

MILLER: No, I don't remember either.

HAM: Then there was the Resthaven Hotel and the Resthaven Barber Shop, Nelms & Blums, Greenville Bank --

MILLER: And there was a Poolroom.

HAM: There was not a poolroom in there, but Fischel's Poolroom across the street was The Poolroom.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: And, I don't remember when the poolroom went in. The poolroom is where the barber shop used to be.

MILLER: I see.

HAM: If my memory is correct, there was a big barbership - Loyacono's, Gill?

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: They owned that, a big barber shop, the largest barbershop in town. Then Nelms and Blum, the Greenville Bank, and on the other side of the street was Leyser's Department Store. You remember when it burned?

MILLER: Sure:

HAM: That was one of the biggest fires in Greenville, and the early Hafter's Store was in that block, maybe where Hafter's is now, I don't remember.

And, Carter's Bookstore, near Leyser's, run by a man and wife- negroes, very intelligent couple, was a leading bookstore when I was a child and mother bought many books from them. They later moved to Poplar between Washington and Main.

MILLER: Yes, I think so.

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HAM: And then -- We're going to skip back to the first block. I forgot Geise-Mann Hardware Company --

MILLER: That's right. That was pretty important too.

HAM: Yes. That's right. And, going back to the second block on Washington Avenue -- Then there was Sharkey Hardware Store, the Kandy Kitchen --

MILLER: Right.

HAM: I guess you remember the Kandy Kitchen?

MILLER: Right.

HAM: And Mayo's Book Store. What was the jewelry store in there? Schlom's was in there somewhere.

MILLER: Schlom's was a little further down, wasn't it?

HAM: Yes, they moved to where they are now.

MILLER: There was a Conreur's Jewelry Store,--

HAM: Wait a minute, there was a Binder's --

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Conreur, a Frenchman. He had an early automobile. It was a belt-driven automobile. It was driven by a belt. Our first car was driven by a chain.

MILLER: I see. How did Mr. Conreur spell his name? Do you know?

HAM: I don't know. He was French, he and his wife were French. It seems to me that that jewelry was Binder's.

MILLER: Yes, there was a Binder's. Right.

HAM: E. H. Taylor's Drugstore was there also and Reid Brothers later was in that block.

MILLER: Did Mr. Harbison have a grocery store in there?

HAM: No, Reid Brothers. Harbison was in the next block.

MILLER: In the next block.

HAM: And then Greenlee's was in there. I may be leaving out some but I'm amazed that I can remember.

MILLER: We had a ten cent store in there --

HAM: Well, that's right. That was Hartman's?

MILLER: Hartman's. That was the one you mentioned before.

HAM: I'm amazed that I can remember that many but you get to talking about them, well, I remember them.

MILLER: Yes, I'd forgotten about Mr. Conreur.

HAM: Yes, I'm glad you mentioned it. I'd forgotten about him too. Conreur was a watchman, an engraver, I believe.

MILLER: Was Brown's Tent ever that far up?

HAM: No, it was in the next block.

Well, now, on the other side of the street - the Methodist Church and a Sanitarium and then beyond the Sanitarium was a vacant lot from there to the corner of Hinds Street.

Now, let's get back on the other side of the street, and, what was in the Rosenberg Building originally. I don't remember.

MILLER: Rosenfeld.

HAM: Rosenfeld.

MILLER: Was that Levy's?

HAM: Levy's was next to that building.

MILLER: Was The Fair in there?

HAM: Well, Jordan's Furniture Store came in there first.

MILLER: On the corner?

HAM: No. It was next to the corner there.

MILLER: Yes, I see, and then Levy's.

HAM: And then Levy's and then Schlom's, and then there was a vacant lot where Brown's Tent stood for years, and years and years. Ever since I can remember Brown's Tent was there.

MILLER: That's where Penney's Store is now?

(End of Tape One)

MILLER: Brown's Tent was for years on the site --

HAM: Washington and Hinds Streets.

MILLER: What is now - what used to be Penney's.

HAM: What was Penney's Store, which was a ladies' store.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Of course, that's about that block. Going on down, the Elks' Club had been there ever since I can remember it. What used to be the Elks' Club.

