cedar Bayou?

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: No, I don't remember. Yesterday we were talking about this woman that was there, and she said all she could remember – course she didn't come in till about '36 – and she said all she could remember was we would meet and we'd think, well, now it's gonna be a meeting with Harris County Council. And we had to talk about and then plan for our going to that and the expense of that. She says, "That's all I got the first year was how much the expense to Harris County Council was."

PB: Well, now, to me that didn't make that impression on me.

SS: Maybe she didn't understand as much of the workings of the organization at that time and, uh ... it seemed that way. Now, you mentioned when we talked earlier the other day that you've been – you've held office in this organization for a number of years. What are some of the offices you've held?

PB: Well, in the council – of course I've had all of 'em in my local, then I was President of Harris County Council.

SS: Oh, you were, uh...

PB: I'd have to look at my pin to tell you the year.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Um... And I have a state and a national life membership...

SS: State?

PB: ...from my own local.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And ... I was President of Cedar Bayou in '40-'41, '41-'42. Then of the council in '47-'48, '48-'49.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Then after we had been consolidated with the Goose Creek area, I had Chairman of Extension; I was Chairman of Arts and Crafts; I was Chairman of the Achievement, Achievement Chairman. And then the last office that I held was Spiritual and Education Chairman, and provided the devotionals for the meetings. But this year I didn't take any chairmanship.

SS: Well, when your girls – the last daughter got out of school, did you give any thought to getting out of the organization? Or...

PB: Well, yes. I did. I debated that. But in the meantime, the older girls' children were – and the middle daughter was going through the chairs, and was president of James Bowie.

SS: I see.

PB: So I continued to go.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then after the youngest daughter's children came – and they started to Kindergarten and early in James Bowie, then they moved up near the stadium so they went to Austin.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: So I paid my dues over there, and went over there. But I continued to go to Bowie because they had given me the life memberships. And...

SS: Um-hmm. I was gonna ask you about the – some of the honors you received. You said you had a state, a life membership to the state organization?

PB: And to the national.

SS: And to the national?

PB: And to the national.

SS: Now, when were these, and how were these presented to you?

PB: Well... The national was in 1941, and the state was about in '36. I thought I'd find it.

SS: You dropped your book.

PB: Because I can't remember those dates. Those are some of the past presidents.

SS: Oh, I see. Hmm. 1916 was Mrs. J.B. Manly?

PB: Manly, uh-huh. That's when we were organized.

SS: And this was James Bowie? No.

PB: Um-hmm. Well, it was Cedar Bayou.

SS: It was Cedar Bayou at that time.

PB: But it grew... Yes, but it carried over in to be James Bowie.

SS: Uh-huh. Ok. Now, you were gonna tell me about when you got the state membership?

PB: The state life membership was in '41.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And the national in '54.

SS: 1954. Were these presented at the national meeting, or...

PB: No, no. They were presented at the local meeting.

SS: ... just by your ...

PB: By the local meeting, yes.

SS: I see, uh-huh. So this membership was given to you by the local chapter?

PB: Right, right.

SS: That's quite an honor. So by the time your girls got out of school, then, you had grandchildren in school,

PB: I had grand-

SS: and your interest just carried on.

PB: I just stayed with it. And now, of course the only grandchildren I have in school are in school in Alaska. But, uh... I – the policies and the objectives of the Parent Teacher movement that all children might have these benefits has always appealed to me.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, what kind of a response do you see from the young parents coming in today? Do they – are they as enthusiastic about it do you think as...

PB: I wish I could say yes. Now, my little neighbor, she has two children, and before she – before the children were born she did work. Then for a while she didn't work. And she seemed to be very enthusiastic about it the first two years her older daughter was in school. Well, in the meantime then she went back to work.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And she works in Houston. And so she seems to have lost her enthusiasm.

SS: Well, don't you think possibly the fact that many mothers nowadays do work outside the home makes the difference?

PB: I think so. I really do.

SS: By the time they get home and have their family to feed and they're really too tired probably.

