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Betty Fay Sanders Tynes and Alton Dee Tynes, Jr.

Interview No. 1

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Lois E. Myers

October 11, 2002

1936 Madera Drive

Waco, Texas

Myers This is Lois Myers. Today is October 11, 2002. I am in the home of Alton and Betty Tynes in Waco, Texas. This is our first interview, and it's part of the Waco-McLennan County project of the Baylor University Institute for Oral History. And today, Mr. and Mrs. Tynes, I want to start with just going back to the very beginning of your lives. So, let's take turns. Betty, you first and then Alton. Will you tell me when you were born?

B. Tynes I was born in 1926, and I grew up in Waco. When I was a small child my family lived in Cisco, and let's see—

Myers Why did your family move to Waco?

B. Tynes I—just trying to find work and live, I think, because I was just a small girl, but—yeah. And, you know, we done well. We had a working mother, and just—she had a garden, and we sold vegetables all the time out there, so we had help for a little bit.

Myers And Mr. Tynes, when were you born?

A. Tynes I was born March 4, 1925. I was born at 1424 Park Street in South Waco. I went to South Waco School, South Junior School, and I graduated from Waco High, 1943.

Myers Can you tell me something about your parents? Tell me about—what were their names?

A. Tynes Well, their name was—my dad's name was Alton Tynes, and my mother's name was Annie. I was the only child.

Myers Okay, you were their only child. What did they do for a living?

A. Tynes Well, my mother didn't work. My dad, he made hats. He worked at the Standard Hat Works. In 1933, he got on the Waco Fire Department. He was a fireman for thirty-four years, and in the meantime he worked at both places, practically. On his day off, he worked at Standard Hat Works.

Myers Which fire station was he connected with?

A. Tynes Well, he was down at No. 1 for a while. Then he moved to Baylor Fire Station, and he stayed there, and he was the cook at the fire station.

Myers I'll bet he was popular, then. (laughs)

A. Tynes Oh yeah. He'd cook, and after cooking, the boys would clean up his mess, but he was a good cooker. He cooked everything, steak, whatever you'd want, he cooked.

Myers Now, this Park Street, when I look on the map now, Park Street is not there. Is that right?

A. Tynes No, no.

Myers It's gone? Is it gone?

A. Tynes Well, part of the Park Street is from Seventeenth on out, the Park Street.

Myers But where you were born, is it still there?

A. Tynes Um, no. See, I was where Comfort Inn and there's Burger King. That's where I was. That's where she was raised.

Myers The interstate [highway] came through and took it away, I guess.

B. Tynes Yeah, true.

A. Tynes Right. And my wife had—she was twelve in their family besides her mother and dad.

Myers Twelve—so that makes nine brothers and sisters?

B. Tynes Uh, no.

A. Tynes Yeah. There'd be four brothers and—

B. Tynes Yeah—Shine, Slick, and Bruce, and Buddy.

Myers Tell me those names again? (all laugh) It sounds like some nicknames in there.

A. Tynes Yeah, everyone but her.

Myers Shine.

B. Tynes Okay, Shine. Yeah, he was William Lindsey.

Myers Slick.

B. Tynes Slick.

Myers (laughs) What was his real name?

B. Tynes Leonard Vernon. And—

A. Tynes Buddy.

B. Tynes Oh, Buddy, yeah—Buddy. He was—let's see, what was his—Harold something.

A. Tynes And Bruce was Gordon.

B. Tynes Yeah, and Bruce, Gordon.

Myers Four brothers and—

A. Tynes Seven sisters.

B. Tynes Seven sisters.

Myers Seven girls.

A. Tynes Her made eight.

B. Tynes Yeah, I made eight.

Myers Oh wow. (B. Tynes laughs) That's wonderful. Well, what was that like? Where did you fall in the kids? Were you the oldest, the youngest, in the middle?

B. Tynes Okay. Nina is my youngest sister, and—

A. Tynes —then you.

B. Tynes —then me, then Myrtle, and then Nellie, and then who?

A. Tynes Toody.

B. Tynes Yeah, Toody.

Myers Toody?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Her name was Pearl.

B. Tynes Yeah, her name was Pearl. And then Grace. Her name was Grace Iola.

A. Tynes And Era.

B. Tynes Era. Bernice was her name.

A. Tynes And Amber.

B. Tynes Yeah, and Amber. That was one of the older sisters. We didn't have any nicknames, did we? Oh, we did, too. She had a funny little name: Pumpkin. Pumpkin.

Myers Well, that's quite a group. (laughs) No wonder your mother had a garden. (B. Tynes laughs) Did you have a cow for milk?

B. Tynes Yes, we did.

Myers So you kind of were self-sustaining even though you lived in town.

B. Tynes That's right. That's right.

A. Tynes She has a picture of all her sisters and brothers.

B. Tynes Yeah. Do you know where it is? Excuse us. (Betty Tynes leaves to locate photograph.)

Myers So you were the only child in your house, and next door lived this whole school of children. You must have had a lot of playmates.

A. Tynes Well, I did, and we had the whole wide neighborhood for playmates, and they all knew me. I knew them.

Myers I've seen the Tynes name a lot. Did your father have a lot of brothers?

A. Tynes He had five.

Myers Okay, five brothers.

A. Tynes And one sister.

Myers I've seen—let me give you some of these names. You can tell me if they were his brothers. Buel.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Okay. Joseph Ford.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Luther.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Clarence.

A. Tynes Right. That was Warren's daddy.

Myers Clarence and Thelma had Warren, and Alton and Annie had you. Bailey and Clara. So that made for a large Tynes family in Waco. Now, I see in the city directories a lot of your uncles and aunts lived down in the Edgefield area, but you didn't. You never lived there?

A. Tynes No, but I lived down there—I stayed down there.

Myers You went down there to play with your cousins, I'll bet.

A. Tynes Oh yeah, I'd spend week—weeks at a time at their house. I mean, I was one of the gang down there.

Myers (laughs) Okay, and that's where you got to know Woodrow Carlile.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers What are some of the things you did with your friends down—and cousins?

A. Tynes Well, we had a park down there. You remember the Edgefield Park? And we'd play there all the time, and on Monday night they had a free park movie. Have you ever been to a free park movie?

Myers I haven't.

A. Tynes Well, that's where everybody'd bring their quilts, and we would sit down on the grass or quilt, and the man who run it was named O'Reilly, and he had a little old stand in back where you can buy soda water or candy or anything like that. And then Tuesday night he went to Cotton Palace Park, and he went all around Waco, Jefferson Park.

Myers So he made the rounds of the parks. Do you remember any of the movies that you saw?

A. Tynes No. (laughs)

Myers Or what kinds you liked the best?

A. Tynes Oh, well, I seen Tom Mix.

Myers The westerns.

A. Tynes Hoot Gibson.

B. Tynes Hoot Gibson.

Myers The cowboys.

A. Tynes Yeah. See, I had my picture made with John Wayne, me and my wife did.

Myers Oh, that's great.

A. Tynes He came through here on a movie thing. He landed at the airport, and we went out there, and he was out there. And so one of my friends had a camera. He said, “You go ask Jim [John] if you can have your picture made with him. I will make it.” So I went up there, and said, “John, how about a picture?” He said, “Yeah, Kid, come on,” so we got up.

Myers (laughs) That’s great. So you’ve liked westerns all your life.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. I still do. His son was there, Pat Wayne, G. O. Wills. They stayed about an hour out there promoting this film, so we all talked. They just talked like we do. I mean they weren’t stuck-up or nothing.

Myers That’s great. But you remember the free movies in the park.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. Woodrow does, too. Earl (laughs), he remembers.

Myers So, tell me what your earliest remembrance of Edgefield Baptist Church is.

A. Tynes Well, my mother told me, and, well, told everybody, that she took me when I was (laughs) three weeks old to church down there, and I’ve been there ever since. I remember—I believe in 1936 we had a big flood. The Brazos River got out of banks, and it flooded the church. The water went all the way up to Fourth Street. I remember we used to go down there and get everything out, but we didn’t get everything out. The piano was floating, and so we—

Myers Did that also affect your family homes—your uncles’ homes?

A. Tynes No, we got back up and make a new one. We went on. In those days, we didn’t have no TV. We just had radio, and we didn’t have nothing to do because in those days we’d do well to have a dollar in our pockets. So that’s about all where we could go and have fun or work together. And so, we backed up and worked together. We got the church back, and that was in the old church.

Myers I’ve seen on maps that that old church was more in the middle of the block. Is that right?

A. Tynes Right, um-hm.

Myers And it was wooden, I’ve heard.

A. Tynes Yes. That’s where we got married, in that wooden church, and when we got married, it rained cats and dogs (he and Myers laugh), and we had people standing outside looking in the windows. In those days, we didn’t have air conditioning. We had old fans, and so they’d look in the window.

Myers And standing in the rain, watching you get married. (laughs)

A. Tynes Yes ma’am.

Myers That's great. So all your life you remember when you went to church you went to Edgefield.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Was your mother's membership down there when she took you?

A. Tynes Yes, yes.

Myers Was that connected to the fact that your families lived in that area?

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

Myers Because she could have gone to Seventh & James or one of the closer churches.

A. Tynes Yeah, but see, my dad, when he was a small boy, he lived down in Edgefield. He lived right across the street from the church then, and the vacant lot is still there where he lived. There's a big pecan tree.

Myers So your dad grew up in Edgefield.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers How about your mother?

A. Tynes My mother lived down there about three weeks. (Myers laughs) Daddy had bought a house on South Eleventh, 1818 South Eleventh. They moved there.

Myers So your family has a long history in that part of Waco.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers What, besides going to the movie, did you boys do?

A. Tynes Well, we played ball.

Myers Baseball?

A. Tynes Baseball, softball, or—

B. Tynes They had teams and played all other—

A. Tynes Other churches.

B. Tynes —yeah, other churches, uh-huh.

A. Tynes Basketball.

B. Tynes And you know they really played from the heart because they got trophies.

Myers Was that like a city league or church league?

B. Tynes Yeah, city league.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, and we had another church down there named St. Paul's, and they kept kids while their mother and dad worked up at the mill. And I used to go over there and play with them.

Myers With the kids in the nursery?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Did you have cousins in that nursery?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers I've heard that the lady that ran it was Mrs. Byrdie Heath.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers What do you remember about her?

A. Tynes I remember she was a nice woman. I remember she went to California to see one of her sons out there. While she was out there, she got on that program, *Queen For A Day*, and she won everything, and when she came back seems like for about a year things would be coming in to her from that program.

Myers Free things she'd won?

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Wow. She had a big heart to take care of all those kids, didn't she?

A. Tynes Right. And we had stores down there, grocery store. And we had a mattress factory named Waco Mattress Factory, and Brother Fortune, who owned the company (clock chimes), he went to Edgefield church. Ad he had a wooden leg.

Myers That fascinated you children, didn't it? (laughs)

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, there was a mattress factory. I've heard there were some other factories besides the cotton mill. Do you recall anything about them?

A. Tynes Handle factory.

Myers Handle factory.

B. Tynes Pickles.

Myers Pickles.

A. Tynes Pickle factory.

Myers It was a busy place, wasn't it?

A. Tynes Yeah, and the railroad run right down back of the church. It was First Street, and we had some colored people who lived where Baylor is now.

Myers Did you ever play with any of those black children?

A. Tynes No ma'am, sure didn't. We kind of fought with them. (laughs)

Myers Okay, so there was kind of a rivalry there? (A. Tynes coughs) Well, you were from the other side of Baylor, and you'd come over there and play with your cousins in Edgefield. And then I've heard there was the mill block.

A. Tynes Yeah, the mill block. Um-hm.

Myers Did you know folks on the mill block?

A. Tynes They were my cousins.

Myers That's where they lived.

A. Tynes My uncles worked in the mill, so they rented one of the houses. One of those houses, I think they rented them. I don't know, not much.

Myers But they were owned by the company, and they rented them out?

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers How did those houses compare to the house you lived in?

A. Tynes Well, they didn't have but about three rooms and a bath.

Myers So they were smaller, then?

A. Tynes Um-hm. Yes ma'am. They were all made about alike.

Myers All made alike, okay.

A. Tynes Now, I thinking some of the supervisors, they—their houses were a little bit better than them because they were supervisors. So—

Myers How did—other people in Edgefield who didn't work for the mill, where did they work?

A. Tynes Well, they worked downtown, different places, and so.

Myers Your mother didn't work—

A. Tynes No.

Myers —but a lot of your aunts did, I guess.

A. Tynes Yeah, they all worked in the mill.

Myers It seems like from what I've heard the families ran pretty smoothly even though both parents were working and then having to do so much for themselves when they came home.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes See, the mill block was not in the city of Waco.

Myers Okay. Where was that dividing line?

A. Tynes Over at Bosque Street.

Myers Which is now Daughtrey Street.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers They changed it.

A. Tynes The kids out there would go to Gurley School. They had a McLennan County bus come by and take them. You know the big oak tree in the middle of the street? We played in that.

Myers Now, was it in someone's yard at that time?

A. Tynes No, right by the road.

Myers Oh, it was already—it's always lived by the road (laughs), that poor tree.

A. Tynes It wasn't in the middle; it was on the side.

Myers But it was big even back then.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers And it provided a lot of shade, I'm sure.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers So they went to Gurley School. And the Edgefield kids, where did they go?

A. Tynes They went down on South Fourth Street, Fourth and Clay—no, Fourth and Webster.

Myers Closer to town.

A. Tynes And that was named Central.

Myers Oh, Central, yes—Central Grammar School. Yeah, yeah. I've heard of that. And then you went to South.

A. Tynes South Waco, Fifteenth and James.

Myers Still the old building there.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah, but somebody bought it and going to put in—

B. Tynes Those—

Myers Lofts.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes I went by there the other week, and it's sad, sad to see.

Myers It must have been built strongly, though, to have lasted through all those children all those years. (laughs)

B. Tynes Yeah, isn't that right?

A. Tynes I believe two of my—maybe three of my aunts on my mother's side went to South Waco, and that's way back there.

Myers Yes.

B. Tynes It was Ludie and Hilda.

A. Tynes Yeah, and Ida.

B. Tynes Yeah, and Ida.

A. Tynes And they are in their eighty-eight.

Myer In their eighty-eight?

B. Tynes Uh-huh, in the eighty-eights.

Myers So what was your mother's maiden name?

A. Tynes Schulz.

B. Tynes Schulz.

Myers Schulz—oh, she had a little German in her.

A. Tynes Oh yes. She was born in Weimer, Texas, and when she was real young, she moved to Marlin, then from Marlin to Waco. Her and my dad met then, and—

Myers And then you came along. (all laugh)

A. Tynes Well, yeah.

Myers Okay. (Myers shifts through notes) When—(A. Tynes coughs)—we've talked about tuh-tuh-tuh-tuh-tuh-tuh. Let's talk a little bit more about the Edgefield neighborhood, but I need to turn the tape. Is that okay?

A. Tynes All right.

Tape 1, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

Myers This is side two of tape one with Mr. Tynes. A little bit more about the neighborhood. You talked about the railroad going through there. How did that affect your lives, having the tracks there so close by?

A. Tynes Well, us kids, we didn't think nothing about it. It just came along.

Myers Some people have confessed that they played on those tracks.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. We did. My cousin one time hopped that train, rode downtown. (Myers laughs) I never did.

Myers How about the river? Did you ever go fishing or playing in the river?

A. Tynes Oh yeah. We played in there. We swam down there in the river, and the—you know where the baseball park is now? That was the dump grounds.

Myers Okay, the city dump.

A. Tynes Um-hm, and we'd go down there and mess around.

Myers Look for things.

A. Tynes Look for things, and we'd find things sometimes, and sometimes we'd—

Myers Treasures only a boy could love. (laughs)

A. Tynes Right. Some girls did, too. They went down there, and they found new shoes there. A company downtown—I don't know how they got there, but—

Myers They'd thrown out new shoes.

A. Tynes And those girls went down there and got those shoes and wore them.

Myers Sure. You mentioned the grocery stores, but they're different than grocery stores today.

A. Tynes Oh yes, my.

Myers Can you tell me about them?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Yes ma'am. Well, they were owned by the people who run the store, and they would wait on you. You don't go around and pick up things because they weren't that big a store. They might be a little bigger than a house.

Myers And the people lived above the store?

A. Tynes Well, some lived in back of their store, and some lived right down close to the store. And there was a neighborhood store. They all knew you and you knew them.

Myers Did they sell things on credit?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. They—

Myers Until the next paycheck came in or something?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. They sure did. They had little old things back there—

Myers Little books?

A. Tynes —and marked it down. People, when they got paid, they came in and paid for it. And we had a pool hall down there.

Myers A pool hall?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, did you go to that pool hall? (laughs)

A. Tynes Well, sometimes. In fact, we've got a pool table in my—

B. Tynes In the pool room.

A. Tynes —in the pool room now.

Myers Okay, okay. So you must have become good at it. (all laugh)

A. Tynes I wouldn't say that, now.

Myers But you enjoyed it.

A. Tynes I really enjoyed it and played.

Myers It was a place, again, for young men to go. Did girls go to the pool hall?

A. Tynes No, no. Maybe—

B. Tynes They walked down the road and peeked around the corner.

Myers They knew the boys were in there. (Myers and B. Tynes laugh)

A. Tynes Now, my wife and I, we'd get in there and play pool, and she always—

B. Tynes Won.

A. Tynes —won. (all laugh) Right now I can hardly stand up to play pool.

Myers How about ice houses? Was there an ice house?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. My uncle ran one. He had one right by the church.

Myers Where did he get the ice? Did it come in a truck?

A. Tynes Well, we had about four ice plants and they brought ice.

Myers And then he sold it in the neighborhood.

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers People would come pick their ice up there?

A. Tynes Yeah, and they'd tie a string around them.

B. Tynes And a stick. (Myers laughs)

A. Tynes He had, let's see, five pounds, ten pounds, and twenty-five pounds ice.

Myers And you'd get it home fast before it melted.

A. Tynes Right, right. (Myers laughs) And I remember during summer, we'd go barefooted, and we'd walk on that old hot gravel street. It really burned your feet, but we went at it and stayed with it.

Myers Your feet got tough.

A. Tynes Right, right. (Myers laughs)

Myers I think it was Mr. Wilson who said that his daddy always made him wash his feet before he went to bed. He didn't understand why then, but now he knows why. (Myers and B. Tynes laugh)

A. Tynes We'd do—go uptown barefooted, go everywhere barefooted.

Myers How did you get from your house over there to Edgefield? Did you walk?

A. Tynes We'd walk.

Myers So you just walked all over the place.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. We sure did.

Myers Kind of had freedom of the neighborhood?

A. Tynes And we weren't scared of no one because everybody wanted to be your friends. Every time we walked, we'd say, Hi, and they'd say, Hi. And back in those days, every once in a while somebody would come by in a car and say, You want a ride? And so we'd get in the car and ride. My family never did have no car until I'm way up there. My daddy did drive a motorcycle with a sidecar where they—he'd deliver hats.

Myers Really? In the sidecar he'd put the hats—

A. Tynes Had the thing, and see, he'd go around and deliver them to Goldstein's and different—and so, he brought that home at night and that helped. He came around, and then my mother would get in that sidecar. He didn't have but one window in it.

Myers There wasn't a window in it? If it was raining, you were out in the rain, right?

A. Tynes No ma'am.

Myers It had a little hood?

A. Tynes Mom and Dad's had a top on it.

B. Tynes A canopy, yeah.

Myers But you were kind of closed up in there?

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers How did you get to church then?

A. Tynes Walked.

Myers You walked to church. So, from Fifteenth Street over to what?

A. Tynes Cottonwood and River Street.

Myers Well, you had to leave early to get to church on time.

A. Tynes Well, it didn't take that long. I mean, I guess we walked fast in those days.

B. Tynes I walked from our house to church a lot of times, and they'd say, Don't you want a ride? No, I'm—walking is good.

Myers What about in bad weather?

A. Tynes Well, we'd go put on our raincoats and everything.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Well, a coat and went ahead. Yeah.

A. Tynes You didn't let that—

Myers That wasn't any excuse.

A. Tynes No ma'am.

B. Tynes Vanessa, my daughter, I'd put her in the little stroller and pushed her to church.

A. Tynes See, our daughter had polio when she was twenty-one months old.

Myers That was in those years when polio was so—before the vaccine.

B. Tynes That's right. They took the older children, but they wouldn't take them like my child, so we had to go ahead and take the insulin and the stuff other than what was—they had a sugar cube and thought that was going to cure it all, I guess. And then, there's a Dr. Snyder, Mrs. Snyder, and she was very nice and very good.

A. Tynes She come out—

B. Tynes To the house.

A. Tynes —and teach school.

B. Tynes And teach school as a—what do you call it now?

Myers Home health nurse?

B. Tynes Yeah, and we had another.

A. Tynes Well, that baseball coach's wife.

B. Tynes Yeah—Mrs. Schroeder? Do you—?

Myers Dutch Schroeder?

B. Tynes Yeah, yeah. She was part of our teaching, and I would get the room and everything all—kept it nice and pretty for Vanessa. And that’s the way we done a lot of things, was two-footed. (laughs)

A. Tynes She still wears a brace.

B. Tynes Yeah, she does.

A. Tynes And she got two, boy and girl. And the girl is going to Blinn College, and there is my girl—our girl up there on the wall. (pointing to portrait hanging on wall).

Myers Oh, her wedding picture. It’s beautiful.

A. Tynes And she teaches piano. She has about twenty students, and she has about three grown-ups.

B. Tynes She really has done well. I tease her all the time because she started taking piano when she was six, in the first grade, and I tease her about it, and she doesn’t like that. (Myers laughs) She was big, and so—

Myers She was serious about it. (laughs)

A. Tynes What made her so mad is, our son is older than she is, and she’d go in there and practice, practice, and he’d come in there and just go ahead and play. I mean—

B. Tynes He played by ear and—

A. Tynes It made her so mad she had to—and her teacher was Mrs.—

B. Tynes Bell. Mrs. Bell?

A. Tynes Unh-uh. She lived up on Gurley.

B. Tynes Oh, she played at the—Renfro.

A. Tynes No, that was one of her students. Oh, I don’t remember names.

B. Tynes And she lived here, you say?

A. Tynes She lived right across the street from Emmanuel [Baptist Church].

B. Tynes Well, that was the Renfro girl.

A. Tynes I thought she took from her.

B. Tynes Well, no. Go ahead and talk and I’ll think. (Myers laughs)

A. Tynes All right.

Myers Well, anyway, she came a long way for a little girl who started out with some trouble, didn't she?

A. Tynes Right.

B. Tynes Yeah, true.

A. Tynes She had so many operations.

B. Tynes And her favorite saying, I guess, is, she'll say, "Me can do it myself."

Myers (laughs) "Me can do it myself."

A. Tynes We took her to Providence Hospital. They took her and told us not to come back in fourteen days because you cannot see her.

Myers Because it was so contagious?

B. Tynes Yeah, I guess so.

A. Tynes And that was for fourteen days.

B. Tynes Well, the children were all playing in the backyard and sitting down in the dirt and everything. And when she was presented to the doctors, I guess, of what she had and everything, they was sure that she was going to be all right and everything. But we had operation after operation.

Myers Did she ever have to go in an iron lung?

B. Tynes No. Just therapy, you know, walking.

Myers It affected her leg more.

B. Tynes Yes.

A. Tynes Dr. Robert Kessler.

B. Tynes Yeah, Dr. Kessler. And then Vanessa, she climbed—we had fence around the house, and so she decided that she would—I said, or somebody did, said, "Vanessa, you'd better get down. Your daddy's coming," because she knew she wasn't supposed to be doing that, so she took it and that's when she could do it herself. (laughs)

A. Tynes And the Sunday night, we were at Laura Lee and Warren's. They lived over there on Garden Drive. Next Monday, she couldn't walk.

Myers Oh, my. So, Sunday night everything was fine

A. Tynes Yeah.

B. Tynes Right.

Myers And Monday morning she was—

B. Tynes Yes, I said, “Vanessa, come on, we’re all in here.” It was on a morning, and she said, “No,” she said, “I’m not going to do that. Me can do it myself.” And I said, “Okay, you do it yourself,” but I said—my nephew was there, and he said, “Now, Vanessa, you’ve got to do what we tell you to do,” and everything, and so, she was taken care of.

A. Tynes And before she got polio, she always threw out her pillow and quilt on the floor. Then she would climb out and fall down. (all laugh)

B. Tynes Isn’t that something? She would throw it out and then she’d—

Myers Make a landing place and head for it. Well, that’s a lot for someone not two years old yet. Well, that’s an important part of our history, that polio epidemic, and I’m sorry you were touched by it, but I’m glad it turned out all right.

B. Tynes Oh yeah. It did. It did, and see, she climbed the fence, and everybody thinks that that is the beginning of—but I don’t—

Myers That the strain of climbing over at that little age—

B. Tynes Uh-huh. I mean, it was—

Myers Well, through that time, those are hard times for a young couple. How did your church react?

B. Tynes Wonderful, as usual.

A. Tynes Brother Haley was our pastor then. He’d been at Edgefield for three times. He came when he was going to Baylor. Then he joined the army and served in the army. Then he came back and he was at different churches. Then he came back to Edgefield. We called him back—that was about 1950-’51, somewhere in there—from Wichita Falls. And then his mother got—he was from Wichita Falls, and his mother got sick, so him and his wife went back to Wichita Falls and helped take care of her. While he was at Wichita Falls, he started a church or he was called to a church. I don’t know which. When his mother died and his brother died, we called him back to Edgefield, and he came back. And he stayed there for ten-twelve years, then he passed away.

Myers So he was the pastor, though, when you were having this crisis in your young lives with your baby.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, I know that made him special to you.

B. Tynes Yes, because I tell you, on a Wednesday night everybody was at my house, and they were holding hands and going to take a word of prayer. And everybody was asked to pray if they felt like it or not, which was very, very touching, and I—

A. Tynes Well, see, she got so bad that night. All day long her fever was way up there, and they told us that she may not make it, and so they—

Myers They had the prayer meeting.

B. Tynes That's right.

Myers And now she's a mother with a college student.

B. Tynes Yes.

A. Tynes Yes. (weeping) So, the next morning, her fever—

B. Tynes Had dropped.

Myers Had dropped. Wonderful, wonderful. Well, that tells me more and more about what the church and fellowship and the Lord mean to you.

B. Tynes Right.

A. Tynes In those days, we had prayer meeting, and people would come to prayer meeting. And we had Sunday night service. We had what we called, and they may still have it, BTU?

Myers BYPU, or Baptist Training Union.

A. Tynes Yeah, and we all came back for that, and we had church service. In those days, our church service didn't start till about eight or seven-thirty. We didn't get out until about nine-thirty or ten. But nowadays church services start at six, some does, and some don't have them.

Myers Um-hm, um-hm.. You're right. Some don't even have it Sunday night. What are your earliest recollections, then, of Sunday School?

A. Tynes Sunday School? Well, I was in the primary—

Myers Primaries. Probably the beginners before that.

A. Tynes We had kids, a lot of children come down there, and our teacher was good, and they taught, and then after Sunday School, we all went to church. Some would go home, but not very many. They all stayed for the service. We stayed there till twelve-thirty, and then we'd all eat together sometimes.

Myers Had kind of a covered-dish luncheon at the church?

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That builds relationships, too, doesn't it?

A. Tynes Right.

B. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Well, tell me about when you joined the church.

A. Tynes Well, it was about—let me see—I was about fourteen or fifteen years old. It was Sunday morning. I believe it was Sunday morning. Anyway, when the first note they'd sung, I went up. And seems like when I went up, seems like I wasn't even walking. I'm just—I'm flying up there. And Brother Haley was the one.

Myers Oh, really. This was early when he was a student at Baylor, first go-round.

