

Harley Langdale, Jr. Interview, 4-16-2002, Langdale's office, Valdosta, GA

1:38AD sheet info. Born Sept 8, 1914, Lynchburg, VA (where his mother Thalia Lee was from), her father was in the War Between the States, he walked home after surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, cause he only lived about 50 miles from there. He was part-time preacher and carpenter. Parents met in Valdosta, father died when she was 15, they all had to get out and make a living. She started out in a shoe factory in Lynchburg, lived with kinfolks. Learned process of making hats for ladies. Company she'd been working with asked for someone to come from Valdosta. Father had just graduated from law school, they were staying in same boarding house, met there.

3:45 Dr. John Lancaster has traced Langdales to England. Have a Langdale Forest there that I've visited a couple times. I've visited with those foresters. They have records of several Langdales living there (not sure if this is his family though). Came to Walterboro, SC., Colleton Co. Were agrarian people, ran cattle.

5:51 grandfather raised Primitive Baptist, b. 1860. His father and grandfather left for War Between the States, had already migrated from Walterboro to s. of Fargo, [Council] reason "they had an open range down there, and they thought there'd always be an open range. But there's not under GA laws. We ran cattle until my day and time coming along, and it worked out fine. Only problem we had was train came through there and it'd kill some of those cattle on the open range, but they'd reimburse us a certain amount for em."

7:14 My grandfather was born right in that area. It wasn't named Council until later. But it was in that area. And the old home, our grandfather never did have but one house. He lived in a log house until he built about 1880 a house that was sawn lumber and not log cabin. And that's about a mile and a half due west of what is now known as Council. And the reason its Council is that sawmill, that was east of town toward the Okefenokee was cutting cypress timber from the Okefenokee Swamp and they called it Council lumber Company. Bout 6 miles s. of Fargo on the way to JAX....[2 miles this side of FL line]

LKS He died before you were born. [yes, he died 1911, I born 1914]

HL Because he was only 52. [grandmother] lived about 2 more years and then she died. I never did know either one.

LKS you were born in VA but raised---

HL My mother brought me home by train after 30 days in VA. I've been in VLD ever since, or the surrounding area.

LKS Did you spend a lot of time around old family home near Council? Or were you here most of the time?

HL My father was practicing law here so I was raised around here (VLD). But my wife and I have been married for ==1943— 59 years, and we never have lived inside the cit limits. Her name is Eileen Cox Langdale, her father was in the turpentine business.

10:22 LKS stories you have about Council, did you spend time?

HL I spent time. My father thought that was a great way to come along. I started going down toward council and staying with my uncle, John J. Langdale when I was 10 years old. I think a little before that...He was not married, and I stayed down there with him. I stayed several summers. Then when we got a little bigger my father sent me to the other turpentine places. Then when I graduated from college I moved to Tarver, Ga, 6 miles outside of Statenville, in Echols Co., and I worked there at that turpentine place. So I've been in the woods ever since I was 10 years old really. A lot of people couldn't understand why I was sent down to places like that, but some of the boys and girls were going off to camp. They thought it was cruel. But it was some of the best I could have ever—some good people that I stayed with. They were very economical, and I learned the ways of life in the woods.

LKS 12:06 Tell me a little bit about age 10 when you went down to stay with your uncle, early 20s, what was it like? Was there an actual community there?

HL Yes, the turp. Camp had moved from the old house my grandfather had built in the early 1880s and we lived at Council. We did not have lights, we did not have electricity, we did not have a telephone. We did not have running water. We would take a bath in what we'd call a foot tub...We'd heat the water on the wooden stove. But we ate well.

LKS What do you remember? Other people living there was well?

HL The foreman lived there, some of our kin folks were there. WE produced turpentine and rosin, and stilled it. We had mules and wagons in my early days, and later I remember we didn't have trucks but we had open touring cars, no window and no roof on em, Model T and Model A, Model T was the first car I remember.

LKS 13:59 You mentioned you ate well. Did your uncle Cook?

HL No, he had a black cook there that was a country cook. But we ate a lot of rice, a lot of beans, a lot of ham cause we had hogs in the woods that they kept up, and we picked out the best hogs and fattened them a little more. They were piney woods rooters that didn't have the fat in 'em, and it was good ham. They made sausage and other parts of the hog. And we had chickens, not like they are now, but we had chickens in the yard. They would kill those chickens. I'd say we would eat very good from what I knew at the time.

LKS Did this women who was the cook cook just for you?

HL Just for us. She might have had a child or two herself that she cooked for. We had a commissary there. I remember we bought lima beans and black eyed peas, dried, in bags.

And then we would buy white side meat, they called it streak of lean, streak of fat, you'd fry that. And then I never will forget, we finally got some cans of things like peaches. That was really our dessert. Every now and then they would make a pie. We had grits and gravy. Then they'd make corn bread. We had all kind of cornbread....They would take it and make it sort of like you'd make a hoecake now. And then they'd make just regular thick of cornbread. And we'd have a lot syrup. We could grow sugar cane there and they could make syrup. But most of the syrup there they bought by the barrel, I think they were 30 gallon barrels. I ate the same thing that the black people did in producing crude gum from threes.