PB: And the demands of the family.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: Keeping your youngsters going. Like the other day I walked over there and she was talking she said that these youngsters had gotten so they just quarrel, quarrel, quarrel. But she leaves in the morning before they leave.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: They get out and wait for the bus, and usually I stand on my porch and watch 'em get on their bus. But, um... She said the little girl is nine going on 18.

SS: (Laughs)

PB: But, um...

SS: That's probably typical of a lot of young children today.

PB: I think that – but now, I think that some of the young mothers are so enthusiastic, but I think because so many of 'em are gainfully employed is one of the reasons.

SS: So it's really more a change in our society that, uh...

PB: I think so.

SS: ...prevents a lot of younger people from getting interested.

PB: And the other day I heard 'em in Houston talking about wanting the people, the parents to come to the schools. So I guess it's many other places besides just us here.

SS: Well, now you mentioned to me the other day also – you've, um, been a member of many other organizations. Uh... Could you mention some of those, and tell about some of your activities?

PB: Well, I was one of the charter members of the John Lewis Chapter of DAR when it was started about 26 or... some, about 26 or 27 years ago. But I kind of had a nervous breakdown and my doctor said to curtail some of the activities. So I just – now am just a member at large. I don't take part in an active chapter.

SS: You just keep up your membership, then?

PB: Because it – well, all three of the girls have their membership. I keep it because it might be to break it for the grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

SS: What other organizations, now?

PB: Well, then I was Mother Advisor to the Cedar Bayou Rainbow Assembly for 27 years. And that's, you know, a kind of a Eastern Star Activity.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And I'm a past matron of Cedar Bayou Chapter; I was matron in '38.

SS: Of the Eastern Star?

PB: A chapter at Cedar Bayou. Um-hmm. And in '81 I'll have a 50 year membership in Cedar Bayou Chapter.

SS: For – of Eastern Star?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Now, are you still active in that?

PB: Right.

SS: You go to the meetings?

PB: I have a committee chairmanship there.

SS: And that's – the name of that ...

PB: Cedar Bayou Chapter.

SS: ...is the Cedar Bayou Chapter?

PB: Uh-huh. It's the oldest chapter in the state. Our chapter was organized before Texas even had a grand chapter.

SS: Oh, that's good.

PB: And we have maintained our existence all the time. Some other chapters were older, you know, because they go by number.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But they have demised, or... And we're the oldest.

SS: Now, did they have their meetings, uh... in the Masonic Hall? Where did they have them to start with?

PB: Right. They – we meet in the Masonic Temple out there.

SS: You still do?

PB: Right, we do. Second and fourth Thursdays. Used to we met before the full moon or after the full moon or something like that, but we don't, we meet the second and fourth Thursdays now.

SS: Well, that's been there a long time, then.

PB: Right. Um-hmm.

SS: Um, ok – and now you mentioned that you were – you and your husband were both members of the Cedar Bayou Methodist Church.

PB: Right. Um-hmm.

SS: And did you hold offices in that?

PB: Yes. I was – well, I was Director of Children's Work for 27 years. I was a district – a Director for Galveston District of Children's Work for four years under Ms. Chen when she was Conference Director.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: I had been President of the, uh – way back when it was missionaries decide the Women's Work I was President three years. (Clears throat) Then after we turned to Women's Society I took another

chairmanship, then we went back to – we came into the United Methodist Women where I served as President four years.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And I have two life memberships in the Women's Work.

SS: Two life memberships?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: And that's in the Women's Missionary Society?

PB: Women's Society.

SS: Women's Society.

PB: And I have an office this year, and I've just been – we've just come back from Lakeview from our annual conference. And ... I am Coordinator of Christian Social Involvement.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: In my church work. And I've been circle chairman (laughs) – we quilt every Thursday – I guess for 10 years or more.

SS: Now, which circle do you belong to?

PB: Julia Lottie.

SS: Um-hmm, Julia Lottie?

PB: Um-hmm, um-hmm. We named it for two women who had been so loyal and so faithful: Julia Kasey and Lottie Fisher.

SS: Oh, I see. Well, now do you do – is the quilting work that's done to make money for the society?

PB: Right. For missions.

SS: You do this then for a fee, then?

