

An Interview With

ERNEST BERNARD BUEHLER

March 17, 1977

Interviewed by

Roberta Miller

Mississippi  
Department of Archives and History  
and the  
Washington County Library System  
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Scope Note: The Washington County Library System, with assistance from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, conducted oral history interviews with local citizens. The project interviews took place between 1976 and 1978. The interviewees included long-term residents of the Greenville-Washington County area in their late 50's and older.

MILLER: This is Roberta Miller. I am an Oral History Interviewer with the Washington County Library System. I am interviewing Mr. Ernest Buehler on March 17, 1977, at his place of business, Buehler's Restaurant, on Highway 82 East, in Greenville, Mississippi, later adjourning to his residence, 522 Arnold Avenue.

Mr. Buehler, when did your family come to Greenville?

BUEHLER: My father and mother moved to Greenville in 1897.

MILLER: And when were you born?

BUEHLER: I was born in 1899.

MILLER: Where did they come from?

BUEHLER: Well, my father came from Switzerland, and my mother was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and they came from Pine Bluff to Greenville.

MILLER: Was your father born in Switzerland?

BUEHLER: Yes, ma'am, in Interlaken.

MILLER: Interlaken, Switzerland. What about your name? You told me he had made a change in your name.

BUEHLER: Yes. My father's name, when he came to the United States, was Ernst Buhler, E-R-N-S-T. And now we have an "E" in the Ernst and an "E" in the Buhler.

MILLER: When he came to Greenville, what was

your father doing?

BUEHLER: My father, back in those days, was a blacksmith, you might say, a truck builder, a buggy builder, a wagon builder.

MILLER: And he came in 1897, and that was the time when everything was wagons.

BUEHLER: That's right. Everything was horses and mules and wagons and buggies. No automobiles at all.

MILLER: Where was his place of business?

BUEHLER: His first place was on the end of Washington Avenue, which is out in the Lake now, out where they are building those boats.

MILLER: That was his first place. Do you know what street it was?

BUEHLER: Washington Avenue and Locust Street. It was one block farther down the river from Joe Gow Nue's building.

MILLER: That went in the river before --

BUEHLER: It went in the river in 1904.

MILLER: And then he moved where?

BUEHLER: He moved over on Main Street. He bought a building from Mr. Harley Metcalfe over on Main Street just across from Ham Furniture Store.

MILLER: And that is the corner of Main and Walnut?

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BUEHLER: Well, it was in the middle of the block, not on the corner. It was between Walnut and Locust, on Main Street.

MILLER: Is that building still there?

BUEHLER: It is still there, but the upper story has been taken off, and it is used now by the Levee Board to store sacks and material in the event of high water.

MILLER: It is right next to the old U. S. Engineers' office?

BUEHLER: Yes, correct.

MILLER: Which, I understand, is now condemned. Is that correct?

BUEHLER: I really don't know.

MILLER: It is not being used?

BUEHLER: Yes.

MILLER: What did your father build beside wagons and buggies?

BUEHLER: Well, he built wagons and buggies, and they did general welding and repair work on wagons and buggies and hacks, and things like that.

MILLER: What were hacks used for?

BUEHLER: To meet the trains, and to haul people home, or the travelers to the hotels.

MILLER: Did the hacks carry mail?

BUEHLER: No.

MILLER: How was the mail carried?

BUEHLER: It was carried to the railroad in wagons.

MILLER: How was the mail sent to small towns?

By trains?

BUEHLER: I think it was. I don't believe they had a rural route.

MILLER: Then, as time went on, your father started building trucks?

BUEHLER: That is correct, yes, and school buses and hearses. In fact, he built the first hearse in Washington County, for Mr. Harry Wells, who used to own the Wells Funeral Home.

MILLER: Do you know what year that was?

BUEHLER: It was 1916.

MILLER: How about that school bus?

BUEHLER: In the same year, he built two school buses for Washington County, which were the first school buses ever used in Washington County.