A. Tynes First go-round. And I believe—I may be mistaken, but I believe Laura Lee [Marks Tynes] went up there, too, with me. Then we joined the church the same day.

Myers That's interesting. Got a little bit more room on the tape. Tell me about Bible school. You had Vacation Bible School.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. And we all went, and we liked that snow cone. (Myers and A. Tynes laugh) Then on Friday night we had a fellowship.

B. Tynes Fellowship.

Myers Is that when the parents would come and see your handiwork and crafts you'd done all week?

A. Tynes Yeah. We—you know us boys, we always liked to do something—.

B. Tynes What? Tease the girls?

A. Tynes Yeah, tease the girls. (A. Tynes and Myers laugh) We generally had a good time.

Myers How about the Boy Scouts? Were you in the Boy Scout troop?

A. Tynes No, I wasn't in the Boy Scouts, but I went to their meetings, but I never did—I never was—and they, why, they had a little old house down there, the Kiwanis—

B. Tynes The Kiwanis?

A. Tynes You know, for the kids.

Myers Okay, kind of a place for them to play.

A. Tynes Meet.

Myers The Kiwanis did that. Hm.

A. Tynes The club. They always took us to a movie once a week. We had about seven or eight movie houses down on Austin Street there in those days. They always took us to a movie one night a week.

Myers Wow. I'm at the end of this tape. Are you comfortable enough to go on a little bit further?

A. Tynes Oh yeah, yeah.

Tape 1 ends; tape 2 begins.

Myers This is tape two of interview one with the Tynes family. As we shut off the tape just awhile ago—I want to go back just a minute—you mentioned the Kiwanis Club that would take you boys—was it just boys or just—

A. Tynes Yeah, boys.

Myers —boys down to the movies. Were these men that did this, were they from your neighborhood club, or they came from—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) No, they came from uptown.

Myers Uptown, they were businessmen uptown.

A. Tynes Businessmen, but they were good men.

Myers And they were doing this to give you all an opportunity to have something you might not have?

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

Myers Were there any other groups of people that would come down to Edgefield and do things like that for people that you recall?

A. Tynes Well, they—no, not that I know of.

Myers Can't remember. Well, I know the St. Paul's church group did.

A. Tynes St. Paul's, yeah. When we had Christmas at our church, we'd go down and put fruit in the sacks. We didn't have no presents. Everybody got fruit, an apple, an orange, and candy. And we had Santa Claus come in.

Myers Do you recall any really poor people down in the mill or Edgefield area when you were a boy?

A. Tynes Well, yes ma'am. We were all poor.

Myers (laughs) Anyone with not enough to eat?

A. Tynes Well, they always had something to eat. St. Paul and Edgefield, they always helped them. They always gave them food.

Myers Were there any other churches down there?

A. Tynes Well, there was one on the corner where the Edgefield was—is now. It was a Pentecostal. (clears throat) And my uncle, he used to live between the Edgefield and the—

Myers He lived between the churches? (all laugh) I'll bet he heard a lot. His windows were open.

B. Tynes Might be the opposite.

Myers Maybe they heard a lot.

A. Tynes He went to Edgefield.

Myers You told me about—this was off tape and you were telling me a story about your dad, but you mentioned revivals. Tell me what revivals were like during those days.

A. Tynes Well, revivals in those days, they would run two weeks at a time. They had—every morning they had a service for people working in the mill. They worked three to eleven. Then, our night service would start around seven-thirty, and it would run two weeks at a time. And what there was, we would pay the preacher was, at the end of the service somebody would get up and [say], Who wants to give twenty-five dollars? Then he'd come down to ten. Who wants to give five? Who wants to give one? That way he made money, but he always got enough, you know. Everybody seemed like they—in those days our church was packed full of people. Well, we didn't have nowhere place to go but church. We didn't have no TV. Only thing we had was radio, and some of them didn't have no radio.

Myers What would you say back in those days in your growing up years was the relationship between Baylor and Edgefield church? Did Baylor people come?

A. Tynes Yes, you may remember Ray Summer?

Myers Um-hm.

A. Tynes He was our song leader.

Myers And later became head of the religion department.

A. Tynes Yeah. When my family—my dad and mother and I—we'd go up to Fort Worth to see him and his wife while he was going to the seminary. Our preachers were all going to Baylor, almost. Brother Haley, Richard Philpot, Wallace Philpot.

B. Tynes Dr. Sansom.

A. Tynes Dr. Sansom, he was our interim, and Joel Gregory, you know him; Brother Haley. And we had a preacher named Brother Smith; he went through Baylor. And had a preacher named Brother Hurley; he went through Baylor. They all—we were what you call the stepping stone. (Myers laughs) Soon as they graduate, they left, almost. So—.

Myers How about Baylor students just as members?

A. Tynes They came. At one time we had about—oh, about fifteen Baylor kids? More—

B. Tynes Well, I know when they come down the basement. I remember that part that we had a basement down there, and this—oh, what was that kid? He's now over at Grace Temple. I think he's over at Grace Temple, but—Jimmy, Jimmy—

A. Tynes Davis?

B. Tynes Yeah, Davis.

A. Tynes He's at Columbus Avenue now.

B. Tynes Is he? Where he—when they were in the basement, I know Jimmy, we was walking down—that's where we had our WM—BYPU, I guess. Anyway, he was walking down the stairs to our lesson. We were just talking, and he stopped just a minute, and he said, "You know what?" And I said, "No, what?" He said, "They just don't know how to get people to come to church." And I said, "What do you mean?" And he said, "Well, you feed them." (B. Tynes and Myers laugh)

Myers Yeah, Sunday nights the dorm didn't serve food, and so the churches would serve food, and the kids would go to church to get a free meal. (all laugh) I've done that before.

B. Tynes Isn't that sad, though, that as of today—well, I wish they would have come to our church for a meal. I feel that we would cover more than what we cover because people are—in days back, well, they expected everything to be rosy and good, I think, and then it reversed, and so—but I think we've got a good memory.

Myers You do.

A. Tynes In those days us kids would go to different houses and we'd play games. Have you ever played Knock In, Knock Out.

Myers Knock In, Knock Out. I don't think so. I may have.

A. Tynes The girls would be in the room, and the boy would be outside. They number each girl, and the boy don't know, and they, you know, you knock twice, you get—

B. Tynes The number two girl.

A. Tynes —number two girl, and they would walk around the block and come back.

B. Tynes Yeah, you got—that was always your outing.

Myers That was your prize, to walk around the block. (B. Tynes laughs) Okay, that does sound more familiar to me, now.

A. Tynes And then we'd play Spin the Bottle.

Myers Oh, my goodness. Now, were these church parties? (all laugh)

A. Tynes Yeah—well, no. No. All our friends went to church.

Myers All of you that went to church had parties, sure.

A. Tynes But we'd make up our own party, I mean.

Myers That's fun. (B. Tynes laughs) Did you play card games or dominoes?

A. Tynes Uh, we did when we got bigger. We played Forty-Two when we got bigger. Woodrow, Cathryn, Laura Lee and Warren, J. L. and Lil.

B. Tynes The Martins, yeah, um-hm.

A. Tynes See, Lil was my first cousin, too. Her and Lorraine [Swanner] were sisters.

Myers Now, what side of your family were they from?

A. Tynes My mother's side. Their mother was my mother's sister.

Myers One of the Schulz girls. (laughs)

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers So you had cousins on both sides in your church.

A. Tynes Oh yeah, yeah.

Myers It was a family thing. Do you think that influenced how you behaved in church, knowing so many people around you knew your parents? (laughs)

A. Tynes We've got a deacon. His name is Randle Saffell. You remember? He was ten years older than I am. He said I was the meanest boy in church. (Myers and B. Tynes laugh) I don't know where he got that.

B. Tynes I don't either, Judge.

A. Tynes But that's what he said, that I was the meanest kid in the church.

Myers But that's not the way you remember it.

A. Tynes No ma'am. No ma'am. (laughs)

Myers (laughs) And I'm sure your mother wouldn't have let you be that way.

A. Tynes My wife, we got married, and, oh, my son—there were about ten boys about the size of my son and they always sat in church and they'd always start, you know—

B. Tynes Whispering.

A. Tynes —and Betty there would look over there to them and snap her finger, and they'd all straighten it up—

Myers (speaking at same time) That took care of it. (laughs)

A. Tynes —and fly right

B. Tynes Yeah. (snaps her fingers)

Myers They knew.

B. Tynes They knew, yeah.

A. Tynes They straightened up.

Myers Now, we've got your daughter's name, Vanessa. What's your son's name?

B. Tynes Kenneth.

Myers Kenneth.

B. Tynes Kenneth Dee, Vanessa Dell, Alton Dee. We've got all the D's.

A. Tynes And we've got two grandgirls. They're named—

B. Tynes Cassie Dee and Carrie Dee and Lindsey. She doesn't have a D in hers.

A. Tynes And Kyle, he was named after Kyle Field.

Myers Oh, A&M, okay. (she and B. Tynes laugh) Those Aggies, they're loyal, aren't they?

B. Tynes Aren't they, though?

A. Tynes Oh yeah.

B. Tynes They push around, don't they?

A. Tynes But I can't complain. I mean, he's nice to us, and every year they take us somewhere.

Myers Oh, that's nice.

B. Tynes We went to Branson.

A. Tynes Didn't cost us one cent.

Myers Wow, that's wonderful.

A. Tynes And then August, we went out to that canyon.

B. Tynes Out at Amarillo.

A. Tynes Amarillo.

Myers Oh, yes—Palo Duro Canyon.

B. Tynes Palo Duro Canyon, yeah.

A. Tynes And we've seen that stage show.

B. Tynes The stage show, *Texas*.

Myers *Texas*, that's fun.

A. Tynes Then we went on a cowboy breakfast. We got on a wagon. They took us out three miles somewhere, and the men out there looked like cowboys, and they may have been, had hats on. They ate bacon, sausage, ham, and you can eat all you want.

Myers Chuck wagon.

A. Tynes Yeah, and they had a chuck wagon out there.

B. Tynes With all the coffee—.

- A. Tynes** Coffee, and they come around, Want some more? One guy there, they had a whole lot of biscuits left over, and he asked them if he could have some. He said, Cowpoke said, “Yeah, you can have all of the ones we don’t eat.” So he had a big —(laughs).
- Myers** He just took them home with him. (she and B. Tynes laugh) They must have been good biscuits.
- A. Tynes** Well, they were good.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Yeah, they were pretty good, and they were made in octagon, eight. I think that was so funny the way they—
- Myers** Biscuits were more like a triangle?
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** Cooked in that skillet.
- B. Tynes** They had a big iron thing, and they layered those.
- A. Tynes** They had a big ol’ skillet. Did you ever watch *Ranbide*, old Wishbone? (clock chimes; B. Tynes and Myers laugh) A guy—somebody looked sort of like him out there.
- Myers** Beard. (laughs) Well, that sounds wonderful. It’s nice—
- A. Tynes** They had three real wagons with horses hooked up, and they had about thirty people on one wagon.
- Myers** Was it bumpy? (laughs)
- B. Tynes** Very. (laughs)
- A. Tynes** It rained the night before. They went through mud, but it was fun.
- Myers** Fun time. Those are good memories, aren’t they?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, and my—our daughter, she is thinking about next year, where to go.
- Myers** Planning ahead. Well, that’s good.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, planning ahead.

Myers Well, I'm going to let you go for today. I'm going to ask if I can come back and ask you some more questions.

A. Tynes Yeah. Anytime.

Myers Thank you for today.

end of interview

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Betty Fay Sanders Tynes and Alton Dee Tynes, Jr.

Interview No. 2
Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Lois E. Myers
October 15, 2002
1936 Madera Drive
Waco, Texas

Myers This is Lois Myers. Today is Tuesday, October 15, 2002. I am in the home of Betty and Alton Tynes at 1936 Madera in Waco, Texas. This is our second interview. This interview is sponsored by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History and is part of our project on Edgefield Baptist Church for the Waco-McLennan County Project of the Institute for Oral History. Mr. Tynes, last week Betty referred to you as Judge, and this weekend at church, Woodrow Carlile when talking about you used the word *Judge*. Tell me how you got to be known as Judge.

A. Tynes Well, see, my dad gave me that name, and so (coughs)—excuse me—my dad gave me a whole lot of nicknames. Judge was one of the famous names, I guess. So, he gave me the name of Preacher, Reverend, Rabbi, and lots more, and so that's where I got my name.

Myers So your friends picked it up from your dad.

A. Tynes Yes, um-hm.

Myers Well, that's good. And last week you mentioned that you had horses in your backyard.

A. Tynes Oh yeah, yeah.

Myers Tell me about your horses.

A. Tynes Well, when I was small I had a pony and his name was Tarzan, and when I outgrew him—well, in the first place, there was a friend of mine had a pony, too, and we always ride in the parade downtown on our ponies.

Myers How fun.

A. Tynes And when I grew a little bit more my dad bought me a horse, and his name was Sugar, and I rode him around. Then, I went into the army, and when I got back Dad had me a horse in the backyard, and we named him Baby. And so, that was my dad's—

Myers Were you responsible for taking care of your ponies and horses?

A. Tynes Oh yeah. Um-hm. Betty lived next door. She always came over and helped curry him.

Myers Really? You liked those horses?

B. Tynes Oh yeah.

A. Tynes Oh yeah.

B. Tynes Yeah, we used to ride them, Al and I, and I'd ride back saddle—what do you call it?

A. Tynes Double.

Myers Double. Um-hm.

A. Tynes In every rodeo I rode in the grand entry.

Myers Oh, in the grand entry. How fun. You must have had the clothes and the hat and everything to go with it.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. I was a—what do you call it? a drugstore cowboy (laughter)—boots, spurs, and everything. And I still like horses, but I cannot get up on one now. We've got two out in the back field. They are not mine. They belong to somebody else.

Myers But you can watch them and see them.

A. Tynes Yeah. They come up to the fence, and we feed them apples. That was my cowboy—

B. Tynes Feed them apples.

Myers Did you use your horses to get around town to go—

A. Tynes Well, I did sometimes. I just liked to ride. Now, in our days, out there where Valley Mills Drive is wasn't nothing out there but fields, and we always went out there and rode horses.

Myers So there was a lot of open country close by.

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm. Wasn't nothing out there but the V.A. hospital, you know. That's where we went to ride our horses. Meantime, it wasn't no club, but some of us had horses and we rode together, you know.

Myers Did you ever ride your horse to school?

A. Tynes Oh no. No ma'am.

Myers No, no. (laughs)

B. Tynes Didn't get to do that.

A. Tynes Didn't get to do that. I rode it to church.

Myers Did you?

A. Tynes Um-hm. I put it in my uncle's backyard.

Myers He lived right next to the church, didn't he? Um-hm, that's good.

A. Tynes That's what I did.

Myers Well, you also mentioned that you didn't have television but you had radio.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers What kind of programs did you listen to on the radio?

A. Tynes Well, everybody would look at—I mean listen to *Ma Perkins*, and what other?

Myers What kind of program was that? Was it music or talk?

A. Tynes It was soap opera, and it would come on at one o'clock. Then we'd watch the news.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) And *Stella Dallas*.

A. Tynes Yeah, and we—

Myers So, they were stories.

B. Tynes Yeah, right.

A. Tynes Um-hm, soap operas. Then—

B. Tynes But we really enjoyed them, though. I can remember at twelve o'clock they started all coming on, and my mom would turn the radio on, and I guess I just thought it was fun, but I would get under the table, under the dining table, and I would just make me a little house, you know. I guess it was just a—oh, just a thing to do.

A. Tynes At twelve o'clock, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys came on WACO. He was in Waco. He lived here about a year or a year and a half, then he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. And then when we got into high school, Hank Thompson came on at 12:15 every day. He had a fifteen-minute program, and then after that the Lone Star Playboys came on from twelve-thirty until one.

Myers Lone Star Playboys?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

- Myers** Okay. So country—western swing and country music.
- A. Tynes** Right. That's it. Then at night we all always listened to Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, and Kay Kyser and his [*Kollege of Musical Knowledge*].
- B. Tynes** It was Kay Kyser with a story of knowledge or something.
- A. Tynes** Yeah, *Musical Knowledge*.
- Myers** Well, those are good memories then, aren't they?
- A. Tynes** Oh yeah. They're real good memories.
- Myers** Would your whole family, your parents listen to those things with you?
- A. Tynes** Oh, yes ma'am.
- Myers** (speaking to Betty Tynes) How about you and all the kids at your house?
(laughs)
- B. Tynes** All the kids at my house. They done their own thing, and so—I don't know. They didn't fuss over who was going to be first or last or anything. It was always a good feeling, and when it was time for story time, well, we liked that, so we did. You know, the ones that were there, we had story time.
- Myers** It was kind of a time to sit down and be quiet and listen to the radio.
- B. Tynes** Right, right.
- A. Tynes** We listened to *Little Orphan Annie*.
- Myers** She just had trouble! (all laugh)
- B. Tynes** Old Sandy come and got her out of it. (laughter)
- A. Tynes** And then, I always listened to *The Lone Ranger*. He was my favorite then.
- Myers** (laughs) I bet so.
- A. Tynes** And during what became World War II, Gene Autry was stationed in Dallas, and he had a program on KRLD, I believe. He had a thirty-minute program from five to five-thirty on Sunday, and we listened to him.
- Myers** Back in those days, were there any preachers or churches on radio?
- B. Tynes** Oh yeah.
- A. Tynes** (in unison) Oh yeah. Edgefield had a fifteen- maybe thirty-minute program on WACO. Come on at one to one-thirty, and the whole choir would go up there and—

Myers (speaking at same time) To the studio?

A. Tynes —sing. Um-hm. And we sung and—they did. They sung, and I watched. Then the preacher would give a little message, and his name was Richard Philpot. He's the one that married us.

Myers Yes. So, this was mostly during the time when Brother Philpot was at the church that you had the radio program?

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

Myers How did the church pay for that? Did you have to pay?

A. Tynes Well, we paid part of it, and the radio station gave us some time.

Myers Well, that's great.

A. Tynes I don't know how much we paid, but they gave us some time.

Myers What do you recall about other preachers on the radio?

A. Tynes Well, there were a lot of preachers. I remember—oh, what was his name? Copeland.

Myers Kenneth Copeland?

A. Tynes No. He was down on Fifteenth and Clay. Riley—

Myers Riley Copeland. Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah, he was on the radio. There was a good many preachers on.

Myers Well, you enjoyed riding your pony and your horses. You enjoyed the radio. You told us about the free park movies. And sometimes, though, you had to go to school. (all laugh) What was your favorite part about school?

A. Tynes Recess. (all laugh) No, I had good teachers all the way through.

Myers Any particular ones you remember as being special to you?

A. Tynes Well, yes. Our football coach down at South Junior. His name is Barron. He was honest, good. He'd try to help you out any way. And so—and I had another one named Mr. Ware. He was my algebra teacher at South Junior. I always teased him about—he was down at South Junior, and when I graduated, he did too. He went to Waco High with me, and I'd always tease him about going to Waco High with me. Then, he got to be principal at Waco High.

Myers Oh wow. So, he worked his way up.

A. Tynes Yeah, he did. Betty, did you go to South Junior?

- B. Tynes** Yes ma'am.
- Myers** Now, what do you recall about teachers there and what you liked about school?
- B. Tynes** Oh, I did. I liked school, and I wouldn't play hooky or whatever, but a lot of girls that I knew did.
- Myers** Where would they go if they were hiding out?
- B. Tynes** Oh, over a little old stand in the wall, and it's called Lobo—wasn't it? What was it called?
- A. Tynes** Lobo, or—then there was one—at Waco High then.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, Mrs. Tennyson's place up there, wasn't it?
- A. Tynes** Tiger Drug.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, Tiger Drug, and—
- Myers** So, they'd go hang out there. (laughs)
- B. Tynes** Yeah, yeah, they'd go out—uh-huh. And—well, let's see—what? Ask me. (laughs)
- Myers** Any particular teachers?
- B. Tynes** Yeah, I guess so. Mrs. Myer. Her name was Myer.
- A. Tynes** (to Myers) Just like you.
- B. Tynes** She did have a first name, but I can't remember. Do you remember what it was?
- A. Tynes** No.
- B. Tynes** But anyway—yeah, she was good, and also there was the wife of—Alton was telling you about the Barrons, and she was a choir director—is that what she was? I think choir director. And we didn't play too much or anything. We just, I guess, gossiped. (laughs) We couldn't wait to get to school in the mornings so we could see what everybody had on and what they did, you know, and everything, and so—but—
- Myers** That part of junior high probably hasn't changed a bit. (laughter) What would you say about discipline in your school?
- B. Tynes** Very good.
- A. Tynes** Very good, and I mean—

Myers Tough teachers?

B. Tynes Well, not really.

A. Tynes One was tough, I thought. Her name was Mrs. Mansell.

B. Tynes Yeah, now she was kind of bad on us.

A. Tynes Me and her didn't gel. (laughter) Oh, and I forgot to tell you I was in the band.

Myers Oh, okay. What did you play in the band?

A. Tynes Alto saxophone. I was in the South Junior band and Waco High band.

Myers Well, that's a good thing. Do you still play the sax?

B. Tynes Sometimes.

A. Tynes Sometimes I played over at church a few times, but I wasn't—

Myers That's a skill that you learned way back there that stayed with you.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Did you take private lessons—

A. Tynes No.

Myers —or just learned at school?

A. Tynes In school.

B. Tynes Was that Mr. Bouch that had the band, didn't he?

Myers (speaking to Betty Tynes) Did you play an instrument? Sounds like you sang in the choir.

B. Tynes Well, not really. No, I guess we wasn't—I never was too active. I guess we just thought we wasn't in that corner. (laughter)

Myers Now, you didn't have far to go to school at South Junior.

B. Tynes No, true. We used to walk—we didn't do it—we weren't made to walk. We went and walked and we'd get down here at Baylor, and they had this—it was a—a what? About a half a block?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

- B. Tynes** About a half a block in this, and it was a little passageway, you know like a little vine on it, you know, and it was made like that. Sometimes somebody would say, well, they're going to catch the bus, because when the bus was coming, we'd all ride the bus over to—uptown, Ninth and Austin.
- A. Tynes** That's when you were going to Waco High.
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** So, you walked to Waco High a lot, but sometimes if you could you got on the bus.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, yeah.
- A. Tynes** And same way about South Junior. That little old trail was where everybody walked.
- Myers** Kind of a cut-through.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, um-huh.
- A. Tynes** (at same time) Yeah, a cut-through.
- Myers** Is that what they called Baylor Alley?
- B. Tynes** Maybe so.
- A. Tynes** Um, no.
- Myers** Maybe not. Baylor Alley was up by Dr. Harrington's house—
- A. Tynes** Yeah, that's where it was. That may be.
- Myers** —that cut through—
- B. Tynes** Yeah. That was—
- Myers** —to Eighth Street, kind of.
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- A. Tynes** Dr. Harrington was my doctor.
- Myers** Okay. Did he come to your house and take care of you?
- A. Tynes** Yes, I mean my family doctor. When I got sick, oh, a lot of times we'd go by his house. My mother and dad take me to his house and he gladly doctored me, don't care what kind of hour it was. I never did go to his office very much. Didn't have to.

Myers Wasn't that nice?

A. Tynes When he come out, he always had—he mixed his own medicine in little old—

B. Tynes Red—

A. Tynes —water. He—

B. Tynes Red medicine.

A. Tynes We called it sugar water.

B. Tynes Yeah, they called it sugar water. (laughter)

A. Tynes And so—

Myers Did he make little powders and things or—? He mixed it up?

B. Tynes Well, liquid was every time. I mean, you know, they was observing it'd be liquid, you know. So.

A. Tynes He had a little old black bag; he had about twelve different kinds—

B. Tynes Colored little bottles.

A. Tynes —colored bottles in it. He boiled some water, and he done that for extra, I guess.

Myers Well, those are good memories. I wanted to ask you more, Mr. Tynes, about your father. His name was Alton Dee Tynes, Sr. Right?

A. Tynes Right, right.

Myers Had a lot of brothers.

A. Tynes Right. Had five.

Myers Five brothers.

A. Tynes And one sister.

Myers And a lot of those brothers worked in the mill, but your dad didn't.

A. Tynes My dad and one of my—one of his brothers didn't work there.

Myers Okay, one other brother didn't. Did your dad ever say—how did he feel about the mill work? Is there a reason he didn't work there?

A. Tynes Well, no. See, when he was fifteen years old, he got the job at the Standard Hat Works, and he just stayed there.

Myers He took it early on, didn't he, as a teenager?

A. Tynes Um-hm. He was fifteen years old when he—

Myers Had he quit school then, or was he still—?

A. Tynes Yeah, he quit school then. So.

Myers Well, you told us a little bit off tape last time about his sense of humor. (all laugh) Would you share a little bit more with me about that since we have the tape on?

A. Tynes Well, do you want me to tell you—?

Myers Just what you feel comfortable with.

A. Tynes Well, that way you—oh, man.

Myers He played practical jokes.

A. Tynes Right. Now, I remember at the fire station when any of the other men laid something down, like their knife or their belongings, he would snatch them up and put them in his pocket, and they would be going around looking for whatever it was. And at Christmastime, he wrapped every one of them up and gave them back as a Christmas present. (laughter)

Myers He had to remember what he got from whom, didn't he?

A. Tynes Yeah, so. (laughter)

Myers That's great. You told us that sometimes at church he'd sit next to Mr. Fortune.

A. Tynes Yeah, he'd sit next—Mr. Fortune had a wooden leg. And we had a revival one night, and a visitor came in and sat next to my dad and Mr. Fortune. During the sermon, my dad would get his pocket knife out, and he punched at Mr. Fortune's wooden leg, and oh, the visitor's eyes got so big! And they'd tell them after the service about Mr. Fortune's wooden leg, and they all got a kick out of that.

Myers I guess Mr. Fortune played along.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. He played along, and so—.

Myers He had a sense of humor, too.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Yeah.

Myers You told me about once when your dad went visiting.

A. Tynes Yeah. Him and this man—this man himself became a Christian, and my dad and him went visiting. And where they went this place had a fence around it, and he told this man that, “We better be careful, they’ve got a bad dog in there. When we go up there, you knock, and I’ll stand behind you and get rid of the dog.” And so they did. And when he was walking up the steps, my dad got his hand around his leg and barked like a dog, and the man almost went into orbit. (laughter) Then afterwards, he explained to him.

Myers Well, did he play any jokes on you?

A. Tynes Oh, all the time. You can’t tell about him, what he’s going to do.

Myers Kept you on your toes.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma’am.

Myers How about your mother? Did he play any tricks on your mother?

A. Tynes No, not quite, not that I remember. I remember first time I went to work. I was a small boy, and my mother told me, said, “Now, save, because you’ll have to pay me board to stay here.” And my dad told me to go outside and get a board and bring it in there. (laughter) So.

Myers That’s great. Your dad, according to the minutes of the church, became a deacon in 1927.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers I’m going to turn the tape over, and then I want you to tell me about his being a deacon.

A. Tynes All right.

Tape 1, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

Myers Tell me about being a deacon, your dad’s—

A. Tynes Well, my dad, he was a full-blood deacon. He’d go to every deacon meeting, and he was chairman on the deacons once. He was superintendent of Sunday school. He liked to go to church, and he liked for the whole family to go. I remember me and him got up Sunday morning about eight o’clock, and we went down to the mill block and started visiting people to come to church at nine-thirty.

Myers Oh, so you’d visit before Sunday school. You’d go—

A. Tynes Yes ma’am, a lot of times we done that.

Myers He took you with him?

A. Tynes Well, yeah, I'd go with him sometimes. Sometimes I wouldn't. He went if I didn't go or did.

Myers What do you know about your dad's growing up? Did he grow up in a family that was involved in church?