PB: Um-hmm, um-hmm. (Coughs)

SS: I think you mentioned also that you were a Sunday school teacher. Is that right?

PB: Right, I teach a ladies Bible twice.

SS: Oh, you still teach?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Um-hmm. Do you have many members in your class?

PB: I guess maybe 16 would be our total. Each year we're getting a little bit smaller. But...

SS: That's a nice size class, though.

PB: That's, that is.

SS: You can have a discussion, uh...

PB: You have some participation.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Right. And this Sunday, now (clears throat), we're going to have a representative – our class is not sponsoring it, but we're gonna participate – a man from the Palmer Drug Abuse is going to be out to Cedar Bayou to talk to our Sunday school.

SS: Are a lot of these people that are in your Sunday school class women who've lived there for years like you have?

PB: Right. Right.

SS: In that same community?

PB: Um-hmm. In the same community.

SS: Uh-huh. Another organization I wanted to ask you about, I think you mentioned that you were a member of, was the Pioneer Students Organization.

PB: Oh, yes. Uh... After we were all pretty much grown we established this – I'm not sure if I have a date that it was established. But anyway, we did organize the Pioneer Students. And, um, if anyone had either gone to school or taught school prior to 1923. Our active dues are one dollar a year (laughs).

SS: Now was this back, say, about the '30's, do you think? Or, uh ... even before then?

PB: I wish I had a date on that. It might have been – I believe it might have been in the '40's.

SS: Um-hmm. After you had children and ...

PB: Oh, yes. We had children.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Well, I guess ... when you were first out of school you wouldn't have been thinking too much about

PB: No.

SS: pioneering something,

PB: No, no, no.

SS: so probably – I guess that's probably about right. And what was the criteria, now?

PB: It was that they should have gone to school. (Reading) "Active membership shall include those persons who attended or taught school in Goose Creek prior to the year '23. Dues are one dollar a year. Associate members shall include the spouses of members."

PB: And we met just – meet just twice a year. We'd have a business meeting in January, and elect offices and make plans, and then they have a banquet meeting the Saturday nearest the 21st of April.

SS: Oh. Now, why did you select the 21st of April? Is that significant?

PB: Well, it was we thought to this area.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: It used to be that 21st of April was a big, big day.

SS: San Jacinto Day?

PB: We all took our families and went to the battleground, and boat races and visiting, and ... it was just was a big day. And we wanted to have a Saturday near that date, but not on that date.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, I can understand that, then. Um... I wonder how many members they have in that organization now. Is it a fairly large organization?

PB: Well, not as – and I didn't – I was not here, I was in Alaska when they, this past April. But – and they said they were going to try – maybe because some of us were getting older – they were gonna try having a luncheon instead of a banquet. So it may be that next year it will be a luncheon instead of a banquet. But I would say at the banquet, oh, we'd have maybe as many as 60.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, now, did you say that you were instrumental in forming this organization?

PB: I was one of the formers. Hazel Martin really was the one that got us started. She called us to her home.

SS: Um-hmm. Hazel Martin?

PB: Hazel Martin. Um-hmm. And we'd ...

SS: Is that M-A-R-T-I-N?

PB: Right.

SS: Where did she live?

PB: Well, she lived over on the west side then, and she lives now over at Briarwood Apartment Complex. But she had gone to school, she and her sister. And, um ... I guess that Bullauge and the Bergeron's and, um – Floyd, Floyd Bullauge, and Berta Bergeron. And uh... Irvin Flowers and Doris.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Were some of the ones who, uh, you know, began to start it.

SS: Well, I was gonna ask you about – you've got a book there. Your – is this a scrapbook, or a...?

PB: No, it's our annual. But I tell you, it's in a kind of a sad shape. It was pretty good.

SS: It was called, "The Gusher"?

PB: "The Gusher." And, um, they wanted it over at the high school, and so they're the ones that put these metal things on it. And it just don't do – it don't want to do a thing now that you want it to do.

SS: Now, that was the annual for 1919, I noticed?

PB: Right. Uh-huh. It was the first one that we'd had.