MILLER: Yes.

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HAM: And then the Jewish Men's Club - the Olympic --
Is that what they called it?

MILLER: The Olympic Club. Yes.

HAM: The Olympic Club was there and then -- What
was where the Buick Place is now?

MILLER: Was the Wheatley house there?

HAM: No, the Wheatley house was on the corner.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Did they take that in -- ?

MILLER: I don't know whether they took in all of
that or not.

HAM: I don't remember either. I don't remember
whether there was another house in there or not. It would
have had to have been a house though because there were no
commercial buildings on that side of the street, that I
remember.

MILLER: I think that house faced Washington and
they turned it around, didn't they? Didn't they do something
to the Wheatley house?

HAM: They butchered it. They moved it back, I
believe, and then they made apartments out of it with entrances
on the south.

MILLER: Right, but it used to face Washington, and
they kind of moved it back or turned it around.

HAM: They changed the entrance on it, I believe.
Now I don't believe they turned it around - they may have.

MILLER: It would have been hard to do.

HAM: Well, yes, it would have been hard to do.

Now, the other side of the street, what that was, was the Wetherbee house and who was the lady who owned the two-story house?

MILLER: Miss Elise Holmes.

HAM: That's right. And, the Starling house where the Gambles and the Reids lived. In later years Reid built a grocery store on a part of that lot and what was on the corner previous to the Theatre down there - the Paramount Theatre- I don't remember. Do you?

MILLER: I think there was a house in there.

HAM: I believe there was. You know, there was an old two-story house back of that. I just wonder if that was moved off of that corner but I can't remember.

MILLER: It probably was. You know they could move those houses a lot easier because they were all up on blocks and they moved a lot of them.

HAM: Well, high foundations and I have a feeling that a house was moved off of there but I'm not sure.

MILLER: I think there was a house there.

HAM: Yes. Now, that's the best I can do in that block.

MILLER: These next blocks are the ones that I'm really interested in because I know there were some residences in there that I don't know about. I know some of them --

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HAM: The Scotts lived on the corner where the Coney Island Stand was and then there was another Scott house on beyond that.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: If I remember right, there was a vacant lot where the Log Cabin is, along in there, and then there was a building on the corner, maybe two buildings on the corner beyond that, and what was in them originally I don't remember, but, you know, or did they build that building for Fingers' Bakery Shop on that corner?

MILLER: I don't know.

HAM: You remember when Finger had it - after Finger left the Kandy Kitchen? His brother put in a bakery shop on that corner? Backing up from there, I don't remember whether those buildings were in there or whether those were vacant lots or what. Johnny Quianthy - do you remember his first Tent Hamburger Stand with a big Root Beer Barrel? Before he built the Log Cabin? Well, he was working for the Ice Company, I believe and I don't know whether he left the Ice Company and put that up as a sign venture, but you remember Johnny Quianthy?

MILLER: Yes, and Miss Adeline.

HAM: -- and the Log Cabin?

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Well, the first one he had was a kind of tent deal, with a big root beer barrel and hamburgers - an early hamburger stand.

MILLER: And that was on Washington on the south side?

HAM: Yes.

MILLER: What was he next to?

HAM: That's what I'm trying to remember whether that whole corner was vacant or not. I believe - I can't remember whether Johnny had this before Finger's Bakery Building was built. It seems like he did.

MILLER: When I was a child I remember --- I believe I'm going to the next block though. Yes, I was thinking about Victor's Fruit Stand but that's the next corner.

HAM: The next block, the first corner.

MILLER: I remember Clarence Saunders Self-service, Bennie Simmons' - Simmons' Cash & Carry.

HAM: Well, that was in later years. I'm back previous to that time.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: I don't remember what those buildings were built for but I believe that was a vacant lot, and that building was built for Finger. Whether Finger built it, or Vird en may still own it. They owned it after that, whether Virden built it for the Fingers' Bakery or whether Finger built it and then sold it, I don't remember.

But, on the other side of the street. Let's go to the other side --

MILLER: All right.

HAM: There was the Episcopal Church on the corner

of Broadway and Washington and next to that were -- I don't remember which house came first, the Thomas house or the Romanski house.

