PS: This is Side B of an oral history interview with Eloise and Warren Whiting in Albuquerque. While we were switching tapes here, Warren, you were about to tell me a story about Louise and Barry Goldwater.

WW: Okay, the story as I heard it—I wasn’t there, but Louise Udall, my mother-in-law. Barry Goldwater came to St. Johns one time and stayed with the Udalls, I guess. This was back in the late thirties, I guess. Anyway, they talked about various things and they got onto politics. She said, “Barry, why don’t you switch to the Democratic Party? You’ll never go anywhere in the Republican Party.” (laughter)

EU: (inaudible)

PS: I bet you they did. Let’s go backwards a little bit. Eloise, when we were, again, off tape for a second, we were sort of talking about—and both of you chime in on this—about other experiences and things that went on when you were younger, growing up in St. Johns: activities at school and.... Warren, you mentioned something about the organization of the band in the high school.

WW: Yes, when I was a sophomore, my cousin Merwin Whiting started a little dance orchestra. He played the trumpet, I played the saxophone, and other people in it. And he was killed in three or four weeks. A tractor accident. And so we wanted the orchestra to continue, and I can’t remember how, but we just naturally asked Morris to fill in, and he came in and ran the dance orchestra and played the trumpet.

EU: Was he in on it before?

WW: No, he wasn’t in on it. Merwin died, he was the trumpet player. Morris came in as a trumpet player. But not only did he come in the orchestra, he ran it. Anything that Morris touched, he ran. And it was nice. It wasn’t a bad trait.

PS: And this was a school group?

WW: Yes. It was not sponsored by the school, it was just a little dance orchestra.

EU: If you needed money when you were growing up, one way you could get money was to be part of the dance band.

PS: Where would the dance band play?

WGW: Oh, we played at high school dances. After nearly every basketball game we had a dance. And they’d pay you five dollars to play in the band, or something like that.

PS: So the basketball game would be over, and they had the dance right in the gymnasium there?
WGW: Both church and school, we had lots of dances. We always had live music. My sister played in the orchestra.

PS: So you all played at Church dances, too, then?

WW: Oh, yes. We played junior prom, senior hop, Church things . . . .

EUW: Our class junior prom used a Holbrook band.

WW: Yes, she was a year behind me, and they didn’t want us for a band, so they hired another from out of town.

EUW: They also played at the Mexican dances on Sunday night.

PS: A way to pick up some extra money. But you liked music, too.

WW: I think Morris was in on that. We went over to a little place called Concho. Played for a Mexican wedding, and we were pretty lousy. Everybody agreed to that. They didn’t like the way we played. Finally, we played “On Wisconsin,” the march. They liked that. So the rest of the evening, all we played was “On Wisconsin.” (laughter)

EU: They danced to it.

PS: “On Wisconsin”! That’s interesting.

WW: Yes, it’s spirited.

PS: Oh, yes.

EUW: Well, and they brought Dad’s car. Would the band fill up the car?

WW: Yes, we all went in P-40. His license plate was P-40, and it was a big Buick. We’d always get that and take that to dances.

EU: Did you take the instruments in the car?

WW: Yes, we’d get them all in. The drums, I don’t know how we got those drums in there. Willie Eagar played drums. We’d go to Sanders, we’d go to Snowflake. Typical Morris, we pulled into Snowflake—you been to Snowflake? You know there’s not really much of a—it’s like St. Johns—but there wasn’t even a business area. Rolled down the window and said, “Hey, how far before we get to Snowflake?” And the kid was sort of embarrassed, “You’re in Snowflake.” “No,” he said, “I want the city. Where’s the city?” (laughter) Typical Morris Udall.
PS: So the band would then go play at little local communities nearby, then, too?

WW: Oh, yes.

PS: Like Alpine or Eager?

WW: We didn’t ever play Alpine. We played at Sanders, we played at Snowflake, we played at Concho, little places like that.

PS: And these communities were also linked, because there were churches in these communities too?

WW: Somewhat.

PS: And then Levi, these would have been included amongst the areas....

EUW: Yes, except Sanders wasn’t.

WW: Sanders was not. I guess our fame spread (unclear).

PS: Your fame spread? (laughter) And then the Church sponsored dances also?

EUW: Yes.

PS: And these would be at the church?

EUW: Almost every weekend we had a dance. It was a nice.

WW: There was no theater in town, we didn’t have television.

EU: They weren’t dating dances. Everybody went and everybody danced.

