

Harley Langdale Jr. Collection-Tape Three

VIDEOTAPE TRANSCRIPTION: Langdale Interview #3, June 30, 2003.
Interviewer: Laurie Sommers (LS); Interviewee: Harley Langdale Jr. (HL)

BEGINNING OF ITEM 95 (PHOTOGRAPH WITH JIMMY CARTER), COUNTER 08:49:39

LS: I'm Laurie Sommers, I'm here with Harley Langdale Jr. and this is the third of a series of interviews about his gift of memorabilia of the Harley Langdale Jr. collection to Valdosta State University, it's June 30, 2003, and the first item that I'd like to talk about is this framed photograph of you and President Carter, it's ID number 95, and we just need some information, if...anything you can tell us about when this was taken or how you got this particular photograph...where...

HL: That picture was taken in Atlanta, Georgia, at the famous Methodist church, and that was at D.W. Brooks', who had passed away, memorial. He was the one, Dr. Brooks was the one that started Goldkist, which was a foremost organization, and he had been retired for several years and passed away when he was in his 90s. And at that time I saw the past governor, Jimmy Carter, and he came by and we asked him...talked to him, and I had met him before, I had met him when he was governor of Georgia, and I introduced him at the Georgia Forestry Association at one time and he says...and I introduced him in such a way, I said "I'm happy to have a real farmer as my governor and so we can sit down and talk about our problems of forest management." And so I saw him there, and Dr. Brooks' grandson took the picture and gave me a copy of it.

LS: Do you have any sense...we can look up when that funeral was, but do you have any idea of about what year this would've been taken?

HL: Well, I would say that it was about, my best guess would be about 1995.

LS: Okay.

HL: In the Methodist church that Dr. Brooks had been a member of.

LS: Okay. Anything else you want to add about that? We just basically needed an I.D.

HL: Well, I was very glad to see him, and I saw some of my other friends there, because Dr. Brooks had been a very famous, successful manager of keeping the Goldkist handled, it was a cooperative at that time, and now part of it has been sold to Southern States Cooperative, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia.

LS: Is that spelled G-O-L-D-K-I-S-T? Goldkist?

HL: Goldkist, G-O-L-D-K-I-S-T.

LS: Okay. And were you a member of that?

HL: Yes, we did, we were members and we traded with them at their stores with chemicals and fertilizers and other equipment that we used on our farms.

LS: Okay.

HL: And Dr. Brooks was a very ardent hunter, and he would come hunting, shooting quail at Kinderlou.

END OF ITEM 95, COUNTER 08:53:42. BEGINNING ITEM 1 (MINIATURE COTTON BALE), COUNTER 08:54:31.

LS: All right, well that's our topic that we're going to save time for that one, I'm sure. Okay, I'm going to do the next item. We're going to have some shorter ones this time. It's like I said, odds and ends here. Can we just proceed, Bill? Okay. So this is I.D. number one, it's a miniature cotton bale from Southern States Morven Cotton Gin, and there's this card on it, and you have a couple of these in the materials that you gave to the University and we'd just like to get...was there a certain relationship between the Langdale Company and this particular business, or can you tell me anything about this? There were two of these, there was a smaller one, too.

HL: We farm some of our land that we do not grow trees on because we put it to the best use and we think that's the best thing to do. So that was from Southern States and some of the...we usually had our cotton ginned in Morven and I think that came from Morven...

LS: Right.

HL: But now Southern States, they bought part of Goldkist, had several cotton gins.

LS: This card says "Morven," it says, "Anthony Steve Bullard, Crop Advisor, Morven."

HL: That came from there. That's just a little memento that they gave us because we were cotton farmers and we've been cotton farmers every year.

LS: So throughout your memory the Langdale family has used land for cash crops, cotton and other crops?

HL: And other crops. We grew cotton and tobacco and corn and soybeans and milo, and then a few other crops, but that was our major crop.

LS: So all of these, as you say, was to use the land to its best advantage, then.

HL: That's...we thought that was the best use for the particular piece of land.

LS: And then you would sell the crops and re-invest the proceeds, or what?

HL: We would sell the crops and divide that with our farmers that were producing and that was their livelihood, too. But they were really there, and if we had forest fires they would help, and we liked to have those kind of dedicated people that were farming; they did help us if we did had a situation, they knew what was going on on the surrounding properties.