Then the Thomas, then the Romanski and then the Strausses and then the Presbyterian Church.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: And then coming on down the street - those buildings have changed hands so many times, in the next block of Washington Avenue, and so many different things in there, I can't remember them all, but like you say, going across the street -- several Greeks ran that fruit stand. They made their money and went back to Greece. The one you remember was Victor with a big handlebar mustache, -- "Don't pincha da peach." (LAUGHS) But, before him there was another Greek there when I was a child and he gave us kids going to town a good deal of time and you know, we'd buy candy -- I guess all of them had to spend a time in the Greek Army and he had pictures of himself in the Greek skirt uniform on the post of the tent - he gave us a lot of his time but I can't remember his name.

MILLER: Now, was this a fruit stand or was this in a building?

HAM: Yes, it was a fruit stand. It was a tent was what it was with a wooden pole, on the dirt. We're now going to jump back to the block on Washington Avenue where Brown's Tent was -- Harbison had a small grocery store in there.

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I just went back and picked that one up.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: And, going back to the block where the fruit stand was, the last block before you get to the railroad track - George and Nelms Grocery Store was next to the fruit stand. It was a big grocery business.

MILLER: Yes, and that was George and Nelms. Who was George and Nelms. Who was George?

HAM: I don't know who George was but I remember Nelms. I remember Mr. George in the store because when we were kids going to Central School we'd go up there and buy dill pickles and crackers and various and sundry things. I don't know whether you -- did you go to Central School?

MILLER: Yes. I did the same thing. Was Mr. George Greek or Assyrian?

HAM: There were lots of Georges who were Greeks all right, either first name or last name.

Then, coming on down the street there were one or two mercantile businesses in there but I don't remember the names, and then you got to the Muffuletto Hotel, which, of course, in that day was famous for its dining room and oyster bar. Then there were several Jewish merchants, as well as I remember. I mean, there were several stores down there.

MILLER: Was Hirsch's Meat Market in there?

HAM: Yes. Then you got to the Olympia Cafe and Davis's Drug Store on the corner.

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HAM: Next to the railroad. Now what was in those other buildings my memory is ---

MILLER: Well, at one time Holcombe's Drug Store moved down there.

HAM: Well, that was in later years. Holcombe was on Poplar Street.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: We missed that block in there between Washington and Main. There were several businesses in there. We'll go back to it if you want to, later.

MILLER: The Olympia was run by a Greek family, was it not?

HAM: Yes, Saratsopoulous. Chris Saratsopoulous, you remember, wound it up, but his brother-- and I think his name was George, but I'm not sure, had it when I first remember. He made his money and retired to Greece, which unfortunately, most of our Greeks do, with exceptions. So many of them made their money and went back to retire in Greece. He still owned it -- and there was some controversy. I think Chris had a lawsuit or something.

It seems to me that there was an M. Stoll, now I believe he was in that block. I think he had a mercantile store in that block. Then going back on the other side of the street. I don't remember before the Shelton's built the new Ford building. I don't remember what was in there.

And, of course, next to it -- Wait a minute,

there was another furniture store-- What was the lady's name?

MILLER: Mrs. Churchill.

HAM: Well, the Churchill Furniture Store was in there and above it was a rooming house, and what else? There seems that there was another building under there besides Churchill Furniture but I don't remember.

MILLER: Well, during the 1927 flood, I understand that there were some black doctors who had offices up there.

HAM: Well, that was in the next block.

MILLER: Was that in the next block?

HAM: No, across the alley - the same block, across the alley.

MILLER: Just a little further down.

HAM: Yes, there were. There were doctors in there--

MILLER: Was there a fish market in there somewhere?

HAM: There could have been.

MILLER: Burch's Fish Market?

HAM: There were a lot of fish markets and fish in Greenville, but there were several negro business in there.

MILLER: Barbershops?

HAM: Barbershops, shoe shops, still shoe shops, barber shops.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Before the Drugstore- whose drugstore was that?

MILLER: Condon's.

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HAM: Of course, Condon's has been there quite a long time and then there was a negro that moved across from Lake Chicot. He had a big Undertaking business, in that building.

