

Transcription HIST 4950

Interviewee: Pauline P. Horne

Interviewer: Holly Huff

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List of Acronyms: HH= Holly Huff, PH= Pauline P. Horne

Transcript by Hannah Stanley

Transcript

00:00:02 HH

This interview is being conducted by Holly Huff at Missus Horne's home located at [REDACTED]. Thomasville, GA on February 4th, 1994.

00:00:23 HH

Gigi, can you tell me a little bit about your life during the depression?

00:00:28 PH

I'll be glad to.

00:00:29 HH

Ok.

00:00:33 PH

My sister, and my parents lived in a comfortable frame house in Metcalf, GA.

00:00:41 PH

This is written about 1926.

00:00:46 PH

The other four children had married and moved away.

00:00:49 PH

Life was simple and uncomplicated for the most part, Papa was a Royal Mail carrier, a coveted job at the time, so we were more fortunate than some people who didn't have a government job and regular pay.

00:01:05 PH

We had no electricity, so we studied by the kerosene lamp.

00:01:10 PH

I commuted with two others to Thomasville High School in the 10th and 11th grade.

00:01:15 PH

Metcalf was known for its bad payloads in those days, and we had our share of problems. In high school, I studied English composition, literature, algebra, plain and solid geometry, French history and spelling and so forth so forth.

00:01:36 PH

When I was a senior in our class, won first place in the state spelling contest, when school was out in the afternoon, our group went straight home.

00:01:48 PH

I had no communication with classmates since we had no telephones left at the store.

00:01:53 PH

Little opportunity to make friends.

00:01:56 PH

I graduated from high school in 1929 at the East Side Auditorium.

00:02:02 PH

There were 40 graduates and in the fall I attended Georgia State Women's College at Valdosta. We weren't allowed to go home until fall holidays, and then we had to stay at school for Thanksgiving holidays.

00:02:20 PH

We just came home once before Christmas.

00:02:23 PH

Of course, nobody had a car.

00:02:25 PH

Most of us rode the bus and were put off at our town.

00:02:30 PH

So exciting. I will never forget what a thrill it was to come home.

00:02:37 PH

Doctor Powell and Mrs. Hopper were there at the time at college, once we were having our Christmas celebration in the dining hall at Ashley, each person was marching in with a lighted candle and an apple.

00:02:53 PH

When Mrs.Hopper's jabo? caught fire.

00:02:56 PH

That was quite a scare, and she was left scarred from the burn.

00:03:01 PH

I lived in Converse Hall for the two years I attended before getting a teacher certificate in teaching for several years.

00:03:10 PH

Jobs were extremely hard to get, and I may not have gotten one, but my brother-in-law was principal of the school in Lawrence County and gave me an extra pull and I taught 3rd grade there for two years, (19)32 and (19)33 in order to pass the grade the child had to attend seven months.

00:03:30 PH

But in (19)33, Georgia was broke and could not pay teachers but six months.

00:03:38 PH

My salary was \$60.00 per month. The teachers offered to donate the 7th month so children could pass. Parents sent in corn, chicken, eggs, potatoes and so forth, which were sold and divided among the teachers.

00:03:55 PH

The money was divided among the teachers. I lived with my sister and paid \$15 board.

00:04:02 PH

Except for the last month when she didn't charge anything. Then, I was not reelected for a third year because the chairman of the board had a daughter who had just finished two years of college and wanted my third grade.

00:04:18 PH

So she got it.

00:04:20 PH

Those days were really depressing.

00:04:22 PH

Most all the boys will overall.

00:04:26 PH

And came to school barefooted.

00:04:28 PH

Some brought their lunch and tin pails, one pale faced boy had a chunk of black eyed peas and a thick biscuit, white on one side.

00:04:42 PH

White in the middle and burned black on both sides.

00:04:49 PH

We had enough old textbooks, but no library books and no supplies.

00:04:54 PH

Years later, when I had gone back to college and taught in Thomasville, I could not believe all the supplies we had.

00:05:02 PH

In 1934, Thomas and I were married in the Presbyterian preacher's study in Thomasville.

00:05:09 PH

Mere? and Bill Watkins were the only guests.

00:05:13 PH

4 weeks later they were married and we were thier only guests.

00:05:17 PH

There weren't many church weddings in those days. We rented a house across the street from his parents and two doors down from her parents.

00:05:27 PH

His parents gave us a living room suit and mine gave us a bedroom suit that, that and a few other gifts made a good beginning.

00:05:39 PH

I had a new kerosene cook stove and a small wood stove in the kitchen.

00:05:45 PH

I love that in the winter.

00:05:48 PH

Once I remember having a cook who I paid a dollar and a quarter a week and I'm kind of ashamed to tell that, but what she really wanted was the food she got when she worked for me.

00:06:05 PH

Our house was near the railroad, and for several years the same hobo knocked at my back door and asked for food on his way to Florida for the winter.

00:06:15 PH

I'd be afraid now, but I wasn't then I probably didn't even have my door locked.

00:06:20 PH

Thomas worked with his father's farm and store for \$60.00 and fringe benefits.

00:06:27 PH

We usually ate with his parents every other Sunday when the Baptist had their church days.

00:06:38 PH

The Methodist Church had the other two Sundays.

00:06:43 PH

The preacher wouldn't usually eat with them too.

00:06:46 PH

My parents had just moved to Baxley, GA, where Papa was a mail carrier there.

00:06:53 PH

Janice was born in 1937 at Archbald Hospital.

00:06:58 PH

When she was about a year and a half old, we moved to Albany when we had where we had a feed and seed store.

00:07:07 PH

Joe was born there in 1940 and our store was not doing too well, so we sold it and moved to Bainbridge, where he worked at a wholesale hardware for about a year.

