

Page Twenty-two: Jordan

JORDAN: Yes, I know, he was sensible you know. He had a good head. He was my husband's close friend. They were good friends. Mr. Lane was one of the trustees I remember. I believe Uncle Richard Cloy (that was Jordan's uncle) was one of the trustees at that time. He was, because I remember a girl that got a place because she knew him through Jordan. Richard Cloy was one and Lane Ratcliff was one, but now I can't remember - that Cain might have been Roscoe Cain. I'd say Roscoe Cain.

BOWLIN: It might have been Mr. Roscoe since he lived in this community, How were the schools financed then? Were they financed through the state or federal system?

JORDAN: Well, they had a special levy on the district, but now I don't know. I imagine they got what just an ordinary public school would have gotten out of the county. I don't know what that was.

BOWLIN: It wasn't all the federal financing of schools then that has come to the school system now?

JORDAN: No, they had special tax on this territory to finance the school.

BOWLIN: Where was the nearest college - do you remember? - at that time to this particular location?

JORDAN: That must have been Copiah-Lincoln as far as I can remember. One of our teachers came from there.

BOWLIN: That is at Wesson? Copiah-Lincoln at Wesson?

JORDAN: Yes, that's right.

BOWLIN: Now, about Whitworth College - do you remember if it was

Page Twenty-three: Jordan

at Brookhaven at that time?

JORDAN: Yes, yes, it was.

BOWLIN: I thought Whitworth College was there.

JORDAN: It was a four (4) year college. No, I don't know. It was a two (2) year.

BOWLIN: I know Whitworth College has been there quite a few years.

JORDAN: Our oldest daughter finished at Whitworth College. I believe it was a two (2) year college, a junior college.

BOWLIN: How was the children transported to school then at first?

JORDAN: At first it was mule wagons and then it got to the motor.

BOWLIN: Bus? To the bus?

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: Did any of them have to walk long distances?

JORDAN: Yes, they walked a half a mile or more.

BOWLIN: None of them like they used to years ago, way back?

JORDAN: No.

BOWLIN: They had better ways of transportation to get to school.

Well, where was the nearest doctor at that time?

JORDAN: At Auburn. Dr. Walker was the doctor at Auburn.

BOWLIN: Did he have an office down there?

JORDAN: Yes, just his little private office.

BOWLIN: Just a private office. And he was just a general practitioner?

JORDAN: Yes, for the community.

BOWLIN: How did he travel?

JORDAN: Horse and buggy.

Page Twenty-four: Jordan

BOWLIN: I guess he went all over the territory?

JORDAN: All over the territory.

BOWLIN: Anywhere he was called, I guess. That's the way country doctors did.

JORDAN: You had to go and get him, you know. There was no telephones.

BOWLIN: No telephones, so you had to go and get him. Did Mr. Ratcliff ever practice in this part of the country?

JORDAN: Yes, he lived here at one time, I believe. Now I don't know where Dr. Ratcliff lived. He was my doctor when my first child was born. He was my doctor when my oldest child and my youngest child were born, my two (2) daughters.

BOWLIN: Dr. Ratcliff, Dr. Marion Ratcliff?

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: I thought that he had lived somewhere in the Auburn community.

JORDAN: He must have been ahead of Dr. Walker, because Dr. Ratcliff was my doctor.

BOWLIN: Then he moved on to McComb, I believe, after he left Auburn or in that community.

JORDAN: Yes, and went into City Hospital, you know, Dr. Gladys and old Dr. Ratcliff, Dr. Marion, they had the City Hospital.

BOWLIN: The City Hospital?

JORDAN: Yes, he was such a sweet man.

BOWLIN: He was a lovely man. He is my mother-in-law's oldest brother.

JORDAN: Oh, I didn't know.

NOTICE

This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

Page Twenty-five: Jordan

BOWLIN: You see, my mother-in-law was a Ratcliff. He was her oldest brother and Mr. Coley Ratcliff that was the principal was her youngest brother.

JORDAN: Mr. Coley was fine, too. I loved him, too. He was so nice.