LS: So are the farmers who...are they renting land from the company, are they employees of the company?

HL: What we did was on a partnership basis, and most of our farmers would make some money, not necessarily a lot, but they made money and we worked with them on a partnership basis.

END ITEM 1, COUNTER 08:57:35. BEGINNING ITEM 70 (ETCHED GLASS PLAQUE MOUNTED ON WOOD STAND), COUNTER 08:58:17.

LS: Okay. All right, let me get the next one here. Okay, this is I.D. number 70, it's an etched glass plaque mounted in a pine base inscribed "Langdale, 100 years" and that's your company logo, right, on there?

HL: Yes.

LS: And 1894 to 1994. Now we were talking about this before, does anything come to you about who gave you this, you said you...

HL: I don't really know where that came from, but that's something we received that year when we were celebrating our 100th anniversary, which was 1994.

LS: Tell me a little bit about that benchmark, that landmark in the company. How did the company celebrate or mark its 100th year?

HL: Well, we had a lot of our customers congratulating us on being in business and some of them had done business with us for so long and they were...they gave us all kinds of things such as this. So we were glad to celebrate and I think that our employees appreciated it, too.

LS: Did the company itself do anything to commemorate the...

HL: Well, we had several gatherings and our favorite is when we do for all of our employees is have a hamburger dinner at what we call our boneyard, that's where we have some tables and places to sit down and we take...so we have hamburgers and hotdogs and slaw and other things that go with it and so we let them all know that we'd been in business that long and I think everybody appreciated that.

LS: Now the boneyard is located where, though?

HL: Well, close to the plant because we called the boneyard some of our outdated equipment or some of our equipment that for some reason or another we have retired and bought other, better equipment usually, labor-saving equipment, and more electronic and things like that to upgrade our operation which our employees and customers appreciated.

LS: Is that a place where, if you have events for employees that that's where it has taken place in the past, the boneyard, or was that just a one-time thing?

HL: Well, no, we keep it there, it's on one corner of our property and it's not too far from where all that equipment is there because we wanted to keep some of that old equipment because we never know when it's got just the right part that we're looking for that we couldn't find anywhere else.

LS: But you said you had this hamburger dinner for your employees there.

HL: Yes.

LS: Was that the first time you'd had an event in that location?

HL: No, no, I think we'd used it before. But we use it frequently, especially when times are such that we're making a little bit of money; we try to slow down on things like that when prices are declining and maybe we're not making any money. But we do have it when we're progressing along very good in our market all right.

LS: Now, you said that a number of your business partners would give you these things during that year...

HL: That, they'd give us pens and things like that, just little things, nothing that cost a lot of money.

LS: I was wondering whether the company itself produced something to...

HL: We put out a paper, a magazine-type deal, and showed some of the pictures from further back, [my] grandfather and what they did and pictures that we had saved through the years and gave to everybody that wanted one.

LS: Do you still have copies of those?

HL: I'm not sure. We've got a man, Jim Hickman, that does that, and he's getting ready for a interim sort of get about that and what we're going to do.

LS: Because that would be a nice, if there are some of those pieces, it would be a nice thing to add to your collection, just as a hint for the archive here, just something about the company to kind of go with this.

HL: I really don't know how far progressed we are with that.

LS: I mean the one, if you had any extras from 1994.

HL: Okay. Jim Hickman would be the man, and I'll check with him about it and see if he's got any of those extras. We should've saved more, I know, and we may have some of those.

LS: Okay. You mentioned the other, the one celebration for the employees. Is there anything else that comes to mind about what the company did?

HL: Well, sometimes on July the Fourth or Labor Day, or something, we'd have a dinner and let them bring their wives and children to it and let them just see on a weekend maybe, and we liked to do that if our business was running like the competition and we were making a profit.

LS: Right. I meant for the centennial, was there anything in particular that the company did?

HL: No, I don't know of anything, I don't know of anything that strong at that point.

LS: And I was just curious just for comparison, now I may be getting...let's see, 18...1994, you would've been in the position to remember if there was anything done for a 50th anniversary in the company.

HL: We did not do anything for a 50th anniversary, and we had not done anything for any previous day like that.

LS: Okay. Well...

HL: We're getting more and more public-minded, I brought up before in the turpentine business it was very hard business and we worked and tried to pay our debts.

