

Transcript of OH-00252

Wallace Shepherd Barnes

Interviewed by

Vicki Minni

on

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Typographic Note

- [Inaudible] is used when a word cannot be understood.
- Brackets are used when the transcriber is not sure about a word or part of a word, to add a note indicating a non-verbal sound and to add clarifying information.
- Em Dash — is used to indicate an interruption or false start.
- Ellipses ... is used to indicate a natural extended pause in speech

Subjects

Alcohol trafficking
Bars (Drinking establishments)
La Plata (Md.)
Prohibition

Tags

Stumble Inn

Transcript

Vivki Minni [V]: This is Vicki Minni interviewing Mr. Wallace S. Barnes on March 19, 1978 at the residence of Mr. Barnes, 305 Washington Avenue, La Plata, Maryland. Mr. Barnes is a life resident of Charles County who owned along with his brother the famous Stumble Inn. He has agreed to be interviewed on the subjects Stumble Inn and her many memories which over the years have truly become history not only for the town of La Plata, her people, but moreover for many historians. Mr. Barnes could you please give me some information about where you were born, and what year you were born, and the schools you went to, and different organizations, and the hobbies that you have?

Wallace Shepherd Barnes [W]: Well I was born in McConchie, Charles County September the 7th, 1894.

V: And what schools did you go to?

W: Went to Sandy Hill public school at McConchie and two years at Charlotte Hall Military Academy in Charlotte Hall. That was the extent of my education.

V: Okay what organizations have you belonged to?

W: Well I did one that was I guess was the La Plata Fire Department, which I was a charter member. And the La Plata [Lion's club], which I was a charter member.... I was on town board for [four years]. Charter member of the Hawthorne Country Club. I'm a 50 year member in the St Columba Masonic Lodge. And [I'm a Director of] Southern Maryland National Bank until it— for about eight years—and it merged and they built a new bank and changed the name to Bank of Southern Maryland, which I'm still a member of since 1953.

V: Do you have any hobbies?

W: Well my main hobby now is cooking and [inaudible] my yard and trimming my grass. That keeps me busy during the summer months and winter time not much I can do but sit around and watch it snow and so forth. I did have years ago, I had—did a lot of hunting. Had bird dogs and rabbit dogs and started out at the time when you didn't have a shell to put in your gun you had [motor loaders]. And I've done a lot of ducking. Very lot of ducking over on Nanjemoy Creek. That was my favorite place.

V: I understand that along with your brother—what's your brother's name?

W: [Alec].

V: That you were joint owners of the famous non-existing bar and restaurant Stumble Inn? What year did you go into business with your brother?

W: Well you had there on my slip of paper.... No I'm talking about the strip I gave you about my brother....

V: What year did you go into business with your brother?

W: That was October 1929 and lasted until May 1961.

V: What made you decide to go into business? Why did you decide to open up Stumble Inn?

W: Well it was a new building and we rented it. It was built for a restaurant and it went from one thing to another and then I years afterwards I added this bowling alley and pool room and bar in the rear. When my brother left for Washington and came down here and we visited with me he was with the government. He came down here and decided he'd like country better I think and ditched city and he went in. He ran the restaurant for a year or two independently. I was—I took—I owned the building and he ran the restaurant. I had the two bowling alleys and two pool tables and bar in the rear. I ran that, my brother ran the restaurant. Then we finally decided that we'd merge the whole thing and from that time on we ran it together.

V: How did you get the name Stumble Inn?

W: Well that was [already a part of] when we first opened this building. It was Clarke and Barnes. It was a comic strip and it had two restaurants in this little town and with quite a lot of rivalry. At that time Mr. Bowie ran this restaurant just across the railroad tracks, which now is a thriving liquor place. So we decided that we would make that place the mansion house and we took Stumble Inn. That's how it got its name from a comic strip.

V: Was it built there or did you have it built?

W: No the Ford people, Mathew Howard, building across the street now from it Davis building had a Ford agency and they built it. At an investment I think. They sold it to [Inaudible] [Turning Hill] Ferdinand Cooksey. We rented it from him for a number of years. Finally I bought it and that's when my brother came down the two years after that to run it with me.

V: What was the appearance of the Stumble Inn? Was it the outside and like the door that you walked in or the bar? Could you give me an idea of what it looked like?