A. Tynes No ma'am. He didn't do that. I mean, he was born in Nacogdoches, and his father died there, and his mother packed up all the boys and came to Waco. And I think he was about ten years old when they moved to Waco. He got him a paper route.

Myers Um-hm. Helped his mother.

A. Tynes Yeah, and they lived right across the street from the church then.

Myers You think that's when he started going to church?

A. Tynes Yes, um-hm. I'm sure he did.

Myers Did you ever know the story of his becoming a Christian or joining the church?

A. Tynes No, I did not.

Myers Well, you told me some of his activities in the church. As a deacon—in the church minutes, it says that the same year he became a deacon, they asked him and another person, I think, to investigate a woman in regards to her teaching dancing. It seems like through the years one of the things the deacons did in those early days was to kind of help people with their moral lives.

A. Tynes I didn't know them, back then.

Myers Um-huh. You were a baby.

A. Tynes I was born in 1925.

Myers Yes, you were just a baby then. So, in your remembrance—you don't remember that.

A. Tynes I remember one time we had a man, he—well, he belonged to our church, then he moved to South Third Street, then he moved to another church. Well, this Sunday he came to visit back at Edgefield, and the preacher—I don't know who the preacher was—anyway, somehow he knew this man went dancing the Saturday night before. He called out his name and told him he was going to throw him out of the church. And they said my daddy got up there, "You can't throw him out. He told me he's not a member of Edgefield. He's a member of South Third." Well, the preacher, whoever it was, said, "I'm going to throw him out anyway." (laughs)

Myers So, for that preacher dancing was really not right.

A. Tynes No.

Myers That's something we Baptists preached quite a bit about back in those days. Do you remember anything else besides dancing that a preacher might discipline somebody for?

A. Tynes Well, no ma'am.

Myers Was drinking ever a problem—alcohol ever a problem?

A. Tynes Oh, we had a lot of people that drinks. I remember one time—I don't know if I ought to tell this or not—but there was a man, he was a Catholic, and he'd always visit Edgefield Church, and his wife was a member of our church. And when he came he always had a little drink. Well, one Sunday night he came drunk, and he accepted Christ. And he was formerly a deacon. They made him a deacon. That's how Christ can turn your life around. And he never did drink no more from that day, that night.

Myers That's good. That's a story of redemption, isn't it?

A. Tynes Isn't it?

Myers Okay, and your dad went visiting?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. He loved to visit.

Myers Just door to door?

A. Tynes Door to door. He went with other deacons or he went with the preacher. And everybody loved my dad. We—there were times people came up to me and said, Your dad was the first person to visit me to come to church.

Myers Did he mostly visit down there around the church?

A. Tynes He visited everywhere he could go.

Myers Everywhere? Even up where you lived?

A. Tynes Yeah. And at the fire station everybody called him Baptist because they know what a Baptist is, and he always read his Sunday-school lesson up there at the fire station. And he gave Earl Muchow his first job in the fire department.

Myers Um-hm. He told me about that.

A. Tynes He did?

Myers Um-hm. (sound of plane flying overhead) Yes, how much that meant to him. Who were some other deacons besides your dad?

- A. Tynes** Well, there was Mr. Fortune, Clyde Blanton, and my uncle, Buel Tynes, he was deacon, and Brother C. D. Eddleman, and Brother Gibson. Who else?
- B. Tynes** Buddy.
- A. Tynes** Yeah, Mr. Swanner, Buddy Swanner, H. B. Elliott.
- B. Tynes** Did you do the Martins? J. L.
- A. Tynes** J. L. Martin and Ernest Nawara.
- B. Tynes** He is still living and in his—
- A. Tynes** They said they could try to get him in St. Catherine's. He's got Alzheimer's.
- B. Tynes** (in unison) Alzheimer's. He'd already got to the stage where he didn't know where he was. One night, down there, well, he came up and says, "Betty," said, "do you need a ride home?" And I said, "No, I don't think so." He said, "Well, I'll take you if you want to go home," and I said, "No," I said, "but thanks anyway."
- A. Tynes** We finally said okay.
- B. Tynes** Yes, and I looked up, and there he went in the car, gone. And Al looked at me and I looked at him, and we both looked at—(laughs) because it was so—I don't know. (laughs)
- A. Tynes** He wanted to take us home so bad, so we finally said, Okay, Ernest.
- Myers** But he forgot to take you. (laughter)
- B. Tynes** Yeah, yeah.
- A. Tynes** He just went off and left us.
- B. Tynes** Isn't that—yeah, he just went off and left us.
- Myers** That's sad.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, it is.
- Myers** But tell me what you remember about some of these men. We've talked about your dad and his work in the church. What about some of these other deacons?
- A. Tynes** Well, Mr. Swanner, he married my cousin, Lorraine Swanner. He was a good man. He was a little bit older than I was, and so was J. L. Martin. We always liked football, and every Friday night we'd go to the football games together, in town or out of town.

Myers The Waco High games?

A. Tynes Waco High. Then, we went to Baylor games. If they wasn't too far, we'd go like Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin. We'd go together, and there was six of us get in that car and go.

Myers Well, that made for good fellowship for you men, didn't it?

A. Tynes Yeah, it was. Buddy Swanner, he was (clock chimes) Sunday-school superintendent, too. He tried to get everybody to come to Sunday school, and Ernest, he was our BYPU director, or BTU. And Clyde Blanton was our song leader, and he could play the trumpet, saxophone. He could play anything.

Myers Oh, very talented. So, each of these men kind of had a gift to give. Besides being a deacon, they had other gifts to contribute to the church, didn't they?

B. Tynes Right.

A. Tynes And you remember Francis Pulattie?

Myers Oh yes, uh-huh. Yes.

A. Tynes Well, he was an Edgefield boy. He used to come to the church.

Myers Now, he was a football player.

A. Tynes Yeah. We went to his—they had a sports—

B. Tynes They had a sports—

Myers Hall of fame.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Hall of fame.

Myers Now, was he at Waco High when you were there?

A. Tynes Well, he was a grade ahead of me. I knew him. He was a good football player.

Myers Did his whole family go to your church?

A. Tynes Well, there wasn't but him and his mother, and Woodrow knows him real good. He goes to your church, doesn't he?

Myers Yes, he does, uh-huh. He's been ill recently, though.

A. Tynes Oh, he has?

Myers Well, he's been on the prayer list, I know. How would you say these men and the other people at Edgefield Church influenced your life when you were a young boy? How are you different because you knew those people?

A. Tynes Well, they just were so kind and they taught me right, and so they had success. They'd live a life where you want your life to be like their lives.

Myers They were examples for you. Did many of those men work in the mill?

A. Tynes Yeah, they did. Mr. C. D. Eddleman and Clyde Blanton. That's about all, I guess.

Myers Um-hm. Now I want to switch to your mother for just a minute.

A. Tynes All right.

Myers She wasn't a deacon at the church—

B. Tynes No.

A. Tynes (in unison) No. (all laugh)

Myers —but tell me about your mother and her work at the church.

A. Tynes Well, she was a Sunday-school teacher.

Myers Okay. What age group did she teach?

A. Tynes She taught mostly primary. Sometimes she taught some in the junior department.

Myers Did she work in vacation Bible school?

A. Tynes Oh yes. She worked in vacation Bible school. Yeah, my dad did, too, on his day off.

Myers Okay, okay. That's great. How about WMU [Woman's Missionary Union]?

A. Tynes Yeah, they had WMU.

B. Tynes We had a good WMU, and—

A. Tynes Laura Lee was—

B. Tynes Yeah, Laura Lee was our president. Well, we've had them all. We just kind of went down the line, You be it this month, you know. And so that's the way it happened there, but I don't know about anything that's really outstanding.

A. Tynes My mother always—when the church doors opened, my mother was always there and my dad was, too, if he was not working, and so.

- Myers** It was very important to her.
- A. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** How about her sisters and the rest of her family. Did they go to Edgefield?
- A. Tynes** No. Well, one sister did. Her name was Aunt Teeny [Albertine], Mrs. Earl Threlkeld. She had two girls and one boy. They went and her husband went. They finally moved to Third Street because they lived down there. They moved to Third Street, so.
- Myers** Well, when you think of the women in the church, your mother and her friends, what kind of influences did the women have on your lives?
- A. Tynes** Well, they helped real good. They—when I'd done anything bad, they'd come and told me about it. Didn't have to be my mother, they went—came and told me right to my face. And so, I remember my—my mother liked to tell this story about me. Some of us boys, we wanted to go to a pool hall. You know what a pool hall is. And she said, "No, you can't go," but my dad said, "Yes, you can. You go on with your friends." So, we went, we went. And next morning, about nine or ten o'clock, there was a pool table came out to my house. We had a big back porch, twenty-four by twelve, and it wasn't a regular size pool table, it was a small table. But he bought that table for me and my friends to keep us from going pool hall playing. So, that was—
- Myers** About what age were you, do you think?
- A. Tynes** Oh, about first year in high school. And he bought soda water for us to drink, and they said there was ten boys back there on that porch playing pool while Hank played his guitar.
- Myers** Okay. At your house?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, at my house.
- B. Tynes** In the backyard, at night every kid on the block would gather at our house, and—
- A. Tynes** Nighttime.
- B. Tynes** —it—yeah. We had a grapevine that it was just like the little alley, you was calling, you know, except it was in Granny's backyard, and they just would go through it just to be going through it because it was fun, I guess. They just to kind of—well, I don't know, to—
- Myers** It was like a game to go through the grape arbor.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, through—like, yeah—you know—the bridges falling down. (laughs)

- A. Tynes** Hank would be playing every night up through around twelve o'clock. And people—neighbors didn't like for him to sing, but—
- B. Tynes** Everybody on the block, though, would come and listen. He wasn't bad. He was a good boy, and you could depend on him. Alton got up this morning and played I don't know how many records of him.
- A. Tynes** CD. I got it over there now.
- Myers** Well, back when he was playing in the backyard, was it just him and his guitar—
- A. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** —or did he have a band?
- B. Tynes** No, just him and the neighborhood. Just whoever.
- Myers** Whoever could play an instrument played with him?
- B. Tynes** Well, I don't know. I don't think anybody else played there, did they?
- A. Tynes** Just him.
- B. Tynes** Just him, yeah. Well, we'd get over in Mama's backyard, and we'd put out two big old quilts, and she'd let us, and everybody sat down on those quilts, and here went Hank.
- Myers** Now, did you sing along with the songs? Were they songs you knew and sang?
- A. Tynes** Some. He sung "Wabash Cannon Ball," "Great Speckled Bird," different songs, like "I'm Walking the Floor Over You."
- Myers** Now, were these songs he'd learned from listening to the radio?
- A. Tynes** Um-hm.
- Myers** Okay.
- A. Tynes** He made up some song that was named "Talkin' Blues," and when he'd play, he'd talk. And it was fun. And he played "You Are My Sunshine." All those old songs.
- Myers** Now, tell me a little bit about him. How did you first get to know him?
- A. Tynes** Well, when I went to high school, first day in high school, we was in—we had the same homeroom, and he sat by me because—
- Myers** I guess if you were alphabetically, you were probably—

A. Tynes Yeah, Thompson and Tynes, and so we took up a good friendship. Well, a whole lot of people up there made fun of him because he brought his guitar with him to school and he put it in his locker. Every time he'd go anywhere he had that guitar, and some of them made fun of him, but I never did. I think I—

B. Tynes You jumped on the back end of the bicycle.

A. Tynes Yeah. So, I had a birthday, and he said, "Who's going to be there?" I said, "No one, the neighborhood kids, and my mother's going to make a cake and punch." And he said, "Can I come?" I said, "Sure, you can." He said, "Where do you live?" I told him. I said, "Now, you get on the South Eleventh bus and go to Fifteenth and Speight. I will be at the corner waiting for you." So, I told him what time. He said okay. And sure enough, he was there and I was there. And he had on a yellow silk shirt and a cowboy hat and a guitar. And we went and he sung at my birthday party. And all the friends liked him. And from then on we—

Myers He was part of the group.

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers I need to turn the tape.

Tape 1 ends; tape 2 begins.

This is tape two of interview two. We were talking about Hank Thompson and your first days of friendship with him, being in homeroom together. He was what? maybe fourteen, fifteen years old—

A. Tynes I imagine.

Myers —when you first knew him, and he already had this love of guitar.

A. Tynes He told me that he loved guitar ever since he was five years old. I don't know how true that is, but that's what he said.

Myers Did you get to know his family?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. He was the only child just like I was. His daddy was a mechanic down at Third and Webster, and his mother was a—she sewed in a sewing factory. So, which one?

B. Tynes Gilbreath's, I think.

A. Tynes Gilbreath's.

B. Tynes Gilbreath's sewing, down here on the river.

- Myers** Where did he grow up? Where was his home?
- A. Tynes** Out in North Waco on North Thirteenth Street. And so, we had what they call a kiddie matinee. Do you know about the kiddie matinee?
- Myers** Ah, tell me more. Tell me about it. I assume it was a movie show.
- A. Tynes** It was a movie show down at the old Waco Theater, and it started at nine o'clock. And at nine thirty, they had a radio program from nine thirty to ten, and it was an amateur—people around Waco came in. And so at the end we'd clap for whoever'd win. The first winner, I think they got ten dollars or five dollars, and the second got five or two fifty, something like that, and the last one, third one, would get in free at the movies. Hank wanted on there every time, but he was so good that they wouldn't let him on but every other Saturday to let other kids get on. So.
- Myers** Had you heard him play before you went to high school and knew him? Had you heard him play down there?
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) No. No ma'am.
- Myers** So, you didn't know he was like that before you met him.
- A. Tynes** No, I didn't know him then.
- Myers** Would you say he had natural talent?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am, and he was very smart. He—
- Myers** Did he study music?
- A. Tynes** No, not that I know of.
- Myers** He just listened to it and played.
- A. Tynes** He listened to records and then played. And what we did, on South Eleventh, about Eleventh and Franklin, there was a Ken—what? Guy King had a music store. They had jukeboxes, you know, put them around, and we'd go in there and buy old records that went on jukeboxes. And he'd bring them in and sell them for a good price. We'd always go in there. He didn't have no phonograph, you know, to play the records. And we'd buy them, come to my house, and we would put them on, and he'd listen to it.
- Myers** Well, that was a good place to get records, wasn't it?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, but some of them were good, some of them were scratchy, and every once in a while, you—
- Myers** (speaking at same time) Some of them were abused too hard.

B. Tynes Did you ever hear of Mary Holliday?

Myers I'm not sure. Tell me about Mary Holliday.

B. Tynes She was the master of ceremonies for—on Saturdays. They—I guess, well, they brought their—

A. Tynes She worked for WACO. She had a program through the week, a certain program.

Myers Okay. She hosted the matinees. Although they weren't just afternoon matinees, they were all-day kinds of things—

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes (in unison) Yeah.

Myers —weren't they? Started at nine o'clock in the morning.

A. Tynes Up to ten. So, it was a big program. Kids from everywhere would come.

B. Tynes It got to a point where it got a pretty big auditorium and a pretty big bunch of people.

A. Tynes Do you know Johnny High?

Myers Yes, yes.

A. Tynes Oh, you do?

Myers I know who you're talking about.

A. Tynes Well, he used to be our neighbor, lived across the street from us.

Myers Oh, he did?

A. Tynes Um-hm. He had a little radio program on WACO, too. He—him and his wife always go to the movie, and he asked her to marry him in the Waco [Theater] balcony.

B. Tynes In the balcony. (laughter)

A. Tynes (coughs) Excuse me.

Myers So, you were surrounded by musicians, weren't you?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers Lots of good music.

A. Tynes I like music. Well, I took violin lessons.

B. Tynes He did.

A. Tynes I took guitar lessons. I took mandolin lessons.

Myers Wow.

A. Tynes So, I wasn't no good at it.

Myers But you appreciated it.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers That's good. Enjoyed it.

A. Tynes I like it.

Myers That's great. Anything else about Hank Thompson? How have you kept up with each other since high school?

A. Tynes Well, I always phone him on his birthday. September the third he was seventy-seven. We always go to his programs that are around close to—we went down to Temple to see him, Georgetown to see him.

B. Tynes Mexia. I mean, uh, not Mexia but—

A. Tynes Itasca. He's going to be in Waxahachie in December, and we're thinking about going up there to see him. I always phone him every once in a while. I've got his house phone number and talk to him.

Myers And I believe you told me you were each other's best men—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers —in your weddings.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers That's a long friendship.

A. Tynes He always—well, in fact, one night he was having a big party up at his house for his birthday, and I phoned him and the maid told me, said, "Hank's here, but he's having a big party. I don't think he will come to the phone." I said, "Well, you go tell him that Alton from Waco is on the phone." And she went and she came back and said, "He'll be here in a few minutes." And so. Then one time, we went up to Fort Worth to see him, and I told Betty, "I'm going back there to see him backstage." And I went and there was a big man there with a gun on. He told me, said, "You cannot come back here." So I told him, I said, "Well, go tell him that I'm here." So he come back and Hank came

with him, and Hank said, “Come on back here.” We talked. And one time we went to Fort Worth, and he was on the Johnny High program, and I went back there backstage. And so Johnny High got up and said, “Well, we’re having a big reunion back there.” Said, “You know I’m from Waco and Hank’s from Waco. And we’ve got a good friend back here. He’s from Waco.” He wanted me to come out there on the stage and I wouldn’t do it. So, that’s that.

Myers You could have gone up there and sung with them. (laughs)

B. Tynes That’s right.

Myers That’s great. That’s an important piece of Waco history, our music, and you were right there in the middle of some of it.

A. Tynes Every time we’d go, if Hank knows we’re there he’ll always sing a song for me.

Myers Do you have a special song you like for him to sing?

A. Tynes Yes ma’am, but the name of it is “Tears on My Pillow.” He always says, “My good friend and his wife Betty are here with us.” So, that’s not all. Every time we go somewhere, we’ve got good friends and they are twins, and they graduated when Betty did, and they know Hank and they always go with us.

Myers What are their names?

B. Tynes Ollie and Dolly Brown.

A. Tynes Her name is Bryce.

B. Tynes Oh yeah. Ollie is—well, she’s—her husband’s dead and so is Dolly’s husband dead. It’s just the two of them.

Myers Ollie and Dolly. That’s great. (laughter)

B. Tynes Yeah, we’ve been with those ever since. Well, they rode the bus from Third Street out of Asa, and to come to school they had to come pretty far, but we didn’t have to go any way to really—I guess—

A. Tynes We met them in South Junior.

Myers They came all the way up from Asa to South Junior.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes By bus.

B. Tynes Yeah, school bus.

A. Tynes Then, when we were in Waco High, they came by bus.

- Myers** (speaking at same time) Came even further. By the time you were there, there weren't many county schools out there. They had consolidated them all?
- A. Tynes** No, they—
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** Well, Betty, let me ask you a little bit about your earliest memories of Edgefield. You moved—
- B. Tynes** Oh yeah. Well, to start off with, I—let's see—I don't know what year it was, but anyway, I was accepted for baptism, and it was—help me along here.
- A. Tynes** Wallace Philpot was the preacher.
- B. Tynes** Was it? He was the preacher? Wallace Philpot? Well, that's good, and—
- Myers** Did your family have a background at the church?
- B. Tynes** No, my mom was Christ Church, and my dad was a Methodist. They attended the Methodist church, and the Church of Christ was right there at the corner where we lived, and they were in church at all times, you know, and then—I don't know. One funny thing that happened when—come on.
- A. Tynes** When—what about?
- B. Tynes** What about? Well, I was going to tell her about, well, something that happened that just—it's kind of good. Anyway, it was that—once we were somewhere where quite a few of us was there and my sisters and everything were there, and then—but it got to be a thing that Elvenia, I believe, or Erlene, they said—
- A. Tynes** They were my cousins.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, and said, well, instead of—boy, I can't think in the morning. (laughs) No, it said—introduced, you know, my sister and them and everything, and my sister had a friend or something, and she said, "And this is my good sister," (laughs) and I said, "Well, to one point, yeah," and—but I was just an ordinary lady.
- Myers** But you attended church so regularly she—
- B. Tynes** Right, I sure did, and every time we got to go we had—it was really a good time, wasn't it?
- A. Tynes** Um-hm.
- Myers** When you went to Edgefield, did you know that his family was going there, too?

B. Tynes Oh yeah. They lived next door to me.

Myers So I guess your dad had visited her family. (all laugh)

A. Tynes Yeah. Yeah. And her family came over there to Edgefield. Your daddy and mother would come.

B. Tynes Yeah. And anyway, I was sixteen years old, I believe, when I accepted the Lord. Then, like I say, she said, "This is my good sister," so.

Myers Did the church have its own baptistery then?

B. Tynes Yes, they do.

Myers You were baptized at church.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes And her neighbor, then, he was a little bit younger than I was, but not too young, but he was taking art lessons.

Myers Art lessons? Uh-huh.

A. Tynes He painted our baptistery.

B. Tynes Yeah. I wonder what they did with that.

A. Tynes I don't know.

Myers Now, was that in the first church?

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers The wooden church?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah, they moved it.

B. Tynes And then they moved it over to the other—new church.

Myers Do you recall what the painting was?

A. Tynes Oh, a river and trees.

B. Tynes A pathway down the river. You could sit there and see—

Myers Like you were going into the picture.

B. Tynes Right.

A. Tynes It seemed like the water was falling.

Myers How pretty. Now, what was his name, do you recall?

A. Tynes A. O.—

B. Tynes A. O. Renfrow.

A. Tynes He graduated from Baylor.

B. Tynes And he passed away last summer.

Myers So, he painted it in the old church, and then it was moved to the newer building.

B. Tynes Right.

Myers It should still be there?

B. Tynes I just wonder.

A. Tynes I don't know. Baylor got it now.

B. Tynes Yeah, Baylor—

Myers Was it just a picture, or was it on the wall?

B. Tynes No, it was a picture.

A. Tynes It was a picture.

Myers It was a picture in a frame.

A. Tynes I don't know if Baylor—

Myers Well, it certainly needs to be preserved.

B. Tynes Yeah, I'm going to check it out and see. I could hang it up in the dining room.

A. Tynes Oh yeah, I forgot to tell you that my grandmother and my grandfather on my mother's side, every Christmas eve we would go to their house. All the kids went. I mean, sisters and brothers. That was a night—

B. Tynes To remember.

A. Tynes You got cousins, you better not go nowhere else. (laughter) You've gotta come to—and we always draw names during the year and you can't pay over a dollar for your gift. And we always went and have cake, pie, sandwiches, and we always—you bring whoever you want to, but you've got to come. (Myers laughs)

B. Tynes Well, and all of the good things were all homemade. Cookies—Granny made cookies, and Lil always made chocolate candy, and oh, it was just a little circle.

A. Tynes And if you were sick, you still come.

Myers (laughs) You'd better be at Grandma's house on Christmas Eve.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes And they was. I mean, they—and you know my mother's father and mother, they were from Germany and German, and they'd talk German that night.

Myers Oh, they did?

A. Tynes Some did and some didn't.

Myers Now, what church did they go to?

A. Tynes Christian Science. (clears throat)

Myers Oh, that's interesting.

A. Tynes And my grandfather told me one day, he said—we were talking and he said something and I agreed with him. And he pointed his finger at me and said, "You are a smart man," if you agree with him, but if I disagree, well, you're not smart. He pointed that finger.

Myers Those are good memories. Well, Betty, what do you remember about Sunday school and Training Union, WMU? Tell me about those activities.

B. Tynes Well, I tell you, when I first started Sunday school, well, that was—we lived next door to Granny, and Papa would always—we called him Papa—and he always come knock on the door and say, "Sunday time." And he'd have us all—I guess Mama dressed us, I don't know—but anyway. We were taken—uh—come on, give me some help.

Myers Did you get in the car and go together to the church?

B. Tynes Yeah, and Granny and them hadn't had a car for a long time. When did ya'll get that car?

A. Tynes We had one when I was in high school.

B. Tynes And we had the car, yeah, and we—and then we used to at nighttime we would—he'd take all the kids and we'd go get ice cream. He would be so nice about that.

Myers He had an understanding of what people enjoy, didn't he?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers I'd like to hear about your engagement and your wedding.

B. Tynes Well, okay.

A. Tynes I think—

B. Tynes You think what? You think you don't know that you're married? (laughs)

Myers Well, apparently you met in the neighborhood.

B. Tynes Yes, we did.

Myers But you also were—you were behind him in school.

A. Tynes One year.

Myers One year.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers But you played, you did things together.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Had the same friends.

B. Tynes Same friends, yeah, sure did.

A. Tynes Yeah, and at nighttime we'd go down on the corner where the streetlight was, and we all had fun, talked, sang songs you make up or whatever.

B. Tynes That was our fun time.

Myers So, at what point did you pair off together?

B. Tynes Oh, okay.

A. Tynes Well—

B. Tynes Well, we got married in what? '47?

A. Tynes In '47. Well, I remember this. She—her and her sister were going to take piano, and they found a piano, and who did they borrow the money from? Me. They borrowed the money from me to buy the piano, and so every time her lesson come, it was on Friday night. I asked her out for a date. You know what? She went with me in—(laughs)

Myers Instead of the piano lesson? Uh-oh.

A. Tynes Yeah. And I caused her not to play the piano. (laughter)

Myers You took her away from the piano.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes (clears throat) But I don't know.

Myers How long did you date then?

B. Tynes Well, he asked me to marry him in October, and one month—

A. Tynes We got married in November.

B. Tynes And it was Brother Richard Philpot married us.

A. Tynes I remember that night my mother and my dad and some more people were at our house playing Eighty-Six. And we went to the Waco High football game. It was on Friday night. When we came back, everybody said, Let's see it! Let's see your ring! She didn't have no ring. So—

B. Tynes I said, "I don't have a ring."

A. Tynes So I—you know, I was going to take her out after we left, then give her her ring. That's what I did.

Myers You had to then, didn't you? (all laugh) But they jumped the gun on you.

B. Tynes Yeah, they did.

Myers Did you say they were playing Eighty-Six?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes (in unison) Yeah.

Myers Now, I've heard of Eighty-Four.

A. Tynes Well, same thing.

Myers Okay, but it's dominoes?

A. Tynes Dominoes—it's all the same thing, but—

Myers Well, that's a—(laughs)

A. Tynes Some call it Eighty-Four. Some call it Eighty-Six.

Myers Okay. And you told me that at your wedding there were so many people they had to stand outside. It rained on them.

B. Tynes Pouring down rain!

A. Tynes There was a man there, he run the Smith Monument Company down on Twelfth and LaSalle. It's not there now. He went to Brownwood—no, Brownsville—for something, business. But he went somewhere for business, but he came back that weekend for my—

B. Tynes For our wedding.

A. Tynes —wedding, then he went back.

Myers That's a long way. Well, it sounds like the whole community was happy when you got married.

B. Tynes Yes.

A. Tynes Yeah. I had a good friend on the church part, and he—we rented an apartment down on South Fifteenth, and—

B. Tynes A little garage apartment. It was so cute.

A. Tynes —and every hour on the hour during the night, he come by there and flashed that big old spotlight in our apartment. (laughs)

Myers I need to turn the tape.

Tape 2, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

I want us to go back and you tell me again where you got engaged—where you proposed.

A. Tynes Oh, well, I proposed down on South Fourth Street right by Oakwood Cemetery. And don't—I don't know why I did that or—but that's where I proposed to her at.

Myers Maybe that's the darkest place you could find. (laughter)

A. Tynes She said yes, so.

Myers That's what counted, didn't it?

A. Tynes Yeah. I've got a good friend—I guess you know him, Bill Azbell. He worked on all my TV's.

Myers He's worked on a lot of our equipment, too.

A. Tynes He did. Well, see, him and her, they graduated together.

Myers Okay, okay. Well, now, before you took a bride, though, you graduated from high school.