BOWLIN: Let's see now. We have already talked about industry here and just didn't have any, did you? Not in this part of the country at that time.

JORDAN: No.

BOWLIN: Do you remember about when you got your first phonograph? About what time or what kind was it? Was it one of these old wind-up kind or was it just...

JORDAN: I don't believe it was. I can't remember. If we could talk to Milton he knows all about it. That is how come us with it.

BOWLIN: In other words, you did it for Milton?

JORDAN: Yes, for Milton's sake. He loves music, but I just can't remember anything about our machine.

BOWLIN: You don't remember the type of music that was played then, or do you?

JORDAN: No, he just liked it all.

BOWLIN: He just liked music and still does, I believe.

JORDAN: Yes, he loves music.

BOWLIN: Do you remember about the time the radios came in?

JORDAN: For some president election was our first radio that we got.

BOWLIN: That was a big thing, I mean, to bring the national news

Page Twenty-six: Jordan

into the community.

JORDAN: Yes, indeed it was. Jordan dashed out and bought one on account of that election. I know he didn't pay for it all when he got one, anyway.

BOWLIN: Well, I guess that was about the first time or means that we had of getting the national news as it was happening.

JORDAN: Yes, that is true, that's right.

BOWLIN: There wasn't enough telephones or newspapers.

JORDAN: No, we got a telephone long after that time.

BOWLIN: What kind of newspaper did you subscribe to?

JORDAN: We got The Commercial Appeal once a week. That was our newspaper.

BOWLIN: Commercial Appeal came from Memphis, was that right?

JORDAN: Yes, it came from Memphis.

BOWLIN: In other words there wasn't a Brookhaven or Jackson paper in this part of the country at that time?

JORDAN: No, if there was we didn't have the money to subscribe to it.

BOWLIN: You didn't subscribe to it. You could possibly get more news from the Memphis paper since it was larger.

JORDAN: Yes, it was a good newspaper and we got it once a week.

(Begin side two of tape)

BOWLIN: About the depression time here, it was hard. People didn't have the money to pay their bills, did they?

JORDAN: No, and we grew cucumber; we grew string beans; we grew

Page Twenty-seven: Jordan

Irish potatoes for the market, you know. We would go around to the neighbors and get anyone that would try, you know, to get enough money to buy their fertilizer and their seed. We did that to try to finance ourselves along during that time. Anything that we would grow to sell. Irish potatoes - we did that one time. Trying to make some money. The whole community did it, you know. We all worked together.

BOWLIN: Everybody worked together.

JORDAN: Yes, several families would join in, you know, and grow and then we would get it to market someplace. We would have a buyer, ordinarily. Maybe then they would furnish the seed and maybe help finance the fertilizer or something to get the people interested and get them to work. And then we'd get them to town or somebody would get them there. We did everything that we could to make a dollar. We milked cows. We did everything that anybody ever did try to do to make a living; we did it too.

BOWLIN: Well, it paid off.

JORDAN: Yes, it paid off. We could feed our families.

BOWLIN: It was a combined effort, a community effort, too, that everybody worked together, wasn't it?

JORDAN: Yes, and Jordan had a teacher's license. The first thing that he ever did when he started out was to get a teacher's license. He went to Ruston Cave College in Tennessee two (2) years. Mr. Burt Raulins persuaded him to go up there to school. He was just in a public school. He had gone to Auburn. That was better than the ordinary school just scattered around in the country. He went there for a year or so and then he went

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDA#

Page Twenty-eight: Jordan

to Ruston Cave College in Tennessee. He went for two (2) years and he cooked for a bunch of boys at a club home for boys. He got to where he got where he could get enough education that he could get a first grade teacher's license. That was a big help; sometimes it was \$65.00 a month, but that was a lot of money then.

BOWLIN: That was big money then.

JORDAN: Yes, it was, all along he got to where if you would teach so long, then you were exempt, you didn't have to take the examination any more. He got to where he had his license all the time and he could get a school and enjoyed it. He loved it. That helped us along you know. He would ride a horse over to Little Springs and out to Coward school and to different schools where he could go from here to teach. That was before we bought the store. He couldn't do much of it after we bought the store because when we took over there that tied him at home.