W: How would I describe it I don't know. Well it was a two story frame building. It had a side door that went upstairs to the offices. It had five private offices up there. They were rented by mostly layers. John Mudd and his son had three rooms up there. Bill Wilmer had one. They finally dwindled out of there. The Mudd's built themselves an office. Then we had one room up there that we kept for more or less kind of a [club] room. We [shoved] meals up there or some private parties. Friday nights we had a big poker game in there. Then it was turned into an apartment, all the second floor. But the first floor you entered the front in right in the restaurant.

Then you went through that to the rear to your bar and got your refreshments back there and bowled or whatever you wanted. In the back of this bar part we had a large room back there with two tables in it that was more or less a gambling room. Had some craps games which every Sunday had a big craps game there. Mostly local people but we did have one man that came down here [track] the game lots of times. He was a professional. A lot went on there, a lot of money passed over that old table that I have already still have it.

V: You do? Where's it at?

W: Down in my brother's basement.

V: What did the bar look like?

W: Well it was an old bar that when the county local option came on why they had a bar over in the new [Rose] hotel that they took out and they put it in storage. When we decided to go and put in a bar why I bought that old bar from them. It was moved from there over to Stumble Inn and after we sold it why my brother sold that to somebody else. I think it's still in either [inaudible] or somebody's home today, basement.

V: How many tables were in the main entrance where like the bar was at?

W: You meant the restaurant?

V: Uh-huh.

W: One, two...about six tables. They could seat about 30 people.

V: What did your family think of you opening Stumble Inn?

W: Well I think they were agreeable to anything that we were successful at. [Inaudible] [machines] came along and that helped us some. They did pretty well. We used to have little sticks in there and that was a drawing card. I don't think we ever made any money on them but we served steak, French-fried potatoes, and bread and butter, and coffee 50 cents.

V: Did they help? Did your family help you?

W: No.

V: Well who were your employees?

W: Mrs.—well we had [younger] people of course. Had youngsters that would help us on Sundays and we stayed open year round. 363 days a year. We didn't close but two days a year, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had youngsters coming on Sunday and we kept open n Sunday too. Not as late on Sunday but we closed about two or three o'clock on Sundays. We had a boy

that would come and help us on Sunday morning with the newspapers and things like that. I had a Mr. [Mercer], Clarence [Mercer] who was our bar tender for I guess...30 years I guess.

V: Was there anyone—

W: And I had a lady in there Mrs. Molly that helped out front for almost as long I guess. Outside of that we didn't have any—sometimes we'd pick up extra help. We did a little bit of catering. We served the farm bureau bank which once a year...once up in the old town hall where the theatre and [ghost] stories now. We served the dinner up there. And we served it in the Sommers High School over here [inaudible] years. Also had a big political rally down in Morgantown and had reception up at Mt. Victoria. Crain's home. My sister did help me that day, my brother, and a couple others. We served in the summer time and we served Mint Julips.

V: What is that?

W: Well it was whiskey and you use it regularly mint that you get out of yard you know and stir it up in this drink till [all ice drink. Go ahead and drink you'll try it].

V: What did you all do for entertainment at the Stumble Inn? You know the poker games and the bowling alley, were they very successful?

W: Oh yeah. The bar and both of them were very successful yeah. Yeah there was a lot of money in those days. I bought those alleys and three pool tables from [Inaudible]. They paid for themselves in about 10 years. Of course the bar made its money and a lot of hard work and long hours.

V: Okay were you popular when you first opened up? Was it popular?

W: Well it—we really didn't have much when we opened up. Magazines and papers and you could get a piece of pie or cup of coffee and sandwich. That's all we served for a long time. Finally we got into serving little lunches and served soup and steaks and that was about the limit. We didn't have a very elaborate menu but the steaks were very popular.

V: Who were some of your patrons?

W: Who were some of them?

V: Uh-huh.

W: Well they ran from the big dogs on down to the very small ones. Judge Mitchell who was ate at Stumble Inn pretty much every day. That's old Judge Mitchell, Jimmy Mitchell's father. John Mudd and all the lawyers. They would meet there lots of days and discuss the cases that they

were going to have in court. Now I think a lot of time they decided the verdicts were reached right in Stumble Inn rather than before they got over to the courthouse.

V: Do you remember any instances or do you remember them saying anything?

W: No I can't recall anything of particular interest.

V: Why did they come? Did they enjoy the food or just?