END ITEM 70, COUNTER 09:05:04. BEGINNING OF ITEM 110 (CARVED WOODEN OWL), COUNTER 09:06:02.

LS: Okay. I'm going to bring over a couple of things this time. Okay, we have this carved wooden owl, which is I.D. number 110, with a plaque inscribed "Georgia Forestry Association Wise Owl Award, Presented to Harley Langdale Jr. For Outstanding Service to Georgia Forestry, June 24, 1996." Tell me a little bit first, do you remember the occasion in which you received this?

HL: I remember it very well and it was over at St. Simons Island, out from Brunswick, and they'd given one or two of those away over the past years and I received this and it was quite an honor that I appreciated very much. But it was from activity that they do to people that are spending time on activities to promote forestry and new ways of doing things and just being helpful with the Georgia Forestry Association even after our term as president and chairman and such.

LS: And you were chairman?

HL: I was president and then retired, and then other times I had done other things for the Georgia Forestry Association.

LS: And can you speak a little bit just about some of the things that might come to mind about your role and what you feel you were able to do during your association with the Georgia Forestry Association?

HL: Well, we've been members of the Georgia Forestry Association for a good many years and I would say that the Georgia Forestry Association in the beginning was a group of people together that tried to do something about the legislative rules and regulations and laws, and as I came along we were doing more from what we learned in school and we were more technically inclined people and we got together to pass along knowledge that we knew and what we could do about wild forest fires or other things about forestry so people would recognize it, and another thing that worried us all was ad velorum taxes that we had to pay on trees and land that you weren't able to get an income every year to pay those taxes, and we're still working on that too; it seems like we're paying more and more taxes. But forestry is the biggest business in the state of Georgia in volume and it's very...most...Georgia has made a lot of progress and I was always happy to go to other states and have the opportunity to talk with people there and tell them how much progress Georgia had been making under our governors and our legislature. So that was all, we wanted to promote forestry methods every way that we could so we could make products and that would make it more profitable.

LS: Was there anything particular about the Georgia Forestry Association as opposed to the commission and other kinds of things that you were involved in? Is this the one that deals more with legislation or anything particular about that organization that comes to mind?

HL: Well, we covered the state so well, forest people, and every county, all 169 counties, and we'd get together to try to get things done and under Herman Talmadge's regime which had state-wide fire protection, we were very happy to have that, because there were some counties that just weren't in a financial position that they could help financially. And so we...things like that that we tried to work together on, which I think it was very...it's an association that we belonged to all through these years that I think is one that has been worthwhile. And it seems to be like it's getting better and we're now having a major headquarters are being built in Forsythe, Georgia, which is sort of in the middle of the state, and I look forward...and my great-nephew is very active in it.

LS: Which one is that?

HL: Wesley Langdale, John W. Langdale III.

LS: That's a venerable Langdale name, isn't it?

HL: Yes.

LS: Do you know anything about the...(gestures to owl)

HL: Carving?

LS: Yes.

HL: No, I really didn't. They presented that to me and I really have not had who did it or explained it to me how they did it, and what really kind of wood that is.

LS: It's cypress, and the...

HL: It says what?

LS: It's cypress, and the...

HL: Cypress?

LS: And the artist, C.M. Copeland, has passed away within I think the last few years now, but he lived in Fitzgerald and he did a number of these kind of pieces and I have a piliated woodpecker that he did. I mean he did all kinds of things, but he did a number of...

HL: They're beautifully done.

LS: You can feel it's very light for its size, because it's cypress, and his pieces would really take advantage of the grain of cypress.

HL: Very nice.

END OF ITEM 110, COUNTER 09:12:17. BEGINNING OF ITEM 34 (WOOD & METAL PLAQUE), COUNTER 09:12:27

LS: Okay. I'll just put that down. You had a number of plaques that you have in your memorabilia. This is...we just picked this one out, it's I.D. 34. And this was given to you in celebration of your 80th birthday by the employees of the Langdale Forest Products Company, and I just wonder if you remember anything about this particular occasion.

HL: Well, I have received a good many awards like that through the years, and we try to stay very close to our employees and we get to know them better and it's a little bit different, and I appreciate receiving that from them. But we have, most of our employees stay with us until they retire, although sometimes they might think that our benefits or our wages might not be as great as some of them, we do have more relations with them than most manufacturers.