MILLER: How did that work? Was it for the county children or the city children?

BUEHLER: One of them went to Hollandale, and one of them was in this locality here.

MILLER: Picked up the city children and took them to school?

BUEHLER: I imagine so, although there could be a doubt.

MILLER: And the Hollandale children they picked up in the country and brought them to Hollandale?

BUEHLER: And brought them to Hollandale.

MILLER: What was *it* you were telling me about the children the first day they got in the bus?

BUEHLER: My father, when he completed the bus, came by Court School, where we were going to school, and picked up all the children in this bus, and took us up town to buy some ice cream; took us on a ride, you know, to see how it was going to operate, and he found out that if all of the children would run to the back of the bus to look at something, it would lift the front end off the ground, and he couldn't steer it, so he had to watch that and not let it happen, you know.

MILLER: Did he build the motors that went into the buses, too?

BUEHLER: No, he built them on an old Model T Ford.

MILLER: He built them on the old Model T Ford?

BUEHLER: That is correct; and he built Chief Donovan a buggy to be used in the Fire Department like the Chief in Memphis had. Chief Donovan came from Memphis, you know, and he wanted a buggy just like the Chief in Memphis was using, so my Dad went up there and drew up specifications

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and duplicated that buggy for him.

MILLER: This was a buggy drawn by horses?

BUEHLER: Yes, ma'am.

MILLER: Did the Chief have two horses or one?

BUEHLER: He used one big old horse.

MILLER: But, of course, the fire trucks were pulled by two or more horses?

BUEHLER: Yes.

MILLER: Did your father keep on with that business, or did he change his business?

BUEHLER: No, he kept on with that business until, let's see, somewhere in 1921 or 1922. He stayed in that business until 1921 or 1922, when he retired. His health got bad.

MILLER: And you didn't go into the business with him?

BUEHLER: No, he didn't want me to go into that business.

MILLER: He was a very strong, powerful man?

BUEHLER: He sure was; yes, ma'am.

MILLER: He did most of his work himself?

BUEHLER: Well, he had about ten or twelve men working for him, but he worked right along with them, and he worked awfully hard. He was born powerful.

MILLER: Now, when you were a child, where did you live? What street?

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BUEHLER: When I was born, we lived on Alexander Street, between Poplar and Walnut, and then we bought a home at 510 North Poplar, across the street from John H. Bowen and family and Julia O'Bannon, and Henry Crosby lived down just the other side of us in the next block.

MILLER: And you went to Court School?

BUEHLER: Went to Court School, which used to be the Court House, yes.

MILLER: How big was Court School then?

BUEHLER: Oh, it was four or five rooms.

MILLER: And who was the teacher?

BUEHLER: Miss Susie Trigg was the Principal, and Miss Carrie Bowen was one of the teachers, and Miss Maude Bryan was one of the teachers.

MILLER: And, after you left Court School, you went down to Central School?

BUEHLER: To Central School with Miss Ella Darling, who was Principal down there.

MILLER: And that was kind of Junior High School, wasn't it?

BUEHLER: Yes. And then that was just after they condemned the old Archer School, which was over on Percy Street, and they had the High School upstairs over at Central School, and we were taught by Miss Lizzie Harbison and Miss

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Susan McCutcheon; and then we went from there - that was when they completed that school over on Main Street - what school was that?

MILLER: Greenville High.

BUEHLER: Yes. Then we went out there. I went there until I was in the Tenth Grade, and I found out that after I completed the Tenth Grade, I had enough credits where I could enter the Freshman Class at A & M College, which later became Mississippi State. So, in 1915, I went over to A & M and entered the Freshman Class, and I finished there in 1919 when I was 19 years old.

MILLER: So you went off to College when you were fifteen?

BUEHLER: That's correct.

MILLER: While you were in Grammar School and High School, did you have any jobs after school?