W: Well I think both. It was a great meeting place for everybody. You could go into Stumble Inn ay 10 o'clock in the morning and stay there until three and you'd see everybody that came in the county that came to La Plata. They'd either come into Stumble Inn or you'd see them go by and you knew everybody in those days you know. But very few people that ever came to La Plata on business—they had some reason or other to come to Stumble Inn. Even with the children. They'd bring the children in and get ice cream. Some of them would come in and get a drink.

V: What year did you start selling liquor? Do you remember?

W: No I don't know when [inaudible] came back to tell you the truth. So much [gone over the dam since I was in there]. But we started as soon as first it came back whatever year that was I don't know.

V: So you were in—

W: It was the local option when they brought whiskey back after Roosevelt got in.

V: Were there any times when women weren't allowed in?

W: Oh yeah we had a lot of women and we had one night where the women bowled, lady's night. They had as much fun as the men did.

V: Do you remember what year this was in when they came? What year that started in?

W: No I do not.

V: Okay were blacks allowed in?

W: We had a separate bar. It was segregation in those days. We had a separate bar for the colored.

V: Was that in the back or?

W: Mhm.

V: Did very many of them come?

W: Did what?

V: Did very many blacks come?

W: Oh yeah. We had more blacks than we knew what to do with a lot of times.

V: Did they—were they allowed to buy drinks and?

W: Oh yeah.

V: Let's see do you remember any big lawyers or judges coming in from out of state or from Washington?

W: Oh yeah. Had some big fishes yeah. Had that tea house murder case in Prince George's County that was one of the biggest cases I guess they had here. John Mudd and Walter Mitchell.

V: Do you remember what happened?

W: Yeah I was on the jury.

V: Could you tell me about it?

W: Well it was...I don't know anything particularly about it except that it lasted two days. I know we were locked up at night. They made reservations over at the hotel and put us up on the third floor, the jury. The very interesting part to me was that was bootleg time and after when we got over there before we had dinner they wanted to drink a few of us did. I had some bootlegged whiskey over at Stumble Inn and I got to serve...on a side as we were coming out the courthouse asked him to go over to Stumble Inn and get me a half a gallon of whiskey and bring it over to the room. He came over with this half a gallon in a shoe box and gave it to the bailiff and he said he had a pair of shoes for Mr. Barnes. Course [they]wanted to drink we enjoyed that thoroughly before dinner. Then we played cards until two or three o'clock in the morning. [Mr. Jeff Wallace was] cashier over the bank, he wanted to drink next morning so he went over to the bank and got himself a drink. The case lasted a couple days but it was very interesting. It finally wound up the three of them they were racketeers out of New Jersey or New York, I don't know which, that came down there and held this place up. They were convicted of second degree murder and got—I think they all died in the penitentiary.

V: Tell me about your whiskey. That whiskey that you were drinking?

W: What about it?

V: Tell me about that. Where'd you get that at?

W: Well we kind of were full of it those days, bootlegging. I used to buy it and most people did that would use it at all. [Grain mush in] and put it in wooden kegs, charred kegs, and keep it for about six months in a warm place and you had as good a whiskey as you got today.

V: Was it legal then?

W: Oh no.

V: Did you have any one particular person that you got it from?

W: Oh yeah we usually had a private manufacturer.

V: Back in the woods somewhere huh?

W: [Yeah in the woods yeah].

V: Was it around La Plata?

W: Well they were all over the county but the one that I used to buy from was down around Faulkner. Colored man and he made good whiskey if you kept it and age it a little you know, which I did. Yeah I used to have a little club house down on Port Tobacco Creek and it's still there but I sold it years ago. I used to buy it and he would deliver it down there at night in cases and I'd put it in the kegs and put it up in the attic. That just stayed there for about six months and you had real nice whiskey.

V: Did the cops or judges or anything like that ever say anything about it or ask you where you got it?

W: No they wanted something to drink. Yeah [we went and had] poker games down there. Judge Diggs and Doctor Sasser who was a dentist here at the time and Mr. [Rowling], they were all old timers here and they would several times during the winter we'd have a dinner down there. Had an old colored man [Howard Day] that lived down there on the creek, he would fix us a nice duck dinner and we'd play pitch and have a nice time down there several times in the winter.

V: What was the most popular game that y'all used to play?

W: Well we played pitch.

V: Was that played at Stumble Inn?

W: Yeah I played pitch there every afternoon. That was a small game but the big games were the poker games upstairs every Friday night.

V: Could you tell me something about the poker games? Were there any fights ever?