LS: Do you recall anything about the occasion on which you received that?

HL: Not unusual, not unusual at all.

LS: But was there, was there a dinner or presentation or anything that you remember?

HL: No, no, just when they all got together, like at the boneyard.

LS: Uh-huh.

HL: And they presented that, and some of the groups would get together and they would do things like that.

LS: So, I just wondered if...you're only 80 years old once...so that was this...you don't recall if this was on your birthday itself or there was a party the employees gave you or anything like that when you turned 80, or this was just presented to you at some point?

HL: I really don't remember anything exceptional at that time.

END ITEM 34, COUNTER 09:14:23. BEGINNING OF ITEM 94 (SILVER CUP), & DISCUSSION OF FIELD TRIALS/HUNTING AND KINDERLOU, COUNTER 09:15:27.

LS: Okay, okay. All right. So now we're going to go to the topic that I know you can talk quite a bit about here, let me just get this one small cup, and lots of...(pause to get items). All right...we're going to start with this silver cup, this is I.D. number 94 and it's a silver cup with a copper/silver label with an image of a quail, labeled "Georgia/Florida Field Trial Club, 1916-1991," and then there are these two different books from different years that are the Georgia/Florida Field Trial Club also, and I wanted to save a little time for this, because I know from talking to you that you're dogs are a big part of your life, and they're certainly an important hobby. Why don't you just tell me a little bit about the property where you, yourself do much of the hunting and are involved in these...is your property Kinderlou your own property or does this kind of...

HL: We have...familywise, it's for my grandfather, my father and then me coming along, we've always loved dogs, sometimes different dogs; my grandfather liked hound dogs because he used them for catching hogs and also to trail deer so you about had to have dogs in his area. My father developed that instinct and enjoyed it and he loved dogs and when we lived in the middle of Valdosta he always kept a dog there at the house because when he wanted to go hunting you had to have a bird dog, but we were just bird dog hunters. So I grew up with that in mind and I went with my father from the time I was 10 years old and older and I would follow behind him and that was my wish is to go right ahead and do better and better. So when we did get ahold of the land at what is known as Kinderlou, that was longleaf pine, that was wiregrass, it was good quail land, and we planted feed and we had traps out for the varmints that would break up the quail nests and catch the young quail, we did everything to have more quail and so we had a nice place.

LS: When did you acquire that land?

HL: Ma'am?

LS: When did you acquire that land?

HL: We acquired some land, I would say, in the early '40s roundabout. But we acquired the land at what is known as Kinderlou from Taylor Colquitt Company from Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1947, and that was our main quail-hunting area because it was longleaf, wiregrass land. And that leaned [lent] itself to being a proper place to have birdfeed and plant bicolor lespedeza and other feeds that would attract quail. So we were very proud of it and we had, we used it to take our friends quail hunting. We had limits; we didn't overshoot and we didn't put any quail out at that time, we grew the quail and it was quite a place to go hunting and shoot quail. So we've still been doing that, up until a few years ago, 'til it gets more difficult. We belong to the association there, which is the Georgia/Florida Field Trial Association, with headquarters in Thomasville, Georgia. We were the most eastern member and it mostly was the red hills down between Thomasville and Tallahassee and even some people a little farther north. But my father had tried to win the field trial and our friends that we had wanted to win the field trial, it was quite an undertaking, and we never had been able to win, we'd always come in down. So we had a dog that was a very beautiful dog, liver and white, and we went over and that was after my father had been in an automobile wreck and was not able to go for several years there, and I was sort of handling the dogs and keeping up with them, and I was so happy to win that day, and that was about, that was in, I think if I can remember right, in 1970, and they gave us a big silver cup, we keep it one year, so we kept it one year and kept it polished and they gave us this little cup in remembrance of the big cup that we had, so that's why we have that cup right there.

LS: Well for somebody, say someone who doesn't know anything about a field trial and a club, just explain, if you were telling someone who just wanted to know what this was all about, what takes place, and that day that you won, what is it that you actually did to win?