BUEHLER: Yes. I delivered The Delta Democrat. At that time, Pink Smith was the Editor, and Ernest Smith was the Office Manager and Assistant Editor; and I delivered all the papers on the north end of town, from the levee to the Y&MV Railroad, and there were very few sidewalks, so I had to deliver them on horseback, and for that I got the sum of \$2.50 a week; and back in those days the papers were all folded by hand, and then we would count the numbers we were

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going to deliver and put them in our sacks and mount the horse and go on and deliver.

MILLER: And what did you tell me about being ambidextrous?

BUEHLER: Oh, when I started to Court School. I was born left-handed, and back in those days they figured a child was left-handed just because they got accustomed to using their left hand more, that's all. Miss Susie Trigg used to tie a paper sack over my left hand to make me write with my right hand. So, then I got to where I could write with both hands. I would write a while with my left hand and I'd write a while with my right hand, so I got to where I could use both hands.

MILLER: So, when you were delivering papers -

BUEHLER: I'd throw first with one hand and then the other, just that way.

MILLER: So you delivered your papers pretty fast?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Did you have any other jobs while you were in school?

BUEHLER: No. When I went to college, I worked in the summer time in the office at The Democrat, when I wasn't going to college.

MILLER: What kind of job did you have there?

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BUEHLER: Oh, just working around the office there, mailing out subscriptions, and things like that, and maybe do some collecting.

MILLER: What did young boys do for fun then? Did you all swim in the river?

BUEHLER: The only place there was to swim was in the river here.

MILLER: Where was that? The sand pit up there?

BUEHLER: Well, the sand pit wasn't the river. The sand pit was down by the Poor House on the side of the railroad tracks.

MILLER: That's right. That was one sand pit. I believe we used to call it the Gravel Pit.

BUEHLER: Yes. We used to go up by the Gravel Pit and swim in the river.

MILLER: That would be right off Belle Aire Street?

BUEHLER: Off Belle Aire, yes. Now, there was a pool out at the Refuge Oil Mill. They would let us swim up there after five o'clock in the evening, when the Night Watchman - old man Weeks was the Night Watchman - and when he came on at five o'clock and blew his whistle, then we could go swim in that big tank they had in case of fire, you know; but it was eight or nine feet deep right off the edge, see. But most of the time we would do our swimming in the river on the sand bar.

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MILLER: You would swim over to the sand bar?

BUEHLER: Well, the sand bar was on this side.

MILLER: Oh, I see.

BUEHLER: The current was going by the river then, and they had a big sand bar by the Gravel Pit.

MILLER: I remember a little bit about that. Do you remember when the young people had the bands in Greenville? Were you ever involved in those?

BUEHLER: One named the "Drum and Bugle Corps", after World War I.

MILLER: Were you in World War I?

BUEHLER: Yes, ma'am.

MILLER: When did you go?

BUEHLER: I went in 1917. I only stayed in there about a year. I was discharged in 1918. I never did go over-seas. I was in Officers Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. You see, I had four years of military training at A & M and ROTC, and then, after we went to this Training Camp, they sent a lot of us boys back to A & M College, at Starkville, and we trained soldiers over there during the war. There were no camps, and they piled in there by the thousands, you know. And we used to drill soldiers over there.

MILLER: They trained you as much as they could

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and then sent you back to the College to train the boys?

BUEHLER: Yes.

MILLER: So you came out in 1918? You still had another year of school, didn't you?

BUEHLER: I went back after that and finished in 1919.

MILLER: Did you enlist in the Army while you were in College?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Then, after you graduated from College in 1919, what did you do?

BUEHLER: I worked for the Illinois Central Railroad for several years and then I traveled for Armour & Company for fifteen years, and then I traveled for the Goyer Company for ten years, and after that is when I went into the restaurant business.

MILLER: What was it like traveling during those years? That would have been in 1922 and 1923?

BUEHLER: Yes, I'm sure.

MILLER: How did you all travel? You had cars?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, we had Model T Fords and things like that, and most of the roads in those days were gravel, not too much concrete. We had a concrete road all the way to Glen Allan, little narrow concrete, you know, and on the Old Leland Road there was little narrow concrete, but most of the roads in the country were gravel roads.