W: No I don't think so. We were very fortunate we never had any trouble from someone in [inaudible]. Anybody give us any real trouble. The colored ones would get fighting out there once in a while and I'd have to call the sheriff and have one of them locked up. We were very, very lucky with order there.

V: Was it mostly judges and lawyers who used to come play?

W: Yeah they would come there every day.

V: Do you remember any one particular instance when it was real high, the money was real high, the stakes were real high?

W: When it was what?

V: When the stakes were real high? When they—during the poker game when a lot of money got involved?

W: Oh yeah. Yeah big money.

V: Do you remember any particular incident?

W: Oh I wouldn't like to go into that because I didn't play myself—I mean in the poker games. But yeah there were some big money every Friday night. In those card games I guess it was more really but they played poker all night. Some Saturday nights they played. I know I came down one morning to open up and they all of them had gone home but one man. Now he was sitting at that table with the light still burning and he had gone to sleep at the table.

V: What was it like during prohibition? Do you remember what it was like when you couldn't sell whiskey or couldn't sell any kind of alcohol?

W: You mean legally?

V: Right.

W: Well [that's the time] in bootleg time. That's when it was against the law but everybody sold it. I mean you could get it most anywhere you want. Everybody more or less handled it. I mean that was bars and places like that.

V: And the judges and the lawyers used to buy it?

W: I'm sure they did. But that's one thing. We didn't sell it in Stumble Inn. I kept some there for some of my best friends would come in wanting a drink before dinner and I would [ready] to give them a drink. But we actually never sold any whiskey in Stumble Inn while it was local option.

V: What do you remember most about the Bowling alleys?

W: Well it was amazing really. It was a strong shot on my part. People said that I was crazy to invest that much money in bowling alleys but they were very popular from the time they opened. We had two colored boys that worked to set up pins. Didn't have pin setters in those days you know we had to set them up by hand. We had two boys that worked from the middle of the day until eight o'clock at night. And we had two to come on at eight and set them up until 12. We always closed around 12. But it was you just couldn't get an alley for years here.

V: And what was lady's night like?

W: Lady's night was just as popular as the men were. The men were jealous I think because they couldn't get on the alleys on lady's night. Lady's got just as much pleasure out of it I think really as the men did.

V: Was there during the rest of the week were women allowed in?

W: Yeah all week.

V: Was there any time that they ever weren't allowed in?

W: No.

V: Okay. Could you tell me some of the prices and some of the things on your menu that you used to sell?

W: Well I wouldn't like to say except there were steaks which were top of the...and still some people talk about them. [You imagine] getting a nice piece of [silver] on a steak. Wasn't big but it was nice. We got it in from Baltimore. [We cut it] ourselves and we served a little individual steak for 50 cents. I don't remember what it cost us but I'm satisfied we did make our money out of it. We sold a lot of them.

V: Did you sell anything else?

W: Oh yeah. I mean we had a soda fountain there, ice cream, [inaudible].

V: I understand that your ice cream was very popular. What types of ice cream did you sell?

W: [Inaudible].

V: Was that vanilla and chocolate?

W: Vanilla and chocolate and summer time we had [inaudible]. But it was delivered then from Washington down here. An old truck with a load of crushed ice and salt. They would come in

with a couple of buckets and drain your cabinet water out of it and then put the salt in the ice round these ice cream freezers and pack it up for you and [inaudible phrase]....

V: Could you tell me about the liquor that you sold? How much was that? How much was draft beer?

W: I really don't know now. We did have draft beer there for a year or two but it wasn't as popular as—we finally got beer in bottles and that was more popular. Before we closed about all we used in tin can containers. Was easier to handle and wasn't any breakage and so forth.

V: What do you remember being sold back then that isn't sold today? Is there anything different?

W: Anything being different? You mean what?

V: As far as being sold, the whiskey. I'm sure they don't sell bootlegger whiskey anymore.

W: No I don't see too much difference in it. It's about the same except it's a whole lot higher now than it was of course.

V: Did you ever have any type of music at Stumble Inn? Any type of entertainment?

W: No I had a little jukebox there in the bar and pinball machines and slot machines but we never had a jukebox or anything out front because I never. I don't like them today to tell you the truth.

V: Have you been to very many of the local bars today? Do you like the local bars today?

W: Yeah they're alright. But most so many of them just as I say have these old jukeboxes and you can't hear your ears when you go in there and you go in there after dark why the place is so dark you can't see what you're eating. No I just—it's alright for the youngsters.