SS: And this was Goose Creek School?

PB: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

SS: Now where was – was this the school that was located

PB: Right.

SS: where, um...

PB: That's the barn.

SS: Yeah. Where the Jewish Synagogue is today?

PB: Right. Uh-huh.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And these are Mirabel and then Duke, and ...

SS: Um-hmm. There's Elsie Duke.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: There's Irvin Flowers.

PB: Right.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: See, we were under the county, then. We were not an independent school.

SS: Oh, it was a county school?

PB: Uh-huh. Um-hmm.

SS: I see, uh, the board of trustees just consisted of three people?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: A.W. Fayle, J. G. Martin, and W.R. Black?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

PB: And that was Ms. Black. She was the one that saw that we did not go cold (laughs) and we had plenty of water to drink. She – her husband was a field manager down in the fields, you see.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And she had access to those things.

SS: Was this Roy Black's wife?

PB: Um-hmm, um-hmm.

SS: Oh, I see. Yeah, they were really pioneers in the oilfield scene.

PB: Right, right. Maude and I used to catch crabs for our spending money. Down at Evergreen.

SS: And now here's the Parent Teacher's Association.

PB: That's in the Goose Creek.

SS: Oh, I see. Uh-huh.

(Shuffling papers)

PB: And that's Ms. Grant. That was my aunt; she was a principal.

SS: Um-hmm.

(Shuffling papers)

SS: Well, uh ... you've had a pretty full life down here in Baytown, haven't you?

PB: Yeah!

SS: I'd say that one of your interests in life has – must be children.

PB: It – well...

SS: Because almost everything you've been connected with has been the school ...

PB: I guess so.

SS: ... and Rainbow Girls and, uh ... you mentioned some other thing you were involved in.

PB: Well, I was in Sunday school and Children's Work in the church for so long.

SS: Um-hmm. Well, you've made a – certainly have made a nice contribution to our community, and I'm sure many people are grateful for your services. And I certainly am to you for taking the time to talk with me.

PB: Thank you so much for inviting me.

SS: Thank you, Mrs. Busch.

(Tape cuts off)

SS: Now, Mrs. Busch, when we were talking two or three days ago, at the end of the interview we were looking at your, um – this is your yearbook?

PB: Yearbook, yes.

SS: From – what was the name of the school? Goose Creek?

PB: That's the Goose Creek School.

SS: Goose Creek School. And you were in the...

PB: Eighth grade.

SS: The eighth grade.

PB: That was the highest grade.

SS: Ok. Well, I wanted to pick up and look at this a little bit more, and now the name of the yearbook is...

PB: The Gusher.

SS: The Gusher.

PB: Right.

SS: Ok. And this was published in 1919?

PB: Yes, ma'am.

SS: You were finishing the eighth grade in 1919?

PB: Um-hmm. Right.

SS: Ok, well let's just look at this, and I'd like for you to read the names of your classmates, here. Some of these people – maybe some of the teachers. How about let's look at the staff of the school.

PB: Mrs. Grant was the Principal.

SS: Ardella?

PB: Mrs. Ardella Grant.

SS: Ok.

PB: And then Ruth Fayle, that's one of our teachers. She was a very beautiful redheaded person; she was such a pretty person. And Mrs. Abby was our commercial teacher, and Isabella Roten was in the lower grades. Ms. Merns, and I think very possibly that some of her relatives taught at Cedar Bayou at a later date.

SS: Is this Ms. Fayle part of the Fayle family that's here, now?

PB: Right, right.

SS: Is she still here?

PB: No, no. She moved – she married and moved away.

SS: I see.

PB: And then Mrs. Brown. And Maribel Duke, she was a daughter of one of the pioneer families here in Goose Creek. Her father and mother lived down on Duke's Hill.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And Mrs. Blackwell, who was um – well, she was really the disciplinarian of our school. Really. She expected it, and got it. And then Elsie Duke. Because ...

SS: Now, were these... Excuse me.

PB: Elsie is dead; she's gone.

SS: Was she related to Maribel?

PB: Yeah, they were sisters.

SS: Uh-huh. Now, were they related to the Dr. Duke that was here? Duke...