MILLER: On Washington Avenue?

HAM: Along in those buildings at one time.

MILLER: What was his name?

HAM: I can't think of it. I wish I could.

MILLER: I never heard this --

HAM: Well, they were a prominent family who lived on the other side of Lake Chicot. His father was a white man. I can't think of the name of the family, but he had quite a bit of money. He left here later but I mean he had a big burial business here before. That takes you to the Freight Depot -- no it doesn't. No it doesn't -- wait a minute. we're leaving out where May started out, that was a Lake Hardware Store at one time. The Lake Hardware Store where it was previous to that, I don't know but I mean, Albert Lake's father had a business where the old Democrat's business is now - going back to the second block on Main Street.

MILLER: And at one time they had a saloon down there.

HAM: I don't doubt that, but I don't remember that.

MILLER: No, I know you don't.

HAM: They were all over town.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: But, who had a saloon down there?

MILLER: The Lake family, I believe.

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HAM: I didn't know that they run a saloon business.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: I didn't -- I mean, ---

MILLER: Lakes, Isenbergs, Hanways, Cannons, Scotts, Kennedys --

HAM: Another old fellow, I can't think of his name, had a big saloon --

MILLER: Shanahans --

HAM: He used to loan money around here in later years. He had a big saloon. I didn't know that the Lakes were in the saloon business at one time.

MILLER: Isenbergs --

HAM: Oh, I knew the Isenbergs -- Now where were we?

MILLER: We were at the railroad.

HAM: No, just before you get to the railroad.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: We were at North Street, which used to be Blanton. Blanton was the redlight district in Greenville.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: Before they broke it up.

MILLER: Do you know why they broke it up, Gatewood?

HAM: For the same reason they broke it up all over the country.

MILLER: And what was that?

HAM: They felt like that was the thing to do at

the time.

MILLER: And what year was that?

HAM: I don't remember. I was rather small at the time.

MILLER: Yes. I've had a good many people to talk about Blanton Street.

HAM: Yes.

MILLER: I think there were several houses. There were two that were the most famous - one was called "The Mansion" and when William Rode built his Casino, he bought the chandelier and a great big mirror out of The Mansion and he put it in the Casino. And, later on the descendants of the Blanton family asked that the name be changed to North Street from Blanton Street.

HAM: Well, we got to the railroad track. And, of course, you know on the other side of the railroad track was the Goyer Company. We're about to wind up the business street.

MILLER: Now, at the railroad track - the railroad station - the freight office -- Wasn't one of those buildings a three-story building at one time?

HAM: I don't remember the Freight Office being anything but a two-story.

MILLER: Yes. Now, they had a little fountain out in front of it.

HAM: Oh yes. It was a beautiful little fountain.

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MILLER: Yes, it was between those two magnolia trees, and very attractive.

HAM: The first Christmas electric-light decorated trees in town were those trees.

MILLER: Do you know when it disappeared and why?

HAM: No, that was after the shutdown of the big operations of the railroad. Why, I don't know, but there used to be gold fish in there.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Then there was a fountain on the side of the Elks' Club, do you remember that?

MILLER: No, I don't. Was it the same type fountain?

HAM: Well, I don't think it was as large and as elaborate. I'm pretty positive there was. But, that was quite an elaborate fountain down at the railroad.

MILLER: Yes, it was scaled properly.

HAM: Yes, it was quite pretty.

MILLER: Well, across the street was the famous Goyer Company - across the railroad track --

HAM: And then across the street from that was the old building that still stands there, and it went through many hands --

MILLER: It was known as the The Wray Building, wasn't it?

HAM: Yes. I think there was a saloon in there at one time. I believe Wray was in the saloon business, I'm not sure.

MILLER: I think he was in the wholesale liquor business.

HAM: He was?

MILLER: Yes. He shipped it around to plantations and stores. Now, going on to the next block, we do have some residences.

HAM: Wait a minute, the Number Four Firehouse was down there.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: It still stands there.

MILLER: Right. Have you ever been in the back of that Fire Station?

HAM: Oh, yes.