HL: Well, just simply we start off hunting and we have a hunt master, and they have timing, and we can run the dogs 30 minutes, and so we line up the dogs and have them there ready to go hunting on different places that are selected every year, and we have the audience or the crowd with the hunt, they're all on their horseback or wagons or on Jeeps and following through the woods, and so we start our dogs off and our handler, our dog handler has it, they blow the whistle and the dog starts hunting, and so we have the hunt judges and they watch the dogs, and we use the two dogs run at the same time, not any more than that. One belongs to one party and the other dog is somebody else's, so we're running them against them, so they'll have about 10 different field trials, just like that, with 30 minutes at a time, and then they have lunch for everybody, and then at the end of the day they add up how many quail they found and how the dogs did, and the judges come up with the selection of the best dog that found the most quail and handled them and didn't make mistakes such as getting too close to the quail and flushing them. So you want them to be staunch and then you want to go up there and the handler show his superior judgment of flushing them and then they shoot up in the air, never to kill the quail, but just to let the dog know you shot. So it's a great pastime and nice people and they stay with it all day long, and at the end of the day they announce who won, and so we won that in 1970, if my memory is correct, so we're proud of it. I never will forget my father the next year knew our dog was so good, and he couldn't understand why we didn't win it the next year. But there's all kinds of circumstances that enter into where you're hunting and where your dog selects to take in the route and it's not as simple as it sounds, but it's a lot of fun.

LS: Do you remember the name of this particular dog?

HL: His name was Rex was his main name, but his name was a longer name, a registered name, and he was a liver and white pointer, English pointer. So he was a very hard working dog, but very hard to control and handle and so it happened the day that we won, we had a misty rain and that probably slowed him down a little bit.

LS: Now you said he had a very good handler. Do you recall the name of the employee or the person you had working with the dog at that point, with Rex?

HL: Who the dog handler was?

LS: Uh-huh.

HL: His name was...he stayed with us about six years and that's the nature, really. Howell was his last name. But he handled the dog very well, and that has a lot to do with it.

LS: Uh-huh. So as the owner of the dog, is that basically your role or what role do you play?

HL: That was our kennel and see, we had the Langdale kennels and we kept them up, though they were my father's and mine, but I guess the Langdale family, but the others didn't really quail hunt. We had a brother next to me that liked to fish better than anything. My younger brother likes to fish better than hunt, but that was my father's and my pastime.

LS: You mentioned when you were a kid growing up, you were just hunting with a bird dog, so I presume you were not necessarily hunting quail. What were you...

HL: We would hunt other game, we would hunt doves and those days we would go on dove shoots and we'd pick up for my father when I was 10 years old. I got my first shotgun that he gave me on my birthday when I was 12 in 1926 and I never will forget, I went hunting in South Carolina with my father, we were invited to our friends' place at Palmetto Bluff, which is a very famous place, right across the river in South Carolina, and I killed a deer, and I guess that was...that went with me all my life, and that was about probably the happiest day I had, certainly in those days. But he believed in that and he believed in his boys knowing how to handle a gun safely and he thought that was part of boys growing up, and I think he was right.

LS: And when did you make the transition to the field trials and the quail hunting scene, which is a somewhat different scene than just going out in the woods and hunting with your father, right? This is more of a formalized, social....

HL: That's right. It was a completely different. You're really right on that, but I would say that I always had other people to hunt with if I didn't go with my father, because he believed in us hunting. He thought we ought to be working or going to school or hunting or fishing. He liked his boys, all of them, to be outdoors people and to know about the woods and the fields, and I'm proud that I had that opportunity. So I would say that when we got to be 1930s on, and we were

15, 16, 18 years old, we always tried to hunt, even when I went off to college we'd come home and we'd always want to go hunting. So we grew up that way. And I never did like the field trial, it was enjoyable to begin with, but I didn't like to be going to field trials all the time. Some people went on field trials and their dogs, and they'd traffic and traded with the dogs, but we never did do that.

LS: Are you still involved in the field trials with Langdale kennel dogs?

HL: Well, we do not really do that because my father, when he passed away in 1972, we've slowed down on going down to those field trials. We'd much rather have some of our friends and go out and have a little lunch and hunt and show them the merits of the dogs that we have.

LS: What would've been the period, then, when you would've been involved more actively in the field trial club?

HL: I would say the field trial clubs we started in the...I would say in the early '60s, and then for about 20 years we went.

LS: Right. This one book is through 1983. This one is through 1999, so are you still a member?

HL: Yes.

LS: But you really haven't been active.