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MILLER: To what places did you travel?

BUEHLER: Well, I traveled to Glen Allan and Grace, and all in between there, Erwin and Foote. You know they had little stores at all those places there. And we sold a great many plantation owners in their commissaries, and I traveled to Leland and Hollandale and up to Shaw and Cleveland and Rose-dale and Beulah and Benoit, down that way.

MILLER: Could you make all those trips in a day, or would you have to spend the night?

BUEHLER: No, no. It would take a week. I always came home every night.

MILLER: You were able to drive home every night?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, but you could make that territory in a week then.

MILLER: You could travel all the territory from Glen Allan around to Benoit and Rosedale in a week?

BUEHLER: Yes, oh, yes. One day I would go to Glen Allan and Grace and Mayersville and come back home that night. The next day I would go to Leland and Hollandale.

MILLER: You would take the orders and then the trucks would make the deliveries?

BUEHLER: Yes, they would ship it out on the truck; that's correct.

MILLER: The Armour Company was a big deal, wasn't it?

BUEHLER: Yes.

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MILLER: How many people did it employ? How many salesmen?

BUEHLER: We had four or five salesmen.

MILLER: That was the era of the travelling salesman, wasn't it?

BUEHLER: Yes.

MILLER: And Goyer Company?

BUEHLER: And Goyer, too. Of course, back in those days the economy of the wholesalers was built around the big plantation owners, but most of them would furnish groceries, that is, "meat, meal and molasses", they called it, to their tenants, you know, and Goyer used to sell these big planters and they would furnish it to their tenants and, if necessary, they would carry them until they ginned in the fall of the year. But times changed, where your farm became mechanized and the labor left the country, and all of those little country stores disappeared, you know. The roads were good and every farm man had an automobile, so they would come into the larger cities and buy their groceries.

MILLER: And the Super Markets started moving in?

BUEHLER: Yes. It just put a whole lot of them out of business.

MILLER: Most of them went out of business, except the Lewis Grocery Company?

BUEHLER: That's right, and the only reason they stayed in was because they started this line of Sunflower

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Stores. They got their own chain of stores. That's the only thing that kept them in business. But those like Goyer Company, selling the plantation owners and the little country stores, and both of them disappeared. Of course, they started this chain of Sunflower Stores and they just kept going.

MILLER: Now, you worked for Armour for 25 years?

BUEHLER: No, fifteen years, and Goyer for ten.

MILLER: Why did you switch to the Goyer Company?

BUEHLER: Well, I quit Goyer in 1943. That was the Second World War, and my job was to buy and sell all the packing house products, which was meats of all kinds, and all kinds of meat and ham and bacon were rationed, and you could only let a customer have just so much during the week, and I tried to spread it around to everybody, and it got to be miserable, and they just wouldn't allow you enough to spread around, so I quit in 1943 and went in and bought the Fountain Terrace and went into the Restaurant business. I bought it more for my son than anything else, because when he was a boy whenever we wanted to locate him, he was always hanging around the Fountain Terrace, you see. So I went home one night and said, "Well, if Bill was home, I would have bought that Fountain Terrace today." She said, "Well, he'll be home in six months. Buy it, and I'll help you run it until he gets here." So I bought it in 1944, and when he got out of the Army six months later, we had so much business up there he

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couldn't handle it, so we've both been in it ever since. I stayed up there for ten years on Main Street, and then I bought the property out on the Highway in 1954, I believe, and moved out there.

MILLER: Yes, the Fountain Terrace was an institution in Greenville. How long had it been going before you had it? Did Mr. Gorman have it before you?

BUEHLER: Gorman operated it for a good many years, and then Dr. Favara, an Italian Veterinarian, had it. He was the one I bought it from. But Gorman had it in connection with his ice cream business, mostly.

MILLER: It catered to young people?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: And how did it work? The way I would remember it is we would drive up and park.