LKS You mean you ate the same thing going out in the woods that the black people would?

HL 16:43 They'd always carry a bucket for lunch and I did too at that time. They ate well.

LKS What did take in your bucket?

HL Well, you'd take cornbread and syrup. You'd take some black-eyed peas, just common good common solid food that you'd gain weight on if you wasn't working, but working ..I never will forget my uncle had me a special barrel [does he mean bucket?] made the first time I ever went around a tree and dipped gum. And it was unheard of. They made it for the people that were dipping, they made it 14-times, you had to go to the barrel 14 times to get paid for a barrel. Then they'd make a 12—timer, and a 10 timer, and a 8-timer. I guess 8-timer was about the biggest bucket they had, and that was pretty heavy. But some of those blacks were really men and they were strong, and that's what they'd do. And at that time, in the early 20s, they paid us \$2.50 a barrel for every barrel of gum we produce. That wasn't my first time, but I was dipping, and I was about 11 years old then. That was good times. I never will forget that when I went to Tarver, when I was four or 5 years older than that, the price had dropped and we were in the depression, and you had to dip 3 barrels to get a dollar bill. And that's what broke most turpentine people. Because they could not cut the price fast enough to break even. That was a tough time.

18:45 LKS You said your uncle made you a special bucket or barrel—

HL It was unheard of. It was a gallon bucket. And I had to go to the barrel 50 times to get my \$2.50. And that's the way I started out knowing a little bit about the turpentine. Business.

LKS Did you have a cooper there in the camp?

HL Oh yes, the cooper stayed right by the still. He was pretty good with rivets, pretty good with metal, had metal strips about that wide, and thin, and he would make the rosin barrels. Rosin barrels we'd buy the staves. The rosin was sold by gross weight. Until the commodity credit corp. said we had to go to the metal barrel which was sold by standard

weight, which if I remember right was 17 lbs. And we started selling rosin by the net weight. Which, the suppliers never did know how much rosin they were getting because everybody would try to buy staves the heaviest ones he could buy because he was selling the stave the same price he was selling the rosin....That was the standard until we had to sell it by net weight, which was a great improvement. A lot of people Fuss what the govt. makes you do sometimes, but sometimes it turns out to be the best.

LKS 20:14 To clarify the camp—Council was the camp?

HL Well, it wasn't right in Council, we had houses down the road a piece and we called that the quarters. And we had all kind of black people there, and they had em a house. We made it with rough lumber, and we made it with the metal roof. Corrugated metal roof. That was about it. And then we had pitcher pumps that they could pump their water on the back porch, didn't have to go more than 15 or 20 feet to have all the water they wanted. No electricity.

LKS Used oil lamps?

HL We used kerosene lamps. They were all right, but in the turpentine business we went to bed fairly early, and we got up early. ...Wasn't anything else to do. Couldn't go to the picture show, had no radios, had no nothin'.

LKS 21:74 At that time when you were 11, say, about how many people living in the quarters and around the camp?

HL Well, the old rule used to be you needed 3 people to work a crop, and a crop was considered 10,000 faces. That was 10,000 trees. Now you couldn't do it hardly. But those people were strong and they were healthy and necessity. They'd really go through the woods at a good pace. They'd chip it with that hack you see up there, that's been chrome plated there? {shows me special presentation hack in a shadow box] When you get further up the tree you'd use a puller, so you'd had to pull it. And gum would flow down the face of the tree into the cup. I never did---now just a few years before all that they had to cut a box, they called it a box in the tree. They'd stopped that when I entered the turpentine business. Herty had developed a cup, Dr. Herty, who I had the opportunity to meet when I was living, when I got out of forestry school. I was surprised that he said one of the things that was hindering forestry in S. GA was the turpentine people, because we were turpentinizing the trees, and burning the woods, we'd rake around the face and we'd burn, because if the face caught fire, the cup would burn up, the gum would burn up. By burning, and by holding back the turpentine trees, would hold back the young trees around it, they would be taking the benefits from the soil, and the young trees couldn't make it. Particularly when you control burned it every year. After being weeded around the tree. They called it "wed."...Used to tell people when I got out of college, my early days, that it probably held your tree back 25%. Nobody thought about all the other trees that you wasn't working that you had some hold back on that too. I have seen a great increase in the production of wood per acre per year after we quit turpentinizing.

LKS 24:29 Which was when for you?

HL When we Quit? 1975, completely, when we sold our still to British Honduras.