HL: Well, I have not been involved in it because there are more things happening now and they all have been trying to learn more about the habits of the quail and things and we've been busy in our business and I just haven't been involved in it as much as the ordinary people that are in it which are people that own those places that are wealthy and have money to spend on it and they're sort of in a position to spend more money on something like that then we were.

LS: Right. Now you mentioned that Kinderlou, the family land, was wiregrass and longleaf land, which has a distinctive habitat and has certain types of animals and plants and birds.

HL: Right.

LS: You wouldn't necessarily as a youngster, you might have been hunting in a longleaf forest or you might not, right, in terms of when you were hunting with your dad, just growing up as a boy.

HL: No, we hunted in all kinds of conditions then. We hunted in oak woods with acorns, and acorns were prolific some years, and that was a better quail-shooting land. We went out to kill the limit, we never did hardly exceed the legal limits, we didn't believe in that, we thought that we...and we'd always make our limit a little lower than the state limits, so we enjoyed that and we didn't have as much time to hunt as some people, so, but we hunted when we could.

LS: And the dogs that you're raising now in the kennel, is this a continuation in some way? I know you said your father had dogs, are there any bloodlines or anything that are still continuing?

HL: Yes, yes, we had dogs and we'd keep that bloodline if that dog was easy to handle and a good retriever and had a good nose. We found out a good bit about it and we loved it and we kept our bloodlines the best we could.

LS: I was wondering if any of the bloodlines go back to some of the dogs...you and your father started to raise these dogs together, then? Is this something you did?

HL: I would say that's right.

LS: So you might have dogs today that bloodlines go back...

HL: We've got a lot of dogs that go back. But always, you know something will happen one way or another and then we go off and breed with somebody else's dog, we want to change a little bit, our dogs are really not doing like we want them to do and handling right and some of our neighbors, they were always friendly, we bred our dogs with other dogs and that was, I guess that was one of the factors entered into the Georgia/Florida Field Trials, so say some. So some of them had some very good, easy-handling dogs, but ordinarily, the next year, there'd be some other dog that would win.

LS: Does it always take place on a different property each year, or is it the same place?

HL: Always usually, now some of the places were very more friendly and they were more...they were laid out in such away that they were more of a pleasure to hunt them than somebody else's that had it across the highways and all...

LS: Right.

HL: ...or something like that, but that...most of the time we'd change from one plantation to the next plantation, but after 10 years, it might go back to make that route.

LS: Do you remember where it was the year you won?

HL: Over in the Albany section.

LS: Has it ever been in Kinderlou?

HL: Never have. We felt like that we, being far east, and then we didn't have it as fancy as some of our neighbors did, and so most of them are held in the Thomasville area. If you go there and you drive down the road from Thomasville to Tallahassee you'll see those plantations.

LS: Right. Did you...you mentioned at Kinderlou, are you "farm raising" quail, or are you trying to...do you have native quail species still on your property?

HL: We have native quail and we try to plant feed and we try to listen to our extension service, and we try to plant different feed and we learn, the trial-and-error method, so we still do that to some extent. But I would say it's not as great as it was about the time when we won the field trial, because it's expensive to get ready for it and expensive to plant all these feeds, and we're not doing quite as good a job because we were entertaining some of our business acquaintances and right now, most of the younger members of some of the companies that we were doing business with are not as interested in quail shooting as they are in golf now, they're different, they're different people.

LS: Is that why you're building the golf course?

HL: No, not necessarily, because we thought that was the best use for that land.

LS: I see. When you take business clients to Kinderlou, what sort of means are you using, are you using the hunt wagons or horses?

HL: We have wagons with mules, and they come and they'll bring their wives and we'll hunt in the morning and then we'll have lunch in the woods and they're from big cities, and they've just never been in the woods and they really enjoy that, we have some of our customers that just look forward to coming down and being in the woods for two days and we enjoy being with them.

LS: What sort of things do they get served in the woods? Is there a meal that you typically have?

HL: We have a meal of fried chicken and then we would have slaw and we'd have some vegetables and then we would have, my wife would always make brownies and she loved doing that, and we'd give them that and then we would have, usually we would have iced tea and coffee to drink, and everybody liked that sort of picnic style, we had pimiento cheese sandwiches and they really enjoyed that. They knew what they were going to have to eat before they got here.