V: Do you remember anything particular that sticks in your mind from Stumble Inn? Any incident?

W: No I can't say I do. There were so many but not any outstanding that I would say that was any different from the average day. Everything was about the same. You saw practically the same people every day. Really wasn't any excitement or....

V: Did any of the accused people that were in court did they ever come in?

W: People in court? Oh yeah, yeah all of them. Yeah lunch time you really couldn't seat that many especially when court was going on.

V: What about people that were being tried? Did they ever come in?

W: Well really everybody came in. Mostly people that were on trial if they—maybe some of them didn't have the privilege. Maybe they would have to send back to jail during the lunch hour. But oh yeah all the everybody that went to court sometime during the day came to Stumble Inn I think.

V: Can you remember any stories that the judges and the lawyers used to tell?

W: I say that I knew all the lawyers and all the lawyers came in Stumble Inn. I say Judge Mitchell, he was one of the older lawyers hear and Joe Wilmer. Ferdinand Cooksey, he was State's Attorney. John Mudd lived at Bryantown he was one of the big lawyers and very able lawyer.

V: Do you remember any of the stories they used to tell?

W: [I wouldn't like to go into it] because if I did I have forgotten the details of it.

V: Do you remember what was the worst time at Stumble Inn? Did you ever have any hard times?

W: Well all those times were hard times. When I went into business it was hard times. Yeah real hard times.

V: Do you remember which was the hardest? Like what year during the Depression anything like that?

W: No I don't. I don't really...it was always a Depression in those days. You got a dollar it really was a dollar. I remember this, when I went in Stumble Inn and added the bowling alleys I paid for Stumble Inn. When I added this addition to the back for the bowling alleys and pool tables then I had to borrow 6,000 dollars and I had a little difficulty in getting that but finally I got it from the Southern Maryland Bank. I recollect...I'm thinking about 10 years I went over to the bank and Mr. Wills, P. R. Wills was president of it. He had agreed to let me have this money and I paid it by the month. I went over there one morning to make the last payment and Mr. Wills was there and I [inaudible]. He said, "My, my we didn't want you to pay this off." I said, "No maybe you didn't want to let me have quite this much either and I thank you very much." That was a happy day for me when I paid that 6,000 dollars off. That was hard money in those days you know and you're paying six percent interest on 6,000 dollars and trying to make a dollar for yourself. It was really rough.

V: I understand that the day you closed—do you remember the day you closed?

W: Day what?

V: The day that you closed.

W: Remember the day I closed? You mean the day I got out of this business before my brother did. I sold my interest to him. He ran it about two years and...it's [on there]....

V: It's in 1961. Well anyway I understand that there was a parade that took place the day that it closed.

W: There was what?

V: A parade.

W: Oh yeah they had a big [reception]. Right I'll have a write up for that if you want.

V: Could you tell me a little bit about that?

W: Well that was arranged I think—I think Mr. Diggs, yeah Diggs really was responsible for that. We had all the local people were there. I suppose it was a 100 people—

V: And all the businesses were—

W: On a Sunday. And the places were closed except for those who were invited. We had [River Chambers] Orchestra from Baltimore down there. Of course we had plenty to eat. The bar was open and that was one of the greatest Saturdays and greatest day Stumble Inn had ever had.

V: Do you remember any incident that happened during the day?

W: No because as I say I wasn't in it. They were really giving it for my brother I guess. But they gave him an outboard motor and they did come out of Stumble Inn that night and parade it from there over to the courthouse. That's when they presented him with the outboard motor over at the steps of the courthouse.

V: Can you think of anything else about Stumble Inn or the town of La Plata that you'd like to add?

W: No I really don't. It's a nice little town and I think it's one of the nicest towns that I know of really for a town of this size. Everybody keeps their property nice and there've been a lot of improvements. When I started out here they didn't even have electricity. Stumble Inn started with these old [Coleman] gasoline lamps that you had to pump up and hung them from the ceiling. Some of them had gas lights but then the REA finally came down here and we got electricity. In the mean time I did put in electric lights. I had a Delco motor that furnished our own lights. Then when the REA put it in this light down here we hooked on with that.

V: What about the parade that took place on the day Stumble Inn was closed down? Do you remember that?

W: Well it really wasn't a parade. We just went from the Stumble Inn over to the courthouse. Everybody was feeling pretty good. A lot of singing and so forth.