EUW: The person that was the most popular was the one that danced with the most people.

PS: No movie theater?

WW: Not until 1937, ’38 when one was built.

EUW: We had a silent movie theater and that burned down, and they never rebuilt at that spot.

EU: We had to go to Holbrook, sixty miles, or to Winslow, or to Gallup, for a movie.

PS: Let me back up, because I didn’t hear. They used to show silent films in St. Johns?

EUW: [Yes.]
PS: Did they have a theater they showed them at?

EUW: Yes, and it was also the dance hall. It was a lot of things.

EU: And then when the silents went out and talkies were coming in, the dance hall burned down, and they never started another, until....

EUW: The rich Whitings, which wasn’t our bunch, liked movies well enough that they built a theater.

PS: And this would have been in the late thirties?

EUW: Yes.

WW: In ‘38, ‘39, I don’t know.

EUW: Thirty-seven.

EU: Thirty-seven. I was out of high school.

WW: You were the first cashier?

EU: Not first, but I was a cashier.

PS: Do you all remember the first movie that came?

WW: Oh, sure, it was Janet Gaynor and James Stewart in Trial of the Lonesome Pine..

WW: Maybe it is. Was she in that? That was Fred McMurray.

PS: Is that theater still there?

EUW: That burned down too.

EU: But then, whenever you went away, anybody got to go on a trip, why, you’d see all the movies you could, but you had to come back and relate every incident to everybody.

PS: When you were teenagers, did you get down to Phoenix and Tucson much?

EUW: I did, because Dad was on the road down there. Not often.

WW: I think I went to Phoenix one time before I went to college.

EUW: You had to go to Flagstaff and then all the way around by Wickenburg to get to Phoenix.
EU: But I and some of my friends, when Gone With The Wind came out, we went to Albuquerque. It would be years before it came to St. Johns.

PS: In Albuquerque? It’s not that far away. [2225 miles]

EU: It’s about the same as to Phoenix, except you go down the winding roads.

PS: Now, Warren, when you graduated, you graduated the year after.

WW: He graduated in the spring of ‘40, I graduated in the spring of ’41, Eloise graduated the spring of ’42.

PS: Where did you head off to school?

WW: I went to the University of Arizona. I was at the University of Arizona when Pearl Harbor hit.

EU: You were there with Morris, then.

WW: Yes, I was there then.

PS: You would have hooked up with Morris then, again?

WW: Yes. We didn’t see much of each other, but yes, I’d see him on campus. I lived off campus, I couldn’t afford to stay in the dorms.

PS: And you studied engineering there?

WW: Yes. College of Agriculture. Agricultural Engineer.

PS: And you got your degree then?

WW: No, after Pearl Harbor I joined the navy the next fall, and then came back. Because Eloise was there, graduating, I went another semester at the U. of A. and then I went to Cal. Tech.

EUW: After the war.

WW: After the war.

PS: Eloise, when you graduated, did you leave St. Johns then right away?

EUW: Yes, I went to the University of Arizona during the war years, and graduated in May of ‘46, and he married me in August of ‘46, so I could put him through Cal Tech.
PS: And then the two of you would have moved to where Cal. Tech. is, in Pasadena?

EUW: Yes. He had the G.I. Bill.

WW: Yes, had the G.I. Bill and a good schoolteacher. In the summer of ’46, Morris was around.

EU: He just got back, he didn’t get back until ’46.

WW: Yeah, but I can remember playing poker with him the summer of ’46.

EU: Okay.

PS: I’ve heard—you brought it up, Warren, poker. I’ve heard many stories, a few from Stewart, that say that Morris was quite an accomplished poker player.

WW: I didn’t ever play seriously. [But he’d bluff?]

PS: He was pretty sharp?

WW: Yes. Absolutely. (unclear) And he wasn’t afraid to gamble, he wasn’t afraid to take a chance. And he’d usually won. He was just a natural born poker player. But I didn’t play that much with him. Now, he’s a natural, all-around person either way.

EUW: But he was not natural all-around when it came to the social side of life. Reading his book, you get how inferior he felt in playing the dating game, or something.

WW: When I read that, I couldn’t believe it, that he felt socially inferior. I just had no idea. He covered that up very well. And he covered it up with humor.

PS: You think it was because of the eye?

WW: Part of it. I think he felt tall and lanky and gawky, didn’t he?

EU: Yes, it says it in his book.