LKS And still was on this property? {where lumber yard is} yes. We had gone all the way around, and we had at one time 20 to 25 of these stills like you see out there. We had one that was a double still, at Tarver. Where I went. Started my manager, learning all that. Which was unusual, it was a big still. So we got this system was developed by Olustee down there, the research part of the US Forest Service. We cleaned our gum and got the foreign material out of it before we stilled it. We got a better yield and got a better grade and that was a great blessing for us. We ran that still for 30 years. And sold it to the government in Honduras. Their trees weren't producing as much gum, but they wanted those people in Honduras to have something to do. So they told me don't worry we might not make as much gum because our trees are not as productive as ours. It's a matter of keeping people working.

LKS 26:06 Want to come back to the more recent time if we have time, but want to go back to your earlier memories. You said you went to bed early and wasn't much to do, what did you do for recreation? Was there something on payday for the quarters, or certain holidays? Things you might do on weekends?

HL Well, the first time when I went to Council we went fishing. We'd catch fish and we'd have a fish fry. There were a few of the woodsmen's children that I knew that I, kin to some of them, that we played with. I never will forget about the main thing, there was all sandy area down there, and you'd draw out a hot scotch deal where you'd jump with one foot in, pick up this, and go back. We had sort of games like that that we played, but we didn't have a picture show, we didn't have anywhere to go. Not even if we went back to Fargo. Didn't have that then. Didn't have that much to do. But if you went to bed pretty well and you were out all day, you get used to that pretty quick.

LKS 27:24 Would anybody have an instrument, a banjo or guitar?

HL Oh, occasionally. They would have dance, but that would be mostly between the hands, we called em, at the turpentine quarters. [Mostly blacks] About 100% blacks I'd say. That's where we had trouble, because they'd drink buck, which is sort of a process of making moonshine, and they'd get to fighting, mostly over the women folks. And I guess my first experience with that was—and I'll never forget this—they came in one night and I guess it was a Sat. night because they didn't frolic during the week because in those days they worked hard. One of em had been shot. So, I don't know how he got up to my uncles house, and he'd been shot in the upper leg and bleeding profusely. My uncle didn't know what to do about, looked like he was going to bleed to death. But he put cloth around it and all he could do, I never will forget the way you stop the train, which was right in front of his house, a pretty good ways out there, he was a postmaster even then in the little store, the commissary, he lit a literd knot and he'd wave it on the tracks in Council, the train he would toot twice and mean he got your signal and he was going to stop at Council. So they stopped and they put the black man and me on the train, and told

me to , had to come to Valdosta to see if we could get a doctor up here to do something about it. Cause we didn't have a doctor I guess closest doctor would have been 30 miles away, and if I remember right that was about an all day trip in an old car. Didn't know if you'd make it down or not. I don't know how I got him, took him to the little Griffin Hospital. Worked on him, and he stayed there several weeks, and the bill was about a thousand dollars, and we paid it. That was a lot of money for us to pay back in those days. Then, my uncle, and this man got some woman to help him a little bit. I don't think at that time he was so-called married. You know, t hey would get, just get shacked up together and they'd be married. A lot of them would. And some of the rest of 'em would be very proper about it. He fed him out of the commissary. And he didn't work for, I want to say 4, 5, 6 more weeks. And bless my soul, he didn't say anything to us, but when he was able to get up, he walked so far and he caught a ride with someone in a wagon, and left us and we never did get a dime of it. That was the way it worked. That was the way of life. That was what they expected. When they got so far in debt they couldn't pay it, they left. That was a big problem back in those days with turpentine labor.

31:37 LKS The commissary was really a company store...

HL That's right.

LKS Your food and supplies would come out of your wages.

HL That's right . You'd settle up once a month back in those days.

LKS did you have crew that were white at that time, other than your foreman?

HL I'd say 100% were black at that time, of the workers. We had –well, at that time I don't know if we had any white except foreman, but later on we did have a family or two that had some boys, they didn't necessary dip with the crew, but they'd say, 'we'll dip this over here, and have enough boys, maybe 4 boys, and they'd get out there and get it done.

LKS Are you talking about children of a foreman?

HL Well, we had some white foreman and we had some black foreman.

LKS The children—

HL Occasionally we had a few families that'd take all those boys that would get out there and dip gum.

LKS Closest neighbors so far away that you really only had communication with those right there in the camp?

HL Well, see, we could write a letter, that was the only communication we'd have. My uncle was the postmaster, and he'd take all that mail, and he had bags, and they had a big pole with an arm on it out there, and they'd hang that bag on it, and the train man would have an arm out there to get that bag. And they'd throw it in a mail car. I thought that was interest. And if he had any mail for us, he'd throw it out in that big old canvas bag. That was the only communication we had.

LKS So if there was a frolic in the quarters with the hands, that would just be them? Wouldn't be people that would come from around

HL No, every now and then they'd have somebody with a banjo or something like that. Be sort of crude, but they'd have pretty good rhythm with them. [People who came in just for that, or people working there?] Both. Lot of time we'd have people there and that'd be more convenient for them. Do that on Sat. night. That was a big night for 'em.

34:22

LKS July 4, might be a something special, true?