BOWLIN: Sort of a fulltime job, wasn't it?

JORDAN: Yes, he had to be at home. Along during all the time he could get a school. It was just for six (6) months, but it was that long that we would have that little bit of income. Enough to buy us a buggy.

BOWLIN: You know you can't buy much with that now, but at that time you could.

JORDAN: No, you couldn't buy much with it now.

BOWLIN: Compared to the way things sold then that wasn't bad at all.

JORDAN: No, we lived at home. We made our living at home. I

Page Twenty-nine: Jordan

tell people a lot of the times I can't cook meat yet because we didn't live on meat. We lived on milk and vegetables. I could milk a cow and work a garden.

BOWLIN: I can't milk the cow. That is one job I wasn't cut out to do, to milk the cows.

JORDAN: I could milk the cows and I had three (3) children that could do the same thing. We milked every morning and got that milk off on that milk route.

BOWLIN: Now about the milk route, there was a man who drove the milk truck, wasn't there?

JORDAN: Yes, he picked up the milk every morning early.

BOWLIN: Now a days these milk cans you see are antiques, but they did put their milk in them.

JORDAN: They weren't antiques then; they were everyday things. Yes indeed. We would draw water and cool the milk, you know. When we had the milk we would set the cans of milk in a big tub of water to cool it so it would keep overnight. The milk man would pick it up early in the morning.

BOWLIN: When did you get your first refrigeration, electric or otherwise? When did electricity first come through here? Do you remember when you got your first electricity?

JORDAN: The first refrigerator we got, we bought one for the store and it was coal oil. It would burn coal oil. Just as soon as we got current in to where we could get electricity, I got that coal oil one, you know. I never did get a new one. I always got a hand-me-down, but I used it and was glad to get it.

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U. S. Code).

MDAH

Page Thirty: Jordan

BOWLIN: Well, the kerosene motor - did it run by, the coal oil operated it just like a fuel?

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: And that was your refrigeration for the store?

JORDAN: Yes, that was the first that we had.

BOWLIN: You know, I didn't ever know that they had that kind.

JORDAN: Yes, we did. It was coal oil operated.

BOWLIN: Did you ever just use ice? Did you ever have an ice-house, or just use ice for refrigeration?

JORDAN: We had an ice man that would come maybe twice a week. He came from Summit, I reckon. He would come around and sell, maybe a hundred pounds or something. Maybe on the Fourth of July Jordan would go and get a truck load of ice and bring it out here and sell it at the store, you see, on the fourth of July morning.

BOWLIN: People always made ice cream on the Fourth of July, so they had to have ice.

JORDAN: Yes, that's what they did.

BOWLIN: That is a tradition, I guess, that goes back a long way.

JORDAN: Way back, yes.

BOWLIN: Fourth of July is just associated with ice cream, home-made ice cream.

JORDAN: That's right. Yes indeed. Everybody had it.

BOWLIN: Well, I don't know. The prices then, I guess, were generally in line with the economy. Everything didn't cost very much then.

JORDAN: No, it didn't cost too much. I can't remember what it

Page Thirty-one: Jordan

was, but it wasn't too expensive.

BOWLIN: Your sugar and all of these things came in bulk at that time and you measured it.

JORDAN: Yes, we had our eggs and everything at home and our milk, most of us. You see, most of us had a cow or two.

BOWLIN: In your store, as you sold it, for instance, your coffee, did you sell coffee beans?

JORDAN: Yes, green coffee.

BOWLIN: Green coffee.

JORDAN: Yes, and the people had to parch it. We would buy it by the sack of green coffee.

BOWLIN: Your sugar came in bulk form too, didn't it? And everything had to be measured?

JORDAN: Yes, there is an old barrel out there in an outhouse now that we kept matches in, in our old store. We were afraid; you know sometimes they say rats will set a house on fire, you know, cutting matches. There is an old barrel out there in one of the outhouses now that we kept our matches in where the rats couldn't get to them.