BUEHLER: We had curb service, yes. They parked all the way around, and I had about six or eight little colored boys waiting on the cars, and then, of course, inside we had booths, and lots of them would come inside and eat. Order what they'd want, and take it to the booth.

MILLER: What did you serve?

BUEHLER: Mostly sandwiches and chili and stuff like that, and soups, and ice cream of all kinds, banana splits and sodas.

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MILLER: Sodas and ice creams.

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Yes, I know. It was a meeting place for young people. Even in my day. It has been going on for a long time.

BUEHLER: Well, the juke box was in there. They'd come up and play the juke box and jump around there, and they'd have a ball.

MILLER: When you worked for the Goyer Company, did you have the same route you had when you worked for Armour?

BUEHLER: Practically, yes. Mostly, when I worked for Armour, I worked the City of Greenville, and then I would do relief work in the country when different salesmen were off. I was Assistant Manager here of the Branch, and then when I went to work for Goyer Company, I went up there with Herbert Eustis. Herbert was the Manager up there.

MILLER: Now, that was at Cleveland?

BUEHLER: At Cleveland. And I went up there to take charge of the Meat Department. I would buy all the meat supplies for the Branch, and then I would travel four days a week in this territory, selling the meat. And our other salesmen sold meat, too, mostly pork products and spareribs, and things like that, and sausage.

MILLER: Did you buy that kind of meat locally?

BUEHLER: No, no. I bought it from the different packers. At that time, Armour closed their branch in

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Greenville, and Goyer took over Armour's business. But I didn't buy it all from Armour. I bought from Cudahy, and I handled a lot of Rath's products, who had the famous Black Hawk hams and bacon, and we featured those.

MILLER: That was some of the best bacon.

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Was Swift & Company in Greenville at that time?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, Swift was here. George Averitt was the manager of Swift and Company. Sullivan was the meat man.

MILLER: What other wholesale groceries did we have in the 1920's?

BUEHLER: Well, let's see. We had Ferguson, but I've forgotten what time Ferguson closed, and Mr. Billy McGee, who was manager at Ferguson, came over and managed the Goyer Company, and brought Mr. John Hall and Warren Jackson with him as salesmen for the Goyer Company. And then we had the Itzig Company. They had mostly produce, and they sold some canned groceries, and things like that.

MILLER: Mr. John Hall was one of the earliest traveling salesmen, wasn't he?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes. Mr. John Hall used to work the Delta territory when the grocery stores were on the river bank. He traveled on a steamboat and called on the

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grocery stores, and then he would come to a town the size of Greenville and rent a horse and buggy and go out and call on the country stores with a horse and buggy. That was before the automobile days.

MILLER: And would he call on the plantation commissaries, too?

BUEHLER: Commissaries, oh, yes.

MILLER: It must have been after World War I, wasn't it, when things made the biggest change?

BUEHLER: It was, yes.

MILLER: When the commissaries stopped working.

BUEHLER: They started going out.

MILLER: And the roads were paved all over the county? That must have been the biggest change?

BUEHLER: That's right.

MILLER: You mentioned that you were in the Drum and Bugle Corps.

BUEHLER: That was after World War I.

MILLER: When did they form that?

BUEHLER: After World War I. General Galla Paxton used to drill us at night, you know. And Abe Freyman played in an orchestra, and he was one of the best buglers we had. so he taught us how to play a bugle. And it was made up of men who served in World War I - those who wanted to get into it - and, oh, we traveled all over the country. We were State Champions for several years.

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MILLER: Where did you go?

BUEHLER: We went to Meridian and San Antonio, Texas, and we went to Jackson a number of times, and to Louisville, Kentucky.

MILLER: When did they discontinue the Drum and Bugle Corps?

BUEHLER: The men began to get older and drop out.

MILLER: It just kind of gradually disintegrated?

BUEHLER: Yes, yes.

MILLER: When the 1927 Flood came were you working then?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, for Armour and Company.