WW: In his book Too Funny to Be President.

PS: But it sounds like, even after the eye accident, it didn’t slow him down.

EUW: Oh, no, not at all.

WW: Absolutely no.

PS: So even though Morris is saying that sort of years later, at the time, it didn’t seem to slow
him down in terms of the various activities.

EUW: He wasn’t out on the dance floor, to speak of, I don’t think.

WW: Well, he was very highly motivated. Anything he touches, he’s going to make a success of it. That’s his one failing, isn’t it? (unclear). (chuckles)

EUW: I think lots of girls would have given anything for him to look at them. He did not (unclear).

PS: Warren and Eloise, as you got to Cal. Tech., finished school there and so on, and then once you’d finished, did you move back to the East Coast?

WW: No, we moved to Phoenix. Reynolds had a plant in Phoenix. It was built there during the war, Alcoa ran it, and Reynolds Metals--Reynolds Wrap—took it over. And I went there and got a job there. We stayed there for about six years.

EUW: Six years: 1950 to 1956.

WW: That’s when I got to know the judge and found out he was such a great guy. That’s when I got to know my mother-in-law real well.

PS: Because they would have been down in Phoenix then?

EUW: Yes. We got married in ‘46, and they moved out at the end ‘46. So I suddenly discovered that home was not St. Johns, home was where they were.

WW: We’ve discussed, Eloise and I discussed, and maybe Elma, but when you live in St. Johns, you’re not that—how do I say it?—you’re not that close to your parents, because your friends are your family. I didn’t know Levi and Louise, I really didn’t. I knew them to see them, but I didn’t have much to do with them, because I was running around with kids my age. You got to know your mom and dad pretty well, but your family was your friends.

PS: How long were you in Phoenix then?

WW: Six years.

PS: And then you headed....

WW: Then we went back to Virginia in 1956.

PS: Eloise and Warren, during the years, once you began to get out of the Southwest, basically, did you keep in touch with Morris and Stewart?

EUW: Elma was our catalyst. When she was in Washington, we would go up and Morris and
Stewart would get together. Our problem was somewhat, besides that they were exceedingly busy, Sunday was our day to get back home, because we were church. Saturday was our day to do whatever we’d do around the house. But Morris and Stewart, Sunday was their day. If we could have been up there on Sunday, we would have connected with them better. Saturday was—I don’t mean we didn’t see them, but they were pretty much too busy. Our children did not know their children to speak of, because . . . .

WW: Well, they were so busy in their lives. Both of them were very busy. And like I said, I was a bishop, so I had to be there on Sunday. And Saturday, we’d get to see them then, but they were busy on Saturdays.

PS: So you were a bishop in the Church back in Richmond?

EUW: Twice.

PS: Okay, so that obviously occupied—the same things that we talked about earlier, some of the duties, once you got into an office like that. Obviously, you had commitments you had to deal with.

EUW: Dad gave him all his funeral speeches.

EU: Yes, tell me about that, Warren.

WW: What, you mean the funeral talk?

EU: When you first got to be a bishop, and suddenly you had that funeral.

WW: The judge shipped me all his funeral talks. And he had stock funeral talks—you’ve see that (P.S. Yes, I’ve seen that)—stock and special. But it was great. Here I had to give a talk at a funeral, give the eulogy, I’d pull out this stuff, and I had it made. (laughter)

PS: So Levi’s funeral speeches got around the country.

WW: I’ve still got them.

EUW: Well, and they’ve gone down another generation. He’s passed them on. Didn’t he give you his marriage ceremony?

WW: Yes, I had about four or five different marriage ceremonies. Levi Udall gave me the standard one. You do all those things.

EU: You see, Levi Udall could marry people as a judge or as a stake president.

EUW: He married us as a judge, I guess.
PS: Again, talking, the roles within the Church of a stake president or bishop—and you were a bishop—these involve, obviously, more work, more time, and things that you have to do. Part of that, sort of hold meetings, you would have had to do that on Sundays.

EUW: Yes.

PS: That activity.

WW: Right.

PS: And then as bishop, part of what you had to do was to speak at a funeral?

EUW: Conduct.

WW: Conduct, staff the unit with all the people, and all those things. Collect tithing every Sunday, she’d take it to the bank Monday morning. All these things had to be done. It’s a little self-enclosed family there, the Church.

PS: And then you would report to a stake president?

WW: Yes, I reported to a stake president.

PS: And who would report to you?