MILLER: Did they have it set up with stalls for the horses back there?

HAM: Sure, the one I remember the most was Number One next to our building. I well remember horses.

MILLER: I understand that they still have the screen wired-in stalls in the old station in East End.

HAM: Is that right? I haven't been back there in years.

MILLER: Now, what would have been next to the Fire Station a long time ago?

HAM: Well, on the corner --

MILLER: Oh, between the Washington Hotel and the Fire Station. What was in there? There was somebody's house.

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HAM: Well, I believe the Virden Lumber Yard was in there before they moved it over on Main Street just below the Wray building. The Virden Lumber -- I don't know whether you remember when they were in there or not.

MILLER: Yes, I vaguely do now.

HAM: That was the only thing that was between there and the Fire House that I can remember.

MILLER: And then what was on the corner?

HAM: Alexander's home was on the next corner. The H. N. Alexander home.

MILLER: That's right.

HAM: Of course, there was a cottage house this side of there, and then there was a two-story house right next to the Fire House, which was a rooming house in later years.

MILLER: Right. Did the Biglebens live somewhere in there?

HAM: Yes, that was their home. And I don't remember anything across the street over there until they built the Goyer Service Station. I guess it was vacant.

MILLER: And then in the next block, of course, on that side of the street we have the Courthouse and across from it --

HAM: The Taylor home was there and the Giardina home. I believe, on the corner across from the Alexander house, then the Taylor house and later on his daughter built --

MILLER: Yes, the Kittlemans.

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HAM: The Kittlemans built a two-story house in there. And, then next to that was a big one-story - I believe it was a story and a half - which was first known as the Cohn house and that I remember it being called "The Cohn house", across the street from the railroad.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: I guess that was where Cohn, the writer lived --

MILLER: Dave Cohn's family probably.

HAM: I'm not sure but that is what it was known as. "The Cohn House" when I was a child.

MILLER: All right, Gatewood, I think it is time for us to talk about the flood now.

HAM: Well, I spent a lot of time in the flood, practically all of it. The first I remember of the flood was the morning of the break. I was working for Grey Tire Company and the word got out that morning that the levee had broken. What time did the levee break?

MILLER: Along about six or seven o'clock in the morning?

HAM: I think so. By the time everybody got to work, well, the word was out, so the thing to do was to start putting your stuff up, if you could. We got all of our tires - it was a tire company - Ed Gray and Merrill - you remember Luther Merrill, so we put up all that stuff-- Then I went over to our store. They'd already started but I helped. They put

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everything up on the second floor. Everybody was wondering where it was going to be. How far it was going to get? How much in town it would be? Of course, nobody knew, including Mr. Seguire Allen. Everybody was at the Levee Board office, so papa and I went down there after we'd gotten everything up at the store and that afternoon they asked me would I go with a boat to take some food up to -- What was it, Twin Oaks or something like that, up above town. They were sacking and stacking and still sacking --

MILLER: Twin Bridges?

HAM: Twin Bridges. We took that up there and people were coming down the levee --

(End of Tape 2, Side 1)

HAM: People were coming down the sides of the levee. I guess where the water had already begun to hit. They made it to the levee and were going to come to town. So, after we fed that crew we came back to town, and that night we were at the Levee Board office. Mr. Allen asked me would I go with a truck -- Lots of these people had come in from the country and had gone out to what used to be the Alfalfa Mill. I don't know whether you remember where it was. It was back over behind the Goyer Company, over in that direction, and get a load of men and go up and take them up to the boil this side of the protection levee. If I remember right, Frank Hall was working the boil with a crew up there, so I started out with a whole -- I had to really beg to get them to come out. I mean,