00:07:19 PH

He was paid \$100 a month. We paid \$25 for a house and \$25 for a car. \$25 car payment.

00:07:28 PH

\$50, we had \$50 for everything else. Believe it or not, this was one of the happiest years we ever had. This takes us up to 1940.

00:07:42 HH

Gigi, can you tell me when you when? Or where you were baptized.

00:07:48 PH

I was baptized. I grew up Primitive Baptist and join the the missionary First Missionary Baptist Church and when I was grown, but I was baptized at heart's pond in Poland, Georgia, along with my first cousin, we were going to.

00:08:11 HH

That's great.

00:08:17 HH

What were your children?

00:08:21 HH

Did they have any special games that they played or did they enjoy going to school? Did you take them to school or did they have to walk?

00:08:37 PH

Well, I can, I can tell you that I had. I had to well most of the time.

00:08:43 PH

The time that I told you about Metcalf was when I was going to high school, but all the time when I was growing up. We'd have to walk at least a mile and a half, maybe 2 1/2. And I can remember once walking and when the ice was spewing up out of the ground, this was in the country and and that that would have been a mile ahead. And as we walked along the ice was maybe up as much as two or three inches. And you know, pieces we would crunch.

00:09:18 PH

My own children, I think.

00:09:22 PH

At at one time and never, they were on the school bus, but most of the time some of the time I took them, some of the time they walked.

00:09:37 HH

Um, when they were first born, did you work? Then you always taught school.

00:09:44 PH

I never worked when they were at home.

00:09:47 PH

From the time that well, from my youngest child was in the 1st grade.

00:09:53 PH

I taught at Lamberton at Valdosta. But he didn't know I taught because we only taught till about 1:00 or 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

00:10:08 PH

So I got home before he did, before they did.

00:10:14 PH

Then when my youngest child was a senior in high school, I taught again for the first time.

00:10:28 PH

And, so that didn't affect families that were growing up.

00:10:32 HH

You said you taught in Remington right outside of Valdosta/

00:10:37 HH

What was the school like then?

00:10:39 HH

Do you remember?

00:10:41 HH

When you started teaching

00:10:45 PH

Well it was just small little building and it's been torn down now.

00:10:50 HH

Well, did were the schools all the grades in one classroom or have several classrooms?

00:10:57 PH

I only had my grade in in the classroom.

00:11:03 PH

Mrs. Smith was the principal.

00:11:07 PH

And I can't.

00:11:08 PH

We probably went up through the 6th Grade I imagine.

00:11:13 HH

Great. I didn't know that.

00:11:17 HH

Where did you live? Did you live in Valdosta?

00:11:21 PH

I lived on Churchill Drive. Do you know where that is?

00:11:25 PH

It's, it's near. I forgot what they call it now what used to be in the junior college.

00:11:33 PH

It's part of Valdosta State now.

00:11:40 HH

What did you do for entertainment when you were in college? I mean, you know, you couldn't come home to see your parents.

00:11:46 PH

And we had a lot more going at college than I imagine they do now that they wanted us to be sure and get it that was part of our education.

00:11:55 PH

And that's why they would let us come home.

00:11:57 PH

We needed these final things that they had thought, and that's what the occasion was when the when the the lady caught fire.

00:12:13 HH

See, I don't know any.

00:12:20 HH

See, I don't know the history of the college was West Hall.

00:12:26 PH

When when I went as a girl, there was only ash and converse and

00:12:37 PH

What's the little building?

00:12:39 HH

Nevins or West?

00:12:43 PH

The administration building, but I forgot what it was called.

00:12:49 PH

Anyway, three buildings and then years after that Converse died.

00:12:54 PH

Converse was burned.

00:12:59 HH

I didn't know that, I really didn't know that.

00:13:07 HH

Was there a student union at the college?

00:13:10 PH

No, I lived in Converse Hall and down at the end there was a bedroom without any furniture where we could buy a soda water or an orange crush for a nickel at 4:00 o'clock every day.

00:13:23 PH

We really looked forward to getting together if we had a nickel.

00:13:27 PH

Sometimes my brother, who worked in Atlanta, would send me a dollar.

00:13:31 PH

And I'd pay. I would spend it just so that I could splurge on cold drinks.

00:13:43 HH

Did you go to church on Sunday?

00:13:46 PH

We didn't have a choice. We had to go to our own church, the same church every Sunday. We marched in double file. We were required to wear a hat and gloves and were inspected to be sure that we did.

00:14:01 PH

Usually people at church would give us a ride home.

00:14:08 HH

What type of clothes did you wear?

00:14:10 PH

We wore our uniforms and I really enjoyed doing it. I think I'd like to do it again.

00:14:16 PH

The school dresses were silk pingy.

00:14:19 PH

You know what color that would be? It's a kind of natural color. With a blue scarf, the weather decided dress was made the rule with pleats from shoulder to the hem in front.

00:14:32 PH

The summer Sunday dress. Was made the same way, but it was crepe so it would be cooler.

00:14:41 PH

It still had long sleeves.

00:14:42 PH

However, our hats were small lady felt and the gloves were a natural color.

00:14:49 HH

What were the gloves made of?

00:14:51 PH

The gloves, not leather.

00:14:56 PH

Some kind of cotton I guess.

00:14:59 PH

Sometimes somebody would lose a glove and Mrs. Hopper inspected us so that another girl would lend her a glove and stick that hand in the pocket.

00:15:14 HH

Is there anything else that you can think of that you would like to say?

00:15:18 PH

Well, I don't know how long this could go.

00:15:21 HH

I really do appreciate you doing this with me and I've enjoyed talking with you.

00:15:29 PH

Thank you