WW: Well, I had a couple of counselors. The head of the women’s organization reported to me. The head of the Young Women’s organization, the Young Men’s organization, the Primary, which is for kids, they all report to the bishop. The bishop is sort of a king in the Church. He really is. I mean, you laugh, but that’s where the rubber meets the road.

PS: I understand. A bishop has one church?

EUW: One ward, one chapel, one building.

WW: And usually about 300-500 people.

PS: So the bishop at the one church would sort of be on a parallel with a Catholic parish priest who has a church that he’s responsible for?

EU: Exactly.

EUW: A ward is like a parish.

PS: In the Catholic Church they call that man a priest, but in the Mormon Church that would be what’s called a bishop?
WW: Yes, that’s right.

PS: And then the stake president would have supervision over several, a number of different churches [i.e., wards], depending on how big an area it was.

WW: That’s correct.

PS: During the times that you were able to see Morris or Stewart as they made their decisions to do different things: run for political office and expand, did you talk about that at all with them?

WW: Very seldom.

PS: I guess I’m asking if you guys talked politics at all.

WW: They know I’m a Republican. No, we didn’t much.

EUW: I don’t believe so.

WW: I don’t think so. They are far more wise in political things than I. I don’t profess to know much about it.

EU: Well, Eloise, you got involved in the presidential race?

WW: Yes, when Morris ran for president, we . . . .

EUW: Yes. We figured we better to do the Kennedy sisters bit. We went through the Virginia process, which is a different process than anything out west.

WW: It was a caucus. We found out at lot. If we had known, we’d brought all our friends, we might have got him some votes. We didn’t.

EUW: We didn’t know that.

WW: And Carter, very smartly, he (unclear).

PS: This would have been the Virginia Caucus?

EUW: Yes, ‘76. And I’m basically not very political.

WW: You were a picked as a delegate for Morris, weren’t you?

EUW: No. I could have been, but no. I got to the (unclear).
WW: But anyway, no, we didn’t get involved in it too much.

PS: Did Morris talk with you at all, about when he decided to try to run for President?

EUW: Not real directly. I’ve got a letter or two, I think. No.

(Several talking at same time, none discernable)

EU: I was overseas.

EUW: He needed money at one time, and we shipped him a thousand dollars and crossed it off our list. But we got the money back and bought the oriental rug in the other room. We just figured we gave up the rug money. It’s a very busy life that those guys lead. And I didn’t take it personally, but they weren’t phoning me, either of them.

PS: I understand. You must have followed the race, though, with some interest.

EUW: Oh, yes. Yes, I think one thing all of us grew up knowing is you turn on the radio, and when we had television, you turn on the television and you become a news nut, is what you are. He’s a sports nut, and I’m a news nut. But anyway, I think you grew up with that in St. Johns, because when it was election night, you headed to the courthouse to watch what was going up on the blackboard, and then you had a dance.

WW: Always celebrated by having a dance.

PS: Eloise, did you ever go out on the road when Levi was campaigning for the different judge positions?

EUW: No, I think I was the little sister that didn’t go. (Unclear) We were about to get married that summer. I did help in July in Phoenix a short time.

EU: The judge raised money himself. In those days, you had billboards, no radio ads. And we’d go down Highway 60, “Oh, there’s a good tree,” and we’d put a poster up. And we traveled around the state—not together. I went once all the way to Kingman and back. And one time, he’d go in and talk to all these people. He knew so many people because of having held court around the state. Morgan was his opponent. But one time, he was stopping to see somebody, and I didn’t even get out of the car, I just stayed in. He brought this person over to introduce me to him. I said to him later, “You didn’t have to do that.” And he said, “Look, I’ve seen men campaign with women other than their wives.” (Laughter) “I didn’t want anybody to get the wrong idea.” He was kind of laughing, (Unclear).

It was very exciting when Stewart got home, and Morris, from the war. So they spent quite a bit of time with him. But we sent out all the letters out of our little living room there. We went down to Aunt Erma’s place in Phoenix and worked from there. So that election was very exciting.
PS: Would Levi meet then—he was running as a Democrat against a Republican?

EUW: No, no, it was in the primary.

PS: In the primary he was running against another Democrat then?

EUW: Yes.

WW: Democrats ran Arizona for years.

EUW: That’s right.

WW: That’s why Louise told Barry Goldwater....

EUW: “You’ll never get anywhere....”

PS: So when Levi won the primary, there was no opposition then in the general election?