A. Tynes We was—yeah.

Myers Let's see. You graduated in '43 and you in '44. What did you do right after graduation?

A. Tynes Well, see, I graduated in mid-term.

Myers Oh, that's right. You told me.

A. Tynes And I started to Baylor. And they drafted me out of Baylor in June or July. I went to the army, Camp Walters.

Myers Where is that?

A. Tynes At Mineral Wells.

Myers Mineral Wells, okay.

A. Tynes It's not there now.

Myers What did you do there?

A. Tynes I was in the infantry.

Myers Okay, oh. So, you were expecting probably to—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers —have to go to overseas.

A. Tynes But anyway, they put me to teaching other people out there, and I never did go over.

Myers Okay, but you became a teacher.

A. Tynes Well, yes.

Myers What did you lead people in?

A. Tynes Well, I taught them how to jump over fences.

Myers Did you have to yell at them?

A. Tynes Well, some, I did. (Myers laughs) And so, jump over water, a creek, different things. We wore our pack and got our gun all cleaned up. Every night we had to clean our guns. Like that. (chuckles)

- Myers** Well, we talked about the radio. I know that's the way a lot of people found out about Pearl Harbor. Do you remember Pearl Harbor Day?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. We was in church at Edgefield when we heard it right there.
- Myers** Did someone come in and tell you?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, I don't know who it was, but somebody told the preacher and he told us. So. I don't know what—I'm thinking it was 11:15, somewhere along in there. I know he went up there and whispered to the preacher, and the preacher told us. So.
- Myers** How do you remember the U. S. getting in the war changing your lives while you were still there in high school during the early years of the war? How did it change things around Waco?
- A. Tynes** Well, see, out here they had the Waco army air force, named Waco, but it was turned to Connally air force [base]. But we had airplanes going over Waco, and they were doing dog fights, not right over Waco, but outside Waco you could hear them.
- Myers** They'd practice with each other. In the church, I know—I'm sure a lot of the young men that were older than you had to go to service pretty quickly.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Some of them got—I remember one boy—two, they got over in Japan and got in that what you call walk—
- Myers** Oh, the Death March?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, and they died. They never did survive.
- Myers** And they were from your church?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am.
- Myers** I guess just about every family was affected?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, yes ma'am. And some of them volunteered. So some went to the navy, some went to the army. Earl [Muchow] went to the marines.
- Myes** That's right. How about at high school? Was there—I know in World War I there were some incidences at Waco High with German teachers and so forth with people being kind of anti-German. Did that happen any in World War II in high school?
- A. Tynes** Well, I guess so.
- Myers** A little bit? That's kind of the time a lot of the German churches stopped preaching and singing in German.

A. Tynes I can't remember nothing like that.

Myers (speaking at same time) Can't remember your German relatives ever talking about that?

A. Tynes No, never did. See, my grandfather, he came from Germany when he was twelve years old. He got off in New York, they tell me, and he got his way down here to Schulenburg and that's where he met my grandmother. So.

Myers That's a very German community, yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah. He worked his way up to Waco.

Myers So, while you were at Camp Walters—was it Walters?—

A. Tynes Um-hm.

B. Tynes (in unison) Um-hm.

Myers —(speaking to Betty Tynes) you were still finishing high school, and then what did you do after high school?

A. Tynes She went down to San Antone.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Oh, you did?

A. Tynes Yeah, with her sister.

B. Tynes Yeah, and—

Myers You said something last time about being a telephone operator.

B. Tynes I was. I was, and I—they—

A. Tynes Down there she worked at a bookbinder.

B. Tynes Yeah, down in San Antone. Yeah, in the library, in the bookbinding.

Myers Then, when you became a telephone operator, were you back in Waco?

B. Tynes Yes. Yeah, they were nice to us when we were coming back. They—

A. Tynes Her oldest sister lived down in San Antone then. And her oldest sister's husband, he didn't go to the army, he worked for the railroad. They—what do you call it? They let him work for the railroad.

Myers For his—not a deferment, but that was his service—his peacetime service or something.

A. Tynes Yeah, so they went to her and two of her sisters went down by the railroad track and they were waving at all the boys on it, and finally, they got to the end of the train, and there was her sister's husband. (laughter)

Myers Oh no. He was on the train.

A. Tynes He was.

Myers That's funny. That's great. All right. I'm kind of jumping back and forth here. I hope you don't mind.

A. Tynes No, we don't mind.

Myers Back when we talked about your being in the church, what do you remember about some of those older folks, those men and women in the church like his dad and mother and the Eddlemans and others. What do you remember about what they meant to your life or influences they may have had on you?

B. Tynes Well, uh—let's see.

Myers He said the men were kind of models for what he wanted to be. Was it that way with you?

B. Tynes Well, the little old ladies, I don't think they were, you know—I mean, all of them had something about them, you know, that we, I guess, you just pick up something like that, you know, but I—let's see. The little old lady, Mrs. Redding was her name. Do you—

Myers Pearl Redding.

B. Tynes Yes.

Myers I've heard her name before.

B. Tynes Yes, and she had the two-year-olds, or maybe the—anyway, the (clock chimes)—what did she have, the nursery first?

A. Tynes Nursery.

Myers And then the beginners?

B. Tynes And then the beginners? Yeah.

A. Tynes Then primary.

B. Tynes Then the primary, yeah. Well, we—like I say, they was, you know, she was a little old lady that dressed like a little old lady, you know? She wore those long dresses at that time, you know, and always had a bonnet tied around her neck.

Myers Really? And real thick shoes?

B. Tynes Yeah, like brogans.

Myers Uh-huh. Did she wear black? Was she a widow and wore black, or was she—?

B. Tynes Ah, yeah, she was a widow, but she just, you know, let's see—

Myers She was an older generation, but she still worked with the children.

B. Tynes That's right. That's right.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah.

Myers That took a lot of energy.

B. Tynes Yeah, it did, but we all liked them and they liked us, so they had a big thing of, you know, small—we had a lot of children. We even had a couple or two bed babies, and everybody was so glad to take care of them. It was a Mrs. Applegate, and—

A. Tynes Mrs. Hall.

B. Tynes Mrs. Hall, yeah, and Mrs. Tusa, and—

A. Tynes Mrs. Rubel.

B. Tynes Mrs. Rubel? Yes.

A. Tynes Ah, I'm telling you, when our daughter was a baby, we didn't have to dress her. We just took her and took all her clothes and they would do it for us.

Myers They probably enjoyed it.

A. Tynes They wanted to help.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) They wanted to. They did. They couldn't wait until—they'd come and look, Is Vanessa here? You got Vanessa here?

Myers So, these ladies that kept the children did it for years it sounds like.

B. Tynes Oh yeah. Right, right.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

Myers They were very dedicated.

B. Tynes Well, the tables over in the beginners right now was—Mr. Tynes made them. Your daddy made them.

Myers I'm going to ask one more question. You mentioned last time about the flood in 1936.

- A. Tynes** I think it was.
- Myers** And then about a year later, I've heard that—1937—the mill closed down. Do you recall how that might have affected—?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, they still lived there, but they were poor. Then, when the war came on, it opened back up.
- Myers** So, how did the church get along when the mill was closed?
- A. Tynes** Well, very poorly, but we got along. We still got along good.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, because there were those there that maybe didn't have any food or anything like that, but they was people that was ready at (snaps her finger) the snap of a finger to—
- A. Tynes** Help.
- B. Tynes** —help, you know. They were just—
- A. Tynes** A whole lot of the grocery stores would donate food.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, yeah. So, down there they fixed a kitchen.
- Myers** Okay, like a food pantry.
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Um-hm.
- Myers** So, that helped people get through.
- B. Tynes** That's right, yeah.
- A. Tynes** Um-hm. And they would do anything for a job back in those days. So. We got through it.
- Myers** You really did, and it sounds like the church helped some people get through it.
- A. Tynes** They did.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, they did.
- A. Tynes** I remember St. Paul's and Edgefield went together, and they had what you call a quilting party. All day long they quilt and gave it to—
- B. Tynes** And gave it to the poor people who didn't—who needed one.

A. Tynes Same way about food. I remember Mr. Cameron owned Cameron Mills, his wife came down there and worked and brought a truck full of food, and we passed it out. Mrs. Heath, she helped. And Mrs. Cameron came to the quilting party and quilted just like everybody else.

Myers Well, those are good stories.

A. Tynes Edgefield and St. Paul were together.

Myers They carried a lot of the burden for folks down there, didn't they?

B. Tynes Um-hm. They really did.

Myers And you mentioned the Kiwanis Club helping out. Any other groups you can think of that came down and helped out?

A. Tynes No.

Myers Those are before the days of welfare and government assistance.

A. Tynes Yeah. Oh yeah. That was before World War II, that was. And what more do you want? I've got a lot more to tell you.

Myers Well, I've got a lot more to ask, too, but let's quit for today. We've really talked a long time, and I appreciate it, and if you don't mind, I'll come back.

B. Tynes Okay. We don't mind.

A. Tynes Oh, we don't mind.

end of interview



Betty Fay Sanders Tynes and Alton Dee Tynes, Jr.

Interview No. 3

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Lois E. Myers

October 18, 2002

1936 Madera Drive

Waco, Texas

- Myers** This is Lois Myers. Today is October 18, 2002. I'm in the home of Betty and Alton Tynes at 1936 Madera in Waco, Texas. This is our third interview together, and the project for the Institute for Oral History is the Waco/McLennan County Project. Thank you, Betty and Alton, for letting me come into your home again and talk some more about Edgefield Church.
- A. Tynes** You're welcome.
- B. Tynes** You're welcome.
- Myers** I have a list of pastors from the church—
- A. Tynes** All right.
- Myers** —so I'd kind of like to ask you to tell me what you remember about them, and what they may have contributed to the church.
- B. Tynes** Okay.
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) All right.
- Myers** And then, when we get to that point in this list to where the new church was built, I'd like to talk a little bit about the new church.
- A. Tynes** Um-hm. Okay.
- Myers** Some of these go back before you were born so I won't ask you about those, but let's start with J. A. Haley.
- A. Tynes** Yeah, uh-huh.
- Myers** Tell me what—we've talked a little bit about him, but tell me more about what made him such a special minister to Edgefield.
- A. Tynes** Well, he'd take care of everyone. He was single when he first came, and he was going to Baylor. And the church come first in his life, and there he is. (points to a framed photograph on the fireplace mantel across the room)

Myers Yes. You have a picture of him.

B. Tynes And his wife.

Myers And his wife. And that date on there says 1995, but when he first came in '36, he was a Baylor student and a single man.

A. Tynes And he stayed there I don't know how long, but he joined the army. Not a chaplain. He's just a regular boy. (laughs)

Myers Okay. A fighting soldier, huh?

A. Tynes Yes sir.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes And he was up in the Aleutian Islands. I think that's where he stayed all the time. He sent me a picture of him up there once, but I lost it. I don't know where it is.

B. Tynes Don't remember.

A. Tynes And he always wrote to us.

Myers To you and Betty? Or you and your family?

A. Tynes Me and my family. We wasn't married then.

Myers That's right.

A. Tynes And so, when he came back, he was stationed at Fort Hood. And on weekends he'd come to Waco, and he stayed with my family, and so. And he taught me a lot of things.

Myers What kind of things?

A. Tynes Well, about Christian things, how to behave, how to act. And I remember when he was pastor down here, he bought a new car, and he took me out to Latham Springs. And we got out here outside Waco, he let me drive it. (laughs) Boy, that thrilled me! And he let me drive it back until we got to Waco city limits, and then he—so.

Myers So, you were very close to him at home as well as at church.

A. Tynes Well, um-hm. He seemed like he liked me, and so I liked him. So—well, in fact, everybody like—loved him! There wasn't no part liked him, part didn't. They all loved him because he done God's work. And he lived with H. A. Clark family down on Second and Bosque.

Myers So he lived down there while he was pastor?

A. Tynes Yes, um-hm.

Myers Okay. Right in the neighborhood.

A. Tynes They'd rent a room to him or let him stay there. I don't know how they worked it, but anyway.

Myers Were the Clarks members of the church?

B. Tynes Yes ma'am.

A. Tynes He was a barber down on Third and Bosque.

B. Tynes And you could call her a seamstress because she sewed for the girls and others that needed her.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes He was a deacon at Edgefield. And—

Myers So, the first time around, J. A. Haley was a student at Baylor.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers And then he went to the war, and when he came back in 1957, was he still single and—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. I think he went to Fort Worth to the seminary. I think he met his wife here at the YWCA. And she was a Lutheran, and so they got married and she became a Baptist. And she was a—she was just like him. She liked to do God's work, and everybody loved her just like him. Didn't they?

B. Tynes Huh?

A. Tynes Everybody loved her just like him.

B. Tynes Oh yeah. Well, there wasn't anything bad about her. Everything was sweet and sugar. But no, Mrs. Haley was very, very concerned about her congregation, I guess. And she sees to those girls that—the Baylor girls even, that if they needed anything, well, they were there to help. So, just good people.

A. Tynes I remember one problem he had when he was there first. He went to Edgefield Park and he played with the boys over there. And they had a boxing ring there, and he was going to teach them how to box. And somehow he got a black eye out of it. (laughs) And he wore that (Betty Tynes laughs) around for some time.

Myers So, he didn't keep his right up or whatever you have to do. (all laugh)

- A. Tynes** Right up, yeah.
- Myers** Well, that's good, though. He was relating to the young men.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. He liked young people. So—see, before he came to Edgefield, he was a song leader down at Third Street Baptist Church. Then we called him, and he came.
- Myers** So, he was talented musically?
- A. Tynes** Yeah.
- B. Tynes** Oh, yes. Um-hm.
- Myers** Good.
- A. Tynes** He knew every song by heart almost.
- Myers** Did he ever sing during his sermons? I've heard preachers do that.
- A. Tynes** Well, he sang solo every once in a while, but not very.
- Myers** Okay. Well, as we go along, if you think of anything more about Brother and Mrs. Haley—
- A. Tynes** Well, they had two sons, and one passed away and one is in Alaska now. And he always come from Alaska about twice a year. His wife runs a fishing camp up there and they have to be up there every summer, but they come. They usually come in October or November, and in the spring, about March—February or March.
- Myers** We all need to go see him, don't you think? (all laugh)
- A. Tynes** Well, he told me if I can get a way up there, said everything'd be free after I get there, and so.
- Myers** And that—his name is John Mark, right?
- A. Tynes** John Mark. The other one was named Joel.
- Myers** What did J. A. stand for?
- A. Tynes** Well, I think it—
- B. Tynes** Jerome, probably, is what—
- A. Tynes** —John Arthur, I know that.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Oh yeah. I believe so. Because they—I can remember that “Arthur” behind the church.

A. Tynes I believe it was John.

Myers All right. When Brother Haley I guess went to the service, I have on a list that during the war there were some pastors. D. C. Bandy.

A. Tynes Yes. Um-hm. He was a pastor at Dawson, and we called him. And he was a good pastor, and his wife was the same, too. And I don't know how long he stayed.

Myers Not very long, I don't think, but were there—was he a Baylor student?

A. Tynes Partly.

Myers Okay. Kind of working. And Bill Wesell.

A. Tynes Yeah. He was a Baylor student, and he didn't stay too long either. I think he was single.

Myers Those were precarious years for men, young men, without getting drafted, I guess. That was—(A. Tynes sneezes)—okay, then W. C. Dobbs came.

A. Tynes Yeah, he came from Valley Mills. And while he—he was a singer, too, and he'd sing and preach. And during the—while he was there, he joined the army and became a chaplain in the army.

Myers While—during these years there were a lot of military men out at the air bases here. Did they—did you ever have military families in your church?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Boys, not families, though. And they came, and we had what you call Blackland out where the regular airport is now. They—we got some of those.

Myers I suppose they came from a lot of different places.

A. Tynes Yeah. And so, we (clears throat) took care of them while they came. In those days we had about three or four hundred in Sunday school.

B. Tynes Five hundred they count when all this was taking place, and they said that (A. Tynes coughs) it was five hundred to do the total.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah. Um-hm.

Myers Is that kind of the peak of all the people who have joined over the years?

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That's wonderful. After Brother Dobbs left for the army or the military, Maurice Hurley.

- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. He was from Oklahoma. He come down here to go to Baylor.
(coughs)
- B. Tynes** Bless you. Get you a Kleenex.
- Myers** These Baylor students—
- A. Tynes** Well—
- Myers** —how would you describe their service in the church as compared to an older pastor who's been around? What difference was there in experience level and—
- A. Tynes** I don't think it was very much different. They—now it is.
- Myers** Now it is?
- A. Tynes** But back then, they went to Baylor, and they had Professor J. B. Tidwell. In fact, I had him when I was going to Baylor. And B. O. Herring, I had him. They were good professors.
- Myers** So, you felt like the people who were preaching at your church who were students were also getting a good—
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am.
- Myers** —were also getting a good, strong background. Okay.
- A. Tynes** Whenever they graduated from Baylor, he left us, see? Went to Fort Worth to seminary.
- Myers** Um-hm. That's right. But you had a part in kind of training them.
- A. Tynes** Well, Edgefield was what you call a stepping stone for preachers. Always come here and come to Baylor, and then when they graduated, they left us.
- Myers** Yep. There's a lot of churches around here with—experience that. Uh—okay. When Maurice Hurley left, Richard Philpot came.
- A. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** I've heard his name a lot.
- A. Tynes** He was there about eight, nine years. He's the one that married us, and—
- B. Tynes** So that should be a big memory. (laughs)
- Myers** (laughs) That's right. That's right.
- A. Tynes** Well, the year that we got married, that was the marrying year.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers A big year for weddings, huh?

A. Tynes Laura Lee and Warren got married. Louise and Herbert got married.

B. Tynes Cat and Woody.

A. Tynes Cat and Woody got married. We got married. Earl and Louise got married.

B. Tynes Uh-huh, and then Leonard and Mary.

A. Tynes In fact, we all got married in that same year, not the same month, but same year.

B. Tynes Did Mildred and them—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Jarvis—no.

B. Tynes It wasn't there?

A. Tynes Did Jarvis and Emily marry that year or next year?

B. Tynes Yeah. It was the end of June, I know that.

A. Tynes It was the next year, I believe.

Myers Charlie and—?

A. Tynes Jarvis.

Myers Jarvis. Okay, Brown.

A. Tynes Brown. And Emily.

Myers Emily. Uh-huh, okay.

B. Tynes She had something with her throat. And I don't know what his—

A. Tynes Well, he had cancer, too.

B. Tynes Did he?

A. Tynes He smoked all the time.

B. Tynes Oh yeah.

A. Tynes Played golf all the time.

- Myers** During Brother Philpot's time, when he wasn't busy marrying people, my notes indicate that he led the building of an educational building.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Um-hm.
- Myers** Tell me why you felt like you needed a new building.
- A. Tynes** Well, we were growing and needed new classrooms. We was getting bigger, and we needed something to—
- B. Tynes** Follow on, yeah. Fall on.
- Myers** Did you have to buy new land to build this?
- A. Tynes** No, we had the land right next door to the church. It's that building there now, that white one. Mr. Austin built it. He was a member of the church then, and he used to work for the Texas highway roads. He built bridges and things, so we got him to build it.
- Myers** Now, before, the old church, as I understand it, was a frame building that— and had a basement where you had the Sunday-school rooms. And now you're going to have a whole separate building for the education.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. But we was going still to use the basement, too.
- Myers** Okay, needed it too. How did the church finance the new building?
- A. Tynes** Well, everybody pitched in and raised a little money.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Pitched in.
- Myers** Have a special kind of building fund?
- A. Tynes** Um-hm. Fund.
- B. Tynes** (in unison) Fund, yeah.
- A. Tynes** And we got it built then.
- Myers** Were there any times when the church men and women went in and helped physically construct the building, or was it all done by the sub-contractors?
- A. Tynes** It was all done by experts or carpenters.
- B. Tynes** When it flooded down there, well, the ladies took hold just as if they were a man and dipped all that water out of the basement.
- A. Tynes** (in unison) Water out of the basement.
- Myers** Was that back in '36?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Uh-huh. So, everybody pitched in and helped.

B. Tynes Yeah, uh-huh.

Myers And describe for me what was going to be in the new educational building besides Sunday-school rooms. Wasn't there a—

A. Tynes Well, there was going to be a kitchen and a parlor.

Myers Before, where had you had your fellowships?

B. Tynes In the basement.

A. Tynes In the basement and—

Myers Okay.

B. Tynes No, really. That's true.

A. Tynes —and different houses.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers But now you're going to have a place at church to serve meals. Well, it must have been a wonderful day when you opened that building and moved in.
(laughs)

A. Tynes It was, yes ma'am. It sure was.

Myers New furniture for the building?

A. Tynes Well, yes, new furniture, new chairs.

Myers Um, okay. So also built a parsonage.

A. Tynes Yeah. Oh yeah. The one we had wasn't nothing but a frame house. It wasn't but two bedrooms. It was run down, so we built what we call an Austin stone house.

Myers Now, did you have to buy new land for that, too?

A. Tynes No.

B. Tynes No. They were industrious, I guess, at the very beginning that they just knew that they were going to need. And when in need, you're going to prepare. And so—

Myers So they had bought plenty of land.

B. Tynes Yes, um-hm.

Myers Did they tear down the old parsonage to build a new one?

A. Tynes Yes, um-hm.

Myers Oh, then was—who got involved in planning the parsonage?

A. Tynes Well, the deacons. And they first began, and they said we needed a new parsonage for our preacher. So then, before you know it, everyone got involved.

Myers I think I read in the minutes that through the years Edgefield has had poundings—

A. Tynes We have.

Myers —for pastors. Tell me what a pounding is. (B. Tynes laughs)

A. Tynes Don't you know what a pounding is?

Myers I do, but people in the—people may not know that.

A. Tynes Well, we—like we brought food in, what they can use, like sugar, flour, canned goods, and everything like that. And—

Myers Fill their pantries.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Right.

Myers And this was for the new preachers when they would come?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers You furnished a home for the preacher. During this time did you also have other staff members—music leaders, youth directors, education—did you have other staff members?

A. Tynes Well, yeah, but they have their own homes.

Myers Are there any of those folks, those other staff members, that stand out in your minds?

A. Tynes Well, there was Clyde Blanton. He was our song leader, and he was very good. He was honest, he was trustworthy, and he liked to sing. He—in fact, he helped me with my saxophone playing. And his wife was the same way.

Myers After Brother Philpot, then Don Richey came.

A. Tynes Yes. He's the one that started our new church building fund.

- Myers** Had the parsonage and the education building been paid for before you started the next one?
- A. Tynes** Yes.
- Myers** That's ambitious.
- A. Tynes** And then they started it, and we got it finished, then he went to Grace Temple across town.
- Myers** So, he got the building started. And then I have in my notes that C. P. Samson was there at the dedication of it in 1954.
- A. Tynes** Right, he was a professor down at Baylor.
- Myers** Now, your old church had a baptistery in it.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am.
- B. Tynes** That's where I was baptized.
- A. Tynes** That's where—and Laura Lee was baptized there. We all was.
- B. Tynes** I was sixteen and my dear, lovely—wasn't a mother, but she was as sweet as a mother, and she knew that for getting baptized that I'd want something new. And so, without the knowledge of asking, you know, or anything, she just, when it came time, she had it available.
- Myers** A new dress?
- B. Tynes** A new dress. And it was a little pique white dress with a little—what'd they have? those just little half sleeves, you know. And just—just a good old lady who put a—my—you know, like the old lady in the shoe? (laughs)
- Myers** Um-hm. And what was her name?
- B. Tynes** Who? The old lady? (laughs) Oh, okay—
- Myers** Your friend.
- B. Tynes** Right. (A. Tynes coughs) Mrs. W. G. Autrey. A-u-t-r-e-y. And, you know, she was a very—it—well, I tell you right now, we have a neighbor now, a Mrs. Dorsey. And I have been so confused, and I've been—I told him, I said, I call her Mrs. Dorsey all the time instead of calling her Mrs. Autrey. And that was kind of fun, wasn't it? (laughs; coughs)
- Myers** But this lady took a special interest in you when she knew—
- B. Tynes** Right. In me, because—yes. Well, the whole family really, just—because she seen—Al worked midnights and different kinds of shifts, you know, when he

worked. And so, then, Mrs. Autrey, why, she would know if he needed anything or not. And he was always there for her and for us. And we—one—we used to do the best thing, and she would do it with us. We had these glass casseroles which are about thirteen by nine or something like that. And what becomes is that they just told that—Al, where did—I don't remember where she was—Mrs. Autrey. Well, yeah, and anyway, she was a nice lady and everything, and she'd come and let us know. And then Mr. Autrey was a very nice gentleman, and he took care of the Waco city roads. He was a road—

A. Tynes Truck driver.

B. Tynes —con—yes. And—but he had, you know, helped and was just—the day that Vanessa was born, it was real cute because he planned this. He said, “Now, when you drive up,” says, “I want you to look what's in the car.” And so, she, well, didn't know what was taking place or anything. But wasn't that when she was born, wasn't it?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

B. Tynes And so we—

Myers So, they had a surprise for you?

A. Tynes Yeah.

B. Tynes (in unison) Yeah. Uh-huh. The old gentlemen, you know, had drove—driven, or drove his machinery down to his house up at the driveway, and so he knew we was going to come back by Mrs. Autrey's because, I mean, that was like being at Mama's, you know.

Myers Had to go show her your baby.

B. Tynes Right. Right. And—but we just—

A. Tynes And when he got down, I always went—

Tape 1, side 1 ends abruptly; side 2 begins.

Myers When he got to where he couldn't take care of his yard, then you were able to help him out.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah. He had a heart attack.

Myers Okay. Did they live out there by you?

A. Tynes Yeah. About three houses down.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Um-hm. About three houses down.

Myers Well, that sounds like a wonderful relationship between neighbors.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Well, it was.

B. Tynes Well, I think everybody, really, they—you just mention the word, go get 'em, and I think anybody'd—if we needed help, well, it'd be there.

Myers Okay.

B. Tynes And we—

A. Tynes That whole block was the same way.

Myers Those are—that's a wonderful treasure that we don't always have anymore.

A. Tynes Right. Um-hm.

Myers After Brother Samson, A. R. Kingman was there.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers But not for long.

A. Tynes Now, of course—

B. Tynes Yeah. That's right.

Myers Anything you want to say about Mr. Kingman?

A. Tynes Well, he wanted everybody down at Edgefield to paint their houses with new paint. He wanted Edgefield to look good, and he was a nice preacher, but—

B. Tynes He got off track.

A. Tynes —he got off track.

Myers Did anyone paint their houses because of his idea?

A. Tynes No, he wasn't down there that long. (all laugh)

Myers Okay, then Hayward Smith came.

A. Tynes Yeah, he was—

B. Tynes And two daughters.

- A. Tynes** Yeah, and he got out of the air force, and he was a first lieutenant or—and he was pretty good.
- Myers** Was he a Baylor student?
- A. Tynes** Baylor student, too, yeah. So.
- Myers** And then, J. A. Haley came back.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. (all laugh)
- B. Tynes** (in unison) Yeah. Bless his heart.
- A. Tynes** He came back, and he stayed there a long time.
- Myers** And then—
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) He—
- Myers** Go ahead.
- A. Tynes** He was the one that helped us with Vanessa on her polio.
- Myers** These were the years, these 1950s, when, like you said, you had a lot of members, and a lot, as I understand it, of, like you were, young married people beginning your families.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. Uh-huh.
- Myers** Any idea of why—I've heard that these same families like you did came on Sunday mornings, came back to Training Union on Sunday night, came to prayer meeting, visited, were very active, and what do you think accounts for that? What brought—made it so wonderful?
- A. Tynes** Well, I think one thing is that we all loved each other, and we liked to be around each other. And anybody—if one family said, We're going to do that, we want you to be with us, then it ran on down the line, and we all went together. See, after church on Sunday night, we always went to a hamburger joint, and we always had a hamburger or drank something. And we didn't go home until about eleven o'clock.
- Myers** And the kids all played together while the grown-ups visited.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. Um-hm. Everybody played together.
- Myers** All right, after Brother Haley's second term was Jack Hymer.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. He came from Austin. And he came and he went to Baylor, too. And his dad was a preacher up north somewhere, and he came down here and he preached for us some. I think he's got a church around here somewhere.