PB: No, no.

SS: Not part of the Lillie-Duke Hospital?

PB: No, no. They were here way before that. And Maribel – her name is Treichler now – and she's quite active in DAR activities.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then this is just some of the way they – somebody saw the teachers.

SS: Um-hmm. The drawings that they made.

PB: Yes, that's right.

SS: Ok, now this is your class here by this

PB: Yeah, this is my class.

SS: Eighth grade class.

PB: And...

SS: And let's just go over the people that were in the class then.

PB: Ok, James Grandstaff and his sister who's back over here – Ruth – were in our class. And the way some of this came about I'm sure that they possibly could have been in a ninth grade if we'd had it.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: But they were quite attractive people, and they are related to Kathy Grandstaff.

SS: The one that married Bing Crosby?

PB: Right.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And then Florence Brown's – she is a sister to Hazel. And they were members of pioneer families here in Baytown. Their mother worked for Dr. Lillie for so many years; she was his receptionist.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And Frances Earhart lived out at Cedar Bayou, and I guess was the most sports-minded ...

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: ... of our class. She was just really outstanding. And Jane Lee, well she was just like one of us, you know.

SS: Let's see I think we missed this girl.

PB: No, that's me.

SS: Oh!

PB: (Laughs)

SS: Your name was Keyhole?

PB: Well, that was my stepfather's name.

SS: (Doris) I see. Well, don't forget you.

PB: (Laughs)

SS: Phyllis Keyhole.

PB: Yeah. (Laughs)

SS: Ok.

PB: And then Gladys King, and she was such a pretty person. She moved to California and is dead now. And some of these I don't even know. I don't even know what happened to Eunice, nor to Ben.

SS: Ben Jones?

PB: Uh-huh.

SS: And Eunice Early?

PB: I really don't know. And then Irvin Flowers: he and Doris went to La Porte and graduated, but they came back here and he was an attorney in our town. And Maude Black, then, married a Moler. And was – they sold their property out at Cedar Bayou where the stadium is now, and she gave the Maude Moler Hall there at the college.

SS: Now, you told me that she was the daughter of Roy Black?

PB: Right.

SS: One of the pioneer, um...

PB: He was a field manager for Humble in the Goose Creek Field.

SS: Oh, I see.

PB: And her mother was so wonderful about ... making things possible for us in the school. And if the teachers didn't have a place to stay they'd get a house and furnish it for the teachers.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And, uh... These others I just don't even know. Now, Ana I think is dead. See, she ...

SS: Ana Woods?

PB: She is a sister to Wesley who has the Woods Home Center.

SS: Oh, yes. Uh-huh.

PB: But I, I don't know – I think she is dead.

SS: Hmm.

PB: And Ollie Rowten. They – the Rowten's were a kind of a pioneer family, and she was one of several – the were – rest of the family were mostly boys.

SS: Um-hmm. Now, this Fred Mitchell, you didn't know ... you don't know what happened to him?

PB: I really don't know what has happened to him, no.

SS: Is that all of your class?

PB: Yes, ma'am.

SS: Let's see there were, what? Fifteen. Fifteen, weren't there?

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: And then the class just below you, let's go over these names, now.

PB: Ok. Ok. Cecil Henderson, and I honestly don't know – and this is Doris Caraway. I referred to her; she married Irvin Flowers.

SS: Oh, yes. Uh-huh.

PB: And Hazel Brown was a sister to Florence.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And John Turner I don't know – he was, uh, I'm sure he went into the military as a career because he was just that kind of a person.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And Selma Tate was such a beautiful person, but I don't know what's happened to her. And of these ... these two are sister and a brother, but I don't know. But J.D. I know went on to be a pharmacist and have a drugstore.

SS: J.D. Royder?

PB: Royder.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: And Tom Nelson, they – they were a pioneer family lived down at the mouth of the bayou, and we would have picnics and parties down there at their home. And he was one of the family that had the sporting goods in our town for many years.

SS: Um-hmm. ...[Inaudible]

PB: And May...

SS: Excuse me. This with his brother, Jim?