HL Yes, usually do something, but we didn't have many holidays. Like Jan 1, the thought was, I remember the rule down there, if you didn't work on the first day of Jan you not going to be working g the rest of the year. We never thought about taking a holiday for that. But for Christmas now they would take several days. That was a big holiday. Now occasionally yes they would all chip in and want to buy a hog that we had in the woods. And my uncle would send the woods riders out there. They'd trap those hogs. They'd give one at a cheap price. Every now and then they'd have some other sort of wild game. They would eat that, they would BBQ it over coals.

LKS Black workers? [yes]

HL Sometimes you'd have the foreman there, and the stiller was always white, I remember the stiller was a little kin to us. Name was Register. And he got killed in his house by shaving. Didn't shave but once a week. Was standing back there shaving by the hot water and struck by lightening. ...

LKS Were there only during the summers?

HL Summers most of the time. Now I did go down a time or two, my father would like to go back t where he was a boy, and hunt. He liked t hunt quail. There was unusual for em to hunt quail. We didn't really do that many quail there. But he would put the dog on the train with a muzzle on him, at the depot in VLD and the baggage man would hold up the train enough, and we'd get the dog off, had one dog, and we'd go hunting down there, kill some quail, and they would cook those and eat em, and they enjoyed that. Then we'd get on the train late in the evening, come back to VLD. ...Either a setter or a pointer bird dog.

LKS Did your father train them?

HL Usually had somebody that would keep the dog, right before hunting season, would train em, partly train em anyway. See they hunted a little bit more back in those days, and when they hunted they hunted all day long. So the dog would develop himself knowing what you wanted to do.

LKS Why unusual to hunt quail?

HL Because down there it was not a farming country, except we had some people that had a log house, might be 20 acres, had that to farm himself, and then he would turpentine some on the side, or he'd get fence posts up, or he'd get cross ties, or do little odd tings to make a living. But on that 20 acres there would be about 2 coveys of birds, but they'd never been shot and they wouldn't fly very far. They have rules, laws, they would shoot those down out of the covey.

LKS Unusual because there was little farmland in that area, right? [yes]

HL see that's poor farmland, no farming down there after you leave Statenville. ..More of a sandy loamy type and not fertile from a standard farming.. Fertile for trees....Nobody had the money to buy shells. I remember very clearly the first time I ever bought a box of shells it cost 65 cents, right now might cost you \$10.

LKS What about, you said sometime they would have some wild game to eat, for ex., so there was hunting in the camps.

HL Yes, see Okefenokee Swamp had always been a source of game for deer, turkey, and bear, hogs, that was sort of the reserve you know. Got away from it further, the game was a little bit scarcer. But they would eat the deer, eat the bear....[talks about bear hunting today briefly]

LKS So you would fishing but not much of hunter as boy?

HL I was a hunter, my father gave me my first shotgun when I was 12 years old. I've been hunting since then. {down there?} To a little extent, but not much because there were better places closer to VLD that we had some land when I was coming along.

LKS Did you get wild animals coming into the camp much?

HL We had had come in there, but that, didn't much, ...didn't have that much game. Now with our conservation and method of doing it we've got more game more than ever in my life. My father was one time on the fish and game commission, conceived the idea after they got rid of the screw worms, screw worms just killed cattle and everything else you know. ...So that's what happened to all the wild game. We didn't have the wild game....After screw worm eliminated brought Wisc. Deer to come between Macon and the FL line and brought TX deer from Macon up to N. GA. GA now has a million

300,000 deer and wild turkey....We're renting all of our land by the way, to a conservation group. Pay us some money, we don't think enough, chance for people to take their boys and girls out camping and hunting. We're glad to have them on our land, glad that's part of what we do.

LKS Land around Council still part of your holdings {yes}.

HL In fact we have expanded it some.

LKS When you mentioned about not burning around the trees, raking....but was that an area, so few farms, still doing wintertime burns, keep the native forage grass going?

HL that was the purpose to keep it down, didn't have the bad fires you hear about in FL. Fuel didn't build up...Just can't keep building the fuel, cause you'll have some lightening storms and high winds that'll really blow em. Done a lot of damage.

LKS Deliberately burned?

HL At one time. Say you lived down there, you could run your cattle, cattle have a range of 25 miles, that's what my grandfather would do. He'd saddle up his horse and have 2 bags of corn, and he'd go around, he could call hogs and they'd come up, and they knew him, Then he'd build a trap and catch em that way. He would do that and spend the night out there, didn't have places to stay really, interesting life he had. Kept the hogs, cows, that was the way he made a living. ...When I was a boy everybody burned their land every year. I recall, after weed around the turpentine face they'd burn it, and we did not have devastating wild fires. [time of year?} Any time in the winter when we had a high wind. Usually our high winds is Mar, Ap, May, after the winter. That's the worst time to catch the tree. We started Superior Pine Products CO, company up north, they made chemical products for paper mills, Papermakers Chemical Corp., about 3 families that bought a lot of land between Fargo and Statenville. Still own it. Ottemier...