WW: He had token.... Morgan he beat in the primary, right?

EUW: There might have been somebody.

WW: I think (unclear).

EU: But the governor said to him “Next time there’s a vacancy you will get the appointment.

WW: It was [Governor Sidney P.] Osborn.

EU: Osborn. “Levi, you’re the man.” Well, then Judge Ross died. But Joe Morgan had been Osborn’s campaign manager. He was a lawyer in Prescott. He wasn’t a judge or anything. So Osborn appointed him to fill out the rest of his term. And then Dad ran against Morgan.

WW: Did Morgan think that your dad wasn’t much opposition, did he campaign very hard?

EU: I think he did toward the end, but the interesting thing was that one of the big issues in Dad’s campaign was the train limit case. See, one of the reasons the judge was picked to handle that case was because there was no railroad vote in Apache County. The train goes a cross it, but there was no railroad vote. So Winslow and Kingman, all these railroad towns, because he voted against the unions (to break it up?), they were quite anti-him. But Morgan couldn’t use that, because at the time the decision was made, Morgan had written Dad a letter and said “right on!” (chuckles) And Dad had the letter to prove it.

PS: I realize a lot of times back then, if you won the Democratic Primary, you basically won the
election. Senator Goldwater, John Rhodes, they sort of turned that around, starting in the early fifties.

EUW: It was after the war, and when more people came in. We had two congressmen then.

EUW: By now they’ve changed the whole complexion.

PS: Did you ever meet Governor Osborn?

WW: Sure.

EU: Yes, he came up to St. Johns. But everybody would come through St. Johns campaigning.

WW: Let me tell you how small Phoenix was. The summer of ‘42 I worked down in Phoenix for a while. Sidney P. Osborn used to walk down Central to Washington, turn right and walk to the capitol. You’d say, “Hi, Governor!” “Hi! How are you?” (unclear) It was that small. I think he lived at the Westward Ho or something. I never knew.

EU: But yes, some of these candidates would come up. I think it was Osborn that stayed there, and Mom fixed him breakfast and she made him coffee. She made good coffee.

PS: And then Goldwater visited you?

EU: I don’t think he stayed with us, but he came to St. Johns.

EUW: We had all kinds of people around the dinner table quite often.

EU: Anybody who came to town ate with us.

EUW: Yes, whether it was Church people or judge kind of people. We had many extra people at the table.

PS: When you had these get-togethers, were politics part of the discussion?

EU: Were they ever!

EUW: I didn’t know what anybody else talked about. I didn’t know what those neighbors were talking about around their dinner table. You talked Dad’s cases a lot.

EU: The judge was very interested in world affairs, Church affairs, state affairs, everything. And that was our dinner conversation. We never looked for something to discuss. We all got to say our piece. He didn’t just pontificate. And one time—what election was that? The [1948?] governor’s race. He was for Jim Smith. Mom and I or somebody else, Stewart and Morris were for another guy. It was a primary election.
PS: That must have made for some interesting discussions.

EUW: (inaudible)

PS: When you were growing up, no television—pre-TV days, obviously—was radio important?

EUW: Yes, if you could afford one. Not everybody had electricity.

WW: Well, I lived on a farm, we didn’t have electricity, so I didn’t have a radio, period, until I was a junior in high school.

EUW: The radio was great for music and sports. Okay, now I’ll come back a little. Sportswise, you got your World Series on the radio. You didn’t have the walky talky radios, you just had the ones in the living room. But you’d go home for lunch, and the Detroit Tigers or whatever would be playing, so you got enough of it, and then after school you’d head for home. But that was another thing Morris did, he had us organized in teams, and we played—you were the Detroit Tigers or the St. Louis Cardinals or whatever, and we played little kids on the teams.

PS: Radio would have been a news source too.

EUW: Oh, yes. Eight o’clock at night you had fifteen minutes of news. Dad was going to listen to the news and so were we. But you could get, out of St. Johns, you could get Albuquerque, you could get Salt Lake, you could get Phoenix, you could get L.A. and Denver. And then late at night you could get Laredo, Texas. But anyway, you could get a pretty good choice of newscasts or Little Orphan Annie in the afternoon.

PS: Some of the entertainment programs.

EU: Phoenix wasn’t good at night, though, because of the elevation or something. Denver I thought was the best.

EUW: In St. Johns, you made your own fun.