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they had made a place where they felt like they were safe, wouldn't be any water -- but I finally got a truck load and we went up to the gravel company. That was as far as we could go in the truck then and we had to hit the levee from there, so it was dark and we started out. I left with a truck load, and when I got to the boil I had about ten. They had gone out through the darkness and gone back to the Alfalfa Mill. About the time we got there you could hear the scream, just of many voices. The water had hit that pocket up there between the levee and the protection levee and the railroad track, banked up and came in there pretty fast, so that just about ended the work on the boil, as well as I remember. So there was a boy with me that worked for the Gray Tire Company, that had gone up there with me, and he was from Carrolton, the hills, or somewhere. He was scared to death so I told him. I said, "Mack, you get on the levee and go on back to Main Street and go on out Main Street and go to the house." He had a room somewhere at Red Taggart's mother-in-law, or just where, I don't know. He was scared that he was going to get caught in the water, so he did. Mr. Reynolds, T. P. Reynolds, was up there and he said, "Hey, let's ride on and see if the water has come to the old Leland Road" where the gap was sacked in the old Leland road, so we went over and it was dry as a chip over there. I mean this water had just hit that pocket and built up in that pocket, couldn't spread like it does. So, of course, that afternoon we had gotten a stock of groceries

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to hold us from the Goyer Company. We stocked up at home and we had plenty of groceries, to carry us for what we thought was the time, and we were fortunate enough to have a skiff and an outboard motor. There were very few motors at that time, very few motors. We were lucky enough to have one, and a big skiff too. In the night, late in the night, I believe Cadge Goode - you ever hear of Cadge Goode? I believe Cadge Goode called and asked would we take him - knowing that we had a boat - would we take him the next morning out to John Dabney's place. I believe three families had been caught out there. Why in the world they didn't come to town I don't know, or whether John thought the water wasn't going to get there, like so many people did, or what. We told him, "Yes", so the next morning about daylight, Papa and I put the skiff on a trailer and we were to meet him, and we went out Orlando Street for several blocks - I guess six or seven blocks before we could find enough water to put the boat in. I mean the water was spreading at that time and it had hit the bottom of the delta and started backing up, so we got out there and I've forgotten now but John Dabney's place was somewhere out by where the hospital is now, out in that area somewhere. Cadge knew where it was. He was in a duck boat - Now why in the world he thought he could do any good in a duck boat I don't know. We tied his boat on behind our boat and he showed us these houses. Now Cadge was an old river man and a friend of John's, so we found the first house and the

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the water was up in the house, the current was banking up on the houses. How they stood on the foundations I don't know but they did, and it was a negro family so we took them in. We brought them back to town and we brought Cadge, but Cadge had had enough, he'd showed us these other two houses. There wasn't much he could do, you know. He was a water man, I mean, as far as that part goes. We brought that family in. Well, every time you'd come in you could come a little further up the street. The water was rising gradually and coming a little further up the street, and in the meantime, I've forgotten who took us out but they drove the car back to the house. Then we got another family out, a negro family, the last family we liked to have never gotten them out of their house. They were just in terror. I mean they were just frightened just as far as they could be frightened.

There was an Italian family with a little baby and they were in water up to their waist. They had been standing in that water pretty well all night, I guess, so we brought them in. And there was enough water to put them out on the railroad track at Washington Avenue and the C & G railroad. Then we went back. We had passed the train that got caught in the water at Paducah and it had torn the tracks up, the current was terrific out there coming down this side of Number 9 ditch, and it had turned the track up but there were two box cars standing there. There were two negroes, I believe, a father and son that had - it was a wonder they hadn't gotten drowned.

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They couldn't control some kind of a boat they had and they had gotten caught at the railroad track and it sucked the boat under. They were lucky enough to be right where the ladder was on the engine of the railroad car and could climb up on top. We passed them when we first went out there and told them that we'd be back for them, they were, you know, they couldn't be drowned where they were. So, we went back and picked them off and by that time you could follow the ditches and we could get home with the boat. I mean, that's the way it was rising.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: So, from that time on it was first one thing and then another, whatever you could do for somebody.

MILLER: Did you see any dead people?

HAM: No, I didn't, I never did. I tried to get one man off of a bale of cotton. He worked at the Kings Daughters Hospital and lived out in there somewhere. He said, "No, he didn't want to be taken off", and he could get to dry land paddling that bale of cotton. He refused to leave, he would not go, so I don't know what happened to him.

I saw a lot of dead cattle but, fortunately, the 1927 flood, I mean for what it was, comparatively speaking, there were very few people drowned in the 1927 flood.