End of Tape 1, side A, end of tape.

Tape 2, Side A

HL don't own it. They was the managers. They got a US Forest Service man to manage it. And he had a terrible time with those wild fires. I remember those days very---[when did they buy it} Superior Pine the land in 1926, they paid about \$6/50 cents an acre for it. Started keeping it rough, cause had no fires. Then your reproduction could get started. Before then you'd might see when they'd been burning it every year, you could see a cow a mile, and the only thing could stop you would be that little cypress pond that you had dotted around here and all about, but he tried to keep it rough, and he couldn't do it. He had a hard time. I never will forget, the biggest fire we ever had on our land was 1930 cause we had started keeping ours rough. And most of our manager were really horrified, thought it was all gonna burn up. We did have one place where we had 10 crops on Superior Pine's Land, that burned the cups, burned the gum in it, and killed a lot of the

trees. And we had a terrible loss. We just had to pull out, we took our mules to work at other places, and just couldn't work in that year. But after a few years enough of the trees lived in most places like that we went back and tried to turpentine. But that fire we had turpentine labor and they were hard workers, we'd take them out on that fire, and we'd give em shovels and rakes and hoes and they'd dig a little trench, and they would back fire, so when they did, we could get the fire out. But see, Superior Pine Products Co. in 1955 had one fire that burned 90,000 acres. And they had to go back in, St. Regis had the lease at that time, had to back with aials re=seeding it. Couldn't get it all done quick enough. So that's been our goal, to try to grow more trees, more wood, per acre per year. Those acres that didn't have any young trees on em, to plant em.

LKS Website said you plant more trees than you harvest.

HL yes we do, and we say that again in this brochure that this just gave me this morning, about one of our plants there, we see that same thing. Planted something like, not quite a 100 million seedlings, but close to it.

LKS Go back to story of man with bad gunshot wound in his leg...Because you had no doctor there, must have had home remedies. Esp. uses of turpentine for various medical purposes.

HL Yes, everybody thought turp. Was best thing you could put on a bad place, my father even believed that till he passed on. If he had a sore throat or thought he was catching a cold, he would take gum turpentine that he kept right there in the house all the time, and he put several drops on a tsp. full of sugar. That's what he would take for a sore throat or a cold. Everybody thought it was medicinal. And the stiller was known if he got there and got those fumes, when they were cooking, separating the rosin and turp., rosin was a solid and turp. A liquid, they thought that he would be healthy and well all the time. And usually they were.

LKS Did you have to take turp. With sugar as a boy?

HL I have done oh yes. He given it to me. I couldn't tell you about all the results of it. But it was good.

LKS Use it on wounds too?

HL oh yes, yes. They thought that was just the best thing you could use. Lot of time they would get cut, they'd fight, they had what they call a cutter to sharp that hack, have that just razor sharp. And they'd get in the fight, most of the time about their women, or something like that, or from gambling, they did some gambling with cards and all. I don't remember seeing em do much with dice, but they would with cards. They were very medicinal.

LKS Turp. Your father would use, the gum or the distilled?

HL Distilled turpentine. We sold it in little bottles and those tin cans, that was distilled turpentine....He died in '72 and I sold the still in '75, we kept enough of it in the house all the time.

LKS Did you try it on your kids?

HL Don't have children, all the rest of the family has children but I'm not that fortunate....I tried to train all my nephews and nieces... All work and all living right....

LKS your grandfather was a Primitive Baptist, was your own father a PB also?

HL I guess he was. They had the Bethel church, everybody called it Boney Bluff Church, down right out of Fargo on the Suwannee River. I don't think they were that religious, but they would go and take the wagon, and my father would tell me, would go from council and come back to Suwannee River, distance of about 6 miles, then they would keep a boat there, or somebody on side where church was would keep a boat, and they'd come over and get him. I remember going to what they called Big Sunday, or Big Meeting, in Sept. And Oct. Everybody would cook something and come there and eat, and that's when I got to know some of the people who lived in the woods, lived in Fargo. They had a little old spot they called Needmore and Pineland and Barnes and Tom's Creek, and all that, that would have a few blacks there in turpentine. Before the Barnes bought all that land and sold it to Superior Pine Products. Co.

LKS So those are people that would attend the church, in all those little communities?

HL most of them would. I remember them talking about it. Like, we don't want to eat something that Mrs. So and so had because they didn't think she was as clean as she ought to be. But eat everything we can get from Mrs. Jones over there, cause its gonna be just right.

LKS So this was your father going back to that church, and taking you with him.

HL and my mother. She was very supportive of him in every respect.

LKS She PB also?

HL No , she was straight Baptist. Her daddy was sort of a preacher too. They had a church that he built up there in Gretna?, VA, being a carpenter and a preacher.

LKS Would you consider that you were raised PB then?