PS: When you all were growing up there, before you all sort of began to scatter to different places in the 30s, how was the Depression felt in that community?

EUW: We were too dumb to know we were in it. Some said we were always in a depression there.

WW: Everybody depended on the land—most people.

EUW: The Levi Udalls were well-to-do because we had indoor plumbing, and because he could take a vacation, he had a paid vacation every year.

EU: He had a salary.
EUW: But we were unusual, I think, for the time. I don’t know how it is these days, whether the parents stressed, “we’re poor, we’re rich.” Nobody stressed it. In the fall, lots of the kids came to school without shoes until it got cold. Or I suppose they were all wearing the same clothes every day, but you didn’t think to yourself, “Isn’t this awful? We’re poor, we’re not well-to-do.”

PS: At the time, though, in the areas that had the horrible drought and the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma and stuff, where people were losing their farms and being forced to give up, and there was this migration of people, and a lot of them came west. Were any people like that affected in St. Johns? Or were people mostly able to hang on? Or did some people have to leave?

EUW: They came back.

EU: They came home. The judge was very involved in statistics. And the town grew by about two hundred people. The depressions. Because people went away to get a job and then lost it.

PS: And they came back. And then the Mormon Relief Society that the Church ran would have played perhaps even more of a role during this time?

EUW: It was more families at that point. I don’t remember the church . . . .

WW: But we worried about the widows. We got them wood, we got them food. We made sure nobody starved.

EUW: When Dad came home from Phoenix—this would be toward the end of the thirties, that I remember, not the early time—but he had a friend down there, he would raise oranges or grapefruit, and Dad would come home and share not just with our family, but whoever needed citrus, he’d share with. But I remember a time or two, there would be a truck come, a relief truck, over there on the football field, the corner there by the church, and park. And I think it was mostly the Mexicans who needed food.

PS: This would have been a federal project.

WW: This is after Roosevelt started it.

EU: It was in the depression. That’s the only thing I remember being different about the town. It would not come to often, but I remember because it was just across from our house.

EUW: And I think what was when you would have the hobos, the tramps come to the door that you didn’t know. Feed them.

PS: So you did have people who moved through the area, though?

WW: Yes, not a lot.
EUW: We’re off the beaten track.

PS: Beaten track. People moving into Arizona, coming through, probably coming more through Phoenix.

EU: They stayed on the rails.

WW: Holbrook, Flagstaff. You see, St. Johns is isolated.

PS: And there’s no railroad, so the people who travel the rails wouldn’t....

EUW: No. Well, when you needed to get home—which all of us did—you thumbed a ride. After you were in Tucson, which all three of us were at different times, you hunted for somebody who was driving from Tucson to St. Johns. If you couldn’t do that, then you could take a bus to Globe, and then you had to watch for the mail truck and go. When I’d want to have a good nightmare, it’s How am I going to get out of St. Johns, or how am I going to get back? Because there were no wheels just going between St. Johns to anywhere.

PS: The roads must have been a bit different, too.

WW: Yes, they were all right, but there was just not many people. Well, it used to be, when you were in Phoenix, we’d go down to the Adams Hotel, sit in the lobby until you saw somebody you knew. “Hey, can I bum a ride to St. Johns?” “Yeah, c’mon.” And everybody knew it, and they’d help you.

PS: Warren, you said your family was farming during this time.

(several talking at same time, none discernable)

WW: [My father was a] Jack of all trades. He taught school and he carpentered. I was always sort of jealous of the Udalls, because they had a steady job. Dad never had a steady job.

PS: Was the farm basically growing things for the family?

WW: Yes, we grew corn and we grew alfalfa and we had cows. We had pigs, we had chickens. Nobody in St. Johns, I think, went hungry, because everybody had a cow, and everybody had pigs and chickens. But you didn’t have any money. But no, I don’t think anybody lacked food.

EUW: But you know, it was interesting that the cows and the pigs, [there was a man in town that?] slaughtered them and hang them up in a tree. They’d do it down at the barn. But then you shared. You didn’t want a whole carcass hanging by your house all year. You gave a quarter, we traded and shared, then we’d wind up with a quarter, then later on when they killed a cow.

PS: Did the people farming then, did you sell things? Was there a market in town?
Several: No, no.

WW: About the only thing we sold was cattle.

EUW: Or hay. But you didn’t buy groceries.

WW: Most of your hay and most of the corn you raised to feed your livestock through the winter.