MILLER: That first night people were drowned and were just washed on down south, I understand. They just pulled them aloose from fences and trees and let them go.

HAM: Sure, there were some people drowned but why more weren't drowned is a puzzle to me because they were taken off the house tops and everywhere else.

MILLER: Yes, people were stranded and marooned.

HAM: Yes. Where were you all? When did you come out?

MILLER: That's a long story. I'll tell you bout it later.

Now that was the second day after the break, wasn't it? The protection levee hadn't gone out then, had it?

HAM: Oh, the protection levee - it went over the protection levee.

MILLER: The protection levee went out that night, didn't it?

HAM: It never did go out that I remember, the water climbed it-- just went over the protection levee.

MILLER: The water just came over it, yes. I thought that it also burst through --

HAM: I don't ever remember the protection levee breaking. It might have finally washed the sacks out of where they had it sacked on the roadway but I don't remember any break.

MILLER: But it came over it that night about nine o'clock.

HAM: It probably did. It started seeping over. I mean it was caught in that pocket --

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law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: -- and started going over as time went on. I never went back to the north part of town any farther than Nelson Street. There was a boat landing on this side of the protection levee, I believe. I tell you who got people out in this country, really got them out was the river people. They put their boats -- I mean, they had these big skiffs with one cylinder engines and they could really handle them. I mean that's who got the people out --

MILLER: How long did it take them to get here?

HAM: It didn't take them long.

MILLER: Were they here by the third day?

HAM: Oh, you know, a lot of people lived in shanty boats at Greenville that worked the river - the commercial fishermen and I am sure that some of them were running whiskey and various and sundry things. I mean, the fishing industry - there were a lot of fish shipped out of Greenville back in those days to Chicago and everywhere else. I mean there were commercial processing fish markets that bought them and shipped them out of Greenville by express on the railroad and word gets around pretty fast. I mean, whether they came on their own or not, I don't remember, but I do know that they were the ones that got the most of the people out.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: With exceptions, of course, there were some of us that got some.

MILLER: Did you do rescue work or -- ?

HAM: Well, whatever I could --

MILLER: I knew you were doing it right there at the beginning.

HAM: You know, after that, the people were out, I mean most of the people who could get out were out. I mean, some of the people were determined, they wouldn't come out. I mean they stayed on their roof tops and various and sundry things.

MILLER: Right.

HAM: I passed people during the flood that wouldn't come out, I mean they stayed on their places and, then, there were high places - I mean like Lake Washington and Deer Creek that people could still stay there and live there.

MILLER: What did you do the rest of the time during the flood?

HAM: I'd take the doctors around - Dr. Norton out to check stock, to give them shots, and this and that and the other. I stayed pretty busy.

MILLER: And Dr. A. G. Payne.

HAM: Oh, yes, I used to take Dr. Payne to the hospital every day. He called me one morning - he and Chutie had gotten ahold of a boat some way or another - there was a terrific current down Broadway, terrific current, and they started out and they turned over. Fortunately, I mean they could walk back to the house --

MILLER: Chutie driving Dr. Payne?

HAM: I don't think they had a motor - I guess they were going to try to row it, and rowing was a pretty difficult thing to do in the current, I mean the way the currents were in certain places, so he called me the next morning and asked me would I take him to the hospital. I took him to the hospital from then on, and we got calls from different things to do.

MILLER: Were you working with the doctors, taking them around at night too? I know this was a busy time.

HAM: Sure, wherever he wanted to do -- I mean, there wasn't that much running around, as much as you'd think there was. I mean, people were concentrated, they were concentrated on the levee --

MILLER: And hospital --

HAM: And hospitals and a few were in their homes. We were fortunate. I mean, I had no idea, born and raised in the Delta that Delta land rolled and ridged so much as it did until the 1927 flood. I mean, you drive from here to Leland you wouldn't think that there was a nine or ten foot drop --

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: -- between here, between the riverside and Greenville and the edge of Deer Creek. I mean, you just wouldn't think so. That water was deep out there - nine or ten feet deep down through the black land, you know, between the highways.

MILLER: Well now, in Greenville at your home on Main Street how high did the water get -- ?