MILLER: What happened to you and your family during the flood?

BUEHLER: Well, the '27 Flood -- we had three children, I believe. We moved upstairs over the old Bank of Washington Building, and we stayed up there during the flood.

MILLER: Now that is where?

BUEHLER: On the corner of Poplar and that alley there, you know. That is where the Radio Station was.

MILLER: Right.

BUEHLER: And we stayed up there, and, of course, they were taking a lot of people down to Vicksburg to get them out of the water, and lots of them would go up to

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Metcalfe and get a train. The trains weren't coming into Greenville. But we never did leave. We had a lot of supplies on hand down there that we tried to stay and take care of and dispose of somehow.

MILLER: At Armour and Company?

BUEHLER: At Armour and Company.

MILLER: Did you all sell your meat at that time?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, I never will forget, the water drowned out our refrigeration unit, which was in the cellar, and it cut it off, and we had a freezer and a cooler full of cattle, fore-quarters and hind-quarters, so Mr. Charlie Loeb was running the main tent up on the levee to feed the refugees for the Red Cross, you know, and I made arrangements with Mr. Loeb. I would pick him up six or eight cattle every day, and he would cut them up and feed them to people up there, until we finally got rid of all of ours.

MILLER: And the Red Cross would pay for it?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, the Red Cross paid for it.

MILLER: So you all didn't lose?

BUEHLER: Oh, no.

MILLER: And did everybody stay at work at the Armour Company, or did some of them leave?

BUEHLER: Well, some of them left, but most of them stayed.

MILLER: So you didn't have to do any relief work. You were busy taking care of your regular chores?

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BUEHLER: No, I just looked after Armour's business. One of our men, Hally Stern, one of our salesmen, worked on the levee with those crews up there the whole time.

MILLER: Did you have a boat that you'd go back and forth in?

BUEHLER: Oh, yes, a motor boat. Went right down Washington Avenue in a motor boat.

MILLER: Just came straight on down?

BUEHLER: Yes.

MILLER: And what did your family do while they were upstairs all the time?

MRS. BUEHLER: Get water out of the street and wash baby diapers in the water that we dipped up in the bucket.

BUEHLER: We had to boil the water.

MRS. BUEHLER: Boiled the water that we had to drink. And we'd get some more out of the street. I had a baby a month old, and I was washing diapers in the water that we dipped up out of the street.

MILLER: What did you cook on?

MRS. BUEHLER: Well, we had a coal oil stove, and we moved that up there the day before when they said we were going to have to move. I said I was not going to move until the day we had to go, so they came out and got my coal oil stove, and that's what I cooked on. We put mattresses on the

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floor, and we put up one bed, and we let Mama sleep in the bed, and she had one of the babies sleep in the bed with her.

MILLER: How many were there upstairs in the Bank of Washington building?

BUEHLER: My mother and two sisters and Charles Rode, my brother-in-law.

MRS. BUEHLER: We thought William was dead.

BUEHLER: A funny thing, though, William Rode, her brother, was with the National Guard, working on the levee, you see, and some friends came to me and said, "Don't tell your wife, but William got drowned in that break up there." They said, "It blew out right under him!" And I tried to keep it from them, and finally in a few days he came in here on a steamboat. He'd gone to Rosedale, and caught a steamboat coming to Greenville. The break cut him off between him and his outfit. For a number of days we thought William had been drowned.

MILLER: Well, now, tell me about your mother.

BUEHLER: Well, she stayed up there with us. The day after the levee broke, the water hadn't gotten to town yet, hadn't gotten in the city. So she waked me up about five o'clock and said, "The water is not here yet, and you know I've got about 500 chickens in that brooder house up home, and it's right low on the ground. I believe if we go up there and check those chickens and put them up on the back

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porch, we can save them." The house was about three feet off the ground, and it had a latticed and screened back porch all the way around.

MILLER: Was this your house on North Poplar?