LS: What sort of staff do you have at Kinderlou, in terms of the people?

HL: Very small. We've got farmers, we have two or three farmers there, and then we do...we work with other people on some of our farms out there and we have very few people, and we really don't have anybody and that's another thing that really discourages us because it's very difficult to get people that'll stay with you as house people and all that. All of these people over in the Thomasville area that come down here and either retired or they do it in the wintertime, it's very expensive the way they do it, so we couldn't be competitive about that, so we did it on the common Georgia sort of way of doing it, and they liked that all right.

LS: But you mentioned that you have a cook, a caterer?

HL: We'd have some of it catered and we would have somebody doing it all the time, or we might pick it up in Valdosta and have somebody bring us the fried chicken and all that, and we quit the business of trying to do it out in the woods, because then that got to be too burdensome.

LS: And what about the drivers for the hunt wagons, are they employees?

HL: Well, we have had some mighty good ones through the years, and we used to pick up what we could get, but it's very difficult to get, without it being very expensive, somebody to stay with you that would do that, but we look after our animals, we look after our dogs and we look after our mules and our horses.

LS: You mentioned before we had the cameras rolling that you now have a Mexican fellow who's your dog trainer.

HL: Yes, we have him, he's an ordained preacher, and he's very good and he loves dogs and he came and he was here in Valdosta and he was one of the members of the Hispanic church out at Ousley, which is just down the road from Kinderlou, but he had been in it from time to time, and he just decided that he likes to do that, and he knows that's a job that's not busy all the time and he likes that job, and so that's who we've got now, is Jose Rodrique.

LS: And where is he from originally, do you know?

HL: He's from northern Mexico, down there different places, and we've got two or three families there that help on the farm doing other things for us that we need to; it's forestry work even, really. It's very difficult to get any other kind of labor now.

LS: And so that...previously, you would've had non-Mexican labor, I presume, and this is a change in the last what, 15-20 years?

HL: I guess that's right.

LS: How long would you say that you've had Mexican labor working at Kinderlou?

HL: Partially, I guess they started about 15 or 18 years ago, and then I'd say 10 or 12 years ago it's been pretty constant. We used to have plenty of black labor that had worked out there, old-timey farmers that we could get. My wife and I moved to Kinderlou in 1955 and we had black labor, and now most of the black labor from that area has moved to town and why I do not know, but they passed on, and then the young ones coming along don't want to farm, and we have to make enough to pay our expenses and all, farming.

LS: How large of a property is it?

HL: How?

LS: Large?

HL: Well, we farm a total, everywhere, a little less than 3,000 acres. But that's different, that's done with farmers on a partnership arrangement. Out at Kinderlou I would say we have a total of about 1,000 acres in cultivation and pasture land, improved pasture.

LS: Does that include just the forest?

HL: Well, no, we have about 10,000 acres that we try to plant feed for quail and all that we do most of our hunting on.

LS: So you're managing Kinderlou as a wiregrass ecosystem, at least the forested parts of it, is that right?

HL: We're trying to grow the maximum amount of longleaf pine, and we think that's a natural longleaf pine, and longleaf pine is very desirable in our business because it's usually straight, it's usually tapered correctly, and makes good poles, pressure-treated poles. Not large ones, those have to come from somewhere else, but we're trying to grow the maximum amount of wood per acre, per year.

LS: So, Kinderlou is not really a hunting preserve in the sense that you're trying to keep it...

HL: No, not like...

LS: ...you're still harvesting the timber on it.

HL: That's right, yes ma'am. And using it as a working forest. Now, not like over at Thomasville. We're cutting some timber from a place over there that just let that timber grow until it gets some bigger poles and select and they're selling quality materials like that that most people couldn't keep the trees that long.

END OF ITEM 94, COUNTER 09:44:10. BEGINNING OF ITEM 72 (VAL TECH CERTIFICATE FOR WILD TURKEY HABITAT MANAGEMENT), COUNTER 09:44:12.

LS: I was wondering, there's one other piece on the table here, it's a certificate from Val Tech from 1996 on habitat management for the wild turkey. Is that related to work you're doing on your own property?