HAM: It didn't get over about eight or ten inches in the yard.

MILLER: In the yard, it didn't get in the house?

HAM: Oh, no.

MILLER: You all didn't have to move upstairs completely?

HAM: No, no, and very few people -- I mean, we had a house full of people that night because we had a two-story house. They didn't know where the water was going. Nobody knew how high the water was going to be. Nobody knew the high places and the low places. Most of the homes were, like you say, they were on foundations, most of the homes were three feet off the ground, so all our neighbors went back to their homes. Just like the Pools lived there where the Gamble Clinic is, the water was higher there but it didn't get in their house, so we could take them home.

MILLER: And it didn't get in the hospital.

HAM: No, no.

MILLER: The hospital had a little ridge of land.

HAM: The hospital was out.

MILLER: What did you think about the National Guard? Do you think they did a real good job?

HAM: I'd rather not express myself about the National Guard because they wanted to take my boat and everybody else's boat. What they did-- I really don't know what they did, yet, and they wouldn't let you buy gasoline. Fortunately, we had

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enough gasoline in the trucks and cars to take care of us until we could buy gasoline.

MILLER: In other words, people in town - they wanted to commandeer your own boat?

HAM: Yes.

MILLER: I didn't know that, and then they wouldn't let you buy gas?

HAM: That's right, that's right. I mean, of course, it was under martial law.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: I'd rather not express myself about the National Guard. I mean, they probably did a lot of good - I just wouldn't particularly know.

MILLER: How big was that camp up on the levee? How far did it extend going south and going north?

HAM: Most of it was north. It couldn't go south particularly because the lumber mills were south.

MILLER: Didn't they have a camp below the lumber mill?

HAM: It could have been part of it. I don't remember. I remember that it was quite a way north and they fed them on the wharf. I mean the kitchen was on the wharf. Yes, I remember your father during the flood. I mean after the break was in and it had eaten about all of the levee that it was goind to eat, why they wanted to put a ferry in, so there were two ferries here at the time - Bob Carson ran a ferry --

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MILLER: Was it the Lyons?

HAM: No, the Lyons were steamboat people.

Haney had a ferry-- They were competitive ferries. Bob Carson and Haney, and they had big gas boats with little wooden barges that would carry about six cars. I mean that was what the ferries were in those days. So, they wanted to know whether they could work a ferry in the break or not, from levee to levee I mean it was a month or a month and a half after the break, as well as I remember, so I took Haney up there to sound out and see what he could do, so we passed the Mounds going up, Mr. Lewis was - you remember Mr. Lewis, don't you?

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: He was on the Mounds with mules and tenants - He said if he ever got off that Mound that was the last mule and negro he wanted to see. So, those Mounds were loaded with stock. You said your pony was over there, I believe.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Anyway, we went on up and sounded it out and felt the current and one thing and another. Your daddy had a camp on the other side. We ate lunch with him that day, he was very cordial.

MILLER: Yes, we stayed up there with him a while.

HAM: Did you? You weren't there that day, I don't believe. He was there by himself.

MILLER: They did put the ferry in the break too, didn't they?

HAM: Oh, yes. Haney couldn't run his boat, his boat wasn't powerful enough to take it --

MILLER: Take the current.

HAM: Neither was the other ferry, so they called -- He said he thought the old diesel ferry that ran at Arkansas City could do it, so they checked over there and got the man from Arkansas City.

MILLER: Was that one of the Kimball boats?

HAM: Kimball?

MILLER: Yes, that ran the ferry from Mound Landing to Arkansas -- that's who I thought it was.

HAM: Whoever ran that ferry, I don't remember their names, I mean, but they put the ferry in. They put the ferry in and it was quite a help to Greenville.

MILLER: Yes.

HAM: Yes: It was quite a help to Greenville. They could truck stuff down. Of course, they were getting everything by steamboat. I don't remember the name of the boat from Memphis but it was still running to towns above here but it wasn't coming into Greenville at the time. As the water went down people went back to their homes in the country. When did you all go back?

MILLER: About June.

HAM: Well, that was the latter part.

MILLER: Then we were there when the second rise came.

HAM: You were?

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