BOWLIN: Rats couldn't get to the matches. Well, that was a precaution, because you didn't have anything to fight fire then, no fire department or anything, did you?

JORDAN: No, and no insurance.

BOWLIN: No insurance or anything else.

JORDAN: That is true.

BOWLIN: Do you remember, we'll get back into after the depression now, when the boys went off to the Second World War? I am sure you were aware

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

Page Thirty-two: Jordan

of that. I believe you said you had a son in that war, didn't you?

JORDAN: I had three (3) sons in it.

BOWLIN: You had three (3) sons in the Second World War?

JORDAN: Yes, my oldest boy was the first one that had to go. Then Dick was at Copiah-Lincoln. They got Joe out of school at Hattiesburg and they got Dick out at Wesson. He was a student at Wesson.

BOWLIN: Did they all serve overseas?

JORDAN: Yes, they were all pilots.

BOWLIN: Is that right?

JORDAN: Yes, they all went overseas and all were pilots.

BOWLIN: All came back safely?

JORDAN: Yes, didn't get a scratch. Joe had to bail out one night over India. He got out of gas; he got lost and got out of gas. He told the crew, he said, "Well, we are out of gas and there is nothing to do but bail out." He told them that the way was open and they had to go, but nobody went. He was the first one that bailed out. He would have been the last one to leave the plane, but wouldn't anybody else jump until he jumped. He went out first and then they all followed him. No one lost their life.

BOWLIN: That's great that they came through that way.

JORDAN: We had some terrible times during that time. I lived on my knees.

BOWLIN: Most people did. My only two (2) brothers served in that war.

JORDAN: They all came back as healthy as they were when they went.

BOWLIN: There were some casualties in through this community though,

Page Thirty-three: Jordan

wasn't there?

JORDAN: Yes, we lost boys. A Ratcliff, no, not Mr. Lane, a Norton boy out here.

BOWLIN: I believe one of Holmes Lofton's boys was one of the casualties, I believe.

JORDAN: Yes, they lost their boy and Charles Griffin had a boy to die.

BOWLIN: Right. I believe I remember that.

JORDAN: We lost some boys. Mrs. Gussie Arnold, didn't she lose one? No, I don't believe she did.

BOWLIN: I don't know that she did, I know that she had two (2) boys, but I don't know that she lost one in service.

JORDAN: I don't remember.

BOWLIN: I was just looking at this board. This is right interesting. You were talking about writing on this board that your son made this for you when he went into service or about that time.

JORDAN: While he was in college he did that furniture.

BOWLIN: This bookcase?

JORDAN: Yes, that bookcase. And he had this little piece of wood left, you know. He just varnished it or whatever he did to it. It was nice then. It looked nice when he brought it for me, but I have always used it to write on, and I still do, I write on it yet.

BOWLIN: That's just a plain board, but I had never thought of that. I always try to get a book and prop up to write on.

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

Page Thirty-four: Jordan

JORDAN: On Sunday afternoon I would sit out in the shade somewhere in an armchair, you know. That would fit across my chair and I would write to the boys on Sunday afternoons.

BOWLIN: That is a good idea. I have never seen that done before. That is an idea that I will take advantage of because I need one. Let's see, we have discussed the war. I want to ask you something about the Board of Supervisors. I believe the Board of Supervisors and all that was already in effect when you came here, right?

JORDAN: Yes, we had Supervisors.

BOWLIN: Your county government was already set up; your sheriff and all that?

JORDAN: Yes, we had our county officers.

BOWLIN: Were they responsible for the upkeep of the roads and everything?

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: The way they are now, they had similar responsibilities?

JORDAN: Yes, like it is today. Very much like it is today. Of course, there have been lots of improvements, but they were responsible for the roads and what-not. Mr. Jones was a member - the man that we bought this place from - Mr. Quit Jones, he was a member of the Board of Supervisors a long time.

BOWLIN: Was a Mr. Lewis a supervisor at one time, a Mr. Washie Lewis?

JORDAN: That was in Lincoln County.

BOWLIN: Oh, that's right, he was across the line over there.