PB: With his brother Jim.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And May Corrigan was such an attractive person. She was – well, I think she almost got us all to be converted to Baptist. She was such a ...

SS: Oh.

PB: ... church-minded person and such a good person.

SS: Ok. That's all of that class. Now, these two you didn't know, let's get their names in there. It was Bernard, uh...

PB: Bernadette and ...

SS: Bernadette

PB: ... Elizabeth.

SS: And Elizabeth.

PB: Munger.

SS: Munger?

PB: Yes. And I really – I just don't – and then these are much younger.

SS: Yeah. Ok.

SS: Well, now Mrs. Busch, you were gonna tell me something about another organization, the Church Women United that you belonged to.

PB: I am currently serving my second year as President of Church Women United in Baytown. And our main project is a daycare center in Pelly where we take care of 20 children for working mothers. And for a very minimum fee. They have a lunch, they have the two snack times morning and afternoon. They have a naptime. They have some instruction in the alphabet and drawing. And the way we are able to maintain such a minimum fee is because we have a resale shop in old Baytown. And the Junior Forum helps us there. But, uh... for two years our income has been over \$10,000. And we have some funds from Community Way, but we mostly do our own. And I think that this taking care of these youngsters – and they have their families. But even so, when you go there – and we had the little graduation exercise for them. Those that's gonna go into kindergarten.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And they are just very anxious for attention. When you go there, why, it's just like they ... were orphans, you know.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: They – but still they feel secure.

SS: Um-hmm. It provides a feeling of security and stability that they need, you know. Uh... And again, here you are involved with children.

PB: (Laughs)

SS: That's your main thing, I think.

PB: I guess so.

SS: Uh-huh.

PB: I guess maybe it's second childhood. And...

SS: But it ... excuse me.

PB: But I think the thing of all the projects that keeps me the busiest is being a senior citizen. Each month I try to make the AARP. You know, that's American Association of Retired People.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: Make their luncheon meeting. And then on Tuesday morning of each week I participate in the Continuing Education at Lee College. We have a program and fellowship and refreshment. Many trips out of town. And then at my own church, the second and fourth Wednesdays we have XYZ Club. And we have a program and fellowship and a covered dish luncheon. And I'm in charge of the program. And then as far as RSVP, I served as a docent at the Bay Area Heritage Museum on Friday afternoons.

SS: Well, that's a commendable thing. I think that's a wonderful thing that they've started here in Baytown to try to preserve the heritage that we have here.

PB: I think so. I think so. And I think in just two years we've done just a pretty good job.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And there are some very ultimate plans: they plan to move the old church, old sanctuary from Cedar Bayou down to Bicentennial Park and restore it. And it will be used as a chapel. Not as a regular meeting house ...

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: ...but as a chapel. And then they're going to redo this building, and part of the offices and workrooms will be up here, and the special display rooms will be downstairs because some people cannot climb the stairs.

SS: Well, I think you're a lady who takes pride in her senior years. A lot of people keep wanting to be younger, or appear younger.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: But, uh... you seem to really take pride in the fact that you've had this full, long life.

PB: I am so glad that I am physically able to do these things. Now, some of my activities are being restricted; I can't do driving at night and many things that I have done. But some of the people that I know and love and seem to love me are so gracious about coming and taking me.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: I even, you know, have transportation to the PTA meetings.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And they meet at night. And then last night we had our Eastern Star meeting, and they came and took me to the meeting. So I don't have that much to complain about.

SS: Well, um... I want to thank you again for adding this little bit to the tape.

PB: Um-hmm.

SS: And, um, we may have to do a volume two one of these days.

PB: (Laughs)

SS: When you think of the other activities that you've left out we'll go on with volume two.

PB: I think this has been a wonderful experience. At first I was a little apprehensive because I didn't know how my voice was going to project.

SS: Um-hmm.

PB: And I was just a little apprehensive. But I'm just really flattered.

SS: Well, we certainly appreciate what you've done.

PB: Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

SS: Thank you so much, Mrs. Busch.

PB: Thank you.

(End of tape)

Transcribed by: Amanda Smoke 4/30/18