HL Well, no. We always went to first Baptist church. Mother joined that when she came down here. She was the religious one in the family. Us boys, John, was very religious. Members all my life. In fact I'm the oldest, longest Baptized member of the First Baptist Ch in VLD. I was baptized in 1925 when I was 11 years old, I never have changed my station to any other church,...My father joined first Baptist in 1942...I don't think he was

what you call a good PB member, but he would go to Big Meeting once a year. Would go to at least 2 churches, the one Wayfare, at Mayday, and the one at Boney Bluff, Bethel, and stay all day long. I remember they'd bundle all us children up and have big heavy blanket we'd put on there because they didn't have windows to the cars, and we went to those tings. Stayed there, and daddy would see everybody there, mama met em all. He wouldn't go in the church much. On big Meeting day they'd have about 3 or 4 preachers. One would wear himself out, another'd start, wash each others feet, they'd keep going. I imagine they'd preached 6 hours...My father wasn't what you'd call a good Christian but he believed in living that way. But he joined First Baptist in 1942.

LKS Home place that replaced the log cabin, was that the second house on that property?

HL Far as I know. First house was there a long time, we had people living out there. But its very difficult to keep up something when you have people switching going back and forth. {house you stayed in still there?] Uncle died, was the first one of the boys to die, there were 3 boys, he died at 70 years old, born in '85, died in 1955.....

LKS You had mentioned stories about your grandfather calling the hogs in the woods...[I play the hollering t ape} Did you hear something like that?

HL I didn't hear quite like that, but something on that order. But they say he had one of the voices the hogs could hear him as far as anybody...

LKS Did you hear the black turpentine workers [another segment of hollering program] See they were hollering all the time when they were dipping gum. Because the tallyman, he might be the teamster, and he made a little mark, and kept up with them, and there were buckets they brought to the wagon. They were hollering all the time, usually when they were by themselves they were singing and hollering and happy.

LKS Is that what you would call it hollering or other terms? I've heard yodeling?

HL I didn't really hear that much yodeling. They would sing some sort of song, didn't make a lot of sense, but they had a little rhythm to it, they had the rhythm.

LKS when you dipped did you have a tally cry?

HL No, I never did have a holler, but they knew when I came they'd put down that one for me till I got to 50. I did that one summer, and I was glad to get at two dollars and a half, cause it paid good then. I dipped some gum at much less price than that up at Tarver.

LKS So you had done the entire process in the woods by the time you went to Forestry School?

HL everything except actually by myself stilling the charge. I was afraid to do that. I knew parts of it, but I never did say I was by myself and run a charge.

LKS Out in the woods working, by yourself, with somebody else? Black crews?

HL I did 2 diff. things, generally, I was a foreman, and I would walk where they were dipping gum to make sure they dipped all the gum in the cups and didn't leave some. Was a tendency sometimes that when you got on the hill that was longleaf pine and they would have little balls of gum, and it wouldn't be as liquid, and when you got down to the pond, they wanted to rush down there and get ahead of everybody, but they were consistent, and there wasn't any big argument about that. But that's where they made the money, on slash pine. Longleaf didn't run that much, particularly when it began to get, you pull the sheet up if you, down there in the woods at night, there was an old rule that you didn't make many changes in a turpentine business until you pull the sheet up, because the flow of gum slowed down.

LKS What does pull the sheet up mean?

HL when you're sleeping. They would sleep with maybe just their underwear on or whatever, but then they'd pull a little bit of cover cause it's cooler and the gum wouldn't be running like it would run in the summertime.

LKS slash pine, why is it that this area is so good for slash pine, stretch on either side of FL/GA line, soil or, why not in Louisiana?

HL That's a good question. Because you know the turp. Belt started in VA, and the original people, one of the oldest business's, the naval stores business, that's where it's got it's name from. Because it was a tar, and they used that to put in boats to stop the leakage and do other things. But, they soon found out that the people in VA were making more money growing tobacco, and that ran em out of VA and on to NC. And then they found out that NC temperature was a little bit colder, and it was a little bit better, but they came on down to SC. So the turp. Belt is parts of NC and SC is good, and it follows around the coast. Generally the same sort of weather condition. I think its like pecan trees, you don't plant pecan trees in some states, and you don't get em up further in N. GA, they don't do well, See we've got two trees that produce crude gum, oleoresin, we call it is the slash pine and the longleaf pine. The longleaf pine is not as good a producer as the slash pine. The slash pine is more liquid.

LKS the native pine is the longleaf and the slash is the cultivated?

HL Well, you know that's what a lot of people are saying, saying we have destroyed the longleaf pine and the wiregrass region. But that's not quite true. The reason for it is that the slash pine was so much easier to adapt to the area, it grows faster, it was easier to plant, the slash pine root spreads out and that's a blessing. The longleaf has got a taproot and its got to go on down before it starts growing. So sometime it'll stay about that high for 3 years and then the taproot'll be going through the hardpan, a lot of our land when you get into lower coastal plains has a hardpan. That's detrimental to the production of gum. Because the slash is spread out and the slash'll produce it and be easier to plant.