Page Thirty-five: Jordan

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: Now, did Mr. Jordan ever hold a public office?

JORDAN: Yes, he was floater representative from Franklin and Lincoln counties one time.

BOWLIN: In the State Legislature?

JORDAN: Yes, that was the only office he ever held.

BOWLIN: When was that, Mrs. Jordan? Do you remember the year?

JORDAN: Let me see, who was the governor then?

BOWLIN: In other words, it was somewhere in the thirties that he served in the State Legislature?

JORDAN: Yes.

BOWLIN: Just what effect did the closing of Independence school have on this community?

JORDAN: It was detrimental to the ongoing of the social life and what-not. We had no ball games to go to and no things at the school house to come to.

BOWLIN: No common interest?

JORDAN: No, it took us to McCall for everything. It was a hindrance to our progress in a way to lose our school.

BOWLIN: Yes, I'm sure it was, because that was the common interest of this whole community.

JORDAN: Yes, it was the community center and we just had to go somewhere else, if we had any amusement, you know. I missed a lot of ball games that I would have enjoyed down here.

Page Thirty-six: Jordan

BOWLIN: Did you like basketball?

JORDAN: Oh, I loved it. I loved it. When my children were playing I just enjoyed it so, and I always enjoyed it.

BOWLIN: Basketball was really the sport in the school at that time.

JORDAN: It wasn't too rough; it was not like football. I am afraid of football; it is too rough.

BOWLIN: What time did Independence school leave here? It must have been sometime, was it in the early Fifties? Somewhere in the Fifties, I believe, or was it in the Sixties? I believe it was in the late Fifties when the Independence School was disbanded.

JORDAN: I imagine it was. If I could talk to some of these kids around here that had to go up there, they all know.

BOWLIN: I believe it was somewhere around that time, because I remember about the time it was. Some where around the late Fifties.

JORDAN: My children all finished high school at Copiah-Lincoln except Joe. He just wouldn't go away from home to go to high school. The school was not an accredited school and we wanted them to go farther than just high school.

BOWLIN: Yes, I see.

JORDAN: If they didn't get a better foundation they couldn't go on.

BOWLIN: They couldn't make it in college.

JORDAN: No, they couldn't, so they all went to Copiah-Lincoln and finished high school except Joe. Of course, Joe got in Southern alright. He made his grade and got in. He got two (2) years there before the army got him, but he never did go any more, then. He married while he was in service

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

Page Thirty-seven: Jordan

and stayed in ten (10) years. Dick went on because he played ball. He made his way playing ball, so he went on. Of course, we sent Milton and Ann on through. Now, Milton didn't graduate. He was at State. No, let's see...

BOWLIN: Ole Miss?

JORDAN: Yes, he was at Ole Miss. He was a senior, but he didn't get to graduate, because he had to go on, you know. So, when he came back, his daddy was getting old enough he couldn't carry on in the store so and I had written to Milton before he got out and asked him what he would say if I asked him about coming home and taking over and he said, "Well, I have always wanted to come back home and live, but I wouldn't tell you because I was afraid some of the rest of the children wanted it and I didn't want to be in their way." But they were all married except him. Of course Ann was a young girl. She was single, but of course she couldn't take over like. So when he came home we told him we were going to give him the store. He said, "Well, if you're going to give me the store I will always be in it and there is no point in me going on and getting a diploma just to say that I have finished college." He was a music student. He never would take; he would take anything else but the music had to go on too. So he was going to be a musician or nothing and that was the size of it. So he didn't want to go on then. When he got out of service, he said, "If I'm going to take store I'll just..."

BOWLIN: About what, when was that, I mean when did you turn it over to him? That was in the Fifties too, wasn't it?

JORDAN: When he got home out of the service and Ann married and he was at home just before she married and seems like she married in... I

Page Thirty-eight: Jordan

can't remember. I can't remember dates, never could in history. I don't remember.

BOWLIN: But it was back, I think it was in the Fifties somewhere. The reason I said that, we came along in the early Sixties and he already had the store then. So I know it must have been in the Fifties.