HL: Well, it is because we try to...we tried everything in the world to get stocked (so) that we could grow wild turkeys. We didn't have them in the woods, and my father was very anxious, and he tried to get them you know, that'd say, well we've got pen-raised, but it's from real, live stock. But we found out that that kind of stock didn't know how to take care of themselves, and other varmint animals would just catch them, and that would be the end of that. But finally, he was on the fish and game...game and fish department, and they found out how Alabama was doing (and) some of the other states, they were catching real wild turkeys and putting them on an island or some place where they could re-catch them, and it's been unbelievable, how many wild turkeys that we have in our area now. A lot of people don't know how to hunt them and all that,

but they are very smart birds, and they're some very good hunting and pretty to see in the woods and we've done all we could do. But we get a great kick out of having deer on our property, we didn't have any deer at first, and they brought deer, the fish and game commission, now, brought deer from Wisconsin to South Georgia, from Macon south, because we had gotten rid of the screw worm; they wormed cattle and animals and all. And we couldn't have done it before, and brought them down, and they have really expanded. And now they're getting so many, they're about becoming a nuisance. But it's a great sport.

LS: I was just going to say, I forgot to mention this wild turkey habitat management plaque is I.D. number 72, and let me just make sure I understood what you told me. So the wild turkey that you have in Kinderlou, for example, is brought in from Alabama?

HL: No, no. They brought it in from places in Georgia, say maybe Jekyll Island, maybe Cumberland Island.

LS: From islands.

HL: Yes. But no, we don't get anything from any other state. They bring us what they catch and throw the net over. They'd get along fine. They would lay and hatch and those, they'd look after themselves. There sure is a difference between a pen-raised turkey and one that's a real, wild stock

LS: So this is part of an organized effort by fish and game in Georgia, to reintroduce...

HL: Right.

LS: ...wild turkeys. And this certificate was just part of the training you had about how to introduce and...

HL: Yes, how to plant feed for them and all that.

LS: So, is that common here in South Georgia now, are you one of the few...

HL: Oh, there's a million deer in Georgia now.

LS: No, the turkeys.

HL: Turkeys? Oh, I don't know, there's more turkeys than there are deer. I don't really know, I haven't heard any figures. Because they are animals that don't really bother anything. Like deer will come right up to your house and eat your shrubbery at night, you know and the turkeys, they're careful, very careful. Their eyes, I don't know how they see so well, they can't smell like a deer can, but a turkey will spot you quicker than a deer.

LS: Are you still going out and hunting?

HL: Some, but not as much as I did and it's a little more difficult and we haven't been as particular about it here in recent years, while our business was expanding and our time was needed, and not spending the time I would have liked to have.

LS: You're an unusual man; usually someone who gets to be of a certain age spends more time with some of their hobbies, and you're involved more in you're business, in keeping up with all the changes.

HL: I enjoy seeing what we're doing and the progress we're making and trying to make other things out of wood and trying to make the management of trees profitable. It's fascinating.

LS: Okay, well, I think we've gotten through our box of odds and ends here, is there anything that you want to add?

HL: No, I'm going to take...I thought the best thing to do, we've got some more stuff, and I'm going to get that, but the things that I know that we're not going to be using but want to keep, I'll see if that...but I don't think it'll be, we'll cut that down, and then we'll see, so I appreciate what you're doing.

LS: I don't mean add in terms of stuff, but I mean add in terms of what we've talked about today.

HL: No, I don't think so. I think you've covered it very well.

LS: Well thank you. All right, so this will complete the third interview with Mr. Harley. Thank you.

HL: Thank you, doctor.

LS: I've got to go through and listen to all those things again and extract all of your words of wisdom.

END OF TAPE

Directory of Harley Langdale Jr. Collection, Tape Three

Tape Counter Nos.	Discussion Topic
8:49:39-8:53:42	ID No. 95, Photo with President Carter
8:54:31-8:57:35	ID No. 1, Southern States Cotton Bale
8:58:17-9:05:04	ID No. 70, Etched Glass Plaque on Wood Base
9:06:02-9:12:17	ID No. 110, Carved Wooden Owl
9:12:27-9:14:23	ID No. 34, Wood/metal 80 th Birthday Plaque
9:15:27-9:44:10	ID No. 94, Small Silver Cup
9:15:27-9:49:00	Discussion of Georgia/Florida Field Trials, hunting, and Kinderlou property
9:44:12-9:49:00	ID No. 72, Val Tech Certificate for Wild Turkey Habitat Management