PS: When you all were growing up then, there were some store goods you would have purchased, like some canned goods and things like that?

EUW: Yes.

PS: But not to the extent that people depend today on a supermarket.

EUW: They never had much fresh food. You grew your own fresh food.

WW: (unclear) I can remember down in our basement Mom would can about 300-400 quart jars of beans, succotash, corn, and that’d be for the winter. Dad would go buy probably six or seven hundred-pound sacks of flour, and probably 200 pounds of pinto beans, and 100 pounds of sugar, and you were set for the winter.

PS: And these would have been bought at a store in St. Johns?

WW: Yes.

PS: General merchandise?

WW: Yes.

EUW: But you know, lots of times the fruit got frozen. They used to bring big trucks from Farmington in New Mexico. And they would bring it over to St. Johns and sell it by the crate. And we’d spend a week or two peeling peaches and apples . . . .

PS: And putting it up in cans.

EUW: Putting it up in bottles (unclear).

PS: A lot of people had to can then, because you had no electricity. Refrigeration was somewhat limited. Even though I know it was cool in the winter, your refrigeration opportunities were somewhat limited.

EUW: Yes. We didn’t have a refrigerator to start out with.
EU: We had a cold cupboard. You hung everything on the north side of the house.

PS: And then you’d butcher....

EUW: In the fall.

WW: Always in the fall.

PS: As needed?

WW: Yes. And in the spring or summer, you’d kill a chicken and have a chicken for Sunday dinner. Or you’d go out and skin a couple of rabbits. Beans was our big staple.

PS: How was the beef stored?

WW: We didn’t have a refrigerator at all, until I was... well, ever. And you’d slaughter, say, in the middle of October, hang it on the north side of the house, and it was cold, that would never freeze at night.

EUW: (unclear) And I think a lot of them, the Indians and pioneers, they’d hang their meat and dry it.

PS: Dried.

WW: And the other thing—I remember this—they used to kill a pig and we’d take Morton’s salt, and put that in. That keeps it from spoiling.

PS: Salted the pig, yes. Was there a lot of hunting?

EUW: Yes. It was interesting. When the Mormons came down to St. Johns the group included a man who brought seeds for trees and saplings, and they sent a carpenter, and they sent a blacksmith. And so you were a community.

EU: They sent somebody who was a musician. You had educators. And there was also a man who brought bees.

PS: But hunting was....

WW: Yes, there was hunting. You had to go up in the mountains to get deer. There was always rabbits around St. Johns, and that’s about all.

PS: Was deer hunting an important supplement?

WW: Up in the mountains I believe it was. It wasn’t to me.
EUW: Too far away for us.

WW: Yes, thirty-five miles up in the mountains. We never had deer,

EU: And back to outdoors, I think our Uncle Rex Lee was one who—particularly Stewart, but also Morris, gave them the feeling of the outdoors, because he would take Morris and Stewart, as little kids, out there fishing and learn to shoot.

EUW: (unclear)

PS: Another (unclear) Lees. I’m going to stop the tape for a second, because I think I’m about to run out. So it doesn’t click off in the middle of someone talking, except if it’s me. So I’ll check this. (few seconds of blank tape)

PS: Warren, you were about to tell us a story about Morris.

WW: Well, he was such a natural leader, and so outgoing. Some of the teachers didn’t like him because he was . . . and he had a sense of humor. For instance, the year he was a senior and we were nominating officers for student body officers. The following year you had the election in the spring, and he took this one girl named Wilma Naegle, and he called her Wilmont C. Naegle, and he nominated her for every position: president, vice-president, secretary.

EUW: She was not a popular girl.

WW: She wasn’t popular. Poor little girl, I felt sorry for her. But he would get up and make a big speech for two or three minutes on how this high school needed the great Wilmont C. Naegle to lead them! (laughter) And you could see [two or three] of those teachers, they wanted to kill him. But he wasn’t doing anything wrong. You can nominate people.

PS: This was a real person?

WW: Yes! Oh, it was a real person. She was sitting in the class.

PS: How did she feel about all this?

EUW: (unclear) awful.

WW: I think it embarrassed the heck out of her.

PS: Was she a shy person?

WW: Yes, she was shy person.

EUW: She wouldn’t have wanted to run.
PS: She wouldn’t have wanted to. But Morris was president of the high school as a senior?

WW: He was student body president that year, yes.

EUW: If they’d have been a junior, he was nominating for the next year. But she was in his class.

WW: Maybe I’m wrong.