Myers Oh, so the father came down to Texas, too, huh? That's interesting. All right, M. L. Rhodes and Russell Lester were supply preachers during this time.

A. Tynes Right, um-hm.

Myers Was it difficult to get supply preachers?

A. Tynes No, they're all from Baylor, and they—(clears throat) Brother Lester, my girl had him one time for Bible, and she didn't bring her Bible to class. And he always wanted his students to bring Bibles to class with them. And he said, "Vanessa, I'm going to tell your dad about you." (all laugh) That made her upset because it was in the classroom where he told her.

B. Tynes But you know, he's here, is up today, still in Waco, and I just presume that he—

A. Tynes He's sick.

B. Tynes Yeah, he was ill.

A. Tynes They say his wife is, too, now.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That's a shame, but he meant a lot to your church?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, then Earl Thompson came.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. He was from Fort Worth. And he came and he didn't stay very long because we found out something about him that we didn't think he ought to do, so. Last time I seen him, he was working at Six Flags, so—

Myers When you invited a preacher to come to Edgefield as pastor, what was the process? What did you go through?

A. Tynes Well, we had a pulpit committee—

B. Tynes (in unison) Pulpit committee.

A. Tynes —and they're the ones that brought (clock chimes) him to see if we liked him.

Myers Did they come do a trial sermon?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. We vote on them, and if we didn't like him, we—they went out and find another one until we find one that we like.

Myers What do you think Edgefield had in mind as being the ideal preacher, the one that they would like to have the most?

- A. Tynes** Well, you got to admit that Brother Haley was the best one.
- Myers** He kind of set a high standard for everyone else.
- A. Tynes** Right, every one of them. He wasn't no high pressure preacher. He'd just tell you what's what and that's that, and he'd do things that you don't even know what he done about helping people. He went and paid a whole lot of people's light bills or grocery bills without you even knowing about it.
- B. Tynes** Well, she was out doing something once, and he told her to watch it and don't, you know, don't get hurt or bit by a snake. And so that—that went big, and—but then here—oh, what did they do? (A. Tynes sneezes) Well, what is—
- A. Tynes** I don't know.
- B. Tynes** What was my pastor's name? (laughs)
- Myers** Haley. Brother Haley.
- B. Tynes** Oh, Brother Haley. Okay, let's see—well, he's just—oh, here's what I was going to tell, sure! So, Mrs. Haley, he said—her name was Mae. He said, "Mae, you want to take a little ride around and see what's going on?" And she said, "Ooh, I sure would"—now, what's his name?
- A. Tynes** J. A. Haley. She called him J. A.
- B. Tynes** Autrey?
- A. Tynes** No.
- B. Tynes** This was Mrs.—
- A. Tynes** Mrs. Autrey, oh.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, wrong station. But—
- A. Tynes** Kay. Gay. G-a-y.
- B. Tynes** Oh yeah. Yeah. G-a-y. That's right. He—you remember well.
- Myers** That's Mr. Autrey's name?
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- A. Tynes** Gay.
- B. Tynes** And let's see—oh, and so I was going to tell you, and so he said—they was driving along, and she said, "You know what? Looked up and there we was on a beer lot." (all laugh)

Myers Uh-oh.

B. Tynes And she said, “I just told him, now, J. A., we can’t have this.” Said, “People see me coming out of there, and they’re going to wonder what”—you know. And she said, “Oh, just let me tend to it.” Said, “It’ll be something that you need later on.” Anyway, so that’s his story, I guess.

A. Tynes And I can tell you about John Mark. He was up in Alaska. He was single then. And one Christmas he came home and nobody was at the house when he got there. So, he got in, he tied a bow—

B. Tynes (in unison) Bow—ribbon bow.

A. Tynes —on his head, and he heard them coming, so he went and sat in front of the Christmas tree.

Myers (laughs) He was their present.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That’s great. I bet they were glad to get that present.

A. Tynes Oh yeah.

B. Tynes (in unison) Oh yeah. Well, it was the way they entered it. There was Mrs. Haley and Brother Haley, and so Brother Haley, he knew all about it because he had framed his mother. (chuckles) And anyway, he was on the time, wasn’t it? He just really—

A. Tynes And there was another time when he came here, he told Mrs. Haley to—well, got a phone call and Brother Haley—and he told Mrs. Haley, said, “There’s a poor man down at the bus station wanting to sleep somewhere for the night. Do you think we can help him out?” She said, “Aw, J. A.,” and, “we don’t even know the man.” And he said, “I know, but he wants”—well, she caved in and said, “Okay, you go get him.” And he went and there was John Mark. He had whiskers all over his face, and Brother Haley couldn’t recognize him at first. And then finally he brought him home.

Myers The poor man that didn’t have a place to stay, huh?

A. Tynes And Mrs. Haley said, “You almost gave me a heart attack.”

Myers So she got surprised. That’s great.

A. Tynes Yeah, and she got surprised.

Myers Well, in 1963, the next full-time pastor I have is Wallace Philpot.

A. Tynes Yeah. That was Richard’s—

B. Tynes Nephew.

A. Tynes —nephew. And he came to Baylor. He lived in Arkansas, and he wanted to come to Baylor, so.

Myers How did you—did the people at Baylor help you know who's—when there were students coming that might be interested in a church? How did you make connections between these people?

A. Tynes Well, I think they—we went to Baylor and run down the list. Wallace Philpot got a church out here around Gatesville somewhere, and so we got him—

Myers From there. I think Brother Ousley, Dr. Ousley, was head of that ministry department.

A. Tynes Yeah, uh-huh.

Myers Did you, then, go check with his list?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Yeah. Anything particular you remember about Wallace Philpot?

A. Tynes Well, he was good, and his wife was, too. His wife was named Aleen. And they done real good at church. They planned parties for the young people. Well, he was young, too, so.

Myers Let's see, by now you had children growing up. Were there activities for the youth?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

B. Tynes Pretty good. We had quite a few.

A. Tynes We had GA's [Girl's Auxiliary] and—

B. Tynes RA's for the boys.

A. Tynes —Royal [Ambassadors]—RA's. And we went to—you know, out at Baylor, they had RA Day out there, and we always took RA's out there. And we always had some kind of party for them every month. And we had a good group of boys. They're real nice.

Myers Well, all right.

A. Tynes And then, she worked with the GA's.

B. Tynes And then I graduated to the women's.

A. Tynes WMU.

Myers Okay, okay. All right, let's see, other pastors, supply pastor Glenn Hilburn.

A. Tynes Yeah. You know him? (laughs)

Myers (laughs) Um-hm.

A. Tynes He preached for us not long ago.

B. Tynes Yeah, when—was it on account of Lucinda or who?

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Brother McGee—no, Brother McGee went somewhere.

Myers Dr. Hilburn.

B. Tynes Oh, I think he went to the foreign land. Japan—

A. Tynes Japan.

B. Tynes China.

A. Tynes Yeah, somewhere over there.

Myers Okay. John Heskitt.

A. Tynes Yeah. Uh-huh. He was there.

Myers Did these Baylor students stay in the parsonage?

A. Tynes Hm?

Myers Do the Baylor students live in the parsonage?

A. Tynes Yeah. Um-hm.

Myers That was nice for them.

A. Tynes They was married men.

B. Tynes You know, as of today, that's what they're doing over there at those apartments.

A. Tynes Missionary.

B. Tynes Yeah. They're fixing it so that the incoming missionaries can—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Can stay there.

B. Tynes —can have a place to stay. And I guess it's real good. You know, they're the ones—and they feel at home, and maybe you don't want to go out, you know, so, therefore—

A. Tynes Every preacher we got had a wife except Brother Haley that time.

Myers Was that something that Edgefield wanted was a couple?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers All right. Then we had Dan McGee coming in 1968, I guess his first term as interim.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah, the first time he came to Baylor, he said the first week he was at Baylor, we called him for interim. And I think J. L. Martin got him. (coughs) Excuse me.

Myers Well, tell me about Dr. McGee.

B. Tynes Well, he's very, very thoughtful and doesn't push just one person aside. If he's going to do anything, it's going to be for everybody. And he's just a good old—last night, night before last, you know, we went out for our last supper, and he was very accommodating and wanting us to stay and help, you know. But we didn't have to clean up any mess this time. The church clean.

A. Tynes And he thinks of the people. He—when I had my operation in January—I had an operation—he came every day to see me. He didn't stay long, but he came.

Myers He made sure you were okay.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers So, he's kind of taken on a—he's—through the years, he's kind of taken care of the people in the church, not just preaching on Sundays. And it sounds like he's kind of been an advisor through this last few years.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, how about Joel Gregory. What do you recall about the years he was here?

A. Tynes Well, he was real good. His wife was, too.

Myers He told a story at your homecoming about the buses—

A. Tynes Yes.

Myers —and the goldfish.

A. Tynes Yes. And—

Myers Sounds like sometimes when you had these young Baylor students as your pastors, you might have gotten some enthusiasm, trying new things.

A. Tynes And so, he was called to Fort Worth to Travis—

Myers Travis Avenue.

A. Tynes And he went to Dallas, and he got on the wrong track, I guess.

Myers Okay, Walter Cowling.

A. Tynes Yeah, he—

B. Tynes He had two children, and I think he—didn't he pass away, or just—?

A. Tynes Yeah, he passed away.

B. Tynes And his wife's still living, and she goes to Emmanuel.

A. Tynes She did. And she remarried somebody, and I don't know where the girls are now.

B. Tynes I don't either.

Myers And then John Curry.

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

Myers Says he left to pastor Kendrick Lane.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Another stepping stone. (laughs)

A. Tynes (laughs) Yes.

Myers Here's another one, David Massey.

A. Tynes Yes. He went to Clifton. Then, he went to Yoakum, and he brought a whole lot of RA boys up there, and they slept in our lounge at church.

B. Tynes Oh, that's right.

A. Tynes And I don't know where he is now.

B. Tynes I think he's still over in that area.

A. Tynes Yoakum?

B. Tynes Um-hm. No, I'm thinking now he was at Clifton.

A. Tynes Well, he was before he went to Yoakum. He came back to Clifton.

Myers Had two terms at Clifton?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes I think so.

Myers Well, that brings us up to the nineties and David Arden.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. (laughs) He's something else. Well, Brother Haley was back.

Myers Yes. Brother Haley came for a third time and stayed a long time.

A. Tynes Yeah. Ten, eleven years or something like that.

Myers He—that must have been a strong time in the church again, when he was back. Was that true?

A. Tynes Yeah, it was. See, he went to Wichita Falls to take care of his mother. His mother was—and she passed away. And his brother lived there, and he passed away, so he came back to Edgefield. He said that's where he started; that's where he's going to end.

Myers Yeah, that's great. So, he left in 1993. Why did he leave?

A. Tynes Well, he was sick.

Myers Okay. So, he stayed as long as he could.

A. Tynes Um-hm. (coughs) He bought a house on Meadowbrook, and John Mark's still got it. That's where he stays when he comes.

Myers Well, okay. When it gets too cold in Alaska, he can come down to Texas, huh? To kind of back up a little bit, through that time in the sixties when Hymer, and Rhodes, Thompson, Philpot, and then some—Joel Gregory—those were the years when urban renewal was making big changes down in Edgefield.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers How did the church react to everything going on?

A. Tynes Well, we didn't like it.

Myers Didn't—

A. Tynes Well, the people didn't like it. (all laugh)

Myers A lot of the members of the church were facing a move?

A. Tynes Um-hm. They had to, I mean.

Myers Now, was the mill still up and going?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers When did that mill close? Do you know?

B. Tynes About '78?

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) About it—no, Honey. It was about '90, I guess.

B. Tynes That much? Okay.

A. Tynes Yeah, '85 or '90.

Myers Okay. So—but urban renewal came in, bought the land, sold it to Baylor. Is that the way it worked?

A. Tynes Yeah, that was it.

Myers Do you recall any particular people who were displaced that were unhappy about it?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Lucinda Heater and her husband Gilbert, they didn't like it because that's where their heart was. And they didn't believe that—the government didn't give what they wanted. They just gave what they thought it was worth. And so, you take it or else.

Myers Where did the Heaters end up living?

A. Tynes Well, they live on North Third Street.

Myers Oh, really.

A. Tynes And then he got sick, and they put him in the V.A. Hospital, and she went to live with her cousin out in China Spring, and she's passed away now.

Myers Just a few weeks ago.

B. Tynes Um-hm. Yeah.

Myers Okay, so they weren't happy about it because their heart was there. Had they grown up there?

B. Tynes Oh yeah.

A. Tynes (in unison) Well, yeah. He didn't, she did. He was from Ohio.

Myers Okay. But that was her home.

A. Tynes Her—yes. He wasn't—they sent him down here in the army to Waco Army Air Field, and he met Lucinda. And so, she brought him over to Edgefield Church, and so they got married.

Myers Do you—are there folks who kind of never got over it or whose lives were changed not for the better by urban renewal? I mean—

A. Tynes Well, I don't think so.

Myers You think—did Edgefield lose any members?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. A whole lot of members because they went to different churches. Went out to Kendrick Lane, went out to Woodway and all. Mrs. Bledsoe, you remember her? She helped start that church out there.

Myers But now, they had already moved out, right? They didn't move because of urban renewal. But he worked at the plant out there, I think, and—yes, she was a wonderful woman.

A. Tynes Yeah, I know.

Myers And—but there were folks who had to move who were unhappy about it.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Were there any that were glad about it?

A. Tynes No. (Myers laughs) I don't think so. Well, they—

Myers One thing they did, I've noticed, is they changed the streets around.

A. Tynes Yeah, they did. They sure did.

Myers The church used to be on River Street?

A. Tynes Yeah. At Cottonwood and River Street.

Myers Cottonwood and River.

A. Tynes The River Street went all the way to the creek.

Myers Okay. To Waco Creek.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Through where Edgefield Park is, it just went right on through. And houses was all—

Myers Now, you didn't live down there though, at that time?

A. Tynes No, I didn't.

Myers But you could feel the effects at church?

A. Tynes Oh yeah. I had uncles and aunts, they lived down there, and cousins. They didn't like it.

Myers Well, let's get back to our pastors. Anything more about David Arden?

A. Tynes Well, he was real nice man. He talked too fast. (laughs) And everybody liked him. Everybody still says we ought to have got him for our pastor and maybe we wouldn't have to sell our church.

Myers So—but he left to go to a mission in Irving, it says.

A. Tynes Well, see, here's the reason. We had a revival down there, and Wallace Philpot was the preacher. So (laughs) he talked him—talked him into coming up to Dallas and opening—

Tape 1 ends abruptly; tape 2 begins.

Myers This is tape two of interview three. Right at the end of that last tape, we were talking about Wallace Philpot came down and did a revival while Dave Arden was pastor.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers And then talked him into going to Irving to open up a new church?

A. Tynes Right.

Myers A mission church.

A. Tynes I believe it's Sonrise [Baptist Fellowship].

B. Tynes Yeah, Sonrise.

Myers Sonrise. All right. So, to replace him came Larry Hart.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Tell me about Larry Hart.

A. Tynes Well, him and his wife came from—where was it?

B. Tynes Where the sand was the different—

A. Tynes Anyway, they came here, and we ordained them. And we ordained Dave, too.

Myers Okay, you were their first churches after being ordained. Okay.

A. Tynes Yeah. And so, this was his first church and first pastorate. And so—and his wife worked for Baylor in the computing, and so. And so, he couldn't—I think the way things was going, he couldn't improve the church, so we—and work for Baylor, too.

Myers Okay, so he was holding a job and doing the church.

A. Tynes And now I think he is down at San Marcos.

Myers Now, was he your first one that had another full-time job?

A. Tynes Oh no.

Myers No, you'd had others.

A. Tynes We had—

Myers I mean others that worked at Edgefield, but also had a full-time job. Was he—

A. Tynes You didn't mention Earl Bennett.

Myers Okay, Earl—E. E. Bennett. Yeah.

A. Tynes He worked in the mill, and he was our pastor.

Myers Okay, now when he wasn't the pastor at Edgefield, was he pastoring other places, too? Did he keep it up?

A. Tynes No.

Myers He just—

A. Tynes He was just Edgefield. He took over. And there was another preacher down there. What is—? Brother—

Myers Van Arsdale was one, I remember.

A. Tynes Yeah, uh-huh. And Gadell or—

Myers I've got [Gus H.] Garig.

A. Tynes Yeah, Garig, um-hm.

Myers Okay, um—

A. Tynes That was when I was real small.

Myers (in unison) Real small. Yeah, I didn't mention those because they go way back.

A. Tynes Yeah, they went back. But I still remember Van Arsdale.

Myers And that's when—James Roy Clark.

A. Tynes Yeah, you remember him?

Myers I just have his name.

A. Tynes Well—

B. Tynes James Roy Clark.

A. Tynes He was our head of the Latham Springs. And (clears throat) he was a barber, and he went to Baylor, too. And he pastored our church.

Myers Boy, he was busy.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, tell me about Latham Springs. You've mentioned it a couple of times. Tell me about your adventures out there.

A. Tynes Well, we went out there and had good times.

Myers As a boy, did you go out there?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers You know, my son went there. And it's air-conditioned, they have these real nice bunks, but it wasn't like that when you went. Wasn't like that when I went in the sixties. (laughs) What was it like when you went out there?

A. Tynes See, each church had their own building.

B. Tynes (in unison) Building. And ours is in the bottom of the lake. (A. Tynes laughs)

Myers Oh, okay. (laughs)

A. Tynes And so, when we went, we all stayed in our own.

Myers The Edgefield cabin.

B. Tynes Um-hm. And the boys spy on the girls.

Myers Okay, how did the—I know these cabins. One side for the boys, one for the girls, and then a meeting place in between.

B. Tynes Yeah, in the middle. Yeah.

A. Tynes And that's where Laura Lee and Warren spent their honeymoon.

- Myers** Oh, really. (laughs) That's good.
- B. Tynes** We were poor.
- Myers** So, what did you do at Latham Springs at camp?
- A. Tynes** Well, we were supposed to go to church in the morning and at night, but we always—well, we did. Every once in a while we might slip off.
- B. Tynes** Yeah. You had the main preaching, and then you had some singing. And then you had—
- A. Tynes** Workshops.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, and—but—
- A. Tynes** I remember us Edgefield boys, we got mad one day, and we started walking all the way back to Waco.
- Myers** Oh! (laughs)
- A. Tynes** But we didn't get very far.
- B. Tynes** But someone there, whoever—I—when we first went, I was the cook for the RA girls—GA girls, and made the menus out, and we kept the groceries lined up. And if we needed something, well, somebody'd go to town and get it, you know.
- Myers** That was a big job.
- B. Tynes** Yeah. And let's see, that was one thing we done good. And then, like you say, they did have a kneeling—I haven't been out but one time to see it, and we didn't stay too long. But it was a kneeling—a prayer—little arch. And so, I guess that's what you take on your own; if you want to, okay. But I just think that we just done wonderful out there and it was always fun time to go to camp. And some—we had some little children who couldn't go, and so we would take up a little offering and fix it where they could go. So they—they had a fun time, too.
- Myers** All right, I know we're getting into some hard things to talk about, now, but we're talking—we're through with Larry Hart, and we're talking about Mark Freeman was the next pastor.
- A. Tynes** Well, (laughs) to me, he—when he first came, I thought he was a good man. He came out here, he said, "I'm going to make the Tynes's my Friday night spot."
- B. Tynes** Yeah. They came out—he came out. Well, somebody—what was the other boy's name?

- A. Tynes** I don't know.
- B. Tynes** I don't either, but Mark, he come here that night and sat—lay down right there on the couch. And he had a bad cough and everything, and so, I have a little doctor book over here, and so I pulled out my doctor book. And he—uh, I said, do you have these? And, you know, we just played around with it. And said no, that they wanted the complete thing. They don't want just parts of the being good or whatever. And so.
- A. Tynes** And this was his first church.
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** Okay, this was his first church, but was he a Baylor student?
- A. Tynes** No ma'am. He graduated—he said he graduated from A&M. And he was a school teacher at West.
- B. Tynes** And the last time, though, we've heard about it, is he'd been to Corpus [Christi], then he come back and was at—not Nacogdoches, was it?
- A. Tynes** No, it was somewhere else.
- B. Tynes** Yeah. Well, it started with an *N*, didn't it?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, and we ordained him, and when we ordained him, we had two Scottish men playing the—and they had—
- Myers** The bagpipes?
- A. Tynes** Um-hm.
- Myers** And kilts?
- A. Tynes** And kilts. (all laugh)
- Myers** Wow, whose idea was that?
- A. Tynes** His. He said it was his mother's. So, I don't know.
- Myers** That's interesting.
- B. Tynes** Um-hm. It was pretty.
- A. Tynes** And they played all the time outside. When we started having the service, they got up in the balcony and played about three songs. It just was real good.
- Myers** I bet that was a first for Edgefield.
- A. Tynes** Yes, it was.

Myers That's interesting.

A. Tynes And we ordained a whole lot of preachers.

Myers You did, you did.

A. Tynes I think we ordained Brother Haley, too.

Myers Okay. Well, how did things start going badly, then?

A. Tynes When the urban renewal came in, they moved people out, and—

B. Tynes Even when they did, some wasn't unhappy, but they would share and accept what they were offered. And so, but, you know, it wasn't what—

Myers But I mean with Brother Freeman, when did things start going wrong with Mark Freeman?

A. Tynes Oh. (laughs) You—you—

B. Tynes Well—

Myers I've heard stories, so.

A. Tynes You want me to tell?

Myers Whatever you want—you want to say about it. But—

A. Tynes Well—

B. Tynes Well, he told Alton that, Betty and Al won't be here long.

A. Tynes He was going to throw us out of the church.

B. Tynes Yeah, he was going to throw us out of the church.

A. Tynes He didn't want no old people in the church.

B. Tynes No. Just—

A. Tynes He wanted young people.

B. Tynes (in unison) Just young people.

Myers Well, that—I had heard that he brought in his own people.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Where did he get these people?

A. Tynes Well, he'd go out and get Spanish people, and they done whatever he told them. And he told us that he was the one who run the church. He didn't want no deacons, and so that's when Randle left the church. And he had the police out there about three or four times during church on Sunday morning. He didn't like some of the people in the audience, so he said, I give you all so many seconds to get out or I'll call the police. So, we did. And the police said, We can't do nothing about it. They don't have no guns, they don't have—and so, he closed the service.

Myers Why did—how did you feel when that happened?

A. Tynes I felt bad.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Well, I just said, Well, Mr. Mark, what are you going to do next? And he said, Well, you'll be seeing by a letter, didn't he?

A. Tynes Yeah.

B. Tynes Wasn't it? With a big letter.

A. Tynes And you'll be in big trouble.

B. Tynes Yeah. And you're going to be in big trouble. And so I just played it by ear. (laughs)

A. Tynes And so, he put a sign up there on the church. He changed the lock on every door and put a big sign said, No Service.

Myers That must have been hard to believe at first.

B. Tynes Yeah, it was.

A. Tynes (in unison) It was. It was something—

B. Tynes Well, we—one night for the night church service, well, we went early. We'd already knew what was going to take place. And we went early so we could check him out again. And—

Myers Did you see him? Did you run into him that time?

B. Tynes Yeah. The one that when he said you're going to—

A. Tynes You'll be in big trouble.

B. Tynes Yeah, you're going to be in big trouble. (laughs)

A. Tynes See, our woman that had the money, she was going somewhere, and she brought it out here for us to take care of it until she got back. And somehow he found out about it, and he was going—he phoned out here and told us he

wanted that money or else. And so, he never did—we told him, said no, we're going to keep it until this woman comes back. And so, he never did come out. And so, he sent a girl out here for it. And we told the girl, said no. We just explained to her what it is. She said okay, so she went. In the meantime, this girl came back; we gave the money back. He was going to send the police out here to search our house.

Myers Oh, my.

A. Tynes But he never did.

Myers Why do you think he was like that? What—what is—was there—

A. Tynes Well—

B. Tynes Well, when he came here—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) I think—

B. Tynes —it was just him and his daddy. Wasn't that his daddy with him?

A. Tynes Um-hm. And he said he'd never been married, but we found out he's been married twice. And he might be married more than that, who knows?

Myers So, it was—the whole thing was based on lies.

A. Tynes Yeah. Yes ma'am. And he had a real—they say now that he had real estate people out there to mark off the—

B. Tynes Yeah, were checking our yard.

A. Tynes He—yeah. And he said that the Lord told him that that was his property and church. And I was a trustee, and we went up and got a letter from the sheriff's department and signed it. But that didn't mean nothing. We gave him thirty days to get out. And so—and we cut off all the lights, and he went back up there and told them that we didn't have the right to cut his lights off because he was the minister down there. He was the preacher.

Myers Was he staying in the parsonage?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. And he was renting part of it out to another boy and keeping the money for hisself, they say. And we had some money in the bank up here on Ninth and Washington. We had about, oh, thirty-five thousand up there or something. And he went up there, and they say he made a bad impression with the bank. He told them he was the preacher, and they told him that, Your name's not on the thing. And he said, "That don't make no difference, I'm the preacher". And he told—one Wednesday night, he told us the door won't be open until six o'clock. So, then when he opened the door, he looked at his clock. (coughs) And Brother and Mrs.—what's their? Waco Baptist—

Myers Oh, Stripling.

A. Tynes Yeah. He came down and Mark let his wife in, but he wasn't going to let Brother Stripling in.

B. Tynes That's right. He—

A. Tynes He kept him out.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes And so, one of the deacons talked to him, said, "You better let him in," so. And then, one Sunday there were about three men came to the service from Baylor. I done forgot who they was. Anyway, they wanted to talk to him. And so, after the service they went in his office, and they said he really got mad and told them he didn't want to see them back in his church again.

Myers What do you think their purpose in talking to him was?

A. Tynes Well, they knew we had all this trouble. They was trying to—

Myers Smooth it out.

A. Tynes —smooth it out. See what—

Myers But he wasn't going to cooperate?

A. Tynes No. See, he went to the seminary.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes He got mad at one of the professors because he wasn't teaching right (laughs) and said he knew. And, oh, they said he really tore up that class. I don't know what he did. So.

Myers Well, I know it was a really hard situation, and you had to go to court.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers And finally he left.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Well—

Myers How big was the church then?

A. Tynes It was—oh, would you say we had about fifty—

B. Tynes Oh yeah. Sure.

A. Tynes —seventy-five? And he couldn't pay his lawyer. He was broke. See, we didn't pay him, so.

Myers So, he made a great first impression—

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers —but you didn't know what he was. Well—

A. Tynes We didn't know what to do.

Myers Well, those were hard years.

A. Tynes Yeah, it was. Well, that's something you don't realize about—whatever thought about anybody calling the police out on Sunday morning? Can you—

Myers Um-hm. I can't imagine.

A. Tynes Can't imagine.

Myers I mean, you were the people who called him as pastor, and then you're the very people he wants out of the church. I'm sure it's very unusual.

A. Tynes So, if I knew that, I wouldn't have even went in those days. See, there was a woman came in, and he got out—he was up on the pulpit. He got up and came down and told her to get out: "I'll give you thirty seconds to get out of my—*my* church." And everybody around her said, Don't you do it. She just sat there. So, he asked one of his main men to call the police. She will get out one way or the other, he told her. And so, police came out, and he told the police, said, "I want you to look in her purse. She may have a gun," like that. And she said, "Here's my purse." And the police told her, said, We can't do nothing about it, she ain't got no—nothing. She hasn't threatened no one, so he got up there and closed the service right then. That was a bad service.