V: Were they still—did they still have like bootlegger whiskey or was it?

W: No whiskey was legal then.

V: Do you remember the day that it was torn down?

W: Oh yeah.

V: Could you tell me about that?

W: Well we arranged with the bank had bought it and I was chairman of the building committee for the new bank and I got one of the Amish over at New Market and they came over and tore it down.

V: I guess that was sad.

W: Yeah it was sad. But you got to go along with the times you know.

V: If there was anything you could change do you think you would change anything?

W: Think I would change anything? No I wouldn't say there's anything in particular.

V: Would you have any advice to anybody that would like to open up a restaurant bar?

W: Have any fights?

V: Advice.

W: No indeed. It was strictly on my own when I did it.

V: But would you have any advice to anyone that was thinking about opening a bar and restaurant?

W: No.

V: Okay. I guess that's just about everything. Can you remember anything else that you would like to say?

W: No I really can't. So many things happened and if I had maybe thought about it for a time I might have thought of a few instances that I could mention but.... The town as I say I've lived here for so long. The old railroad used to run in those days. You had a passenger train left in the morning at six o'clock. And then it came back at 10. Went up at three and back again at night at

seven. That was one of the meeting places. That when the train came down at night everybody went out to meet the train. And then we get the mail and take the mail over to the post office. Everybody waited for the mail to be opened to see if they got a letter. But I even think in those days [it only just been and you just imagine] you're 30 miles from Washington. You mail a letter today and sometimes my sister doesn't get it until two days afterwards. In those days you could put a letter on this early train to Baltimore and get an answer back at night on the night train. But we didn't have anything then. We didn't have any water. We didn't have any as I said lights. We finally dug this first artesian well and put in water in part of the town. While I was on the commission we extended the town limits and ran water up 301. Then they forced us to—we put it off for a number of years—the health department made us put sewage in. That was put in while I was on the board too. A lot of people didn't think how they're going to be paid for it but I don't know what kind of town it would have been if we hadn't had water and sewage. That's really different than the times and thought of some people had in those days and what they have now.

V: Has the town of La Plata changed very much?

W: Has it what?

V: Changed very much?

W: What?

V: The town of La Plata.

W: Oh yeah in so many ways. We didn't have any hard top roads. This road that I live on here Washington Avenue that was...old Washington Road they used to call it. That's where we went to Washington. All the traffic from Washington on Sundays, which was a lot of traffic in the summer time, would come through here and go on down the old road to Port Tobacco and Chapel Point and Morgantown. On Sundays were a curiosity. Yeah we've had some big people come through here. Roosevelt came through here when he went down to look at the bridge site. Build the Potomac River bridge.

V: Did he go into Stumble Inn?

W: No but I had the privilege of—it wasn't many that went down there but I did have an invitation to go down there and shake hands with him but I didn't go. I can see him coming through here now.

V: Tell me about that?

W: Well he was in this old...Packard...had some several civil service men with him I guess. He went on down the old dirt road from Newburg on into the where they built the bridge. Just an old county road that went in that farm down there. He didn't get out of the car but.... And we had

Wilson. We used to have baseball games there behind where the Diggs building is now, Mitchell Motor Company, right on that lot there. Wilson stopped there, President Wilson stopped there and looked at the baseball game one evening.

V: Were you there when he stopped?

W: Yeah.

V: Did he get out of his car?

W: No just sat there and looked at the game for two or three innings and went on up.

V: Did very many people go up to the car or anything?

W: No I guess they knew better than—you couldn't get too close to the president you know?

V: Do you remember any movie stars or anything ever coming down here?

W: Any who?

V: Movie stars.

W: No I don't think we've had any movie stars down here.

V: If you had any advice what would you give to people today?

W: Well I could give them a lot and I wouldn't know whether it's the right advice or not. Things have changed so. I think if we had more people working and less on welfare and food stamps the whole country would be better off. Times you can take 10 dollars and go and get 50 dollars' worth of food stamps. They're not going to work. I've been trying to find somebody to clean my yard up but you can't blame them. Why clean the yard up when they get lodging and food stamps and most anything else they need to live with.

V: Do you have any plans for the future?

W: No indeed I don't. I'm just living from day to day and I hope that I'm active and feel as well as I do today. I don't care particularly how long I live but when that day comes that I'm not active and I hope that the Lord takes me.

V: Okay thank you for your interview and I really enjoyed it.

[End of Tape].