JORDAN: I'm sure it was. It was along in the Fifties. That's what it was.

BOWLIN: Well, Milton plays the piano now, I believe, doesn't he?

JORDAN: Yes, he play any kind of insturment.

BOWLIN: Any instrument?

JORDAN: He loves music.

BOWLIN: I know, someone told me that he played. I have heard them say he played for the church.

JORDAN: He does. He plays for the Masons a lot and dances and things, you know, on Saturday nights. So when he's gone all night long, he goes all over the country, to Jackson and Baton Rouge and everywhere. Sings on Saturday night. Well, on Sunday morning he doesn't get in until three or four o'clock. After they've played and they eat and they separate, he's just up all night Saturday night. Well, sometimes he doesn't get to church. And then these Taylors out here are good churches workers; they are the best.

BOWLIN: That's Mrs. Ruby Taylor's children?

JORDAN: Yes, one of the daughters plays real well and Milton usually leads and that's the biggest help that she needs, because sometimes she doesn't get the time just right. She reads notes real well, but if Milton

Page Thirty-nine: Jordan

leads, he can lead her.

BOWLIN: He can direct?

JORDAN: They can do real well together and she plays all the time, but if she's not there he plays.

BOWLIN: Was Mr. Jordan a Mason?

JORDAN: Yes, and Milton is a Shriner.

BOWLIN: He is?

JORDAN: Yes, and so that's the reason he goes to a lot of those things and it takes him all night on Saturday night and they have their get together and he's in a little band. There's four (4) of them and they get along real well.

BOWLIN: I knew he was in a quartet at one time. I've heard him sing.

JORDAN: They still got that quartet. They get together once in a while, but they are not organized like they were any more. But he loves that little band and they all go places and play. Two (2) of the men, well three (3) of them, two (2) of them is in Summit, and one (1) is in McComb and Milton, that's the four (4) of them... And they do enjoy it. He loves music. He and Ann are both inclined that way.

BOWLIN: Just for the record now, in your own words, I just want you to tell us what you think about... Well, one thing, about your opinion of Franklin County now. Also, about the quality of life in this little small community. Just what does it mean to you?

JORDAN: Well, it is ideal as far as I know. There is no higher and lower when it comes to the needs of the community. Everybody falls in.

Page Forty: Jordan

Our barn was burned recently - sometime last year - and everybody as far as knew or could see the smoke or anything else, came and worked just as hard as they could trying to put it out. It was too far gone when we knew it. It is remarkable to see the turnout of the people; there is no blacks or white when it comes to that. Of course, there are no blacks in the community, but everybody is there with both hands, just anything in the world they can. It's just ideal; that's just all I can say.

BOWLIN: Well, it's just a good quality of life. The religious influence the churches had. With two (2) good churches in this community, I'm sure it had a...

JORDAN: It is; it's a good... You can say three (3) because Mt. Gilead is right over the way.

BOWLIN: Yes, Mt. Gilead is right over the hill. That's true, that's three (3) right in this community.

JORDAN: Exactly so, and we have, of course the membership is small at Ebenezer, but it is a good agreeable Christian hearted people and the other churches are the same way. Now I have always visited at other churches, not as much at Mt. Gilead, because it was farther away. But I'd go to Concord always when I could and I tell you one reason. I was always a charter member more or less at Ebenezer and I felt like I was responsible for carrying on more. But if I go to Concord I'm not, I don't have any responsibility. I can go in and sit down and enjoy it all. I love to go over there. It's just great. It couldn't be any better with human beings is the way I call it.

BOWLIN: Well, I know the moral values too in this type of community. There is a high regard for moral standards and values and a good place to

Page Forty-one: Jordan

raise your children.

JORDAN: Yes, it is. It is great.

BOWLIN: Well, it must be kind of gratifying. I know we talked about the young people going off to war, but some went off to the shipyards and places and stayed and didn't come back, but they can't wait to retire to get back home.

JORDAN: Back home is right.

BOWLIN: There is a general homecoming I notice in our part of the country.

JORDAN: Yes, there is. There are so many of them who are coming back home.