Myers Oh, goodness. Such an upsetting one.

A. Tynes I don't know. I just hate for it—

B. Tynes To happen.

A. Tynes —to happen.

Myers Um-hm.

B. Tynes Who was it—somebody else told Mary Ruth that she would get an answer from that letter or something.

A. Tynes Um-hm.

B. Tynes Yeah. And I said, Well, he won't get an answer from me because I wasn't going to return anything.

A. Tynes And one of the—one of his members, I mean, they left the church, but she phoned my wife. You know what she wanted? All of her money back that she gave to the church.

B. Tynes Tithe.

A. Tynes Tithe.

B. Tynes Can you—that's how smart they was.

A. Tynes And she told her, said, "You've got to talk to somebody else."

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Said, "We don't have money." And she wanted all her tithe back.

Myers Wow. Well, anything else about those years you want to say?

A. Tynes I'll just say it was bad years. I never would have thought nothing like that would happen down at Edgefield.

Myers Well, Russell Dixon followed Mark Freeman.

A. Tynes Yeah. Um-hm.

Myers I heard he was a musician.

A. Tynes Well, yes. He played the guitar. He was a good guy, I mean, but personally, I didn't like his preaching. So.

Myers And after coming off such a hard year there with—

A. Tynes Mark.

Myers —with Mark, it made—whoever came was going to have a hard time, I guess.

A. Tynes And, well, he—

B. Tynes It depends on, you know, how you can handle things, and how you can present them. And it just—

Myers Just didn't work.

B. Tynes It just didn't work.

A. Tynes It just didn't work. We tried our best to do what we can for them.

Myers Well, some really high moments with your pastors and some really low moments. I guess that's what happens when a church lasts for a long time. You're going to have some good ones and some not so good ones.

A. Tynes Well—

B. Tynes Well, it was like someone, like I say, told Mary Ruth that, too. Said, Well, don't—you know, just don't let this bother you, you know. That's what we all tried to do.

A. Tynes But Dr.—I mean, Reverend Kingman. You want me to tell you about him?

Myers If you will. Yeah.

A. Tynes Well, he went and exposed himself to women. So—and before that, where we got him was Cottonwood Baptist Church. Well, he done the same thing out there, but they didn't tell us.

Myers And that was in the late fifties, so. You know, you hear terrible things in the newspaper today about pastors and priests, and—but the late fifties, you didn't hear that much.

A. Tynes But they say he went to Florida, and they say he's straightened up real good. I don't know. I haven't seen him in a long time.

Myers So, you would say that maybe churches need to tell other churches all they know.

A. Tynes Right. Right. Don't you?

Myers Well, sounds like it would have helped. And then when you get a first-time preacher, like Mark Freeman, you just—you're running a risk, I guess—

A. Tynes Yeah, you do.

Myers —if you don't do a real good background check or something. But again, maybe people weren't telling you what they knew about him.

A. Tynes Well, they said, after it was all over, to us, he said he had a big fight out there at West with one of the coaches. He was a coach, too, but this coach got more money than he did, so. We didn't know that either.

Myers Yeah. Not getting the information. People weren't telling you what you needed to know. Well, through those hard times, who were your advisors for Edgefield? Who were—

A. Tynes Well, Dr. McGee was good. And out west, Waco Baptist—

Myers Oh, Brother Stripling.

A. Tynes Um-hm. He was. The man at the head of the seminary, what is his name?

Myers Oh, the Truett Seminary?

B. Tynes Paul [Powell].

Tape 2, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

Myers I need a little bell that dings when it's getting close. Okay, I have a couple of big questions to ask about the church.

A. Tynes All right.

Myers And you've kind of started answering it. What factors brought Edgefield to its closing?

A. Tynes Well, nobody come, and we couldn't—well, there for a while, I mean, we'd meet all our bills, but it was going to come to a day where we cannot meet the bills.

Myers Because there were so few people.

A. Tynes Uh-huh. And insurance on the buildings and all that. And before you know it, we wouldn't be able to meet them.

Myers So, you were kind of looking down the future and not seeing any growth there.

A. Tynes No growth or—

Myers And you mentioned urban renewal as one of the things that took people away.

A. Tynes Uh-huh. And they brought—built those apartments down there, and those students, they go somewhere else or don't go or whatever they do.

Myers Yeah. Today all the students have cars, and they go off, whereas in the past, Baylor students would walk to the nearest church.

A. Tynes Right. And they have buses that come down and pick them up or they walk.

Myers So the main thing you see is the lack of people.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Lack.

Myers And you've told me this off tape, but what are your plans for church membership now?

A. Tynes Well, we're all thinking about going to Emmanuel Sunday.

Myers And when you say we all, who are you talking about?

A. Tynes Well, Mary Joyce, Mary Ruth, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Ferrell, and Mr. and Mrs. Randle Saffell, and us, and whoever wants to go. And each family's going to give—donate a thousand dollars to the church. They're going to start a building fund.

Myers Oh.

A. Tynes And Earl and Louise are going to Meadowbrook. They're thinking about it. So.

Myers Okay, so this Sunday, you may go to Emmanuel and visit.

A. Tynes Yeah.

B. Tynes (in unison) Yeah.

Myers Well, okay, what—this is another big question and I'll ask each of you to say: What did Edgefield mean to you, to your life?

B. Tynes Well, it gave me a very, very nice Christian home because I was next door to Alton and didn't (clock chimes)—well, I lost it.

Myers But you weren't in a church before?

B. Tynes No, because when we moved here, I was just a little girl, and so I mean. But then, after I was baptized, and Dr. Richard Philpot did it, and married us, and did all that good stuff. And—but I don't know, I just—you know, there's just so much that you could refer upon. You could have—you'll have to have someone to come back and do a testimony or something.

Myers Um-um. (speaking to Alton Tynes) Well, I'll let you tell me, what did Edgefield mean to you, if you had to put it in a nutshell?

A. Tynes Well, see, my family, far as I know, they went to church, and that helped me, too, because my dad, he never did smoke, he never did drink. My mother, the same way. So, I never did drink, I never did smoke. And all the people, they care about you down there. And I cared about them down there, too. And we all love each other. They used to call me Baby Alton because my dad was named Alton, and on my speech, they always called me Baby Alton. And some people still call me that.

Myers They call you Judge, too.

A. Tynes Yeah. So, they're all nice. Woodrow and Cathryn, they're real nice people. When Woodrow got on the IRS, he was stationed at San Antone. We would go see them about every other week.

Myers So you stayed close even though he moved away.

- A. Tynes** Stayed close. Same way about Laura Lee and Warren. Warren was my first cousin and stayed close to him. And Jarvis and Emily [Brown], we all run around together, and we always went to places together. So it was a loving church.
- Myers** What would you say—the difference it made to that neighborhood that there was a strong Baptist church there?
- A. Tynes** Well, everybody knew that we would help them in any way they need help. And we would. And we—when anybody got sick, if they needed a doctor, we got a doctor for them. Medicine, we—everybody pitched in and bought medicine for them, so things like that. If they needed food, we would have a pounding for them. So.
- Myers** So, it did make a difference, didn't it?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Want to tell her about that little girl that come to vacation Bible school?
- B. Tynes** Yeah, we had—on the day that we had our, you know, the—
- A. Tynes** End of the—
- B. Tynes** —end of the span. (laughs) And so anyway, this little girl, she came to Bible school. And we and the big people was in there, and so we took care of her.
- A. Tynes** She was dirty when she come, but they cleaned her up.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, and so when she—she wasn't going to be there, well, the grandmother, she come a' bouncing into the church, and says—what was the baby's name? I don't know what it was.
- A. Tynes** I don't remember what her name was.
- B. Tynes** But anyways, she said, "I want my baby!" You know, just real loud and everything, you know. And so she—so about that time, I said, Well, come here—I wish I could remember the names. I said, Come here, Honey. I said, I'll take care of you. And so she came, and here come Grandma, "Where's my child? Where is my baby?" You know, well, right here, Mrs. So-and-so. I don't know that lady's—
- A. Tynes** I don't know her name, now.
- B. Tynes** Well, I'll think about it. This isn't working. (laughs) But anyway, so the little dickens, we took her—listen, she had to have a bath, she had to have hair washed, she had to have everything because nothing had been tended to. And so, therefore, that's what we had a memory of.
- A. Tynes** And she—

Myers And then the grandmother didn't recognize her.

A. Tynes No.

B. Tynes No, she was so cute. And really, too—the little thing had natural curly hair, and so I went down and bought her a new dress and fixed it for her. And they should be real appreciative and—but who knows?

Myers Well, you shared with me a lot of memories about your church, and I appreciate that. I want to come back and talk to you about General Tire.

A. Tynes Oh, all right.

B. Tynes Oh, you hadn't done that yet, have you?

A. Tynes Okay, well.

Myers All right, so thank you for today.

A. Tynes Well, come back anytime.

end of interview

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Betty Fay Sanders Tynes and Alton Dee Tynes, Jr.

Interview No. 4

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Lois E. Myers

October 29, 2002

1936 Madera Drive

Waco, Texas

- Myers** This is Lois Myers. Today is October 29, 2002. It's a Tuesday, and I am in the home of Betty and Alton Tynes at 1936 Madera in Waco, Texas. This is the fourth interview with the Tyneses. This interview is sponsored by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History and is part of our project on Waco-McLennan County. Mr. Tynes, we have a brief time this morning before you go to a church luncheon. I'd like for you to tell me a little bit about your years at General Tire, and as we think about that, let me get your background first a little bit. You've told me, but let's kind of go over it again. Tell me about your educational experience.
- A. Tynes** Well, I was born down in South Waco at Fifteenth and Park. Now Park is about two blocks long. I was born where Burger King is on I-35. And I went to South Waco School. It was about two blocks north—south of Park.
- Myers** Now, is that the building that's still standing there?
- A. Tynes** Still standing there.
- Myers** Between James and Bagby.
- A. Tynes** Right. Yes ma'am. Then I went to South Junior High that was on Eighth Street. I believe it was Eighth and Ross. And I graduated from there and went to Waco High, and I graduated from there in 1943 in mid—we had mid-terms then. Then—
- Myers** So, you graduated, I believe you told me, in February?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Then I started to Baylor, and the army drafted me. And when I got out of the army, I came back to Baylor, and I went back two years. Then, I—
- Myers** What did you study at Baylor?
- A. Tynes** Business. And so.
- Myers** So, you had some college in business.

A. Tynes Yes.

Myers Well, tell me about your jobs up to that point. What kinds of jobs did you have growing up?

A. Tynes Well, my—in high school, my daddy worked at the Standard Hat Works, and summertime I worked at Standard Hat Works.

Myers Oh. What did you do there?

A. Tynes I'd deliver and wash hats.

Myers Wash hats. Now, what kind of hats did men wear in those days?

A. Tynes Well, they—

Myers Well, did you just do men's hats?

A. Tynes Yeah, men, no women, just men.

Myers Okay, so what kind of hats?

A. Tynes Western mostly. We'd send those hats all over the United States. We even sent them to studios out at Hollywood for westerns. So. That was one of my jobs, taking them to the post office and—

Myers Shipping them off.

A. Tynes —shipping them off.

Myers: Um-hm. Interesting.

A. Tynes: Then I went to work for Bob Holt down at Fifth and LaSalle at a Texaco service station. Then I went to work for General Tire in 1948.

Myers Okay. All right. Your father was a fireman.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Did you ever consider becoming a fireman?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, but I just didn't want to. So.

Myers Well, so you were working at the gas station. What did you do there?

A. Tynes I done everything: grease cars, wash cars, fill up cars, whatever come.

Myers That was the day when someone would drive up to the filling station, and you'd come out and fill up the gas tank for people and wash the windshield,

change the oil, check the tires. Those were good days, but you were the one being busy doing that.

A. Tynes Right. Yes ma'am.

Myers So, why General Tire? What appealed to you about that?

A. Tynes Well, it paid more than anybody else in Waco, and my brother-in-law worked out there, and he got me the job out there.

Myers All right. What was his name?

A. Tynes Herman Groth, G-r-o-t-h. I had a whole lot of friends out there, and they—

Myers So, how did you go about getting your job? What procedure did you have to go through?

A. Tynes Well, my brother-in-law phoned me and said, "You want to come work for General Tire? I've got an appointment for you." And I went out there, and the man looked me over, and I filled out some paper, and he said, Tell you what you do, you go get you a doctor and come work at eleven o'clock that night.

Myers Oh, you had to go get your check-up with the doctor, a physical, and then go to work that night.

A. Tynes So, I did, and—

Myers Did you have any idea what you'd be doing at the plant?

A. Tynes No ma'am. And he told me to report to the curing room.

Myers Curing room, all right. Did you know what that was?

A. Tynes Well, really, no, but I went.

Myers Where did your brother-in-law work in the plant?

A. Tynes Final finish.

Myers Did you know anyone in the curing room?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers You already knew people in there.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Um-hm.

Myers So, you started the night shift?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Eleven to seven. I worked three years.

Myers How'd you like that?

A. Tynes Well, it was a job. Paid good. I was a utility man, they called me. When anybody was out, I'd fill their place.

Myers Okay. How long did that last that you were a utility man?

A. Tynes That lasted about two years, I guess. Then I got on as a soap stoner.

Myers A soap stoner?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers What was that?

A. Tynes That was spraying the tires before they go into the mold.

Myers Oh, that's interesting. Did you have to smell the stuff you were spraying?
(laughs)

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. Yes ma'am. Sure did. And so.

Myers And that's still in the curing room?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, there in the curing room.

Myers Was that more pay or—?

A. Tynes More pay, yes, yes ma'am. I worked there for, aw, I'd say about five years. Then I went to the warehouse, boundless tires.

Myers Bindless?

A. Tynes Boundless.

Myers Boundless.

A. Tynes They make them even.

Myers Oh, make them even, oh, okay. At the warehouse.

A. Tynes I worked them for a year. Then, I went and built tractor tires.

Myers Oh, okay. Now, is that in the same plant complex, just a different—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. They all in the plant.

Myers Well, some of those tractor tires are huge, aren't they? (laughs)

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, they was. And then I worked there two years. Then I went back to the curing room, and I took tires from the soap stoner through the presses, mold. So.

Myers You took them.

A. Tynes Well, I had a little old motor that I hooked it up to, oh, about thirty tires, and I wheeled them in there.

Myers Uh-huh. Okay, so you took them from one process to the next process.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. That was my—

Myers Did you stay there, then, the rest of the time?

A. Tynes Rest of the time.

Myers So, you really knew the insides and outs of tires. (laughs)

A. Tynes I can't say that. I can tell you one thing. You walked in there in the building, you started sweating, and you sweat all the time until you walk out.

Myers Wow, did you have a chance to get a drink of water?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. They had fountains all through the plant.

Myers But it was hot.

A. Tynes They had fans going, but they don't—they help but they didn't help.

Myers As you changed these jobs within the plant, did you have to train for different things? How did you learn the new jobs?

A. Tynes Well, you would know them before you went. See, they come up on a bid board. I mean they had a board there and they put certain jobs up. You could bid on the job. If you the one that—the oldest man got the job.

Myers The oldest man?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes Been—

Myers With seniority. Okay, okay. So, you'd check this board from time to time?

A. Tynes Every day, and if you want a certain job, you—

Myers Put your name in.

A. Tynes —go bid on it.

Myers As you moved along, did you feel like you were doing better jobs each time?

A. Tynes Well, I got more pay. And you bid on certain jobs that pay more.

Myers So there was kind of mobility in the plant. When a job would open and you had seniority, you'd move up a little bit.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. And when I went to work out there, I got one week paid vacation. If you been there three years, you get two weeks. If you there ten years, you get three weeks. And fifteen years, you get four weeks, and twenty years, you get five weeks. And then twenty-five you get six weeks. That's as far as it went.

Myers And you worked there long enough, didn't you, to get—?

A. Tynes Thirty-eight years.

Myers Thirty-eight years. Wow. When you think of those various jobs you had, which ones did you—which one did you like the best?

A. Tynes I believe I liked the one that I took tires from the soap stoner to the molds.

Myers So, when you got there you were happy?

A. Tynes Yes. Well, I guess I was happy. (laughs)

Myers I guess that's a leading question. How did you feel about that, then?

A. Tynes Well, I liked the people out there, the boys—

Myers The group that you worked with.

A. Tynes The group that I worked with. And so. And worked five days a week. Now, sometimes we worked six. Most of the time we worked six, and sometimes we worked seven.

Myers What would be the difference? Why would you work seven sometimes?

A. Tynes Well, they needed the tires.

Myers Had kind of a deadline or something they had to meet?

- A. Tynes** They—the—I guess it was the popularity of the tires. You know, you need tires.
- Myers** When they were in demand, yeah.
- A. Tynes** Um-hm, and you know when we was in war, the government will want tires, and we made tires for them, and we made different tires for different companies, too.
- Myers** Okay, so like car companies and tractor companies?
- A. Tynes** Um-hm. We had a contract with Ford Motor Company. And I remember one time, they brought new cars down there, all kinds of cars: Chevrolet, Dodges, Lincolns, Plymouth, Chrysler, and they would switch tires on these cars. They would go to Marlin and back, and they had a con—not no contract, but a—oh, what do you call it?—say little old deal with the Texas Highway Patrol that they could go as fast as they wanted to and back, and they want to know how our tires do.
- Myers** They were comparing them, kind of testing them. Who drove those cars? Did y'all?
- A. Tynes** Oh, they had special drivers. They didn't work for General, they worked for the car company.
- Myers** Do you recall how General Tires held up in that test?
- A. Tynes** Well, I guess they did all right. I guess they did all right. We still make them.
- Myers** You still kept going, huh?
- A. Tynes** Yeah. And then, see, General got a—down around Uvalde, and they run tires all south.
- Myers** So, they kind of had a testing ground kind of thing.
- A. Tynes** Testing ground.
- Myers** That would be a nice, hot place to test. (laughs)
- A. Tynes** Yes, and so.
- Myers** Well, you told me what job you liked the best. Which did you dislike the most?
- A. Tynes** Well, (chuckles) all of them.
- Myers** (laughing) All of them, really, huh?

A. Tynes But no, I don't know.

Myers Was the spraying most difficult?

A. Tynes Yeah, spraying, that would get all in my nose. And I got—they tested me for asbestos.

Myers And what'd they find?

A. Tynes They found some.

Myers So, do you think those were from those spraying days?

A. Tynes That's what they claim. So.

Myers When they had that, was it confined to a room, or did it spread out over the area?

A. Tynes Well, it was a little ol'—little ol', not room, but a—oh, I guess you could call it a little old room.

Myers Did it have walls around it separating it?

A. Tynes Yeah, and it had a place where tires go out. These tires come in on conveyor, and once they come in, we spray them inside and outside. And they go out, and we have people out there that take them off and hang them on trucks. So.

Myers Okay. You said you worked in the warehouse and the curing room. Were these in different locations on the plant?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Warehouses were at the end of the building, and curing was about in the middle. See, it goes curing, final finish, and then the warehouse.

Myers Was the warehouse near the railroad tracks?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers That would make sense.

A. Tynes They had men load up boxcars, and I never did do that, and it was hot back there in the warehouse.

Myers I'll bet it was. You told me about the heat and being sweaty. Did you get breaks much during the time?

A. Tynes Oh yeah. You get breaks, um-hm.

Myers When you took a break, did the whole—all the others take a break that were doing your job? Did the assembly line quit, in other words, and everyone took a break?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, so it was kind of a time it shut down and everybody took a break?

A. Tynes Yeah, at eleven o'clock—I mean, at night I'd go to work. We took one at one, and then about three-thirty we took lunch, twenty-four minutes—

Myers Twenty-four minutes. Okay.

A. Tynes —for lunch. We had a—you could bring your lunch, or they had a lunch wagon go through.

Myers Which did you do?

A. Tynes Both. Sometimes take it, sometimes bought it off the lunch wagon. They had hamburgers, hotdogs, candy, soda water.

Myers So, did you stay in your area to eat or did you go to a lunchroom?

A. Tynes Go to the lunchroom.

Myers Okay. Seems to me like when you did that then you saw a lot of other people.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, but they—you had twenty-four minutes, but sometimes we'd take longer, I believe. Just depends how things were working.

Myers If you didn't feel too rushed you might take a little more time?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, break at one, lunch at three-thirty. Then did you have another break?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, about five. Those supposed to be ten minutes, but we took longer sometimes.

Myers Okay, when you took a little bit longer, would it be everyone in the curing room, or just a few people, I mean—

A. Tynes A few people.

Myers A few people might—so not everyone might take longer at one time.

A. Tynes No, because those men that cured tires, they'd do good to take whenever they wanted to. They—and.

Myers Those tires would come through there, and there'd be several men spraying?

A. Tynes Me and about two more, three more.

Myers So, then, am I right that maybe one of those men might take a break while the others are still working, and then they might come back and—

A. Tynes Well, we did that, too. We did that sometimes.

Myers Sometimes you'd have to go, I would think, make a phone call or get another drink of water.

A. Tynes But water fountains were right by our place. We—we done a lot of things that we ought not have done.

Myers (laughing) What kind of things?

A. Tynes Well, say like horseplaying around.

Myers So, it wasn't all serious work. (laughs)

A. Tynes Oh, no ma'am. No ma'am. I remember one time—I ought not tell this, but anyway. (Myers laughs) One time we—in summertime when we'd go on break, everybody went outside and sit by the wall, and some guys got the idea go on top the building with buckets of water and they just poured it down and let it came down on the boys sitting down there. And that made the boys mad.

Myers They didn't think it was a welcome cool-off. (laughs)

A. Tynes No.

Myers So, which side were you on? Were you pouring or were you getting wet?

A. Tynes I wasn't there. I wasn't even there. I don't know where I was.

Myers But you heard about it.

A. Tynes Yeah, oh yeah. Everybody—even the supervisor wanted to know who done it. And so, I said, Man, don't come to me. I didn't even know nothing about it, anyhow.

Myers You were glad you didn't know anything, I'm sure. Any other horseplay incidents you remember?

A. Tynes (laughs) Ma'am, we done a lot. I don't know what all. Horseplaying.

Myers Kind of good-natured, though.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. And see, we had a locker room. We had showers up there and big ol' lunchroom up there and our locker was up there. Then we had lunchrooms all through the plant.

Myers Oh, okay.

A. Tynes So, that was it. (laughter)

Myers All right, well, you mentioned the supervisors.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Tell me about them.

A. Tynes See, (clears throat), we had a—like curing room. We had a man over the curing room. He worked straight days. Then we had supervisors that worked when we worked, and they—

Myers The night shift.

A. Tynes Um-hm. And we worked, you know, and they were all good men.

Myers Did you feel like they were fair?

A. Tynes Yeah. They just were one of us. I mean, they stayed in the office most of the time, and when we need them, we come in there and tell them what we need, and—

Myers They help you out.

A. Tynes —they help me out.

Myers I'm going to turn the tape.

Tape 1, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

We were talking about supervisors. Um, let me get it straight. You had one main supervisor who worked days, and then there was one who worked the night shift?

A. Tynes Yes.

Myers Were there just the two shifts?

A. Tynes No ma'am. There was days, swing, and night.

Myers Give me the hours for each of these.

A. Tynes Well, when I went to work out there, the day worked from seven (telephone rings) to four. (Betty Tynes holds brief telephone conversation in background.) And—no, seven to three. And swing shift was three to eleven, and midnight worked eleven to seven.

Myers Okay, and did you do the night shift the whole time you were there?

A. Tynes No, three years.

Myers Three years, okay.

A. Tynes Then, we begin rotating every month. Every four weeks we worked days, swing, and night.

Myers Okay, so one month you'd be on day, then you'd switch to swing, and then night. So you knew ahead of time what you might be doing next month.

A. Tynes And you can swap off with some—some of the boys were farmers out at West or Riesel, and they liked to farm. They would let you work their days if you let them work your swing. And so, and that would be a good deal.

Myers Okay, that's interesting. (Myers has brief conversation with the Tyneses about their need to leave soon for a church luncheon.) Well, just one more question, then I'll be through. Did you ever have a desire to become a supervisor?

A. Tynes Well, they asked me, but I didn't. They'd like supervisors who had some education, like one year college or two years college.

Myers Did your years in college benefit you?

A. Tynes Well, yeah. Um-hm. And we had a union out there.

Myers Yeah, I want to ask about that next time.

A. Tynes Okay, all right.

Myers Well, you have a luncheon to go to. We haven't gotten this on tape, but since we met last, you and your wife and friends have made a church decision.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Tell me what you've done.

A. Tynes Well, we—

B. Tynes Eight of us—

A. Tynes We went to Emmanuel about three times before we joined up. And so everybody was friendly over there. In fact, they remember me from way back, and after they told me who they was, I remembered them, and— (clears throat). Excuse me.

Myers Was Emmanuel there when you were growing up?

B. Tynes Um-hm.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, so it wasn't too far from where you grew up?

B. Tynes No.

A. Tynes No, unh-uh. I went up there when I was a kid two, three times, but I never did join because I was at Edgefield then.

Myers Right. Your family was already established there. And now you're going to a luncheon—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers —at the church today.

A. Tynes Every Tuesday, they say.

B. Tynes They say that's the best meal there is. (laughs)

Myers Well, that's great—a weekly thing. And when you joined, eight others joined from Edgefield.

B. Tynes Yeah, right.

Myers Tell me their names.

A. Tynes Ferrell and Elsie Wilson, Mary Joyce [Waller], Mary Ruth [Goss], Randle [Saffell], Wilma [Saffell], and us. Eight.

Myers Okay. Well, that's wonderful. And I'm going to come back, and we're going to continue talking about General Tire.

A. Tynes Okay. Now, Louise (clears throat)—you know Earl and Louise [Muchow].

B. Tynes Earl and Louise?

Myers Yes, yes.

A. Tynes Well, Louise worked out at the plant.

B. Tynes Yeah, she worked at, uh—

Myers I've talked to her.

A. Tynes Okay.

Myers We have an interview about the payroll office. Very interesting.

A. Tynes But she wouldn't pay me.

Myers She wouldn't pay you. (laughs) She knew you too well.

A. Tynes And Mary Ruth, she worked out there.

Myers Oh, she did?

A. Tynes In payroll.

Myers Now, that's Mary Ruth Goss?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay. All right. Well, I'll continue this story later.

A. Tynes Mary Ruth's husband, he worked out there, and Mary Joyce Waller, her husband worked out there.

Myers Okay. A lot of—just as there were connections to the textile mill early in Edgefield's history, it sounds like there were connections to General Tire.

A. Tynes General Tire was built out there, I believe in 1944. It was a military plant.

Myers Military plant, yes, it was created—

A. Tynes General Tire. They make tires for the military, then when the war was over, they began making their own tires. We made tires for Humble Oil, we made tires for Phillips 66, we made some for off-brand tires, and that's about all. (chuckles)

Myers (laughs) Well, I have some more questions for you, and I'll ask them next time.

A. Tynes All right. Come back. Come back.

Myers: Thank you.

end of interview

Betty Fay Sanders Tynes and Alton Dee Tynes, Jr.

Interview No. 5

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Lois E. Myers

October 31, 2002

1936 Madera Drive

Waco, Texas

Myers This is Lois Myers. Today is October 31, Halloween, 2002. I am interviewing for the fifth time Alton and Betty Tynes, and we are in their home at 1936 Madera in Waco, Texas. This interview is sponsored by the Baylor University Institute for Oral History and is part of our project on Waco and McLennan County history. Mr. Tynes, we ended last time—we were talking about General Tire and your years there. And you told me about your hours that you worked, and how sometimes you could trade off with someone in another shift.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers What about overtime? Did you ever work overtime?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. Used to you could work double shift, but in the contract, we got where you couldn't work but four hours overtime a day.