LKS It grows faster because it doesn't have the tap root?

HL Right, it spreads out.

LKS What is hard pan?

HL If you ever drive down a dirt road—a soil road, a professor at my school told me to quit calling it dirt—you'll see a different color. If you scrape it down, it might be that thick, but it's compressed soil and we call it a hardpan. That tap root'll go through but it'll slowly go through. But the slash, if you have a windstorm the longleaf'll stand a windstorm better than the slash because the taproot will be down and then spread out.

LKS Is the slash pine native to this part of GA or were they introduced?

HL The slash pine was native but it was down in the edge of the ponds because it cannot stand fire, and the longleaf can stand it much better. ..Lot of people get confused and say this is wiregrass and longleaf pine area. Well we had it there, because everybody would burn the woods every year and slash pine couldn't grow if you burned the woods every year. But your longleaf could. I burned some longleaf, burned the needles off it, but if I go back out there right now, the bud is coming out good, white bud, and it's growing.

LKS Company history, about planting of commercial pine, your father? 1922. Timber leases around Mayday.

HL That's where he started planting. [slash pine?] Yes. [so your father one of pioneers in starting slash pine crops?] Yes. [Others?} Yes, some in other places, not many people thought much of it. Lot of people, old-timers, said well I've been living here for 50 years and those trees in front of my house was about the same size, got about this big, top curved over, were pretty trees, I reckon, but they wasn't growing. They found out, and then see most of the people were in the cattle and hog business in the woods. And they control burned every year, but they didn't have the slash out there. Slash didn't come in there but the longleaf did. Longleaf, one good thing, if you burn it every year you won't burn it 100%. And those longleaf seeds'll fall, and they will not come up under these other trees. If you'll notice, if you ride through a forest and you'll see a lot of young trees out there just naturally, you'll find out that they are in an opening.

LKS When your father started planting, slash, how did he make the decision to do that? That was an innovative thing at that time.

HL We were talking about it, and at that time, we started fire protection and he wanted to keep it going, he noticed places where the slash would come up. That's where he got his seedlings from, the state wasn't growing em, no private company was growing em, they would take a pitchfork, I remember, they bought pitchforks and they would go there and stick it down and then pull it up. Well that would not tear up the root system, and then they would take the, the soil would be loose, and they would pull those seedlings up and

you'd but em in a bucket or something and carry em and plant em right there, just fresh, and they'd do fine. And he planted those trees, first trees, in rows 20 feet apart. Well he didn't know about pulpwood, never heard of it, down here thought that was impossible. So he planted em 10-12 feet in the row, but had the rows 20 feet apart. Because the amount of gum you get from a tree is directly based on the amount of crown those trees have. ...we have cut down most of those trees because they have quit growing, they were mature, we replanted them. We planted about 10 feet apart and about 8 feet in a row.

LKS there were other people doing that at the time?

HL Well, we didn't know about em, but there were a few people that had some small places planted. [all doing it independently?] pretty well. It wasn't a movement that everybody did. Kinda like us, going in the fish business now, got a fish house and closed tank and all that. That's new, have one here, one way over there...Everybody got to believe in it.

LKS So he had no idea that this area so incredibly well suit for growing slash pine?

HL he quickly formed that opinion, that it would grow, and grow fine. This old theory that it didn't grow much got out of his mind. [slash also superior in terms of gum} Gum.

LKS I read that slash would bleed more easily and produce more gum, it didn't do it, you had to apply more acid, paste to face of a slash pine than you would to a longleaf? True?

HL I don't remember that, we had the same sort of brush we did it with. I don't think we made any effort to do that. Might have done that cause we knew the slash was running more. But wasn't any movement to make sure it do that as far as I know.

LKS So you became a forester, 3rd registered forester in state [right]. Was much of your early work in getting slash pine established in region?

HL My father wanted to kill all the loblolly pine. Loblolly pine is the leading pine tree in GA now, but I came home one time when I was going to school and he had people in the woods in the wintertime, wasn't much to do, and he girdled em, took an axe and chopped all the way around them. And the tree died. Today the loblolly pine is most important in GA, cause its fastest growing. But the product is not as good as longleaf pine or slash pine, but, and it wasn't as good for turpentine. So he despised em. He despised those little oaks that'd come up all around and those loblolly pine. I told him, don't worry about that, there's going to be a use for em. I had had a little bit of study in the loblolly pine field. He finally quit that. He paid attention to me. He was proud that I was studying forestry. That was a great blessing. We're now planting some loblolly pine. Loblolly used mostly for pulpwood. However we do make some lumber out of it...Slash pine for lumber and poles, but we get a greater percentage of poles from longleaf than we do slash.

LKS Actively planting all 3 kinds now? [yes that's right]

HL We're not against planting sand pine which they do in N. FL where you have solid sand. And it'll grow. When first starting planting them said paper mill didn't want em, said wood was harder, and all that. Now, the demand from paper mills has declined so much. You got other things taking the place of paper.