EUW: But that story is true.

WW: It’s true.

PS: Warren, what do you remember about your teachers in high school? I know you and Morris would have had some of the same teachers.

WW: We had some real good ones. We had some that weren’t so good. I’m trying to think. We had Letty Patterson was the music teacher, and she got everybody interested in music.

EUW: We would go to Flagstaff to a music contest every spring with Winslow and Prescott—big cities. And we could beat them. She was that good. She went into the... You’d sing “Listen to the Lambs” for Easter. You would sing “Hallelujah Chorus” for Christmas. I mean, you didn’t do just that and some junk stuff. That was typical. I can sit anywhere right now at a big whatever musical thing it is, and I know what they’re doing, and I can sing with them.

PS: So she would have been involved with all the music that went on then.

EU: Yes. She got everybody involved. I had the man ahead of her and he was concentrating on the band and [____ my parents to help buy instruments].

WW: The families would do it. Elma’s clarinet was passed down to Eloise, and so on, and Morris. I don’t know, Stewart didn’t play anything?

EUW: No, he didn’t.

WW: He didn’t get into it. But Morris played the coronet and then sang. I can remember him singing in the assembly.

EU: Yes, I’ve still got the piece of music.

EUW: Is that on anywhere? He was milking a cow and singing, and Mrs. Patterson happened by and said, “He has a deep, nice bass voice.” So he sang Tomasso Profundo, sang “‘X’, ‘Y’, and ‘Z.’”
WW: And he could only sing down to low “D,” but Tomasso Profundo sang X Y and Z this way.

EUW: And Dad, who was tone deaf, said, “I can sing that just as well!” (laughter)

PS: It sounds like this music teacher was important, was really important.

WW: She was.

PS: Very enthusiastic.

WW: Yes.

EU: Stewart maintains that the music teacher is more important in town than the sheriff.

WW: Could be.

EU: Kept everybody off of the street.

EUW: We had good enough teachers that those who wanted to learn, learned well enough that you could go off and go to any college you darned please and show up the city slickers, which I was slow to find out. I mean, you’d be around people from Chicago, and you’d think, “Well! they certainly have a much better foundation than I have,” and you’d discover that they were lazy and didn’t know any more than you did. I mean, you floated to the top of the class fast even though you came from a town that shouldn’t have had that good a school

WW: (unclear)

EU: And it was definitely that way in sports. I mean, St. Johns went to the state tournament. And it wasn’t according to the size of the school. They took on everybody, and they won a lot.

PS: Did this music teacher stay a long time?

EUW: She died there.

(Several talking at same time, none discernable)

EUW: No, (unclear).

WW: Okay, she’d probably have been there in ‘36, ‘37, and stayed there through the seventies?

EUW: You had somebody else. Or was that later on?

WW: She was very influential.
EUW: She also would lead the music in church—you know the choir in the church (unclear).

PS: Do you remember any of the teachers you didn’t like?

EUW: Yes, he liked one, and I didn’t like him, so how’s that?

WW: Who’s that? L.P.?

EUW: L. P. Sherwood. You either liked or disliked the science-math.

WW: The science-math teacher was very abrasive, and he was very helpful to me. I liked him.

EUW: It was mostly people who grew up in the town that was teaching there. You didn’t have outside—you had some, but for the most part, it was local.

EU: They were the ones who would come back and make their living.

EUW: Who would be Mom’s and Dad’s age . . . .

EU: And who wanted to raise their children there. We would you’d have a few that came from outside, but a lot of them didn’t stay long

PS: So a lot of teachers went out, got their education, whether it was in Tempe or Tucson, then came back to teach there?

EU: That’s right. They liked living there.

PS: Do you remember a history teacher or government teacher?

EUW: That was the coach. The coach was the government teacher.

WW: The coach. We learned our history pretty well.

EUW: I think he got very flippant, and I’m sure Morris did. I remember one day saying to the coach on the history test, “I could do a better job of a test than you’ve got there.” And so I did it! (laughter) Anyway....

EU: Civics and history were the two things the coach usually taught, and he was a good coach, but . . . .

WW: But he wasn’t always. We had several coaches. Some were poor teachers.

EUW: But if you were a good coach (unclear). In my days, four years, there was a different coach every year.
EU: Now, some of the coaches would come from out of town.

PS: Good place to stop.

EU: Well, you can stop, but I have to tell you . . . .

[END OF INTERVIEW]