Myers Did you do that very often?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Um-hm. But it'd still go by our seniority.

Myers Okay, seniority.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) You know, they asked a man to work over, they could turn it down or they could work. If you turn it down, they'd go to someone else, and they could.

Myers Did you get paid more for your overtime?

A. Tynes Time and a half. And on all over forty hours, it was time and a half. On Sunday, it was triple time.

Myers Did you have to work many Sundays?

A. Tynes Well, we worked when we needed to.

Myers (in unison) When you needed to.

A. Tynes If they need the tires, we did.

Myers So, when there was pressure to get a contract complete and those tires done, you might work more?

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Hm, that's interesting. How did you feel about the wages you made out there?

A. Tynes It was—they was good. When I first worked—went to work, they wasn't good. In fact, the union just came in while I went to work. At first, they didn't have no union out there, and so when I started, they came in with the union. And they helped us, too.

Myers (speaking at same time) Helped us, okay. They made the wages better.

A. Tynes Better. And we didn't get but three holidays. There were four: Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day. No Christmas Eve, no New Year's Eve, just that day. And July Fourth.

Myers Did that stay the same all the time or did that change?

A. Tynes No ma'am. Unh-uh. The union got us Christmas Eve and Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's, and we had four days for Thanksgiving—Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. And—

Myers Maybe Memorial Day?

A. Tynes And Memorial Day and Easter. We got Easter.

Myers Well, those are real ways the union made a big difference. I want to talk more about that later.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers What about other perks that came with the job? Someone told me you had tire discounts? You got discounts if you bought tires? Is that true?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. I've done forgot how much, but we got a discount. And when we bought tires, if you want to, they take so much out of your paycheck a week for so long until they pay for it. And that's—

Myers You got to pay it out that way.

A. Tynes Um-hm. And we had a tire dealer down there named Bill Harris. And he used to work out there; he was a supervisor. And his brother worked out there. So, everybody knew Bill Harris, and so. He was a good man, and he treat you right.

Myers So you bought your tires through him?

A. Tynes Through him.

Myers Um-hm. Interesting. Great. Any other perks? Any other special things like that from working there?

A. Tynes Well, I don't know.

Myers Nothing comes to mind? We talked a little bit about supervisors last time.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers And you had had some education beyond high school, and you said they asked you sometimes if you wanted to be a supervisor, and you said no.

A. Tynes No. See, company men didn't belong to the union.

Myers Oh, really?

A. Tynes No, they didn't.

Myers So, if you moved up to supervisor, you were moving up to administration—the executive—

A. Tynes You'd lose all your—

Myers —managers. Yeah. Okay. So that was the price you paid, huh?

A. Tynes Um-hm. And we had guards out there, and when I first went out to work out there, they wore guns. And they were in the union, too.

Myers They were? Okay.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Guards were.

Myers So, they were hired by General Tire, and they were in the union. What were they guarding against?

A. Tynes Well, you couldn't go in unless you worked there, unless you had a pass.

Myers Okay, so you carried a pass to work every day.

A. Tynes Well, they knew me. They didn't need no pass, they said.

Myers If you were new on the job, you'd want to show your ID.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Oh yeah. Yeah. And so, they had a wire fence around and the thing was eight foot high around the place.

Myers Now, was some of that for safety reasons?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. And we—used to, we went—when we'd go to work, we went by the guard house and park inside. As time went by, they built on to the plant. The plant, when I first went, was small, and then they built a big parking lot on the other side, where HEB trucks—and so.

Myers How did that change, then? Did you park and then walk through the gate?

A. Tynes Uh-huh. And there'd be a guard at that—in fact, two.

Myers Did you ever see them have to go into action? Did they ever have anyone—?

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) No. No ma'am. They never did. (all laugh)

Myers Well, what about—was there any concern about competitors coming in and seeing how General Tire was set up and maybe stealing some ideas?

A. Tynes Um, well, every once in a while they had people from Goodrich come through, and Firestone come through, to see how we do. And so, they had the same deal that we did. And sometimes, see, Goodyear or Goodrich may go on strike for a weekend. Well, somehow, we made some of their tires for them.

Myers That's interesting. When it—do you know if you ever struck before they did and they made your tires?

A. Tynes No, they always—

Myers They led the way.

A. Tynes Right, they led the way. There're three companies go on strike before we did.

Myers Goodyear, Goodrich, and Firestone?

A. Tynes Um-hm. Yes ma'am. And if they end their strike before we went, well, we didn't go on strike. We just—they—General always went with them, whatever they—

Myers So whatever they accomplished with their strike would help—would benefit General Tire, too.

A. Tynes Right. Um-hm.

Myers That's good. You see, you're teaching me so much. (laughs) You told me that you got promoted by bidding for jobs. What about raises? After—once you got in a job, how did you get raises?

A. Tynes Well, we go by contracts. Every three years, we went in for a raise or went in for insurance, and holidays, and different things.

Myers When those—did you have personal contact, then, with management when you went in, just one-on-one talking about your raise, or—?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. See, we had a president, and that's all he does. He didn't work out there, he just—and we had a vice president, and we had people that work on committees. And that's how it worked.

Myers All those were management people.

A. Tynes No, they were—

Myers No. Oh, you're—from your—the working group would form the committees.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) —your union. Um-hm.

Myers Gotcha.

A. Tynes And when the president go on vacation, the vice president would take his place, and somebody'd take his place in the plant. And so.

Myers What did you think about those folks?

A. Tynes Well, we vote on them.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes Every two years, I think, we vote on them. And there were about three or four run for president, and whoever got it, got it. (laughs)

Myers Now, is this in the union?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, okay. And did you ever run for office?

A. Tynes No ma'am. They wanted me to one time, but I—well, when you're president, you've got to be strong. And some of those boys, if they don't think you've done them right, they get mad at you. And you can't please everybody when you're in. (clears throat) And—

Myers True.

A. Tynes —and I had so many friends, so I didn't want to.

Myers You didn't want to be in that position where you'd have to do that.

A. Tynes I didn't say. Now, the president of the union, he might come out there at midnight. You know, go all through and see what you want to tell him or give you a hand and things like that. And so, he really had a twenty-four hour—

Myers Now, did the union compensate him for all that time?

A. Tynes Well, no, the company did.

Myers Company did, okay. So, he got a little extra pay for doing that extra work, for taking the heat?

A. Tynes Yeah. (Myers laughs) And so—and we paid him some, too. You know where our union hall was? That brick—

Myers That building right there on—

B. Tynes Under the bridge, yeah.

Myers (speaking at same time) —on Orchard Lane?

A. Tynes Yeah. (clears throat)

Myers And tell me the name of the union.

A. Tynes Well, it was United Rubber Workers of America 312.

Myers Okay. United Rubber Workers of America 312, all right. How often, then, would you meet?

A. Tynes Once a month, unless a special meeting would come up. And one of the presidents always put me on probation because I didn't come. (laughs)

Myers So, if you didn't go, you got—they took roll, I guess. They knew—

A. Tynes No ma'am, they didn't. He just know me real good. He said, "I'm going to put you on probation."

Myers So that was an attempt to try to get you to come, I'm sure.

A. Tynes Yeah. Um-hm. See, when he was working before he got president, he had a locker right by my locker, and we were just—

Myers You were friends.

A. Tynes He was a good friend. His name was Kenneth Bottolfs.

Myers Okay. He was president. What went on at the meetings? What were they like?

A. Tynes Well, they's just like every other meeting. They come up, what problem you got, or—just like any other meeting.

Myers And the local president and vice president ran the meeting?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers It wasn't people from quote "outside?"

A. Tynes No ma'am. It was the president and vice president. See, in every department we had what we called stewards. And if any little ol' thing come up, you go to your steward and tell him about it, and then he will try to work it out. If he can't, he will go to the vice president. And if he can't, go to the president.

Myers What kinds of things would people complain about?

A. Tynes Well, too much work or you're putting too much on me, you know, things like that.

Myers Did they ever complain about the health conditions?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, a lot about that. And—

Myers Do you feel like their complaints got attention?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. They sure did. They—we even had the United States government to come down there and go through the plant and see the health.

Myers They inspected it, yeah. How about pollution? Was there any pollution from the plant?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. A whole lot.

Myers Like what kind?

A. Tynes Well, carbon black. See, when you went in the plant, you go through the mill room first. That's where they had big old Banbury machine where they run that rubber through, and carbon black—you—and then—

Myers So that was all in the air?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Sure was. And—

Myers And everybody walked through there on—

A. Tynes Yes ma'am, to go—they could go around the side to your department, because, see, they had a time clock inside, and you had to go in there and

punch your time clock. And you filled out your time card at the end of the day, you punch it out and go home.

Myers Okay. Very interesting. What—the union at General Tire was something that was kind of controversial in Waco.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers What did you hear about that from your friends?

A. Tynes Well, we don't need a union in Waco, and something like that. And General Tire paid more than anybody else around here.

Myers So, how did people feel about that? Did that make them—?

A. Tynes Well, everybody wanted to come work out there, but it was hard work. A whole lot of them came to work, then they realized how hard it was and they quit. And ask my wife about my graveyard. I worked (clock chimes) all night. Every place we'd go I'd fall asleep.

B. Tynes No, we couldn't really enjoy you. If we went somewhere, they invited us over to play Forty-Two or something like that, well, you got there, but where's your partner? (laughs)

Myers Say, He's been up all night.

B. Tynes Yeah, that's right, that's right. But more than likely, they were—out there, you could just look around and everybody was congenial. You know, I mean, I wouldn't think that they had, you know, maybe not even slap a guy on the hand just to be doing, you know, nothing ever did. They didn't ever have any little troubles or anything. Alton played a lot. (laughs)

Myers I think he worked a lot, too, (laughs) from what I hear. Well, tell me about strikes.

A. Tynes Strike? Well, (laughs) when we went on strike, we always cleaned up. I mean we got everything—

B. Tynes Double duty.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Like we went on strike about midnight shift, but we always worked about two hours or four hours over to get everything right.

Myers You left your work area clean and ready.

A. Tynes Uh-huh. And then supervisors will take over our jobs. And there wasn't too many supervisors, so they couldn't—and we went out peaceful. We didn't—

Myers Just—you just all went together peaceful. I mean, did you go out together?

A. Tynes No, we didn't.

Myers (speaking at same time) Or as you finished your work, you'd just go out. You'd clean up your area and go out.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Then the next morning, we will go over to the union hall. We will—we would sign up. See, we walk thirty minutes a day, and we'd sign up when we'd walk.

Myers Okay. Did you carry a sign?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. (laughs) And we'd get twenty-five dollars a week for like—oh, like a whole lot of time I walked—oh, we walked about twice a week. That was twenty four hours a day. I mean, somebody.

Myers (speaking at same time) Somebody. Did they kind of match that up with who would normally be on a night shift may walk at night? Or was it just anybody?

A. Tynes No, you just pick your time. I mean, see, we had a whole lot of farmers, and they got to walk at night so they can farm during the day. See, you just work—walk thirty minutes a day. And they liked to walk about ten to ten thirty or eleven to eleven thirty, then they could go back home to get a good night's sleep, then get up and start farming.

Myers Sounds to me like by the time General Tire struck, these other companies had already been on strike, so the company kind of knew it was coming.

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. They knew it was coming.

Myers They knew it was coming, and—

A. Tynes See, we got a—we signed a contract every three years. We've got to sign a new contract, and if they didn't sign the contract, we go on strike. Well, we give them about three days to—and sometimes we'd work about a week and let the president and the company go together and see what they can work out. And sometimes it went over real pretty and we didn't have a strike. And one time I think we was on strike about four weeks.

Myers Do you think that was the longest one?

A. Tynes I think so. And one time, we was on strike three days. And so, just how the problem worked out.

Myers Well, did you—how did you feel when you were out there carrying your sign?

A. Tynes Well, (laughs) I don't know. I never did thought about it. It was part of my job, and so. See, sometimes I walked in the morning, sometimes at night. And so.

Myers That four weeks must have gotten long, though.

A. Tynes Well, yeah, but I always—I remember I swapped off my walking to somebody else and let them, and I went on vacation.

Myers (both laugh) Okay.

A. Tynes We went—our daughter was in North Carolina. Isn't that where we—? And I told them that you all go on, go back to work for me.

Myers Did you ever fear that you might lose your job through any of this?

A. Tynes Well, no. The only thing is they threatened to close the plant down one time if we didn't come back to work, but they never did. They—see, when I went to work out there I had to pay my own insurance. But we got that in the contract where General Tire would pay our insurance. And we just swapped off pay for different things.

Myers Pay for benefits?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers I need to turn the tape. Excuse me.

A. Tynes All right.

Tape 1, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

Myers When you were walking the line, were there occasions when people who were going in, management, would walk by you?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers How did that work out? Was it—what was the atmosphere?

A. Tynes Nothing at all. How are y'all? you know. Most of those supervisors, they didn't like when we went on strike because they could work them twelve hours a day every day, and most of them didn't know what to do on their job. And they may put them back in the warehouse, they may put them up in the mill room, wherever they think they need them. So.

Myers So, they—they had to work longer. They didn't necessarily know what they were doing, and they didn't get the benefit of the strike. They weren't in the union, and yet they didn't have any say-so. They couldn't influence management.

A. Tynes No, they couldn't influence.

Myers So, the supervisor was kind of caught there.

A. Tynes Yeah, but you know, they—you know, stock. Supervisors could buy so much stock, the company will match them. And they paid—they got paid more than we did. So, I guess everything worked out. Kind of like, we had a little ol' building on the outside of the plant. That's where they mixed up all of our stuff. And some of those supervisors didn't know what—what go in what and everything. They would have everything messed up out there.

Myers Is that so? Hm.

A. Tynes And while we were out there we started the credit union.

Myers The union helped start the credit union?

A. Tynes Um-hm. Yeah.

Myers Oh, okay.

A. Tynes See, it that little—it was that little ol' building on Kendall Lane.

Myers Okay. It's there by the union hall. It just faces the other direction, doesn't it?

A. Tynes Yeah. Kendall Lane, yeah.

Myers Uh-huh. Okay, that was the credit union.

A. Tynes Um-hm. And nobody could belong to it but General Tire people. And now, we got two of them in Waco, out on Valley Mills Drive, Genco, and one out here on Loop 340. And we bought one in Lufkin. Genco. G-e-n-c-o.

Myers Genco. Okay. And that's—that was General Tire?

A. Tynes In Lufkin. And now anybody living in McLennan County can belong to Genco.

Myers Okay. But it started at General Tire?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Interesting, uh-huh. And what benefits did that give, you think?

A. Tynes Well, you know how everybody banks. And it was organized just like a bank. And they take so much out of your pay to go into the credit union, and you could buy things like cars.

Myers So, it was for savings and also for loans.

A. Tynes Um-hm. And they're big stuff now.

B. Tynes They had an ad just within the last week, wasn't it? Come and join our—
come and join some—

A. Tynes And we always had a banquet once a year.

Myers Okay, this is the union?

A. Tynes No, the credit union.

Myers The credit union had a banquet. Okay. All right. That's nice.

A. Tynes Uh-huh. Yes. Two dollars.

Myers Really?

A. Tynes And they had a barbeque supper. Who catered it?

B. Tynes Michna.

A. Tynes Yeah, Michna. And they will tell you what reports that year we got. Then, afterward, they give two five-hundred dollars away and about ten one-hundred dollars and about twenty twenty dollars away. And they had—your number is on your stub. And Betty, she won twenty dollars one year.

Myers Good.

A. Tynes I never have won.

Myers But you kept trying.

A. Tynes Oh yeah. Free supper.

Myers Sure, that's nice. Okay, so that was the credit union that—

A. Tynes Yeah. Uh-huh. We always have it about March or April, March.

Myers That's interesting. Well, did the union ever have a family kind of party? Besides the meetings, did they ever do social things?

A. Tynes Well—

Myers Dinners or anything?

A. Tynes No.

B. Tynes A long time ago they had out in the park, they have a—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah, they had a little ol' barbeque.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers How about the company? Did the company ever sponsor an event?

A. Tynes No ma'am. Oh, only thing, on Thanksgiving, the company would bring in tables in your department, and they would have lunch for the employees. And when you get time, you can go eat. And they had coffee, and what's the name of those things from West?

Myers Kolaches.

B. Tynes Oh, kolaches.

A. Tynes Yes. And you could eat them all day long, drink coffee all day long.

Myers That's nice. So, that was at Thanksgiving they'd do that.

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

Myers Well, that's nice. Um, did women belong to the union?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers Okay. What—

A. Tynes Now, we had a department named bead room, where they make beads to go around the tires, and women worked there. And the credit union employees, they belonged to the union.

Myers Okay.

B. Tynes My sister worked out there.

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers What did she—what's her job?

B. Tynes Bead room.

A. Tynes (in unison) Bead room.

Myers Bead room, okay. Was that hard work?

A. Tynes Well, (B. Tynes laughs) not too hard. They just stood up and bead. I can't explain it.

Myers Yeah, I'd have to see a picture of that.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers So, mostly women were in the bead room?

A. Tynes Yes.

Myers Was it all women in there? Or there—

A. Tynes No, men were in there. Men were there.

Myers (speaking at same time) Men did that, too.

A. Tynes Now, during the Korean War, General Tire started making boats out there, these rubber life boats. And we had women working back there. That's where Louise worked for a while until she got—

B. Tynes Promoted.

A. Tynes —promoted to the office.

Myers Okay, so that's interesting.

A. Tynes And my—one of my aunts worked out there. Teeny [Albertine Threlkeld].

B. Tynes Aunt Teeny, yeah.

Myers Okay, so those women went on strike when you did, too?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. They belonged to the union. Everybody that belonged to the union went on strike. Now, we had some men out there didn't belong to the union, but they worked, went to work.

Myers So it was your choice to join the union?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers And some people chose not to. Do you know why?

A. Tynes They didn't believe in the union, but the union got to—had to fight for them just like it fights for us.

Myers So, they got the benefits like the rest of you did.

A. Tynes Uh-huh. But they didn't pay no union dues. They didn't—

Myers Did they walk past you then when you were picketing?

- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. And, you know, we kind of throw it up to them about not—
- Myers** Was there ever any shouting at them as they walked through or that sort of thing?
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) No ma'am. None. So, we—everything went peaceful.
- Myers** No violence, no—
- A. Tynes** No violence.
- Myers** Why do you think that was? Some places would get—you'd hear reports of violence.
- A. Tynes** Yeah, but see, when you get violent, somehow they said the law could come out, and we would get in big trouble with the state.
- Myers** So, it was to your advantage to be peaceful?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. And we was.
- Myers** So, overall, how would you evaluate the unions?
- A. Tynes** Well, I believe the union was good for the company, and for the people, and for the economy because the more money you make, the more you spend. Well, in fact, I spent mine before I make it any day. (laughs)
- Myers** Me, too.
- A. Tynes** And we could have more. And when General Tire came in, there were other companies come in with unions.
- Myers** Okay, so General Tire kind of led the way in Waco.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Um-hm.
- Myers** Anything else about the unions?
- A. Tynes** Well—
- Myers** Did you ever encounter any hostility out in town when you were on strike? Was anybody unfriendly to you?
- A. Tynes** No ma'am. No. Unless—most of the people were for us. Only ones not for us were the owners of other places.
- Myers** Do you feel like the newspapers gave you fair hearing?

A. Tynes No ma'am.

Myers Okay, tell me about that. (laughs)

A. Tynes (coughs) They said they was, but they didn't do it. A whole lot of boys, you know, in the paper, where you write, some of them write, but by the time it come out in the paper, it wasn't what they—

B. Tynes Said it was.

A. Tynes —wrote. Said part of it was, but they misled you. And—

Myers So, people would write to the editor or something, and then when the letters came out, they would be edited so that it didn't say the same thing.

A. Tynes Right. So, anyway.

Myers So, do you think that the newspaper was biased toward the union? I mean, toward the management, then, or the union?

A. Tynes Yes. I imagine the company.

Myers That's interesting. Anything else?

A. Tynes Yeah. Well, we had a whole lot of managers out there, and some were good and some wasn't.

Myers Were they Waco people?

A. Tynes No ma'am. They from—

Myers Where did the managers come from?

A. Tynes Akron (clears throat) and everything. You know that train that come by there? See, we went to work at eight o'clock. And that train would come by there about seven thirty, and a whole lot of General Tire people lived out here, and they'd get stopped, and they'd always be late to work. So, one of our plant managers phoned the railroad company and told them to have the train run early or later. So, and it did and everything went all right.

Myers And now there's signs at the crossing there that say that if this train is here more than five minutes, call this number.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers Is that from that, those days?

A. Tynes Well, yes ma'am. And we done that one day. You know what?

Myers Didn't work?

A. Tynes Didn't work. No. They told us that, We can't do nothing about it. And so.

Myers Was that after the plant closed?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. Yeah.

Myers Okay. So nowadays there still may be a train that blocks it from time to time?

A. Tynes Well, I don't know.

B. Tynes Well, that one that runs there now, I don't know if it—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah. I don't know if it blocks it. I don't go—I don't drive now. (laughs)

Myers Right. But that was one of the things that the plant manager did that helped you, but it also helped him get his people there on time.

A. Tynes Right. Um-hm.

Myers And the managers came from Ohio.

A. Tynes Yeah, Akron.

Myers Akron. Were they helpful to you?

A. Tynes Well, some was and some wasn't. Now, I remember we called them big wheels, you know, like O'Neil, he owned the company. And he always came about twice a year, and before he come everybody get ready for him. They'd repaint in there and got all the janitors sweeping and clean up that thing. Then, his son always come, too, about twice a year. So.

Myers Did you say O'Neil?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers So, it would—they'd spruce up.

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am.

Myers And he was the big wheel?

A. Tynes Oh yeah.

Myers He was the biggest wheel, wasn't he?

A. Tynes He sure was.

Myers Did he walk through the plant?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. And he seemed like a nice guy. He shook hands with everybody that he could.

Myers Well, you were there for so many years with—did he—was it the same man all those years, or did that change?

A. Tynes Oh, that changed, uh-huh. They still owned part of it, but Continental—now, every so often, they had a big meeting down here at General Tire. All the General Tire rubber plants came here and had a big meeting here.

Myers All the management people would come here?

A. Tynes Uh-huh. See, we had a company in Mexico, had about five plants in the United States. We had plants everywhere. And they come here and have a meeting.

Myers That's interesting.

A. Tynes So, that's about all.

Myers Anything else about management, or—

A. Tynes Well, we got along fine, I guess. It worked.

Myers The—we talked about kind of the Waco attitude toward the union. There was kind of an attitude, too, I think, that they were Yankees.

A. Tynes Yeah, they were Yankees. See, when the plant moved here, built, well, all the supervisors in the whole company was Yankees then, until time come where some of our friends take over.

Myers Did that make any difference at Gen—did you notice a difference when—

A. Tynes Nah. No ma'am. We had one man we always kidded him about being a Yankee. In fact, we called him Yankee. He just went along with us. And some of them thought they knew everything, some didn't. So.

Myers I'd like to talk to you about your fellow workers. Let's think about them. Were there a lot of veterans that worked out there, for instance?

A. Tynes Oh, yes ma'am. There were a lot that come back from World War II. They come back and they went to work out there.

Myers You mentioned the folks who were still farming. Were there a lot of—were there folks who gave up farming to work in the factory and move to town?

- A. Tynes** No. See, they lived at West, Riesel, Mart, and they lived on the farm anyway. And I mean, just like I said, they liked to work four to twelve, where they could farm during morning and evening.
- Myers** So they didn't give up farms, most of them.
- A. Tynes** Some of them, you know, people said, I'll buy eggs from you. And they brought in eggs.
- Myers** Fresh eggs.
- A. Tynes** Um-hm. And he didn't charge them too much. They didn't charge too much. And we had people live at Clifton, Temple, Hillsboro, Waxahachie, and Marlin, Mexia, Groesbeck. They all—
- Myers** They drove quite a ways.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. Well, they have a pool.
- Myers** Carpool.
- A. Tynes** Um-hm.
- Myers** They'd try to work the same shift and come in together. Well, you met a lot of people from a lot of places, then.
- A. Tynes** Oh, yes ma'am.
- Myers** What about—you mentioned the folks from West. Were there Czech folks that worked there?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. We had about, oh, four or five were brothers that lived out there and worked out there. And they lived on a farm around there. We had a—I worked with a man named John Wolf. He was a bachelor, and he lived with two sisters. He lived at Tours. And we'd kid—he was older than I was, and I'd always tease him about all his money he had and everything. And we got to be good friends. And he used to phone me, and he said, "I don't want to talk to you, I want to talk to your wife." So, that left me out, and they talked a long time.
- B. Tynes** Out of nothing.
- A. Tynes** About nothing.
- B. Tynes** I'd tease—well, like Alton, I'd tease him a time or two, John—
- A. Tynes** Wolf.

B. Tynes —Wolf. And I said, Well, he's just like the big bad wolf, you just come around and take all the money. You know, just in fun. (laughs)

Myers He didn't have a family to take care of so he got to keep all his earnings.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes He owned a whole lot of land out there, him and his two sisters.

Myers Were they married?

A. Tynes No.

Myers No, just the three of them.

A. Tynes (in unison) The three of them.

Myers Let's see.

A. Tynes And he was a good man. He passed away.

B. Tynes Well, didn't he once build a—not a dance hall, but a gathering where everybody, all those men and their wives would go and they had those—all of the men that had wives, they'd have them on maybe the last day of the month, you know, or something like that and just—

A. Tynes A little ol' supper or—

B. Tynes Yeah, nothing big. It was just a—

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) —gathering. Gathering.

Myers Now, what group would do that?

A. Tynes Any guy from General Tire.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Oh, okay. Just—was it kind of in your department or other departments?

A. Tynes Well, in my department. And he had about four or five nephews worked out there named Wolf.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes They always tease him about getting his money.

Myers How about Mexicans, did they work out there?

A. Tynes Yeah, some.

Myers Did they do the same kinds of jobs that you did?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. Now, when I first went out there, we had janitors. They were black, and they belonged to the union, too. Well, thing came up where they thought that they'd bid on some white people's jobs. Well, we had a big argument about that. But—anyway, they did. And then, the white people started bidding on the janitor job. They didn't like that too well, but anyway, they did. And so, they did.

Myers So it created a little tension for a while?

A. Tynes Um-hm. And so—

Myers So, did that work? Did they—

A. Tynes Yeah, it worked.

Myers I mean, did they get some white people's jobs and eventually that worked out okay?

A. Tynes And some white people got some of their jobs. And they make—

Tape 1 ends; tape 2 begins.

Myers This is tape two of interview five. Go back and tell me just in case we lost it. We were talking about the blacks.

A. Tynes Blacks. They was janitors, and then it came up, some of them want some white jobs. And—

Myers You said that they made more money.

A. Tynes In a year's time.

Myers In a year's time. How did they do that?

A. Tynes Because they worked Sunday and Saturday, and a whole lot—

Myers In their janitor's job?

A. Tynes —a whole lot of overtime.

Myers Oh, okay.

A. Tynes And some of our white people, they bid on janitor's jobs because they make more money in a year's time. And their work wasn't hard as our job. And they had certain departments to take care of.