BUEHLER: Yes. So she and I went in the yard and we caught all those chickens and put them on the back porch; and then we had a bathroom that opened up on the back porch, so I said, "Mama, I'm going to prop this door open. In case the water gets up on the porch, the chickens can jump up on the tub and get out of the water." So I went around to get the car and the water was rolling down the street, and it had washed the bridge away, but the ditch wasn't very deep, you know, and I kept telling her to come on, that the water was coming. She said, "I can't get the door closed." I said, "Just leave it alone and come on!" So she got in the car and I hit the ditch and just bounced out into the middle of the road, and ran in the water all the way back to town, and I let her out, and I had saved a place out on the platform at Armour & Company to put my car. I went out there and somebody had gotten my place. So I went to drive up Main Street to get it on the levee, and the National Guard stopped me and wouldn't let me get there; so I went around and came through the alley in front of the old Police Station, and there was no Guard there, so I ran it up on the bank of the levee, and left it, and ran back before the water got there.

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MILLER: Were you scared or afraid at all? Did you have any feelings of fear?

BUEHLER: Not necessarily. I didn't think the water was going to get that deep, but, of course, it covered everything. So, a day or two later, I went back up there, and the old house was three feet off the ground and the water was three feet on the inside. So every one of those five hundred chickens had drowned, so I just opened the back door and swept them out and let them float on down.

MRS. BUEHLER: Well, they were floating around in the house.

BUEHLER: Yes, the water was over the bath tub, you see. There was no place for them to get out of the water.

MILLER: They didn't have a chance.

BUEHLER: About the size of a quail. Every one of them drowned.

MILLER: And you all stayed there until the water - when were you able to get back into your house?

MRS. BUEHLER: In June.

BUEHLER: April, May, June. Yes, about two or three months.

MRS. BUEHLER: In June. Bill's birthday was June 4th.

BUEHLER: We used to go up and down Washington Avenue in a motor boat, that outboard motor.

MRS. BUEHLER: And we got a little water on our house floors, but not enough to do any damage. You see, we

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lived out on Arnold Avenue, at 813, that was the number, next door to where Jence Stovall lived. Well, we were on the other side of that, and our house was just a little higher than her house, and so the water was just barely over the floor, so we swept the water out of there and dried it up with mops and rags, and we didn't have any great damage to our floors. We had hardwood floors, and it didn't hurt them too bad.

MILLER: Did you all put your furniture up in both houses?

BUEHLER: No, we didn't. You see, her mother and father lived here, not in this house, but their old home was here, on this lot.

MRS. BUEHLER: And it was high.

BUEHLER: And we put the furniture up in this house, and put the furniture up on North Poplar and it covered some of it up even being on scaffolds, it got so deep up there. I guess the water got six or eight feet deep up there.

MILLER: Yes, it was a lower elevation there than on Washington Avenue.

BUEHLER: Yes.

MRS. BUEHLER: We said, "Oh, it's not going to get that deep. We didn't have water before. Don't worry about it." And I said, "We can't ever tell how it's coming." But it came in the back way, you see, and backed in around. His mother said, "We didn't have water before when the other

people had water, so we don't need to worry; we aren't going to have any." But she had it anyway.

MILLER: What was that about the car?

MRS. BUEHLER: I said that when he parked the car, when he came back from saving the chickens, he didn't have a place out at Armour's because somebody had taken his space, so, when he got up to the levee, he slipped around the back way and parked the car up on the levee so that it would be out of the water. He found out later that a Negro family was living in it, and they had placed drapes on the side, and slept in the car.

BUEHLER: I just let them stay in there. They took a piece of tent and put it on the car. It was an old car. I just let them stay there.

MILLER: That was pretty ingenious.

BUEHLER: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Now, during the Depression, everybody was affected in some way. Now, was your salary - you were working for whom?

BUEHLER: I was working for Armour & Company.

MILLER: Was your salary reduced?

BUEHLER: No, not at that particular time.

MILLER: And you were not laid off?

BUEHLER: No.

MILLER: So you had your job all through it?

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