BOWLIN: Coming back home. And so many of our young people, so many of our young married people are coming back here.

JORDAN: Coming back, want their homes here.

BOWLIN: I think they are realizing that the quality of life in a small community is better.

JORDAN: It is better.

BOWLIN: It is better. A good place to bring up your children.

JORDAN: It is great. I wouldn't ask for better.

BOWLIN: Well, in just a final conclusion then, I just want to ask you, do you think you have had a good life?

JORDAN: I think it has been excellent. I have had some hardships, but it made a better Christian out of me in a way. There are two sides to life and how we make it, you know, means a lot. So I was unfortunate. I lost my parents early in life. My mother died when I was twelve (12) years old

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

MDAH

Page Forty-two: Jordan

and there were seven (7) of us. I was ten (10) years old and my sister was twelve (12); she was the oldest one and the baby was born the day she died. Well, that was a terrible blow to a family of children. Our father, he wasn't as Christian, he was, he lived it. He was honest and fair in work and everything, but he didn't impress us with the everyday living of life like mama did, you know. Like I remember that she taught me when I was just ten (10) years old and under ten (10) years old. But that was hard and then I lost my daddy when I was seventeen (17), but he married a good woman. She had two (2) children of her own and we got along. We never did have a cross word. And as soon as I got, I went to work at sixteen (16) years old and I am working today. And I haven't regretted any of that. And I have had a happy life. I couldn't ask for better. I have had excellent health. I have gone through some serious operations, but the Lord has been with me through those things and He is still today. So, I don't have any problems or any regrets.

BOWLIN: You don't know, that's so good to hear people say that. They have to have lived a rich full life.

JORDAN: It is. I'm happy and I loved life and I love people, but I'm ready to go when my Master calls me. I keep; I'm ready.

BOWLIN: You stay ready. That's the way to be.

JORDAN: Yes, I'm ready. Because I don't harbor enemies or ill will. I don't do that and I love life.

BOWLIN: Well, I feel like that people in this community respond in the same way. Because I've always heard that. Miss Bessie, was, you are affectionately called Miss Bessie.

Page Forty-three: Jordan

JORDAN: Yes, everybody calls me Miss Bessie.

BOWLIN: Most people that I have heard refer always say Miss Bessie is such a lovely person.

JORDAN: If I have any enemies, they keep it to themselves; they don't tell me.

BOWLIN: Well, that's the best way to keep it. That is the best thing that enemies can do.

JORDAN: That is right.

BOWLIN: Well, we appreciated this interview just so much and have enjoyed being with you.

JORDAN: I'm just so glad. I've enjoyed it.

BOWLIN: I just wish you many more happy years.

JORDAN: Oh, there can't be many more, but that's all right. That is out of our hands, you know.

BOWLIN: Well, we just - that is right. That is out of our hands.

JORDAN: Well, but, I'm ready. I stay ready, but I love life. I have enjoyed it.

BOWLIN: And I have just enjoyed being with you and talking to you. Well, I hope, I am sure this will be a good contribution to our state history, that the people can know something about the quality of life in our small community.

JORDAN: Well, I hope so. I'm sorry that I couldn't tell you more dates, but I'm...

BOWLIN: Well, we know the general area, general time when all of

Page Forty-four: Jordan

these things took place. Well, this has been a pleasure, as I say, being with you. I know this is going to be an asset to our book.

JORDAN: Well, I'm glad in all the round that I met you. I have enjoyed you so much. You're just my kind of people and I've enjoyed it.

BOWLIN: Well it is just a pleasure to be here and this will be recorded. And this is Mrs. Bowlin recording from the home of Mrs. Bessie Dickson Jordan and the date is May 26, I believe, 1977.

(End of Interview)

(Transcribed by Mrs. Austin D. Bowlin)

NOTICE
This material may be
protected by copyright
law under U.S. Code.

MDAH

Transcriber's Notes

¹Mississippi State College for Women, now known as Mississippi University
for Women or M.U.W.

²Mr. Son Bowlin.

³Mr. Coley Ratcliff.