- Myers** So, the same people took care of your department every time. They didn't go over the whole plant. Yeah. That's interesting. How would you say the attitude was between the whites and the blacks out there?
- A. Tynes** Well, they was real good. I had some good black people I—they'd do anything for me. I had one, he was a part-time preacher, and I called him Billy Graham. And he got a kick out of that. And we had a black and white person work together, and I called them pepper and salt, and they got a kick out of that.
- Myers** How about white—black women? Did they work in any of the places where women worked?
- A. Tynes** No. No ma'am.
- Myers** Mostly the black men.
- A. Tynes** It was all men, black. We didn't have no—well, just before I retired they hired some black janitor women. They did.
- Myers** So, that was just beginning to kind of change there.
- A. Tynes** Right. And what else you want?
- Myers** Well, a little bit more on the health. Were there ever—did you witness any injuries on the job?
- A. Tynes** Oh, yes ma'am. We had a nursing office. There was two nurses there all the time.
- Myers** Around the clock.
- A. Tynes** Around the clock. And if you had a cold or you getting to feel like you're getting a cold, well, you'd go by there, and they give you some pills to take. And we had a whole lot of boys that got hurt. (clears throat) We got—we had one boy—this was just before I went to work out there. He fell in one of those Banbury machines, and it just crushed him all up. That's the only one I know that died.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Didn't Floyd lose a hand or arm?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, and my cousin, he worked—laid tires. He had about four fingers cut off. See, when you put those tires in there, you'd let the mold come down. And that day he didn't get his hand out quick enough.
- Myers** Top came down. Um.
- A. Tynes** And we had some lost a foot out there.

- Myers** But in all the years you were there, there weren't—it wasn't a common thing to have accidents? It was kind of rare? Is that—?
- A. Tynes** Yeah, and—
- Myers** (speaking at same time) It happened but it didn't happen all the time.
- A. Tynes** Yeah. There was one man lost his arm. And different—and we had (clears throat) and we had a, aw, you call it a movie or something, a commercial. Phillip (clears throat) —Phillip tires, 66 tires, they came out there and took a commercial where we laid those tires out and had some about four—
- B. Tynes** Stacks high.
- A. Tynes** —there by the mold, big ol' lights coming. And we all made fun of them. And so that's that.
- Myers** So, did you see them making that commercial?
- A. Tynes** Oh, yes ma'am. Yes ma'am. And then, about Baylor—Baylor had two clubs that will come out there, and they would make their float for the Homecoming back in the far warehouse. There were about three or four clubs come out there.
- Myers** Yeah. They were always looking for big spaces to hide their floats.
- A. Tynes** And Baylor let them.
- Myers** So, especially at night, I guess those students were out there working.
- A. Tynes** Well, now—
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Ooh, way into the night.
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) —some of them—way, yeah. And some of them were out there twenty-four hours a day trying to get those floats ready.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, it'd be the boys or the men's—
- Myers** Fraternities.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, come in.
- A. Tynes** They started working on those floats around August or July.
- B. Tynes** I think the day when the first—when they get—when the door opened.
- A. Tynes** (speaking at same time) When the door opened.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes And General Tire let them make those floats out there.

Myers And did you get previews then of what some of the floats were going to be like? Get a peek!

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm.

B. Tynes What it's going to be.

A. Tynes That's about—

Myers How do you feel like your overall health has been since you've worked there?

A. Tynes Well, it's been all right, I guess. I mean, they—before I left, they came out, took x-rays of my chest, and I had asbestos. And the lawyer went to court, and I got a few dollars out of it. And about two weeks ago, some lawyer sent me a letter, Come to Holiday Inn, they want to take x-rays of my chest again. So I went, and they were down there two days, and they said they will let me know in about four to six weeks. And it's been about two weeks.

B. Tynes Yeah, about two.

A. Tynes About two weeks, so I don't know what's going to come out of it.

Myers So, I guess you were just one of many people they invited down there to be part of a class action, is that right?

A. Tynes No, every—all General Tire could come.

Myers Okay. Now, when you were working these long hours, how did that affect your family life?

A. Tynes Oh, well, we got along all right. I mean, she worked at the telephone office. And our—

B. Tynes I was within a strike, too.

Myers Okay, at the telephone company?

B. Tynes Right, um-hm.

Myers Tell me about that.

B. Tynes Well— (laughs)

Myers Was it a friendly strike?

- B. Tynes** Oh yeah. Yeah, it was—nothing—nobody from across town came. (laughs)
No, I think that the way everybody appears that everything was fine, you know, nothing. Which really was, and it's—and people were so good to—different companies here in town would bring them food to eat, you know, because they'd have the strike, and they—oh, they stayed up there, the old—
- A. Tynes** Raleigh.
- B. Tynes** Raleigh Hotel, yeah.
- A. Tynes** On Eighth and Austin. The state bought the building now.
- Myers** So, was this—is this Southwestern Bell that you worked for?
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- Myers** How long did you work for Bell?
- B. Tynes** Oh, about eighteen years.
- Myers** Wow.
- A. Tynes** Well, see, when we was going together, she worked up there. And when we got married, she worked up there until our kids came along. She took out, and as soon as they went to high school or junior high, they called her back, wanted to know if she wanted to work. She said yeah, and so she went back to work.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, well, the kids were grown by then. You know, Vanessa and Kenneth, they had—
- A. Tynes** Cars.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, they had cars and anything else that went by, I guess.
- Myers** In that time you were away, had telephone business changed?
- B. Tynes** Well, I started when they still had the old—
- Myers** Rotary dial. (chuckles)
- B. Tynes** Yeah. And then—
- A. Tynes** She had plug in—
- B. Tynes** Yeah, the—in the—had to test it to see, and if it made a little rocking noise, well, you know somebody's on the line. So that's—

Myers Okay, so a switchboard.

B. Tynes Yeah. Yeah. And then, we had this one girl. She was so funny and so cute and everything, but she would sing nearly all day long through her—she said, what was it? Mary Frances? She said, Well, I've got to keep people happy.

Myers (laughs) So, she was a singing operator.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes And I remember one time my wife went to work up there, and she went to her board and she said, Come here, Supervisor. I've got to go home and get my glasses. I left my glasses at home. And the supervisor said, What is on—

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) “Well, Betty, what's that on top of your head?” (laughs)

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) —what is on your head? (laughs) See, she had her glasses—right.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) I had my glasses the whole time on top of my head. (all laugh) But everybody up there was good. That was good people. I think all the poor—according to their—you know, their—of—well, what should I say? Anyway, when they chose different parts to maybe go over and play—well, not play. They would take a turn on the shift. I worked—the last time I was there I worked all night, all night, didn't I?

Myers Did you? Wow.

B. Tynes And so I was a—and well, and when Vanessa—well, Alton, his—I guess your time on the switchboard or anything was about as much fun as ours, I guess. But it was—you know, it was. You can make a little game out of anything and still be popular in business, you know.

Myers But what—and so you belonged to a union?

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers What was it called? Do you remember?

B. Tynes AT—I guess, AT&T?

A. Tynes I guess. I don't—

Myers The Telephone Workers of America or something like that?

B. Tynes Yeah. That's— (all speaking at once)

Myers It was a telephone worker's union.

B. Tynes Yeah. Right, uh-huh.

Myers So, you both had benefit of union—unionization.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That's interesting. Okay, Alton, when you think about your years at General Tire, what was the most satisfying about it?

A. Tynes (laughs) When I go home. (all laugh)

Myers You were glad when the day was over, huh?

A. Tynes Right, right. No, just like she said, you can make a game out of anything. And all our people, why, they liked to play around. And we played around. (laughs) We had a good time. When you get behind in your job, they would come and help you to catch up. And I would help them catch up on their job. I mean, we—together.

B. Tynes Now, I came to Southwestern Bell and at the time—let's see. I know that we came—we didn't—well, next. (laughs) Oh, I can't—

Myers Can't remember.

B. Tynes No. Isn't it funny when you first go to retell about it, well, you knew it, and then all of a sudden, it goes bye-bye.

Myers It disappears, doesn't it?

B. Tynes Yeah. Um-hm.

A. Tynes Well, back to my dad. He worked at the Standard Hat Works. The man who was there, owned it, was named Groth. He was a—they said he was a Russian, and he—he died, and a man named Bill—what was his name? Bill Martin—

B. Tynes Oh yeah. He owned the hat shop. Yeah.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) He owned the Standard Hat. And his nephew was named—

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Was the Bill Martin—yeah.

A. Tynes Steve Martin. Do you know anything about Steve Martin?

Myers The comedian? Actor?

- A. Tynes** Yeah. He was born here in Waco. And I don't know, they said when he was about seven or eight years, they moved to—Steve Martin's family moved to California, so.
- Myers** But he was related to the family that owned Standard Hat.
- A. Tynes** Uh-huh. That was his uncle. And his grandmother was in the Regis, Bill's mother, and Steve would come up and visit her about three or four times a year. And every other year, he come here to his uncle's house for Christmas, and next year Bill and his family would go to Steve's house. And Steve's dad lived out in California, too. I just put that in.
- Myers** That's interesting, isn't it?
- A. Tynes** You might want to know about it.
- Myers** When you think it—we talked about what was satisfying at General Tire, and it sounds like it's the people that you worked with.
- A. Tynes** Right.
- Myers** And what was the most difficult?
- A. Tynes** Well, they'd come up with some different ideas how to—on your job, and it was—you were doing the same thing, and you got used to it. When they come up with a different idea, you had to—
- Myers** Change.
- A. Tynes** —learn it, or try it. And some of their ideas wasn't no good; some was, I mean. They'd try it for a while, and then they'd go back to the old idea. Then, some of their ideas was good. We had a what you call engineer. He always was trying to invent a new machine. And one time, he made a good deal. I mean, it was good. So, it worked.
- Myers** It worked and helped, huh?
- A. Tynes** It helped.
- Myers** You said you put these tires about thirty at a time onto a—
- A. Tynes** A rack.
- Myers** —a rack.
- A. Tynes** And the rack had wheels on it. (clock chimes) We called them trucks, but they wasn't trucks. They were—had hooks on them.
- Myers** And it—but it was motorized?

A. Tynes No.

Myers No, it wasn't. You had to push that?

A. Tynes I had a motorized tugger, they called it, and then I'd go around and hook on to it and took them to the mold.

Myers Okay, gotcha.

A. Tynes And that would last about three hours. So, and I had so many molds to take care of.

Myers So many molds?

A. Tynes Um-hm. And I'd take those trucks down to the mold and park them where—

Myers Okay. And then you'd go get the ones that were ready and move them, and then—okay.

A. Tynes And I'd get so many at a time in one place, so I'd take off. Go rest or go do something.

Myers Wait for them to catch up.

A. Tynes Yeah, uh-huh.

Myers So, was this—on your tugger, were you sitting down, or were you—

A. Tynes No, standing up. Yeah.

Myers (speaking at same time) You were standing up. You'd pull it with your arms.

A. Tynes And, well, they had two things to turn it.

Myers Like a handle?

A. Tynes Um-hm.

Myers Like a steering wheel or something or just—

A. Tynes Well, it was just straight.

Myers Straight handle, okay.

A. Tynes And they had foot speed and had a brake and had a backward, forward.

Myers Sounds complicated to me.

A. Tynes Well, it isn't nothing.

Myers And every once in a while they'd figure out how you could do that better, huh?

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers I guess they were looking for saving time or safety or something.

A. Tynes Yeah, and cutting out people. They liked to—

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah, you know.

A. Tynes —try to cut people out.

Myers Put a machine in their place.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Yes ma'am. And see, at the end of our shift, each tugger was electric. And you go and they had a whole lot of tuggers by a wall. You go and plug it in and get another one.

Myers Okay, they'd have to charge up.

A. Tynes They charge up.

Myers Okay. That's interesting. Okay, why did you leave General Tire?

A. Tynes (laughs) They closed up.

Myers It left you, huh?

A. Tynes They left me. See, my job—they closed my job down. And I was sixty-two years old, and the plant manager came around and told me, said, "Now, we're going to close your job down. What do you want to do, take another man's place or you going to retire?" I said, "Well, I'm going to retire." And that was about three months before I—my birthday came up. So, he told me, said okay, and said, "Tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to let you retire in April." My birthday was on March fourth. But they closed my job down at the first of the year. Said, "You come out here, punch in, do whatever you want to, and punch out." So, that's how you stayed. You can work—you can come out here day or swing or whenever you want to.

Myers Did you have to wait eight hours to punch out, to get your day, get a full day? Or could you—?

A. Tynes Well, I'd better not say. (all laugh)

Myers But you didn't have to just sit out there for eight hours waiting for the whole day to go by, did you? No. Oh yeah, you don't want to say. (laughs)

Okay. Well, okay, but they worked with you because they closed your job down, and it wasn't quite full sixty—you weren't quite a full sixty-two yet.

A. Tynes Yeah, um-hm. See, they closed my job down in January, and my birthday wasn't until March, and they let me stay until the first of April.

Myers Now, did they close down all the people in the curing room who were doing what—all the shifts who were doing what you were doing?

A. Tynes Um-hm. They was closing down the curing room.

Myers Okay.

A. Tynes The whole.

Myers Well, what were they going to do in its place? I mean, would—was this when the plant was closing down?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am.

Myers Okay, so, it was just your—

A. Tynes And they already closed down the tire room where they built tires. The only thing that was open then was final finish and the warehouse.

Myers Okay, so as the last load of tires came through, when it left the curing room, then that meant you all were shut down, and then final finishing had to finish that last group.

A. Tynes Yeah. Lee—Lee did.

Myers Um-hm. Okay. Yeah. Lee Byford.

A. Tynes (speaking at same time) Lee Byford.

Myers Okay. Well, how'd you feel about that? Did you want to—were you looking forward to retirement or not?

A. Tynes Well, yes ma'am, I was. I was, but just like I said, I'd done that job so long, it was something new. I liked the people out there.

Myers If you had decided to take someone else's job, it would have to be someone in final finishing or the warehouse?

A. Tynes Yeah, warehouse. And they young, they may not have been sixty-two yet. They may be young. And I said they need the job more than I did because I'm going to retire anyway at sixty-two.

Myers You were so close. Well, what do you—why do you think General Tire closed its Waco plant? What caused it to close?

A. Tynes Well, I heard so many stories. I heard that—

Myers Just a minute. While you're—just before you—

Tape 2, side 1 ends; side 2 begins.

[We don't want to] miss anything. Thank you, please continue.

A. Tynes I heard that General Tire asked for a tax break with the city, with the state, and with the county. And they said no, so they just closed the plant down. So, the city and the county people realize that General Tire was going to close down, so they got up and went to Akron to try to persuade them to keep the plant. And up in Akron they told them, said, What we said, we're going to do. Said, You all didn't give us no tax break, and so we can't go back on our word, so we're going to close it. And so, I don't know if that is right or not. And then, they come in there with these steel tires, and we didn't make them. And they said it cost so much money to re—

Myers Retool.

A. Tynes —retool, and so that—

Myers Um-hm. So, that was part of it, too.

A. Tynes —that was part of it, too, so. But General Tire and Waco were getting on so good, and the people were, too. And they named that street that goes by General Tire General Parkway.

Myers Yes, I would think Waco would have been pleased to have had General Tire. It made a big different in people's lives and in our economy, like you said. So, what's out there now?

A. Tynes Well, the warehouses. I don't know how many warehouses are out there, but there are a good many warehouses. We had—they had a rumor where some other rubber company was coming to take it over, but it never did finalize. Then, the state was going to buy it and put a prison out there, and so many people around here complained about it, so they cut that out. And there was rumor where Mercedes-Benz was going to build cars out there, but that didn't—they said it was so dirty inside that that—

Myers That carbon black again, I guess.

A. Tynes Yeah, and I think they went to Tennessee. So, I—I don't know what they're going to do with it.

- Myers** Well, what happened to the union when the plant closed?
- A. Tynes** Well, we still got a president. The—all the people at the credit union still belong. And so, we stay at home now. And we have an insurance woman working out there in the General warehouse, and she takes care of all the insurance. Whatever we want, we can go by and ask her and she's supposed to tell us.
- Myers** Okay, so she's connected to the old General Tire people, for their insurance. Okay.
- A. Tynes** And that's about it.
- Myers** Do you feel like you have good health insurance as a part of your retirement?
- A. Tynes** Oh, yes ma'am. We have—I mean, they do our medicine. We get a co-pay, and we did have eye and dental, but they cut that out, so we don't. And when I was seventy years old, I was diagnosed with diabetes. And the doctor I went to, he told me I had it about three years before. And I would never go, and so that—I went one day and he phoned out here that night, he said, "I want to see you back in my office next morning, early." And Betty said, "We can come back now." He said no, said, "Tomorrow morning will be all right." As soon as I got there, what did he do? He gave me insulin in my arm. He said, "I got good news, I got bad news." Said, "You've got diabetes, but if you stay on your pills and everything and diet, you could live to be a hundred years old." And so, I'm still on it. And so, last January I had an operation on my spine through my neck. And so, that's my health. And he done a carpal tunnel.
- Myers** Okay, yeah. We talked about maybe that carpal tunnel was related to your work?
- A. Tynes** Well, he said it was, so. He was going to do both hands, but he decided not to. He said if this—my left hand began hurting, to come back, so.
- Myers** But your lungs, how have they been since you—
- A. Tynes** Well, they—I cough a lot. Sometimes, I cough so bad that I—you ask my wife.
- Myers** She knows about it, huh?
- B. Tynes** Well, he could do better. I'll put it that way. I tell him I'm going to throw him away all the time. (Myers laughs)
- A. Tynes** (coughs) And Dr. Veazey told me to get the cough syrup.

B. Tynes Yeah, he told him some cough syrup. He said it was the strongest one on the—over the counter, and I don't now remember what it was.

A. Tynes DM.

B. Tynes But anyway, he said that would be the best because it was the strongest.

A. Tynes And they sent me to a throat therapist, and they worked on my throat but it didn't do much good.

Myers Um-hm. Well, we—

A. Tynes Do you want to know about my hospital—

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) His hospital stay.

Myers Oh, did you—(laughs) what was that like?

A. Tynes Well, it was bad.

Myers It was bad.

A. Tynes Yeah. I stayed in there fifteen days. They sent me to—what place that was? Where they—

B. Tynes Oh, the therapy?

Myers Rehab? Rehabilitation?

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Rehab. And the food was so bad. I don't want to go back.

Myers Unh-uh. Unh-uh.

B. Tynes And the funny thing about that, every one of those little girls there wanted to take him home with them. (Myers laughs) So, we had a on again and off again.

A. Tynes Yeah, they put an alarm on my bed. Every time I—

B. Tynes They did. Well, he tried to get out of bed, and he fell in the floor. So therefore they tied him up.

Myers (laughs) Yeah. Well, those aren't happy times. I'm glad you endured it and got out of there.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes Yeah. On weekends they let me come home for six hours.

Myers Oh, really.

A. Tynes On Fri—Saturday and Sunday.

Myers Huh. Now, was this when you had your spinal surgery?

A. Tynes Yes ma'am. But when I went to this doctor, Dr. Lewin—you know him?

Myers Yes. My husband's been to him, so I—

A. Tynes Oh, did he? Well, anyways, he told me I would be in there but about three or four days, but I was in there fifteen days. He told me three or four vertebrae was getting—and he said within five years I would be paralyzed. So, he put a four-inch plate in my neck, and I can still feel it.

Myers Now, do you think any of that was related to your work?

A. Tynes I don't know about that.

Myers Don't know. It's just a part of growing older, huh?

B. Tynes Yeah. (laughs)

Myers Well, we started out talking about your life and Edgefield, and we've talked about General Tire. How did all that work together? Some nights you had to work late, some weekends you had to work. How did work fit in with your church life?

A. Tynes Well, now, when I worked swing, I couldn't go on Wednesday night. But if I worked Sunday, I couldn't go on Sunday night. But most of the time I was off on Saturday—I mean, Sunday. And when I couldn't go, well, Vanessa or Kenneth would take my wife to prayer meeting.

Myers That's good. Yeah.

A. Tynes Sometimes, she walked from our house to church with the kids.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah, I did. Pushed Vanessa in the buggy. They'd come by, Betty, don't you want a ride? No, no, no. I like this walking.

Myers Well, now you live out here just a little east of the location of General Tire.

A. Tynes Right.

Myers How long have you been here?

- A. Tynes** We'll be here twenty-nine years in December. December the eighteenth we moved out here, and it snowed on that day.
- B. Tynes** Well, tomorrow's another day. (laughs)
- A. Tynes** And we moved out here December eighteenth, and December twenty-fourth we had a Christmas party.
- B. Tynes** Well, everything was clean, didn't have to wait.
- Myers** (laughs) Had you unpacked everything?
- B. Tynes** Yeah, we really had. And Vanessa—well, we all worked hard.
- A. Tynes** And my cousin and her husband came from Arizona. They came out here. And my cousin's husband had a Santa Claus—
- B. Tynes** Suit.
- A. Tynes** —suit in the car. So, we went over there. He called me out and said, "I'm going to put on my suit." Said, "Where can I change?" I said, "We'll go next door." My cousin, her niece lives there. So we did. And he told me, said, "Now, you go in the back door, and I will come to the front door." And he knocked and I told Betty to go to the door. And she said, "No, I don't want to go to the door. You go." I said, "No, you go." And finally she said, "Okay, I'll go." And there was Santa Claus.
- Myers** Santa Claus!
- B. Tynes** There was Santa Claus.
- A. Tynes** And everybody didn't know him at first. All the kids was so happy, and then we had a big, good time.
- Myers** That's great.
- A. Tynes** And we had about fifty, I guess. All my—
- B. Tynes** All the cousins and the husbands.
- A. Tynes** —cousins, husbands, outlaws, and aunts, uncles. Everybody brought something. We had sandwiches, cookies, candy. We just had a good day.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, we're going to have to get candy for—isn't tonight Halloween?
- A. Tynes** Yeah.
- B. Tynes** So, we've got to go get a peppermint or something. (laughs)

- Myers** Well, what have—we've talked about all these topics, what have I—what else would you like to add to your oral histories? What have I forgotten? Is there anything I've left out?
- A. Tynes** Well—
- Myers** Since retirement, what have you been doing?
- A. Tynes** Nothing. Well—
- Myers** How about traveling?
- A. Tynes** Well, our girl married an Aggie named Tim Hale. And he—the army paid his way [through college], so he had to spend time in the army. And so we went to North Carolina and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky. He was at Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, Fort Gordon, down in Georgia, North Carolina— Fort Bragg. And they were at Clarksville, Tennessee, and then Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- Myers** They kind of stayed there in the southeast, didn't they?
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- A. Tynes** (in unison) Yeah.
- Myers** That made it nice.
- A. Tynes** Fort Gordon, Georgia. And they went overseas for four years, Germany. They wanted us to come over there, but we never did go. So, he was in the dental, and so they came back, and they—he went to Houston to practice dental. So, he's still in the reserves and every month he's got to go. And he lacks one more year, and they made him a full colonel. So, he's proud of that.
- Myers** And I think you told me he was a periodontist.
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am.
- B. Tynes** Yeah.
- A. Tynes** And he got two offices.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Two offices, one in Katy and one here.
- A. Tynes** Germany—I mean, Houston.
- B. Tynes** Yeah, Houston. Yeah.
- Myers** Houston and Katy. And tell me about your son.

- A. Tynes** Well, he went to MCC. He didn't finish, and he's living in Austin now, out on a ranch. He takes care of the ranch, then he works, too, in a metal—
- B. Tynes** Company.
- A. Tynes** —company. They build—
- B. Tynes** Repair rooftops.
- A. Tynes** They build metal buildings, and he works in the office there. He's kind of supervisor or something there. And he's got three children, two girls and one boy. And his boy is twenty-eight years old, and he got married in July at Midway [Woodway]—
- B. Tynes** Arbortorium.
- Myers** [Carleen Bright] Arboretum. Yeah. That's a pretty place.
- A. Tynes** —last April. And he works at Home Abstract Company, and his wife does, too.
- Myers** So, he lives here in Waco?
- A. Tynes** Yes ma'am. Lacy-Lakeview. And the girls, they go to school at—
- B. Tynes** Waco Christian.
- Myers** Let's get their names on the tape. The young man who works at Home Abstract is named?
- B. Tynes** That's Kenneth.
- A. Tynes** No, Chris.
- Myers** Chris, okay.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Chris. Oh, Chris. I'm sorry.
- Myers** And then the girls are Cassie and Carrie.
- B. Tynes** (speaking at same time) Cassie and Carrie. And Chris's wife, Casey.
- A. Tynes** Casey.
- Myers** Okay. And tell me about your daughter's children.
- B. Tynes** Well, she has Kyle, the boy, and Lindsey, the girl. And Kyle is in A&M, will graduate this coming May. And Lindsey is at Binn or—

Myers Blinn.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) —Blinn, yeah, and doing well there. And she's going to do some practicing maybe here in Waco. And she—

A. Tynes And Kyle's going to be on *Jeopardy*.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers That's right. We've got to put that in—

A. Tynes November eleventh, they kind of will be getting it ready, but he won't be there until—

Myers Sometime that week.

B. Tynes Yeah.

A. Tynes That week's going to be college week.

B. Tynes College week.

Myers Okay, we know what you'll be watching that week. (all laugh)

A. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, that's fun. That's fun. Well, five grandchildren.

B. Tynes Right.

A. Tynes Do you want them?

Myers Sure.

A. Tynes Well, you can have them. (all laugh)

Myers I don't have any. I want some.

A. Tynes Well, you can't hardly—

Myers They're all grown up now. That'd be a lot easier, wouldn't it? (laughs)

A. Tynes Well, I don't know anything about—they're in a state now where they think they know everything, and you—

Myers They cost a lot, too, don't they?

A. Tynes —and you don't know nothing. Aw, they're good kids.

B. Tynes Yeah.

Myers Well, I look forward to the day when they can look at your transcripts and listen to your tapes and understand what their grandmother and grandfather—how their lives were, because, you know, we don't think about that when we're kids, but we want it when we're older.

A. Tynes Now, I had one aunt that taught at Baylor.

Myers Okay, what was her name?

A. Tynes Hilda Smith. She taught ceramics.

B. Tynes Yeah. Well, art, I guess you'd say, because she's a—does some—

A. Tynes Plates.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) —glass plates, you know, and things.

A. Tynes Ceramics. China plates.

Myers How interesting.

A. Tynes And she still teaches at home. She's got a big studio.

B. Tynes (speaking at same time) Yeah. She's got a—ooh, her studio's as big—bigger than this, I believe. And she has a class that comes, and they do the ceramics.

A. Tynes (in unison) Ceramics.

Myers Uh-huh. Now, she was your mother's—

B. Tynes Sister.

Myers (speaking at same time) —sister. Okay, interesting. So you still have a lot of family around Waco?

A. Tynes Well—

Myers Not as much as you had, but—

A. Tynes Not as much, but—

B. Tynes Well, and Aunt Hilda's granddaughter has—I don't know how long it has been since she returned from Afghanistan. Isn't that where? Or one of them?

A. Tynes One of them.

B. Tynes Her family—

A. Tynes India.

B. Tynes India? Well—

A. Tynes She went to Baylor.

Myers Okay, but she went over there.

B. Tynes She went over there. Her husband Charles's parents has been there and had been to Pakistan, and they had just left to come back when the bad trouble all happened. But then, they did get them out, and they wasn't—nobody wasn't really hurt or anything. They was just there to know that, hey, I've got you counted, you know.

A. Tynes They both graduated from Baylor, and they work with this Hungry Farm.

Myers The World Hunger Farm?

A. Tynes World Hunger.

A. Tynes That's what they're doing over there now.

Myers Okay, okay. Teaching people to grow food.

A. Tynes Um-hm. Right.

A. Tynes And so we—I guess that's it. (all laugh) So.

Myers Have I picked your brain completely now?

A. Tynes Oh yeah.

Myers I'll bet there's some more things left.

A. Tynes I can tell you more if you have time, but—

Myers Well, I appreciate all of your time, and I really enjoyed it. And I'm so glad you have a new church home.

B. Tynes Well, thank you.

A. Tynes Well, thank you. Thank you, very much.

end of interview