LKS Most dramatic or significant change in how you've had to adapt.

HL When paper mills started south was greatest change we had. I have great respect for anyone trying to grow trees without a pulpwood market to thin em.[discusses thinning of trees and clear cutting, changing prices, plastic takes the place of paper. I remember when first paper milk carton came out with paraffin, best thing ever. Now have plastic bottle that's out of this world. Ask my wife to ask them for paper...Lost our markets, selling the land, we got some problems. Think there's other things we can make out of wood...Talks about how imaginative Herty Lab. Folks were. Encouraged him to go to Europe, Sweden, Germany, saw what they were doing with wood...I met Dr. Herty right after I graduated, came here and spoke in courthouse room, about 15 of us, all of us pretty well in turpentine business] "when he said one of the biggest hazards in doing timber down here was the turpentine people." [more on Herty Laboratory in Savannah} Thing I learned there was imagination.But right now Canada is selling wood in US. Talk of Sweden shipping wood to GA, Germany, Russia we know has a lot of timber....Brazil is largest lumber producer. They don't have the environmental problems, don't have the labor problems, they got plenty of labor and plenty of wood. Now have the largest paper mill in the world in Brazil...Paper mills here slowing down. [Paper mill here getting rid of all its land except where the paper mill's sitting and where effluent goes from mill into the river==Clyattville. We were instrumental in getting the mill built here. Great plusses in our business...]

HL I enjoyed being with you. I've made a lot of interviews. I've enjoyed having a good healthy life, and hard work hasn't hurt me.

LKS Do you have copies of John Lancaster tapes?

HL If you get in touch with John Lancaster, we've given him authority to do what he wants with that, book'll be out in Sept.

LKS I ask about survey referred to in Carroll Butler's book about turpentine, if he has copy. ...

We owed a lot of money back yonder and only people that would loan you money in turp. Business was the factors, they were charging you a lot of money, commission, you bought everything from em. All we knew, we didn't take pictures, we didn't have cameras. Didn't have time. Most of us were hard workers. We don't have the records, don't have the living. I thought the turpentine business was the most imp't. Business in the world, to all our people down this way, and it's the people I've known all my life. Knew all the people that were active pretty well, see my father was president of the association [ATFA} and I went to all those meetings from the first one right on through.

Carroll Butler had done a lot of work, and I told him so. He's got a picture, a story to tell, and he does that about as well as anybody I know of. [on criticism of book, way he describes process, etc.] See they had different ways of doing things nearer Macon, when they did down here, or further down in FL, or over in Louisiana. So sometimes you might have 5 different ways to put their cups in. It was just a matter of doing the best in their area. Carroll Butler, I congratulate em on what he's doing.

LKS Does company have any old film footage of operations? Not still but film?

HL Not that I know of. [ask John Lancaster]....

On being a woods rider: "see that all the work was being done right. I start out from the camp in the early morning and stay with it until late in the afternoon. Sometime I'd leave my horse at one camp, and they'd pick me up, and I'd start back the next day that way.

Tape 2, Side B

Stay with it until late in the after noon. Sometime I'd leave my horse in one camp and they'd pick me up and they'd start back the next day that way.

LKS Is that where term woods rider comes from?

HL Yeah, woods rider. That was the whole supervisor. Lot of times blacks are shrewd you know, and they would what you call bunch em. You see, you got a clump of trees over there. If you rode up to those trees they'd all be chipping right around the outside, but none of those in the middle was chipped. They'd fool people like that. Blacks when they want to kinda turn in a lot of faces that's one way to do it. ... You wouldn't know it till you go to dip the gum and find out they wasn't.

LKS Difference between up near Soperton, Jim Gillis, and here?

HL He was smaller places and they were different, and they weren't quite as fast as we were down here, because we were making a living out of woods completely and their ag crops were better too. And that happened in Brooks Co. Turpentine went out over there quicker than over here. Jim kept some of those turpentine faces working longer.

LKS I mention he was still working when I did my turpentine piece for radio.... Alton Carter, said he was one of the last people to have quarters.... And Mr. Powell in Homerville.

HL Oh, he worked for me down here at Pineland.... Older Powell we got from AL. He was a good turpentine manager. Then his son came along, did fine, stayed right there at

Homerville, stayed in business a long time. So did Jim Burnette's son. Jim Burnette was a good turpentine. He ran Barne's Camp for us, right below Tarver. Jim Burnette's older brother Harry Burnette ran Fargo for us. We a little kin to the Burnette's. Their sister lived, 8 or 9 in the family, all boys except one girl, she's living here and her husband died. She was a McCoy—Gretchen. She just married to Woody Dennis.Her father was one of the best turpentine operator's in the business. Knew how to handle labor. If you had a man who had enough judgment to know how to handle labor and would work, he'd make money. Most of them was lacking one or the other. One would want to be too hard on the labor and one would be too soft. We had some I would call super, super managers.

End of Tape 2, Side B